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Contractor faces Prof Mbarawa's wrath



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Julius Nyerere hydropower project



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SMART MONEY

Local, foreign wildlife farm investors land Tawa consent



Coronavirus pandemic makes African free trade 'more important than ever'

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Bill Gates sets 'a few billion' on Covid-19 serial trial vaccines

NEW YORK

BILLIONAIRE philanthropist Bill Gates (pictured) has announced his foundation is paying for the construction of facilities that will manufacture seven promising coronavirus vaccines and the best two vaccines would be picked up for final trials.

He said the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is moving forward with building manufacturing capacity for the seven vaccine candidates to save time, as the novel coronavirus pandemic spread throughout the world, reports The Hill.

"Even though we'll end up picking at most two of them, we're going to fund factories for all seven just so that we don't waste time in serially saying 'ok which vaccine works' and then building the factory," Gates was quoted as saying.

Gates last month stepped down from Microsoft's board of directors to dedicate more time to his philanthropic priorities.

"It'll be a few billion dollars we'll waste on manufacturing for the constructs that don't get picked because something else is better. But a few billion in this situation



Gates last month stepped down from Microsoft's board of directors to dedicate more time to his philanthropic priorities

we're in, where there's trillions of dollars... being lost economically, it is worth it," Gates emphasized on the TV show.

Scientists say a vaccine may take up to 12-18 months after successful human clinical trials.

Gates has called for a nationwide shutdown in the US, saying the country needs to enforce stricter lockdown measures in every state.

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that country is headed into a few brutal weeks ahead where "there will be a lot of death," and also circled back to his riff on reopening the economy as the coronavirus death toll surged past 8,400 and overwhelmed the domestic health care system.

The country's caseload climbed to more than 300,000.

Gates has also called upon donor governments to help low and middle income countries prepare for this pandemic, in addition to helping their own citizens respond.

"By helping countries in Africa and South Asia get ready now, we can save lives

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Coronavirus cases hit 24

By Guardian Reporter



Controller and Auditor General Charles Kichere briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday shortly after tabling the National Audit Office of Tanzania's financial year 2018/2019 report in the National Assembly. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

WITH the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases having risen to 24, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday directed regional commissioners to tighten security in selected isolation units countrywide to ensure all those coming from affected countries are quarantined.

He was addressing regional commissioners and members of defence and security committees from border regions of Arusha, Rukwa, Katavi, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Mtwara, Mara, Coast, Ruvuma, Mwanza, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Kagera, Kigoma and Songwe.

The premier said the move will help control spreading of the virus, as currently there are 12 Covid-19 patients in Dar es Salaam, seven in Zanzibar, and one in Kagera and two in Arusha. "We must enhance security at our borders and other entry points including airports and ports," he emphasised.

Chief medical officers at regional levels need to continue conducting educational campaigns on the novel Coronavirus so that residents there are fed with proper information from reliable sources.

He urged them to ensure availability of necessary medical equipment and protective gear for health workers at entry points as well as regular training to help them prevent being infected with the disease.

"You should tighten security at these centers to ensure no one escapes to the streets before completion of the 14-day mandatory isolation. There should be close follow up of people coming into the country for them to be quarantined accordingly," the premier insisted.

The regional commissioners promised to continue implementing all government directives that aim at tackling the spread of Covid-19.

Ummu Mwalimu, the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, confirmed four new Covid-19 cases in

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CAG: Frauds, misuse of public funds persisting

■2.58bn/- for Safari Channel, Urithi Festival not approved

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

DESPITE strides made by the government in controlling fraud and misuse of public funds in recent years, the malpractice continues in various departments and parastatals, the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) says in his current annual report.

The report for the year ending June 2019,

which was handed over to MPs here yesterday, has further indicated gross misconduct in public institutions with various public offices continuing to misuse public funds and subjecting the government to losses in billions of shillings.

CAG Charles Kichere said in a presentation to the legislature that the implementation status

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'Form task force to research Covid-19 economic impact'

■Z'bar minister refused quarantine after trip abroad, says Konde MP

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

PARLIAMENTARY official opposition leader Freeman Mbowe has urged the formation of a task force to conduct a countrywide assessment on how the outbreak of Covid-19 has affected various economic sectors.

Mbowe, the national chairman of Chadema, sought that the government come up with supplementary estimates to complement on-

going efforts to halt the spread of the global pandemic.

In his contribution on the Prime Minister's Office budget estimates for the 2020/2021 fiscal year in the National Assembly yesterday, Mbowe emphasized that it was high time for the government to come up with concrete measures to rescue the country's economy.

He however highlighted the need for

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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.



03/11/20 03/10/2020

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](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)



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Coronavirus cases hit 24

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the country, bringing the total number of patients to 24.

In a signed statement, Mwalimu said that infected patients are in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza regions as well as Zanzibar.

The new cases include two announced on Sunday by Zanzibar Health minister Hamad Rashid Mohammed.

The two new cases on the Mainland include a male Tanzanian national aged 24 said to be a businessman and a resident of Mwanza, who arrived in the country two weeks ago through the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) and proceeded to Mwanza on March 29. Samples were then taken to the lab and he was found to be Covid-19 positive, she said.

Another patient is a 35 year old Dar es Salaam resident, a trader.

"All the patients are under close supervision of healthcare providers in special medical facilities in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and Mwanza. The Ministry of Health is making close follow-up on all people who mingled with the patients to control new cases of the disease," the minister noted.

The public needs to continue

observing all the precautionary measures issued by medical experts such as ensuring they wash hands with soap all the time, avoid handshakes, hugs and sanitizers as well as embracing social distancing and avoiding gathering.

On Sunday the minister announced that hostels of the University of Dar es Salaam popularly known as Magufuli Hostels will now be used to host all travellers from countries hit by Covid-19 arriving in Dar es Salaam by air or ship as they undergo the mandatory 14-day quarantine.

Mwalimu said this when inspecting the hostels located in the city's Ubungo suburb, downhill from the university's main campus.

The pandemic emerged in Wuhan, central China last December, and has since spread to 177 countries and regions.

"All the patients are under close supervision of healthcare providers in special medical facilities in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and Mwanza. The Ministry of Health is making close follow-up on all people who mingled with the patients to control new cases of the disease"



Kevin Mwanyika (L) of Kihesa in Iringa Region, who makes machines facilitating the washing of hands, demonstrates to a would-be customer yesterday how to use the 150,000/-a-piece tools without actually touching them – as a precaution against COVID-19 infections. He said a 20-litre bucket of water can serve up to 200 people at a go. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

'Form task force to research Covid-19 economic impact'

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stakeholders to support the fight against the novel coronavirus.

"This is a national war, it should be taken seriously. The fight needs collective efforts from both the private sector and the government; we should not only leave this to the government," he stated.

"We are all aware that the Covid-19

outbreak has affected and will continue affecting the country's workforce, production and the wider economy. The most affected areas include tourism, aviation, export of commodities and hospitality. We need a national assessment on how we can tackle the disease, as well as recuing the economy," he told the House.

Mbowe insisted on the need to learn

from other countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa on how to tackle the disease.

The Hai MP also appealed for the formation of an independent electoral body that would supervise the coming general elections in a credible manner.

"What we need is just a minimum of reforms with some articles of the country's constitution and Elections

Act because there are sections of the Act which criminalise routine activities in the election process," he explained.

Prof Jumanne Kishimba (Kahama, CCM) urged the government to allow the use of traditional medicines to support ongoing efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Khatib Said Haji (Konde, CUF) claimed that a minister in Zanzibar

refused to be quarantined after arriving from abroad, underlining that the situation poses risks to the health of islanders.

"This minister's refusal has affected two family members who are now suffering Covid-19. I recommend that stern measures be taken against the minister as we do not know how many people he has come into contact with,"

the MP intoned.

Treasury minister Dr Philip Mpango said the government has already formed a special task force and technical committees to respond to the novel coronavirus disease.

"We are also working to come up with a grand plan to ensure that essential equipment and services are available in all areas," he added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses regional commissioners and regional administrative secretaries on the coronavirus disease pandemic via video conference in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

Korogwe water contractor faces Prof Mbarawa's wrath

By Guardian Correspondent, Korogwe

WATER and Irrigation minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (pictured) has discerned corruption that had been the cause for the delay in implementing various water projects in Korogwe town council.

He said yesterday during his inspection visit of water project in the town council including the Lwengera Relini water project that cost more than 900m/-.

He said the project is three years behind schedule and is only 60 per cent complete.

He said: "The contractor, Saxon Building Contractor Ltd owned by one Ismail Kengemjusi has deliberately been delaying water projects... as in Pangani he was also contracted to construct water projects which are poorly being implemented. All of this is



because of corruption. Now we cannot go on with the situation... from today I don't want you to continue with this project."

The minister said there are contractors who collaborate with engineers in submitting incorrect write up reports

when applying for a tender.

"You find a water project cost is only 200m/- but they set the cost at 500m/- and this we have seen it in Nkasi district, I believe the contractor cannot inflate the cost alone without working together with our engineers,"

he added.

He added: "If the contractor submit correct reports on construction work there wouldn't have been many challenges over payments...in regard to this contractor he submitted incorrect report on the project and when we reviewed the contract document on the cost we discovered a huge difference."

Earlier, Rural Water and sanitation Agency (RUWASA) engineer William Tupa said the contractor was awarded the work in 2017 and was supposed to complete it by 2019 but there have been many challenges including floods and delay in payments that had caused the delay.

He said the contractor had already built the entire water pipe network but what remained is the installation of equipment near the water source and the laying of six kms long 6-inch pipe.

Bill Gates sets 'a few billion' on Covid-19 trial vaccines

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and also slow the global circulation of the virus," the Microsoft co-founder wrote in his GatesNotes blog.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in February announced that it would immediately commit up to \$100 million for the global response to the

CAG: Frauds, misuse of public funds persisting

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in the financial year ending June 30, 2019 showed inadequate improvement compared to the previous year. Inadequate management follow-up to address outstanding audit recommendations was particularly noticeable, he stated.

Auditors found out that five public entities procured goods and services worth 5.46bn/- without contracts, violating the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Act.

Citing examples, Kichere said the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism along with its affiliates, executed unbudgeted activities such as Urithi Festival and a special television channel for broadcasting tourist attraction sites, the "Tanzania Safari Channel" for 2.58bn/- without prior approval of the legislature.

He further raised concern over increased inefficiency in handling and resolving tax objections by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

"The audit noted that TRA has

lodged objections with total taxes of 84.62bn/- filed by taxpayers that were outstanding beyond the allowable period as specified in the TRA Service Charter. Delay in settlement of tax objections has a negative impact on revenue collection targets," he pointed out.

The audit also found inefficient management of tax arrears. "I noted that TRA has outstanding tax in arrears amounting to 303.09bn/-. There is also inefficiency in tax collection, in the audit I found taxes and wharfage of 3.70bn/- on imported fuel was not assessed and collected, and interest on late payment of taxes of 1.36bn/- was not charged by TRA. In transit goods and fuel with total taxes of 127.9bn/- missing evidences of exit to the respective countries," he said.

"Besides, I noted that the Ministry of Agriculture procured agricultural chemicals worth 3.34bn/- but the same were not distributed to the intended beneficiaries. Delays may cause the chemicals to expire before use," the CAG added.

Somalia confirms 2 new coronavirus disease cases, bringing the total to 7

MOGADISHU

The Federal Government of Somalia has recorded two new cases related to coronavirus on Friday.

Dr. Fowziya Abikar, the Minister of Health said one of the new patients is a Somali National while the other is a foreigner working with the UN office in the country.

"We recorded two new COVID-19

cases, a Somali citizen and a foreign national at the UN compound in Mogadishu," Dr. Fowziya confirmed.

The number of people with the virus is now seven and one patient has fully recovered according to health authorities with no deaths.

The horn of the African nation has canceled both local and international flights for two weeks now to curb the spread of the virus.



A caterpillar pictured yesterday removing mud scattered along the Jangwani Valley stretch of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road following pounding rain at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

DC requests people to take preventive measures against Covid-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

IRINGA district commissioner Richard Kasesela has appealed to the wananchi in the district to abide by directives and guidelines given by the government and health experts on precautionary measures to be taken against covid-19 infections including unnecessary movements and assemblies.

"There are countries that have placed their entire population in lockdown but here in Tanzania our President John Magufuli prefers people to work

and we should not argue much except taking preventive measures against the pandemic...my request to you is to try remaining at homes... and in case you have a TV set please watch various programmes for more guidelines," he said.

He said for those who are able they can utilise this period by writing books including those on their lives instead of roaming in the streets aimlessly.

The DC will be a time when people will no longer trust each other due to fears of being infected especially in commuter buses.

The DC expressed this at the weekend at Evangelist Assemblies of God Tanzania (EAGT) Church at Ngome Kihesa in Iringa municipality during his visit to educate the community in Iringa.

He reminded the people to take more precautions by putting aside stocks of food as nobody knows when the pandemic will ease and urged people not to buy unnecessary clothing at this time.

He said for those who have a lot of clothing which they do not wear it's better for them to sell them and use

the money to buy food or give them to poor people.

He said the government in Iringa district has not yet banned people from the streets but it is only concerned with those who roam about the streets unnecessarily.

"The covid-19 pandemic is a very big pandemic globally but here in Tanzania God is fighting for us hence the situation is not so bad as I believe God is deliberately on our side so every one of us should pray to God so as to prevent the coronavirus spread," he added.

Govt to construct thirty deep water wells worth 621m/-

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

PROLONGED water crisis facing residents in various parts of Urambo district in Tabora region will soon become a history as the government will on May this year, set to embark on a 621m/- project to construct 30 deep water wells to serve the population, the House heard yesterday.

According to the statement by the Minister for Water Prof Makame Mbarawa responding to question from Urambo MP Magreth Sitta, the government had finalised feasibility study with the implementation of the project expected to commence later next month.

In her basic question, Sitta sought to know the government's strategies to address prolonged water blues which had been facing the district's residents for many years.

Responding, Mbarawa said that the project which will be implemented through the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (Ruwasa), will bring huge relief to the residents once completed.

Established mid-last year, Ruwasa is responsible for construction of water dams and deep water wells in the villages. It is also responsible for the development and sustainable management of water supply and sanitation projects and water service delivery in rural areas.

"In efforts address acute water shortages in Urambo district council, the government signed an agreement worth 620.9m/- with the drilling and dam construction agency (DDCA) on March 26, 2018 for the construction of deep water wells in 17 villages," he said.

He named the beneficiary villages as Ussoke, Itundu, Kasisi, Kiloleni,

Tulieni, Machinjioni, Ulassa B, Ifuta, Ugalla, Uyogo, Nsenda, Unzali, Vumilia, Kalembe, Ussoke Mlimani, Katunguru and Kapilula I.

He said that the feasibility study and architectural designing exercise had been completed for the commencement of the construction.

The minister further added that apart from the project, Urambo district council is also working to commence construction of 18 deep water wells so as to provide the community with sufficient water supply.

The water boreholes will be drilled in the villages of Isongwa, Kichangani, Milambo, Ulassa A, Kamalendi, Mtakuja, Sipungu, Tumaini, Ukwanga, Itegamatwi, MotoMoto, Kalembe, Usoko Mlimani, Usoko Mjini, Itebulanda, Tebela, Kasisi na Vumilia.

"This project is expected to commence this month, all these efforts aimed at making sure that we address all water challenges facing communities in the district," he added.

Reports show that, only 57 per cent of Tanzania's population had access to an improved sources of safe water, and only 34 per cent of Tanzania's population had access to improved sanitation. Under these circumstances, the poor, particularly women and girls spend a significant amount of time traveling long distance in search of water.

"This project is expected to commence this month, all these efforts aimed at making sure that we address all water challenges facing communities in the district"

Govt encourages farmers to engage in mixed farming systems in north Ruvu forest reserve

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government has encouraged farmers who wish to engage in mixed farming system in the north Ruvu forest reserve to send their applications for special permits to run the activities in the area.

The move follows after the government annulled permits 5 years ago of over 300 farmers who were conducting agricultural activities in the area due to massive environment destruction.

Responding to a question posed by Kibaha Urban MP Sylvestry Koka, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Hamis Kigwangalla said that the government's decision aims to compliment the ongoing efforts and make sure that forests are protected with the surrounding communities benefiting from the natural resources.

In his basic question, Koka sought to know the government's plan to restore its previous plan which saw at least 300 farmers conducting their agricultural activities in the forest before they were barred in 2015.

Responding, the minister said that the government has no plan to restore the project but it will be granting permits to those who would submit special applications and meet the requirements including being able to conserve the forest whilst farming through taungya system.

The taungya is a system whereby villagers and sometimes forest plantation workers are given the right to cultivate agricultural crops during the early stages of forest plantation establishment. Cultivation is often allowed to continue until trees shade crops due to canopy closure.

According to the minister, in 2000

the government in collaboration with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) came up with a project to support communities living along Ruvu North Forest Reserve through engagement in mixed farming.

"Through this at least 300 farmers in the wards of Mwendapole, Msangani, Mkuza and Kongowe benefited by getting seven acres each to conduct subsistence farming whereby food crops and trees were both planted. But following massive deforestation and other environmental destruction, the government decided to withdraw the project to rescue the forest," he explained.

"There is huge investment done in the forest reserve which includes plantations of more trees something which has generated over 2000 employment opportunities due to the processing factories established in the area," the minister added.

The North Ruvu Forest Reserve is located in Kibaha and Bagamoyo districts, Coast region. The plantation is located 60 km West of Dar es Salaam.

The North Ruvu forest plantation covers a total area of 31,930 ha (20,000 ha for plantation and 11,930 ha as natural forest) covering Kibaha and Bagamoyo districts both in Coast region. The Forest Reserve was gazetted under government Notice No.128 of 1978.

The North Ruvu Forest Reserve (NRFR) is one of the Coastal natural forests with high biodiversity. The indigenous tree species include Albizia petersiana, Dalbergia melanoxylon, Dichrostacya cinerea, Julbernardia spp, Brachystegia spp, Diopyros consularatae. It also harbours baboon, monkeys, rabbit, rodents, diversities of snakes and wild pigs.



City Council of Dodoma director Godwin Kunambi (gesturing) briefs journalists yesterday on major projects the government is implementing, among them the international market at Nanenane Nzuguni and a modern bus stand. Left is Shabani Juma, a planning officer with the council. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA district commissioner Patrobas Katambi has arrested an American citizen of Tanzanian origin who reportedly entered the country four weeks ago and skipped the 14 days mandatory quarantine.

The government announced mandatory 14 days quarantine for all people entering the country over coronavirus disease.

Katambi said the American was arrested in the city after he inferred a motorcade of one of the country's leaders.

He said the government arrested him to be satisfied with his health status, saying he has been placed under

Man arrested in Dodoma for violation of mandatory coronavirus quarantine

supervision of health experts.

"He defended himself saying that he had placed himself under self-quarantine at his home but we cannot take his words for it that is why we want to assure of ourselves," he said.

In another development, DC Katambi ordered renowned comedian 'Masanja Mkandamizaji' to appear before him for making fun of corona virus. But no measures were announced after their meeting.

Meanwhile, police in Iringa has arrested a man who reportedly skipped

14 days quarantine three days after his arrival in the country from Norway.

Iringa DC Richard Kasesela said he received information from his counterpart in Kinondoni Daniel Chongolo that someone went to Iringa after skipping it in Dar es Salaam.

"We informed the police and knew the house where he is staying, we also informed health experts who had quarantined him.

The government announced that all travellers entering the country from corona hard-hit countries will

now be quarantined at the newly built University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) hostel at Ubungu.

So far Tanzania has 24 confirmed cases of coronavirus, one fatality and three recoveries.

The idea according to the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Umyy Mwalimu, was to ensure the control movements of the travellers citing reports of a traveller under quarantine in a Dar es Salaam hotel who escaped and was found hiding in Iringa.



Residents of Orbomba village in Longido District look on helplessly near the wreckage of a vehicle that overturned along the Arusha-Namanga road on Sunday, leaving a police officer and three other people dead. Photo: Correspondent Zanura Mollie

Farmers raise concerns over 'decline' in poultry business

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

POULTRY farmers in Iringa have raised concerns over declining businesses of chickens as their main buyers from hotel and tourism industry have been hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

They said following the spread of the virus, the number of local and international visitors visiting tourists attractions in the region have dropped which has greatly affected the poultry sub-sector.

Speaking to reporters at the Kibwabwa poultry farm in the outskirts of Iringa, Faraj Abri said chicken farming is one of their most economic activities, but they are currently not selling the chickens as previously when farmers were getting orders from hotels across the region.

According to Abri they are now forced to sell their products including eggs at lower prices, thus incurring losses because they are spending a lot of money to purchase chicken feeds. He said traders face challenges including lack of coordinated market for eggs which makes them to sell the product at throwaway prices.

He underscored the need for

poultry farmers to establish a union and have a leader who will be representing other farmers at various forums. He said with the union, farmers will jointly agree on egg and chicken prices.

Abri emphasised on the need for farmers to be trained on proper chicken farming which includes having modern poultry house. He added that farmers should also use cages to reduce incidence of poultry diseases.

"I encourage youth to engage on chicken rearing because the business does not require a huge capital, one can start with a small number of chickens", he said calling upon graduates to stop relying on formal employment instead grab opportunities in the agriculture-sub sector.

A study conducted in 2018 on the poultry sub-sector in Tanzania showed that the current population of chickens is estimated at 72 million, of which 40 million are indigenous chickens and the remaining 32 million are exotic poultry, which includes 24 million broilers and 8 million layers.

Among the existing 4.7 million agricultural households in Tanzania, 3.7 million households keep chickens.

Two die, six hurt as their car involved in road crash

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TWO people died and six were injured after their vehicle overturned at the weekend along Arusha-Namanga road in Arusha Region.

Among the deceased was Enock Wangwe (41) who was Inspector of Police in Arusha region and the other person was identified as Julius Saitoti.

Speaking to this paper, the Ag Arusha Regional Police Commander Koka Moita said the accident occurred at Landarakai area in Olbomba Ward, Longido district.

He said the injured were identified as Azaeli Mbise (37), the vehicle's driver, Lolubare Kilesi (50), Gasto Mushi (32); a doctor at Longido hospital Saluni Lengireri (50), Kondo Kibwana (60), and Justine Lobikiki (24).

Moita said the vehicle with Reg T.742DGP Toyota PSV Noah is owned by one Ndete Lengai, adding the cause of accident was tyre burst and speeding. The most common cause of a tyre burst is improper air pressure in the tyres. While over-inflation isn't a concern, under-inflation is the reason behind approximately 75 per cent of tyre burst induced accidents as per studies.

Ag. RPC Moita further said the condition of some of the injured was critical and are receiving treatment at Arusha Mt Meru hospital and others at Longido district hospital.

He said the bodies of the deceased are preserved at Mt Meru Referral Hospital's mortuary.

Covid-19 alert: Moro DC urges hotel operators on precautions

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

HOTEL owners in Morogoro municipality have been urged to allocate self-contained rooms for guests arriving from regions suspected to have been affected by Covid-19.

Morogoro district commissioner Regina Chonjo issued the directive over the weekend here, when she met with more than 100 hotels and lodges owners, before officiating covid-19 quarantine centre in the municipality.

The quarantine centre will be set up in collaboration with regional immigration office and other security agencies.


DC Chonjo described self-contained rooms as useful since people aren't sharing facilities, something which makes it easy to monitor covid-19 symptoms.

She said social distancing is inevitable since region had so far no person suspected with covid-19 due to municipal council's efforts to make the public aware of the disease, which had so far 20 confirmed cases of the disease, with one fatality and three who recovered in the country.

The DC encouraged people in the municipality and the region at large to observe all the precautionary measures issued by medical practitioners washing hands with soap and sanitizers.

One of the hotel owners in the municipality, Juma Kiduka urged the government has to support sanitary facilities such as sanitizers, masks and other related facilities.





THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
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**COMMEMORATION OF
 48TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY**
 of the First Zanzibar
 President, The Late
**Sheikh
 Abeid Amani Karume**
 4/8/1905 - 7/4/1972

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the
 Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA),
 join His Excellency the President of the
 United Republic of Tanzania,
 Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli
 and His Excellency the President of Zanzibar
 and the Chairman of Revolutionary Council
 Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein and all Tanzanians
 in the commemoration of the 48th Death Anniversary
 of the First Zanzibar President the late
 Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume.

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RC: Abide by guidelines on COVID-19 or no local brew

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA regional commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi has said the government will close down all places selling local brew if the owners fail to abide by preventive measures against Covid-19 infections.

Dr Nchimbi issued the warning at the Singida region's Tanzania Women Union (UWT) meeting convened to discuss among other things the covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Nchimbi who is also the chairperson of the region's health committee said during these difficult times sellers of the local brew are to make sure that every customer served must have his own container for the brew as opposed to the former habit when one container was shared by many.

"Anyone who wants to do this business must ensure every customer washes his hands with running water and soap, to stay far apart, and have his own container to drink from," she said.

Dr Nchimbi who is also the chairperson of the Region's defense and security committee also said whoever will not abide by these directives will have his license revoked.

She also said whoever will be found drunk at 'pombe' shop will be ejected since a drunk will not be able to

abide by preventive measures against covid-19 infections and added that the militia and other defense units will be making rounds to oversee this directive is adhered to.

Some of the meeting's participants advised the government to ensure education on the pandemic is provided in the villages since many villagers are not well educated on the hazards of covid-19 infections.

On her part the Singida region UWT chairperson Jenny Efraimu Kessy stressed that Covid-19 pandemic is very dangerous and advised for every business person his customers wash their hands using soap and running water before entering his shop.

"I used to have about four business acquaintances based in China, but whenever I try to contact them by phone I receive no response from them, all them have died, this is a very dangerous disease, we must go and educate people in our districts to take precautions against the pandemic," she said.

"Anyone who wants to do this business must ensure every customer washes his hands with running water and soap, to stay far apart, and have his own container to drink from"



A mason at work on the sixth floor of an investment building in Dodoma, as captured yesterday. There has been a noticeable rise in the number of such complexes in the city since more and more government activities shifted to the new national capital. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Police hold villager found in possession of buffalo meat

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

POLICE in Tunduru district are holding a Kidodoma village resident in the district for being in possession of 10 kg of buffalo meat.

The Ruvuma regional Police Commander Simon Maigwa said the man, Hamisi Nasoro Chamtumavi (24) was arrested by police officers in conjunction with game officials in Tunduru district.

He said the man was arrested on the night of 3-4 April this year with 14 pieces of the game meat after the police received a tip off from good citizens.

RPC Maigwa said in his earlier statement from the suspect, the police realised that there was a network game meat poachers whose other members were from Kilwa district in Lindi region.

Maigwa said the police were still hunting for other members of

the network who kill game using machetes.

He said according to the suspect's statement, the poachers do the hunting during the night in the reserve forests.

RPC Maigwa said whilst in the forest the poachers use powerful flashlights which they attach on their foreheads and direct the beam to the animals that become dazed by the high intensity beam and stay still.

He said thereafter other poachers with sharp machetes stalk the dazed animals from behind and start slashing their legs by the machetes disabling them from running away after which they kill them off.

Speaking about the incident the Tunduru district acting wildlife officer Limbega Ali confirmed such incidents happening in the reserve areas and his department is well prepared to fight the poachers.



Convoy of Hope International Tanzania director Godfrey Mjema (R) joins 20 leaders of orphanage centres in Arusha city at the weekend in loading into vehicles some of the foodstuffs donated by the charitable agency, ready for distribution to the earmarked beneficiaries. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

Drop in market due to Covid-19 a blow to diamond miners

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

THE adverse effect of the Covid-19 pandemic are being felt by small diamond miners in Shinyanga Region who have been recovering the mineral from waste rock heaps following rapid drop of the buyers thereof.

This was revealed early this week by the Secretary General of Shinyanga Region Miners Association (SHIREMA) Gregory Kibusi as he spoke to reporters on the progress of the recovery of diamonds from waste rock heaps from Williamson Diamond Mines at Msagala village, Maganzo Ward in the vicinity of the mines.

Kibusi said the drop of diamond buyers, particularly for the granular type of the mineral whose major market was India which is now under lockdown from the Covid-19 pandemic.

In regard to miners' complaints over the poor quality of the rock waste Kibusi said the allocated one million tons of rock will continue to be provided by the Mwadui Mines and called on the miners to be patient as the first batch of the rock waste has been already expended.

He said despite the existing challenges, six groups formed from about 100 groups are continuing with waste recovery and have already extracted 639 pieces of tiny diamonds.

On his part the Shinyanga region Minerals Officer Bariki Munuo said the extracted minerals are stored by the region's mineral office due to lack of capital by diamond dealers - also due to Covid-19 pandemic.

One of the miners Simon Malila hailed the government strategy in enabling the entire exercise but appealed for quality rock waste saying recovery work will be more beneficial to them.

However despite the drop of diamond sales, the small miners said they were still optimistic especially after SHIREMA said it has succeeded to procure better quality rock waste from Mwadui Mines which saw miners fighting for it.

It is about a week now since small diamond miners in Kishapu District in Shinyanga Region started benefiting from the recovery of diamonds from waste rock heaps from Williamson Diamond Mines following directions from President John Magufuli.

“
In regard to miners' complaints over the poor quality of the rock waste Kibusi said the allocated one million tons of rock will continue to be provided by the Mwadui Mines and called on the miners to be patient as the first batch of the rock waste has been already expended

Dodoma's new bus station, main market, park to be inaugurated on April 26

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA City's strategic projects - the central bus station, Ndugai main market and Chinangali park costing a total of 89b/- are expected to be inaugurated on April 26 this year.

This was revealed here yesterday by the City's Executive Director Godwin Kunambi when he spoke to reporters in his office.

Kunambi said all the projects have been completed 100 per cent hence called upon Dodoma residents and

people from other areas in the country to grab the opportunities to be offered by the big strategic projects.

Speaking about the Central Bus Station to cater for buses going to other regions he said it will have the capacity to handle up to 1,200 people waiting to

travel at a time. "It will be of international standard in regard to east Africa as it will be the first one with a very modern VIP area," he said.

In regard to the Ndugai main market, Kunambi said it will serve all 41 wards in Dodoma city.

On Chinangali park, he said it will incorporate various games including swimming, tennis and others as well food and drinks.

Kunambi also appealed to Dodoma residents and those from other areas in the country to get application forms for

spaces to invest in various businesses in all these areas in order to develop the economy of Dodoma Region.

He said Dodoma city expects to complete the construction of a centre for trucks that will enable to park 300 tucks at a time.

Mafia empowers farmers with 132,562 cashew nut seedlings

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

AUTHORITIES in Mafia district, Coast region, have offered 132,562 cashew-nut seedlings free of charge to 242 small holder farmers in three consecutive years to boost the crop and empower them financially.

Mafia district commissioner, Shaibu Nnunduma told this reporter that the seedlings were offered in 11 villages during the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 farming seasons.

He said the district decided to embark on the exercise after discovering that majority of people in the district live in poverty because they

depend on fishing alone as their source of incomes.

So, far farmers have been trained on best agricultural practices by the district to increase production, quality and quantity of the crop and produce cashew-nut that meet market requirement both in domestic and international markets similarly to Mtwara region.

"We have decided to provide seedlings so that people can change their mindsets and involve in cashew nut production instead of relying on fishing activities," he noted.

According to him, poverty in Mafia has been cited as key factor that

contribute early marriage and forced children to embark on domestic labour that limit them to enjoy their rights to education.

According to the 2012 population census, Mafia district council has 46,438 people and was officially established in 1959.

So far the district has 8 wards, 23 registered villages and 136 suburbs that depend on fishing activities and agriculture.

He said in 2016/2017 the district offered 29,000 cashew nut seedlings, in 2017/2018 offered 85,000 cashewnut seedlings while in 2018/2019 the district offered 18,562 cashew-nut seedlings.



Singida regional commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi (in glasses) demonstrates proper washing of hands to small traders at Nkunikana in Ikungi District yesterday. She was on a tour during which she sensitised the people on the Covid-19 pandemic. She is flanked by Ikungi district commissioner Edward Mpogolo (R) and district executive director Justice Kijazi. Photo: Correspondent John Mapepele

By Guardian Correspondent, Ikungi

Empowerment loans benefit 78 youths in Ikungu District

IKUNGU district in Singida region has started to empower youth with capital loans to establish businesses whereby 78 beneficiaries had received a total of 127m/- this financial year.

The district is also planning to provide loans totaling 150m/- in the coming financial year, according to the district executive director, Justine Kijazi.

The beneficiaries include youth groups engaging in bricks making, manufacturing of packaging materials and production of alternative carrier bags. The groups are New Bright Future and Jitume Vijana which have 10 members each.

Speaking during her tour at the New Bright Future group recently, Singida regional commissioner, Dr Rehema Nchimbi urged youth to properly use the 25m/- loan in order to repay the monies. She urged the group to manufacture quality bags to secure markets countrywide. The regional commissioner also visited the Jitume Vijana group engaging on bricks making and packaging materials.

She commended the district for commencing the initiative.

By Rahma Suleiman, Zanzibar

FARMERS at Mpale village in Korogwe District, have requested the government to construct a factory to process spices and tea to add value to the commodities and enable them to compete in the international markets.

The villagers claimed that despite having a mega solar power system they do not have a processing factory for their agricultural crops including spices and tea.

Despite having a solar power plant, which can run a tea processing factory, farmers spend most of their precious time to look for a factory far away from the village. The situation has been denying them to fetch good prices from their agricultural crops.

"We need a factory to add value to our products, most farmers have been engaging on the cultivation of cinnamon, garlic, black pepper, cardamom, cloves, and tea, but they don't benefit from their sweat as most of the products are sold raw," claimed Amina Mohamed who represented the

farmers. She also complained that most farmers had to walk long distances to process their spices at the factory in another ward. She said tea farmers walk even longer to access the factory.

"We are forced to sell our products at low prices because they are not processed. We are ready to contribute to electricity costs as well as storage facilities", she said, adding that if well-managed spices can be a magic wand for the village and the surrounding area to shake off poverty.

Mpale village chairman, Abdallah Mdoe called upon business people and individuals to invest in the factory as the market is guaranteed.

He said such investments are crucial for the improvement of agricultural activities.

According to Mdoe, the villagers are forced to buy imported tea from other

regions only because they don't have a factory to refine their products.

"We have a mega solar power system that can run machines, but people are not interested in establishing factories", he said. Solar power senior supervisor, Erica Jackson said they started providing electricity services to villagers in 2017 after a private solar firm—Ensol volunteered to install the solar power generator.

He said they arrived at the decision after the villagers had complained about lack of services since 1972 when the village was formally established.

Jackson said the solar power system had the capacity to run a factory but most of the villagers are using the energy for domestic uses. He said currently they are producing 40kilowatts for domestic uses only, but the installed machines can produce up to 240 kilowatts per day.

SUGAR BOARD OF TANZANIA



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORTATION OF SUGAR FOR INDUSTRIAL USE FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

- The Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) invites registered users of industrial sugar to submit their applications for importation of industrial sugar for the period 2020/2021.
- All applications should be channeled through Agricultural Trade Management System (ATMS). Before submitting the application, applicants must update registration details online, via the link <https://atmis.kilimo.go.tz/>.
- The application should be attached with Form SBT-05 provided herein, and be submitted to SBT **not later than 18th April 2020**. Should items 8 and 9 in Form SBT-05 show significant variance, detailed explanation and supporting evidence will be required to support the application
- Allocations are greatly dependent on details of past and present usage. Further, applicants should provide details on usage analysis for 2020/2021, and the imports for the period to March, 2020 plus stocks and realistic projections to June 2020.
- For more information and support please contact the SBT as addressed below.

Director General,
Sugar Board of Tanzania,
P. O. Box 4355, DAR ES SALAAM.
Tel No. +255222111523
E-mail: info@sbt.go.tz

SBT – 05

THE SUGAR BOARD OF TANZANIA			
B	APPLICATION FOR SUGAR IMPORT LICENCE: (Sugar for Industrial use)	Sr. No	
1. I/We (Name and address of Applicant) _____ _____			
Hereby apply for a sugar Import Licence Category B to import sugar for Industrial use as stated hereunder.			
2. Registration Certificate No. _____ dated _____			
3. Quantity of sugar to be imported _____ metric tons			
4. Period (month & year), from _____ 20 _____ to _____ 20 _____			
5. Single or multiple entry _____			
6. Port (s) of entry _____			
7. Last Import License was No. _____ for _____ tons			
8. Production from the last imported sugar (item 7) is as shown overleaf.			
9. Fill in the type and quantities of products to be produced from the sugar to be imported (item 3).			
Product	Quantity	Product	Quantity
(i)		(v)	
(ii)		(vi)	
(iii)		(vii)	
(iv)		(viii)	
(Give details) _____			
Signature: _____		Date: _____	
For official use			

PRODUCTION (previous licence(s))

- Last Import Licence No(s). _____
- Tons sugar imported _____
- Total tons sugar used _____

1.0	Products produced PRODUCT	QNTY – Tons/Kg/Ltrs/ Cases	Sugar used Ton or Kg
(i)	_____	_____	Kg/ton
(ii)	_____	_____	Kg/ton
(iii)	_____	_____	Kg/ton
(iv)	_____	_____	Kg/ton
(v)	_____	_____	Kg/ton
(vi)	_____	_____	Kg/ton

CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATIONS OF IMPORT LICENCE (Industrial Sugar)

- By signing and submitting this application to the Board the applicant declares that if granted licence the sugar he will import will be solely for industrial use and shall not be sold or disposed of in any other manner.
- Licence granted under this application shall import Refined Sugar only.
- This application and any licence arising there-from is governed by the Sugar Import Regulations, 2010 as amended.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2020

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

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Border motorcycle rides like Namanga could spell disaster, but hopefully not

REPORTS have surfaced in Arusha that some travellers from the other side of the border at Namanga, as they are supposed to be quarantined for 14 days, turn back on that notice and then find their way into the town by hiring motorcycles to sneak through the bus, take some commuter bus which had already left Namanga border post, and on to their destinations. Chances are that they are mostly local people who trade between the two sides, and ordinarily they would feel they belong home, despite having been in a different coronavirus environment.

When district authorities in the area heard that some people were pretending to go back to the other side instead of quarantine, and then sneak by hired motorcycle, contacted bus owners not to pick people waving buses to stop but they appear to come from a nearby bush. It was reported that commuter bus operators agreed to follow that rule and pick people only at approved bus stops, but the measure is hardly convincing. It means that such sneakers will have to pay more for the motorcycles to take them to a proper bus stop, unless intercepted while in the bushes.

Since there are cases -for instance one in Kagera region last week where the person testing positive had just been in Burundi, it follows that border controls are vital in flushing out cases even if the Covid-19 concentration isn't overly high as yet. Controls in Zanzibar as Mkokotoni port yielded two new cases which the Isles health minister says they came from Tanga, which means there are undetected infections in our midst, and it will take time to

know their breadth. The danger is real, but a trader may feel he is being discriminated, like Aids earlier, or albinism.

As Namanga is a busy border post with a certain amount of surveillance infrastructure, it is likely that authorities there will take measures to contain the use of 'panya routes' by itinerant traders who now see the border as virtually closed, if one spends a month in going and coming back - if the other side applies a similar rule. This situation will first see a steep drop in cross border trade as adding 14 days to the sum of transactions is inconceivable on a day to day basis, and for those with more important errands, or returns from those errands as minerals smuggling may start or become more energetic, think of other solutions. They can use such a method in small outposts.

All this goes to illustrate that to take effective measures against a widening of the coronavirus outbreak is a steep climb bereft with sharp edges and unsolvable situations all over. We can only emphasise with President John Magufuli that the nation be on its knees to pray for heaven to bring an end to this pandemic, as the maths don't add up how human endeavor on its own can manage to do so. As the president noted, we have been through other plagues before, and we expect to ride over this one too, but as Queen Elisabeth II phrased it in a televised speech Sunday night, the world has been through epidemics earlier, but this one is decidedly different. It doesn't obey the usual rules of epidemic control, like cordoning off an epicenter and then all is cleared.

Mental health is global priority, for very understandable reasons

THE World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organisation (WHO), as well as other related organisations.

Health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being in which disease and infirmity are absent. The meaning of health has evolved over time. In keeping with the biomedical perspective, early definitions of health focused on the theme of the body's ability to function; health was seen as a state of normal function that could be disrupted from time to time by disease.

An example of such a definition of health is: "a state characterized by anatomic, physiologic, and psychological integrity; ability to perform personally valued family, work, and community roles; ability to deal with physical, biological, psychological, and social stress".

Then in 1948, in a radical departure from previous definitions, the World Health Organization (WHO) proposed a definition that aimed higher: linking health to well-being, in terms of "physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity".

Again, the WHO played a leading role when it fostered the development of the health promotion movement in the 1980s. This brought in a new conception of health, not as a state, but in dynamic terms of resiliency, in other words, as "a resource for living". In 1984 WHO revised the definition of health defined it as "the extent to which an individual or group is able to realize aspirations and satisfy needs and to change or cope with the environment. Health is a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living; it is a positive

concept, emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities".

Healthy People 2020 gives more prominence to health promotion and preventive approaches and adds a substantive focus on the importance of addressing social determinants of health. A new expanded digital interface facilitates use and dissemination rather than bulky printed books as produced in the past. The impact of these changes to Healthy People will be determined in the coming years.

In the first decade of the 21st century, the conceptualization of health as an ability opened the door for self-assessments to become the main indicators to judge the performance of efforts aimed at improving human health. It also created the opportunity for every person to feel healthy, even in the presence of multiple chronic diseases, or a terminal condition, and for the re-examination of determinants of health, away from the traditional approach that focuses on the reduction of the prevalence of diseases.

In 1948, the WHO held the First World Health Assembly. The Assembly decided to celebrate 7 April of each year, with effect from 1950, as the World Health Day.

The World Health Day is held to mark WHO's founding, and is seen as an opportunity by the organisation to draw worldwide attention to a subject of major importance to global health each year.

World Health Day is acknowledged by various governments and non-governmental organisations with interests in public health issues, who also organize activities and highlight their support in media reports, such as the Global Health Council.

By Ruth Butaumocho

GROWING up in the dusty streets of Harare's high-density suburb of Mufakose in the early '80s, most parents pressed children to get the highest points to enroll at the University of Zimbabwe.

Those who were ambitious would even push their children further to excel so that they could meet the requirements of Makerere University in Uganda.

Since 1920, when the British Secretary of State, Winston Churchill approved the establishment of a "native technical school at Kampala" Makerere University is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Africa.

It became a symbol of African civilisation, centre of knowledge and academic excellence. For decades, Makerere University was regarded as the "Harvard of Africa", where thousands of students from African and even some European countries would study.

It was considered the foundation of knowledge that produced notables like Tanzanian presidents Julius Nyerere and Benjamin Mkapa, former president of the DRC, Laurent Desire Kabila and former Kenyan leader Mwai Kibaki.

In the same category was Fort Hare University of South Africa, which created an environment that inspired black consciousness and resistance against colonialism.

So, one could imagine what the yesteryear students had to put up with, at the behest of their parents, to acquire the best results.

As years passed, more universities were built in African countries to absorb the number of students who wanted to acquire university education.

Zimbabwe was not left out in the academic revolution, where the Government committed resources and expertise to construct more universities and technical colleges to absorb the growing number of students thirsty for university education.

Churches and the private sector ably assisted in the transformational phase by building universities to complement Government efforts to ensure university education was easily accessible.

Students no longer needed to travel far and beyond to acquire education unless there were other extenuating circumstances because universities were now readily available.

With Government grants, and subsidies, university education became easily accessible, and affordable, while offering quality education.

The country now boasts more than 10 universities, several technical colleges and vocational centres sprouted around Zimbabwe.

However, events of the last two months could reverse the country's efforts to ensure access to affordable

Keep education affordable to unlock more benefits



university education.

Steep increases in fees and other ancillary costs came at a time Government had put a cap on university and college fees to ensure that tertiary education remains affordable.

A few weeks ago, the Government ordered State universities to set their full fees, including tuition and accommodation at \$5 000 and below per semester, for both full-time conventional students and those on block release.

Polytechnics and teachers' colleges were directed to charge fees below \$1 300 a semester for certificate and diploma programmes, while higher national diplomas and degrees will attract slightly higher fees.

The Government encouraged colleges to ensure they were charging a maximum of \$1 200 a semester.

Naturally, most parents welcomed the move by Government to put a cap on university and college fees to make it affordable.

A week later, they were shocked to receive invoices, where accommodation and other ancillary costs for some degree programmes have been increased by more than 300 percent.

Students studying medicine at one local State university are being asked to pay \$8 650, a fee structure which presumably caters for other ancillary costs such as lab fees.

Suffice to say, many parents say the fees are too steep and may drain their thinning pockets, which also have other competing interests to contend

with, such as food, rentals and clothing.

In coming up with the cap, Government was trying to ensure that university education remains affordable and accessible in light of the dwindling disposable incomes particularly the majority of the formally employed whose salaries have not been adjusted.

With all things being equal, the decision by Government to cap fees, should create a balance between viability and affordability.

It is the desire of public universities and colleges in Zimbabwe to strengthen higher education systems locally and regionally by churning out top notch students.

That exercise requires the necessary tools such as skilled lecturers, infrastructure and proper teaching aids.

However, we believe that such a vision occasionally needs to be tuned with reality.

Reality on the ground shows that salaries for most workers have not been increased, hence the majority of them will not afford.

In light of that, universities and colleges should not regard the decision to cap the fees as averse, but as an interim solution to balance viability of institutions and affordability of university education.

It would be prudent for universities and colleges to justify the proposed fee hikes they had applied for, to enable Government to come up with a proper fee structure.

Already, accommodation for

students remain a challenge at most institutions and yet some universities and colleges have been claiming that part of the students' fees go towards infrastructural development.

On the other hand, Government should not turn a blind eye to considerable difficulties that universities and colleges have been facing in recent years.

Top of the challenges that institutions of higher learning face are brain drain, inadequate infrastructure, the collapse of infrastructure and in some cases, lack of access to most basic tools needed to conduct high-level teaching and learning in the information age.

It is important to collectively consider the reality of attempting to not only remain committed to the core mission of institutions of higher learning under these difficult conditions, but also to other environmental constraints, and to demonstrating collective solidarity in such circumstances.

The nation hopes that those who cannot afford the increased fees should benefit from the \$90 million grant set aside by the Government to benefit less-privileged students eager to acquire tertiary education.

With some banks requiring collateral security in form of a payslip, or proof of stable income from any business venture, students from underprivileged families are naturally disenfranchised and cannot access the money.

We hope the facility will not be abused by well-connected people and will assist disadvantaged students, giving relief to their struggling parents.

2020 COVID-19 Challenge



Nnamdi Nwokocha
Ahaaiwe

Fight against COVID-19 and other tales by moonlight

CITIZENS are locked up in their homes. Businesses and all means of income are closed down. People are being flogged on the streets for disobeying "social distance rules". Everyone is being monitored. Anyone who dares to question whether the lockdown and quarantine is ideal for the Nigeria situation and condition is framed as a saboteur. Contrary opinion is frowned upon without any attempt to query or interrogate its merits. All that is promoted is panic, fear, anxiety, fright, pandemonium. It's been a season of dejavu.

In all these, what has now finally dawned on Nigerians with the arrival of COVID-19 is that the concept of leadership is fiction in these climes.

There has been no announcement of the number of ventilators and ICUs in their various states. No announcement of the number of persons so far tested and the results; Governors have only boasted of setting up isolation centers which are no better than piggeries as if the concept of isolation centers is a place for quarantining those infected with the virus to be left to die in isolation.

Before I delve into the meat of this article, let us agree on the known: the numbers, the statistics, and the data. What is clear is that countries around the world tailored their individual response according to what works for them. China where the virus started for instance, adopted an approach based on the communist centralised system which is impossible to replicate anywhere else in the world and it worked for them.

The USA has voted \$2 trillion stimulus package for reviving their economy after their lock-

down. That is about Eight Hundred Trillion Naira. The UK has voted billions of pounds sterling for similar purpose. Here in Nigeria, even before the advent of the COVID-19, our entire oil-dependent Federal Budget was to be funded by borrowing.

How fatal is COVID-19? Available, verifiable statistics show that over 85 per cent of those who contract the virus will either show no symptoms at all or will show mild to moderate symptoms and recover on their own without need for hospitalisation. Of the 15 per cent or less who require hospitalisation, only about 20 percent of that number will become critically ill and require ICU and ventilators; many of those will still recover.

According to the WHO, COVID-19, Situation Report No. 68 published on 28 March 2020, out of about 7.8 Billion people on Earth, there are just 571,678 confirmed cases and 26,494 deaths globally while the figure for Africa is 2,831 confirmed cases with 48 deaths. What percentages are we looking at? These figures include China, Nigeria, USA, UK, Italy, Spain and every country on earth.

Then consider: According to the CDC, between October 1, 2019 through February 1, 2020, a period of four months, 12,000 people died of influenza (flu) in the USA. On the other hand, between late December 2019 when the first cases of COVID-19 was identified in the USA and March 28, 2020, a period of about three months only about 1,100 persons have died of the virus.

Of these fatalities, 95 percent are aged sixty-five and above while most of the others are those with underlying health conditions. Less than 40 per-



sons under 40 years have died of the virus so far globally.

The Wife of the Prime Minister of Canada, Mikel Arteta, Coach of Arsenal FC, several footballers and thousands of others who have been infected did not need hospitalisation but recovered in their houses. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Prince Charles of Wales, Governor El'Rufai and many thousands of others across the world who are infected have not gone to hospital. They are self-isolating at home so as not to infect others and will recover.

So is this disease the death sentence being promoted? Can we pause, take a deep breath and think.

What exactly is behind this mindless panic and for which draconian measures have been enacted which will destroy millions of households from which we may never recover. Are there forces who will gain from this crises and are deliberately

fueling this panic?

Are there forces who will gain if the global economy collapses, enters recession and a new world order is enacted?

Can we at least think about it? Can we in Nigeria say: "hold on a minute, let's tow a different path and approach"? This is not promoting conspiracy theories; remember we are talking figures which don't lie.

Let's consider other statistics in respect of the elderly who are the most at risk.

According to WHO, over 646,000 person's mostly above 65 years die from falls alone each year. Don't take my word for it; go to the WHO website. By the time you add other causes of death from heart attacks, strokes, etc, well over 1,000,000 elderly people die globally each year from various causes not related to COVID-19. What does this tell us?

Many of those elderly people who have died so far from the COVID-19 would have died from other causes anyway.

Still looking at the empirical numbers, the Nigeria Malaria Fact Sheet

says there are over 300,000 deaths from malaria per year compared to about 215,000 deaths from HIV/AIDS. Malaria and HIV alone account for 515,000 deaths.

By the time you add deaths from typhoid, Lassa fever, measles, tuberculosis, road accidents, Boko Haram and other causes, you are talking about millions of deaths from diseases and other preventable causes each year.

Yet in the three months plus COVID-19 have entered our dictionary, only two people have died of it in Nigeria and assuming there is a massive outbreak, the trajectory, figures and data show that probably less than 5,000 people, mostly the elderly and those with underlying conditions will die.

Most of these projected 5,000 are likely to have also died this year from the other above causes highlighted. Indeed, out of the two recorded deaths in Nigeria, one just returned from the UK where he underwent treatment for cancer and we all know, cancer could kill even without COVID-19.

On the basis of these easily data

and statistics, I believe our leaders should take a second look and break us out of the global pandemonium. Lockdown is simply not a solution for Nigeria and our leaders must be brave and bold to search for other paths.

We must not follow the western world sheepishly. In Nigeria, 90 per cent of households do not have running water and must go to public boreholes, streams and wells to fetch water for drinking, cooking, washing, bathing and other needs; they do not have gas piped to their kitchens and must go fetch firewood or get coal to cook. Millions of households live in "face-me-I-face-you" accommodation where over fifty persons share one toilet, one bath room and one kitchen.

What does self-isolation mean for the vast majority of Nigerians then? Minimum wage is still N20, 000 a month as most states have not started paying the new one. Many States locked citizens down while owing several months' arrears of salaries and pensions and people have been told to stock up food and provisions for one to four months?

With what? And for the few who can actually buy something, it rots after a few days because there is no electricity to power the refrigerator. These effects make these drugs a possible option in the treatment of several tumors in association with radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

Prime Minister of Britain ordered Rolls Royce, Land Rover and other vehicle manufacturing companies to repurpose their production lines to start manufacturing ventilators. President Trump similarly ordered Ford, Chevrolet, GM, Tesla and others to start manufacturing ventilators which are needed for respiratory purposes for critically ill people such as in COVID-19 infection; their governments will pay for all the ventilators so produced. These countries between them already have over 100,000 ventilators before the additional ones to be produced.

TCM goes around the world to help fight COVID-19

TRADITIONAL Chinese medicine (TCM) and TCM doctors are playing increasingly important roles in global efforts to fight the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), as the pandemic impacts countries more heavily with each passing day.

On March 18 local time, a Chinese medical team made up of 13 medical experts, including two TCM experts, arrived at Milan Malpensa Airport, Italy, with nine tons of supplies donated by east China's Zhejiang province for medical treatment and protection.

Yang Junchao, vice president of the Zhejiang Provincial Hospital of TCM, was one of the two TCM experts in the team. It was the first time China had sent TCM experts to a foreign country to help fight COVID-19.

The combination of TCM and Western medicine has led to significant achievements in China's efforts to fight the epidemic, said Yang, adding that TCM is drawing increasing attention from other countries.

"We will introduce China's experience in fighting the epidemic to Italy," Yang said. She disclosed that they will share China's TCM treatment plans and clinical thinking for COVID-19 with Italy, introduce TCM and its theory to the country to enhance Italian people's scientific understanding of TCM, and provide medical advice for local communities and overseas Chinese.

TCM has been a highlight in China's efforts to fight COVID-19, said Zhang Boli, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) and one of the leading experts advising on the epidemic fight in central China's Hubei province, epicenter of the epidemic in China.

Zhang, who is also the president of Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, disclosed that some academic institutions in South Korea, Japan, and Italy have sent letters to China asking it to share its experience in fighting COVID-19 and its use of TCM, and asking China to provide Chinese patent medicines.

On various online medical consultation platforms around the world,

the combination of TCM and Western medicine has already played important roles in fighting COVID-19 worldwide and helping overseas Chinese.

Wencheng county in Wenzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, has set up 40 WeChat groups to provide health consultation services for overseas Chinese whose original family homes are in the county. Each WeChat group has nearly 500 people.

The members of the WeChat groups can describe their symptoms, and also upload relevant materials including laboratory test reports and pictures of coating on the tongue to seek doctor's advice, which is based on both TCM and Western medicine.

"There is a TCM doctor in each of the WeChat groups, and all overseas Chinese from Wencheng county can ask for medical consultation in the WeChat groups," said Zhou Jie, deputy administrative director of the publicity department of Communist Party of China (CPC) Wencheng county committee.

"Wencheng county is a well-known hometown of overseas Chinese. Almost every family here has family members living abroad. These overseas Chinese have a special preference for TCM and put a lot of trust in it," Zhou said, stressing that "the combination of TCM and Western medicine has significantly alleviated the anxiety of overseas Chinese over the disease."

As part of efforts to help overseas Chinese fight the epidemic, the Federation of Jiangsu Returned Overseas Chinese in east China's Jiangsu province, helped launch the "online clinic" of Jiangsu Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine, allowing TCM to benefit more overseas Chinese and help with the global fight against the virus.

The phone number of the "online clinic" has now become an "international hotline", as more and more patients are now making video calls from other countries to seek medical consultation for COVID-19, according to Wu Wenzhong, vice president of Jiangsu Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine.

The hospital is making the appropriate arrangements for connecting



On March 25, 2020, at the Preparation Center of Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital of Jingzhou City, Hubei Province, staff are stepping up the production of Chinese medicine conditioning preparations for patients with new crown pneumonia.

with TCM institutions in countries including Germany, the Netherlands and Canada, and is also preparing to launch a platform that helps overseas TCM practitioners consult with the hospital on COVID-19, Wu disclosed.

TCM doctors at the hospital have recently held discussions with overseas TCM experts on different TCM treatment and prevention plans against COVID-19 on its international TCM telemedicine teaching cooperation platform. The platform links institutions in more than 10 countries and regions including the U.S., Canada, the UK, Australia, Switzerland, Brazil, Ireland, and Singapore.

Traditional Chinese patent medicine, Chinese herbal tea, and TCM decoction have also become increas-

ingly popular with people in many countries.

Since Feb. 27, Chinese doctor Chen Zhen, chairman of TCM company Oriental Herbs, has offered people free herbal tea in Budapest, capital of Hungary, at 11 a.m. every day.

The prescription for the herbal tea was based on guidelines for TCM diagnosis and treatment released by China's National Health Commission (NHC) and various provinces, according to Chen.

Chen and another TCM doctor named Zhang Qingbin have also developed several other TCM prescriptions to help treat the disease, and posted them online to help overseas Chinese, Chen explained.

"So many people come for the herb-

al tea. There's a long queue here every day. Many Chinese living in Hungary's neighboring countries drive here specially for the herbal tea. And it's not just Chinese; many local residents also come with thermos cups and jugs to take the herbal tea home for their families." Chen told People's Daily while giving out the herbal tea and preparing medicinal materials.

Besides Hungary, TCM is being eagerly sought after in many other countries during the epidemic.

"Many people come to my clinic and ask for 20 or even 30 bags of TCM for prevention of the epidemic. We're about to run out of stock. I need to restock TCM quickly," said Wu Binjiang, dean of the Ontario College of Tradi-

tional Chinese Medicine and also vice chairperson of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies.

According to media reports, US orders for TCM for relief of cold and flu symptoms and boosting immunity have almost doubled since this February, with some Chinese patent medicines sold out and some Chinese herbal medicines becoming hard to find.

In addition to traditional Chinese herbal medicine, many physical methods used in TCM for boosting immunity and enhancing epidemic prevention and control have also been introduced to foreign countries to fight COVID-19.

On March 12, some German patients were seen practicing a set of exercises named Ba Duan Jin, which literally means "eight steps to healthy living", at Koetzting Hospital of Chinese Medicine in Bavaria, Germany, under the instruction of a TCM doctor.

Ba Duan Jin, the ancient Chinese martial art of Tai Chi, and TCM therapy known as Er Xue Ya Dou, which means "pressing granules on auricular acupoints", are all important methods used in TCM to boost immunity and prevent and control the epidemic, said Dai Jingzhang, president of the Koetzting Hospital of Chinese Medicine.

"We have also developed epidemic prevention TCM decoctions for German patients based on the practical experience of TCM services for patients in China, and offered the decoction to our patients and colleagues," Dai disclosed.

The hospital is now attempting to provide prescriptions for their epidemic prevention decoctions and various TCM methods which are useful for coping with COVID-19 for everyone in Germany and Europe, said Dai.

In addition, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, co-founder of the Koetzting Hospital of Chinese Medicine, is also making arrangements to send medical teams and offer medical supplies including Chinese medicine to Germany and other countries in Europe, according to Dai.

The coronavirus: Will women fare worse than men?

By Suzanna de Baca

LIKE most Americans working remotely during the pandemic, I've been comparing notes with colleagues and friends on how we're keeping everything together. Particularly, there is a theme to the conversation. After discussing how hard it is to keep up with the ever-changing news cycle and how we are handling the terrifying possibility of the virus affecting our families and loved ones, invariably the conversation turns to the herculean challenge of juggling work, caring for children and managing household responsibilities. You know – the normal challenges of being a working woman.

These conversations prompted me to consider how the coronavirus will affect women differently than men.

From a mortality perspective, according to a March 24 report by the World Economic Forum, research from China suggests that “while COVID-19 is infecting men and women in about equal numbers, women appear less likely to die from the virus than men.”

But while there's a lower mortality rate for women, other inequalities persist. Research indicates that pandemics do affect men and women differently; a pandemic actually magnifies all existing inequalities. Therefore, it is likely that women will suffer economically and in terms of indirect health outcomes from the coronavirus.

In an article titled “The Coronavirus is a Disaster for Feminism,” in the March issue of the Atlantic, the author looked at recent pandemics (Ebola, Zika and recent outbreaks of SARS, swine flu and bird flu). Academic research revealed that “they had deep, long-lasting effects on gender equality.”

One striking finding: While income across the board was affected by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, “men's income returned to what they had made pre-outbreak faster than women's income.” Indeed, there was a ripple effect that hurt women – declining rates of childhood vaccination led to children contracting preventable diseases, which then forced their mothers to take time off work.

In the coronavirus pandemic, a similar ripple effect will also affect women, who traditionally do three times as much unpaid care work as men. Pro-



viding special care or assisting relatives who may be vulnerable or relatives with the virus increases that care burden.

In other pandemics, school closures had consequences. Mass school closures across the globe and in the U.S. will disproportionately affect women, because despite advancements, we still bear more responsibility for child care. Past pandemics have also led to more girls dropping out of school, often exacerbated by teen pregnancies. In addition, during pandemics there

has been rise of domestic and sexual violence against women. While we have not yet seen reports of these behaviors, they are almost inevitable in a prolonged period of sequester and stress.

Reports of past pandemics also showed that overall women's health declined because all resources were diverted to the outbreak.

In particular, maternal health outcomes suffered. This already is happening today. Elective sur-

geries and annual OB-GYN exams are being canceled or delayed, and women giving birth in hospitals are at high risk. Abortions are being considered elective despite the time sensitivity of the procedures.

Finally, and perhaps most sadening, is the fact that women make up the majority of health and social care workers. Right now, women even more than men are on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19. Caring for

others may come at a steep price. What does this mean for us as women, or for us as a society of men and women together? Awareness and action are key. If a pandemic exacerbates underlying inequities, we must first acknowledge those social inequities or obstacles for women and we must be vigilant in addressing those barriers.

For employers, it means continuing programs to support and advance women, even at a time

when budgets are being slashed. As a society, we must not waver in providing education, access to health care, and protection for women. In our households, it means striving to divide labor in a truly equitable way.

Knowing the outcomes from past pandemics, we can take a hard look at our own workplaces, communities and personal actions and ask: Are we bound to repeat history, or will we support women this time around?

China lifts foreign ownership limits on securities, fund management firms

SHANGHAI

CHINA scrapped the limitations on the ratio of foreign shareholding in securities and fund management firms a move that shows wider opening-up of its financial industry.

The move gives those foreign companies the green light to set up wholly-owned units on the Chinese mainland, offering them a chance to better tap the Chinese market. It also provides Chinese investors with a greater variety of financial products and services.

The accelerated pace of China's opening-up could help boost confidence for global companies, many of which have been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic and are grappling to mitigate its economic fallout.

MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL

The abolition of the limits on foreign ownership in securities firms on Wednesday came after a March announcement by the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) to advance the time for the move originally scheduled for this December.

Foreign financial institutions have acted quickly. On Friday, Morgan Stanley said it had received CSRC approval to increase its shareholding in its China securities joint venture, Morgan Stanley Huaxin Securities Company Limited, from 49 percent to 51 percent.

On the same day, Goldman Sachs said it had been approved to increase its ownership in its China joint venture, Goldman Sachs Gao Hua Securities Company Limited, from 33 percent to 51 percent.

The approvals put the number of foreign-controlled joint venture se-

curities firms in China at five. The other three are Nomura Orient International Securities, J.P. Morgan Securities (China) Company Limited, and UBS Securities.

DBS Bank has also applied for the establishment of a controlling joint venture securities firm in Shanghai.

“This is a significant milestone in the evolution of our business in China,” said Todd Leland, co-president of Goldman Sachs in Asia Pacific ex-Japan, adding that the company will now seek to move toward 100 percent ownership at the earliest opportunity.

Mark Leung, CEO of J.P. Morgan China, said the company is eyeing the same move in its Chinese joint venture.

Along with foreign companies in securities business, world asset management leaders such as BlackRock, Fidelity, Schroders, Neuberger Berman are actively preparing for the application of wholly-owned mutual fund units in Shanghai.

“China's asset management market is expected to grow more than four-fold in the next 10 years,” said Jackson Lee, country head in China for Fidelity International.

The removal of foreign ownership caps will bring benefits to both global investment banks and Chinese investors, said Toshiyasu Iiyama, head of China Committee of Nomura Holdings.

Chinese investors will enjoy more financial products and services, and have more ways to diversify their investment portfolio, said the executive.

CONFIDENCE IN TRYING TIMES

In recent years, China has taken concrete steps to open up its market.



The office of Nomura Orient International Securities in Shanghai, east China. Xinhua

The well-rounded process includes widening market access for foreign firms, increasing commodity and service imports, and improving the business environment.

The latest move to open up China's financial sector on Wednesday has brought confidence to foreign institutions, as the coronavirus outbreak continues to exert a negative impact on the global economy.

On March 20, five newly-estab-

lished foreign financial institutions in Shanghai, including J.P. Morgan Securities (China) Company Limited, held an online opening ceremony.

A week later, the first sales department of Nomura Orient International Securities in Shanghai opened an account for its first client.

“Over the past years, we have been impressed by the pace of opening-up pushed forward by the Chinese government. It was beyond our expecta-

tions,” said Iiyama of Nomura.

J.P. Morgan's Leung also said that he was delighted to see the opening-up of China's financial sector continued to yield new results, citing the rapid development of the new economy and the acceleration of the internationalization of Chinese currency.

“These moves have made China's financial market more mature, and brought tremendous opportunities

for many companies including J.P. Morgan and our customers,” said Leung.

By further opening up the finance industry, China can attract more investment from international companies and make the country more integrated with the world economy, said Yan Hong, a finance professor at Shanghai Advanced Institute of Finance.

Xinhua

WHO Africa hosts hackathons, offers seed funds to fight COVID-19

BRAZZAVILLE

THE World Health Organization in Africa is holding virtual hackathons and offering up to \$20,000 in seed-funds to finalists with digital solutions to stem covid-19.

A hackathon is a design sprint-like event; often, in which computer programmers and others involved in software development, including graphic designers, interface designers, project managers, domain experts, and others collaborate intensively on software projects.

The regional office of the UN agency completed its first challenge earlier this month and will host a second, for French speaking Africa, in coming weeks, said WHO's technical officer Moredeck Chibi.

According to Dr Chibi, the WHO-AFRO Digital Hackathon series aims to prompt tech applications – with specificity to Africa – to curb the spread and negative impact of covid-19 – which began to spike on the continent in March.

For the first virtual challenge, WHO selected participants via an

online application process and split them into teams via Zoom. Groups were tasked with developing scalable concepts aligned with WHO's current COVID-19 response strategy, which includes infection prevention and control, case management, surveillance and continuity of health services.

The winning hackathon group, led by Ghanaian Entrepreneur Laud Basing, developed a screening tool concept – operable via mobile app or USSD code – that maps covid-19 test cases, classifies them according to risk and provides data to national au-

thorities to plan responses. The team will receive \$10,000 from the WHO to pilot their concept, and support in locating additional funding and expertise.

WHO aggregates coronavirus data on its Africa incident tracking database.

Early in March, the continent's covid-19 cases by country were in the single digits, but by mid-month those numbers had jumped – leading the WHO's Regional Director for Africa Dr. Matshidiso Moeti to sound an alarm on the virus at a March 19 press conference. She noted at the be-

ginning of March there were only five countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with cases. That had grown to 30 by mid-month and now stands at 44.

By the World Health Organization's stats Monday there were 6023 COVID-19 cases in Sub-Saharan Africa and 240 confirmed deaths related to the virus, up from 463 cases and 8 deaths on March 18.

The hardest hit country so far, South Africa, has gone into a government enforced lockdown.

As covid-19 spreads in Africa's major economies, policy-makers

and founders have looked to the continent's tech sector to shape responses.

The central banks of Ghana and Kenya have turned to mobile-money as a public-health tool, adopting measures to shift a greater volume of transactions toward digital payments and away from cash – which the World Health Organization flagged as a conduit for coronavirus.

Africa's largest incubator, CcHub, launched a fund and open call for tech projects aimed at curbing covid-19 and its social and economic impact.

And Pan-African e-commerce company Jumia has offered African governments use of its last-mile delivery network for distribution of supplies to healthcare facilities and workers.

The WHO's covid-19 related Africa hackathons aren't the first time the organization has turned to the continent's techies. In 2019, the Geneva based body launched the WHO Innovation Challenge – a competition to shape "home-grown innovations with potential to solve African health challenges". It drew 2400 entries from 44 countries.

It is youth activism for environmental protection in Africa

NAIROBI

THE mining sector in Africa is facing radical change as youth activists take action against the environmental degradation caused by mining industries. Tensions between activists and the mining industry have raised, however, concerns over human rights abuses.

Kenya's National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders reported, for instance, cases of harassment and intimidation "against at least 35 environmental activists" in 2018. There are also legal maneuvers that still limit activists' right to protest.

As conflict grows, some municipal governments are trying to enforce ambiguous legal measures, like unjustified arrests, to prevent demonstrations.

Undeterred, young activists are finding a way to make their voices heard all over Africa, including Kenya. An organization called Youth County Projects Kenya, led by social entrepreneur Mbiti, has been using surveys to collect data from over 100,000 young Kenyans on their biggest social concerns ranging from healthcare to corruption.

This provides young people with a safe platform to make their voices heard. They are able to hold people to account and put pressure on policy makers to address their concerns.

Similarly, Kaliki Paul Mukutu, a young Kenyan activist who is passionate about environmental justice, has been working with a global group called 350.org. Their current campaign, "DeColonize", pushes for more investment in renewable resources and away from the fossil fuel industry: "We do this by organizing community action, where we work with marginalized and local groups to create awareness and hear what they want in the communities and how they want it to improve their livelihoods as opposed to it being a more mainstreamed and government project", says Mukutu.

Inspired by growing up near the Ukambani zone in Eastern Kenya, he was shocked at the destruction of the natural landscape caused by the mining industry. He shares the ideals of many young activists in Kenya, believing that people should work towards a better, cleaner world and the only way to achieve this is to push for change from current practices.



Many young activists are working towards the same goal: having their voices heard and their needs addressed. Through their determination and collaborative work, real strides are being made towards positive change.

The African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) is another youth-led network trying to raise awareness of environmental issues. Zeldia Kerubo from AYICC explains that

raising awareness among youths about the impact of mining is an important task but one that comes with challenges: people often discredit the young voices based simply on their age and young people are also forced to confront powerful individuals and large organizations.

But as she explains, they remain undeterred: "AYICC will continue raising awareness, continue reaching out to these communities, not only

Yusuf KanoteHuka has worked as miner for the last 30 years, in Mungama ridge, Taita-Taveta County in Kenya

in Lamu and Kitui but also the society in general for us to be able to weigh in the benefits and the negatives of mining and so that we can be able to make an informed and a better decision that would be beneficial to all of us."

She also believes one of the most important things is to create "a mental shift in all of us to understand that everyone can do something".

Kaliki Paul Mukutu seems to speak for many other activists in Kenya when he said he believes that: "The youth in Africa are indeed comprising a huge fraction in their population, so it's high time that we invest in them and try to give them the best years that they need in order to lead their country, be it in the mining sector or any other kind of an industry. We need to support youth inclusion and proper youth inclusion should be a focal point that everyone should consider as we develop as a nation."

These organizations and their actions have all obtained extensive media coverage and initiated important discussions on the effects of the mining sector. Thanks to restless organizations, youths and other activists, the mining industry in Kenya is now under pressure to address its impact on the environment and on human rights.

While more work needs to be done to ensure that youth organizations can work without fear of intimidation and punishment, young activists have demonstrated that their voices can carry Kenya towards a more sustainable and just society.



Kenyatta spells out tougher measures to arrest Covid-19

NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Uhuru Kenyatta has announced a new raft of measures aimed at combating the spread of Covid-19, which has so far infected 158 people and claimed the lives of six patients.

Speaking from State House, Nairobi yesterday afternoon, the President announced the immediate cessation of movement in and out the Nairobi metropolitan area for 21 days.

"The Nairobi Metropolitan Area is designated as Nairobi City County, part of Kiambu County up to Chania River Bridge (Thika), including Rironi, Ndenderu, Kiambu town; part of Machakos County up

to Athi River, including Katani; part of Kajiado County including Kitengela, Kiserian, Ongata Rongai and Ngong town; and all other areas as set out in the Order," the president said in his address to the nation.

Meanwhile, the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund Board has put up an M-Pesa payroll number and bank account that Kenyans of goodwill, corporates and multinational institutions can use to send their donations.

Jane Karuku, chairperson of the Board, said in a statement yesterday that money raised will go to medical facilities and poor people first, as well pledging to make public all donations and spend.

"(Immediate priorities) are to support the government's efforts in the supply of medical facilities and equipment and support for vulnerable communities with their immediate needs, including food," the statement said.

"The support and goodwill towards this initiative have so far been very encouraging. Any person who may wish to donate to the Fund can send their contributions."

Karuku said that the Board will publicise contributions and expenditure regularly as they are working with professional services firms PwC Kenya, Deloitte Kenya and EY Kenya who are providing pro-bono assurance services.

Tanzania's national park turns into rhino tourism sanctuary

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

MKOMAZI National Park is set to become the first wildlife park in Africa specialised for black rhino tourism.

When planning their African safari, tourists from Europe, America, and Asia would add to their visiting itineraries, a few days' tour of Mkomazi National Park to see the rare African black rhino, now on the verge of disappearing from Earth.

Looking to diversification of tourism and wildlife safaris in Tanzania, Mkomazi National Park will introduce rhino tourism in July this year as a new attraction to attract tourists who are interested to see and learn more about the African black

rhino Under the management of Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Mkomazi is expected to be the only wildlife park in East Africa and the rest of Africa where visitors may see the black rhino.

TANAPA Conservation Commissioner Dr. Allan Kijazi said that the lesser-known Mkomazi will introduce rhino tourism within its wildlife ecosystem.

He said that a special program has been launched to conserve then protect and breed rhinos in Mkomazi aiming to make this Tanzanian park special for tourists who are interested to see the black rhino which is now counted as an endangered species on the verge of extinction.

"For the past 20 years, Mkomazi Wildlife Park has been run-

ning [a] rhino conservation project which had attracted breeding of rhinos," Kijazi said.

TANAPA is expecting to gain over US\$200,000 from about 7,680 visitors per year.

About US\$1.6 million will be spent for the rhino conservation project in Mkomazi. Rhinos are protected in a fence where tourists can view them more easily than in the wild plains.

Foreign tourists are charged park fees at just US\$30 a day and East African Community (EAC) residents are charged US\$4.50 per each day spent in the park.

Covering an area of 3,245 kilometers, Mkomazi National Park is one of Tanzania's newly-established wildlife parks where wild dogs are protected together with the black rhinos. Tourists

visiting this park may see wild dogs which are counted among endangered species in Africa.

In past decades, black rhinos used to roam freely between the Mkomazi and Tsavo wildlife ecosystem, extending from Tsavo West National Park in Kenya to the lower slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro.

More than half of northern frontier is a step away from Kenya's Tsavo West National Park allowing Mkomazi a share in the rich wildlife pickings of Tsavo ecosystem including some 12,000 elephants as well as migratory herds of Oryx and zebra.

Together with Tsavo, Mkomazi forms one of the largest and most important protected ecosystems on Earth where big African mammals including lions

roam freely.

Through the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust, the black rhino was reintroduced into a heavily-protected and fenced area within the Mkomazi National Park under the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary which is now conserving and breeding more than 12 black rhinos. Relocation of rhinos took place about 20 years ago.

Black rhinos were translocated to Mkomazi from other parks in Africa and Europe. Three black rhinos were from the Czech Republic with others from South Africa and other African parks.

Rhinos are bred in a fenced 55-square kilometers of an enclosed grazing land enclosed within a 40-kilometer-long

fence inside the park.

Black rhinos in Africa have over the years been hunted nearly to their extinction due to a high demand in the Far East. Although rhino horns are also sometimes sold as trophies or decorations, more often they are ground up and used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Save the Rhino, an international organization for the protection and conservation of rhinos, estimates that 500,000 rhinos lived across Africa and Asia 100 years ago. Today, Save the Rhino says less than 29,000 rhinos exist in the world, mostly in Africa.

The black rhino in particular is classified as critically endangered with at least 3 sub-species declared extinct by the Interna-

tional Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) over the past 9 years.

Black rhinos are native to Eastern and Southern Africa including Tanzania, Kenya, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The little or lesser-known Mkomazi National Park boasts an array of wildlife including more than 20 species of mammals and some 450 species of birds.

Some 78 species of mammals have been recorded, including elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, cheetah, black-backed jackal, hyena, warthog, aardwolf, giraffe, Oryx, gerenuk, hartebeest, lesser kudu, eland, impala, and Grant's gazelle.

This pandemic ain't over until it's over, but we can prepare for the next one

By Ismail Lagardien

WE cannot be sure that this particular virus, or anything similar will not emerge and spread again within a generation. What we can do now is regulate, and for the state, in collaboration with the private sector, to invest heavily in health infrastructure.

Covid-19 cannot be stopped from spreading around the world. At least not unless a vaccine is found (which could take 12 months to develop), or the human body develops some kind of resistance to the virus.

Either way, it could be at least another year before we can say that the virus has been stopped from spreading, that its worst effects have been rolled back, and that all cases have been eradicated.

What we can say, with some confidence, is that many more people will get infected, and many will die. What we can do, while we deal with the current crisis, is start preparing for the next one.

We cannot rule out the possibility that there may well be another pandemic within the next 10-15 years. Recall that we had three pandemics in the 20th century: the 1918 pandemic (H1N1 virus), the 1957-1958 pandemic (H2N2 virus) and the 1968 pandemic (H3N2 virus). Already we have had two in the last 10 years: the 2009 H1N1 pandemic (H1N1pdm09 virus), and the Covid-19 pandemic, which started at the end of 2019.

The case for state intervention
We cannot be sure that this particular coronavirus, or anything similar will not emerge and spread again within a generation. What we can do now, is regulate, and for the state, in collaboration with the private sector, to invest, heavily, in infrastructure, by which is meant intellectual, human and physical capacities - especially in research and development, plugging into global knowledge and information networks, and upgrading technology.

Forget the free market fundamentalists. Forget the libertarians. Evidence from South Korea shows that active state intervention, in collaboration with the private sector has stalled the spread of the virus. Compare this with the USA where they would rather a section of the population died off to "save the economy" - and get back to business.

The market, such as it is, seeks early (quick) returns. People with money want to make more money - quickly. Investing in health, education, infrastructure or community safety do not bring immediate (fi-

nanacial) returns. These are essentially public goods.

Where then, do we start? My immediate instinct is to start at the frontline. Invest in getting more people into nursing. Let's get to the data. As things stand (based on data approved by the British Medical Bulletin last year), nurses make up half the global workforce. In 2014 there was a nine million shortage of nurses (globally), with predictions of up to a two million decrease by 2030. Africa will be the worst hit, for a range of reasons.

Let me start with a couple of anecdotes.
I read the research results more than a decade ago, but can't find the actual data. There were more nurses in Zambia before the World Bank arrived, than there were after structural adjustment. As mentioned, that's just anecdotal. It may come as a surprise to some people, but one survey that was done also about a decade ago showed that nurses don't always leave their jobs because they want more money. In very many cases they leave because they don't have basic necessities like cotton swabs, bandages or protective gear. In other words, they just want to do their jobs with pride, professionalism and excellence.

In a study by the Pan African Medical Journal, it was confirmed in 2017 that medical equipment is an essential health intervention tool used by nurses for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease and for rehabilitation of patients. But this is a major challenge in low- and middle-income countries. The World Health Organisation estimated at the time that 50-80% of medical equipment in most developing countries is not working, which creates a barrier to the ability of the health system to deliver health services to patients.

In short, critical shortages of medical equipment at hospitals across Africa were in the unavailability of equipment, and low quality and poor maintenance of the little that was available. This severely (and negatively) impacted nursing care, the nursing profession in general and the hospitals across the continent.

Train and keep more nurses employed and resourced

The shortage of nurses exacerbates this problem. At the moment, in the face of Covid-19, we face a nursing shortage in South Africa that will lead to the deaths of very many people.

The state has been preparing for a new generation of nurses to emerge since 2011, when seven priorities were identified: nursing education and training; resources in nursing; professional ethos and ethics; governance, leadership, legislation and policy; positive practice environments; compensation, benefits and conditions of employment; and nursing human resources for health. So, we should have been better prepared.

A decade ago, a group of researchers found that South Africa was in a crisis with the serious shortage of nurses, which had to be addressed if we were to prevent a meltdown in services. We are, now, in such



a crisis.

What we need is direct state intervention in education. And, above all, we need to assure that we pass nursing students on the basis of their high grades, and not because we feel sorry for them.

People joke about "30 percenters," but, as the old adage goes, many a true word is spoken in jest. Anyway, after they graduate, nurses will be working with human lives. And so, we need the state, in collaboration with the private sector (both of which must be held accountable, with transparency and close ethical scrutiny), to set standards, to produce data on specific in-country requirements, with evidence-informed policy, and resource allocation at national, subnational and organisation levels.

Second, we need to stop the attrition of health workers. Very many nurses are leaving Africa for better working conditions in Europe, North America and Asia, where ageing populations require care.

Nurses (and doctors for that matter) also emigrate because of "contextual factors" like the World Bank's Structural Adjustment Programme, public

service reform programmes that reduce service delivery to bunk, or what passes for health reform, and because of high levels of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria infections. Some also leave because they oppose affirmative action.

In sum, we need very many nurses that are better trained, and when they enter the profession they need to be paid well - forget what "the market" or the World Bank says - they need to be sure that they have equipment, and that the medical fraternity can benefit from the sharing of technology, knowledge, information and better education. This issue of education cannot be skirted over. We have seen how students in the wealthiest country in the world ignored warnings about Covid-19 and continued to enjoy their spring break from university, and caused infections among themselves, and when they got back home.

Africa is relatively unaffected, for now

While the novel coronavirus is a very clear and present danger to millions of South Africans, healthcare across the continent is shocking. Malawi, one colleague reminded me, has about 25 ICU beds for a population of 17 million people. Across South East Asia there are an estimated 2.8 critical care beds per 100,000 people on average. Bangladesh has an estimated 1,100 such beds for a population of over 157 million - about 0.7 critical care beds for every 100,000 people.

The lack of knowledge and information is devastating. One 2015 research paper estimated that more than 50% of low-income countries lacked available data on ICU infrastructure. Without such information, it is difficult to imagine how these countries could possibly plan to meet the inevitable demand for critical care arising from Covid-19.

While there is some praise to be had over the G20 meeting addressing the Covid-19 pandemic as a global crisis, it is shameful that the World Bank saw, in the crisis, an opportunity for private capital. At last week's G20 meeting, World Bank President David Malpass said:

"Countries will need to implement structural reforms to help shorten the time to recovery and create confidence that the recovery can be strong. For those countries that have excessive regulations, subsidies, licensing regimes, trade protection or litigiousness as obstacles, we will work with them to foster markets, choice and faster growth prospects during the recovery."

In short, according to Malpass, the crisis is big, but we have to turn to "markets", "choice" and "faster growth". I understand the growth part, we need to generate the financial resources to invest in solving the problem, but we cannot leave it up to the market alone, and believe that everyone, from the woman in Houghton or Bishop's Court, has the same "choice" as the woman in Khayelitsha, Diepsloot or Cofimvaba.

Walking the talk on climate change after the pandemic: Reorienting state-owned enterprises towards sustainability

By Leonardo Beltran

THIS year started with the news of the appearance of a new virus, COVID-19. The impact and severity of its effects in public health, mortality and the world economy are overwhelming. No public health system was prepared for this crisis, and yet governments are reacting deploying different policies to mitigate the crisis, and recover as fast as possible.

However, public opinion is divided, some support a more stringent approach on human liberties, others more emphasis on the economy, but the reality is that this is a false dilemma. You cannot privilege one over the other, because without health you cannot produce, and without production or sustenance there is no

health.
If governments reorient SOEs mandate towards sustainability, they will have at their disposal the tools arising from their 2030 ASD and Paris Agreement commitments

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its 2014 report warned about the risks of global warming, in particular for health and the economy.

In terms of health, the risks of vector-borne diseases will generally increase with warming, due to the expansion of the season and area of infection, despite reductions in some areas that will become too warm for disease vectors.

In economic terms, systemic risks due to extreme weather

events that would lead to the collapse of infrastructure networks and essential services, and the risk of food and water insecurity and loss of livelihoods and incomes in rural areas, particularly for poor populations.

Today we are observing with COVID-19 the vulnerability of our public health systems and the combined effect of the fragility of the economy globally. To the extent that we continue without adjusting our way of production and consumption, global warming will continue to accelerate, precipitating the materialization of negative impacts for biodiversity, ecosystem services, economic development, and aggravating risks to livelihoods and for food and human security.

Moreover, if we are to prepare for this future, governments in designing their recovery plans can assess their alternatives and support a sustainable growth path. In 2015, the world agreed upon a new vision that would guide their actions in the future adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 ASD) and signing the Paris Agreement.

These agreements included a set of tools to assist countries select their most efficient pathway towards low carbon development. In fact, recovery after the pandemic would be easier if governments "walk the talk on climate change" reorienting their State-Owned Enterprises towards sustainability.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [1]
In September 2015, the heads of state and government at the UN headquarters in New York City adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The international community committed to promote the sustainable development agenda in its three dimensions - economic, social and environmental - in a balanced and integrated manner, for which it is essential to guarantee lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources and where there is universal access to a supply of affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

One of the key elements in the 2030 ASD includes a commitment to enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology.

Paris Agreement [2]
On December 12, 2015, in Paris during the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Convention Framework on Climate

Change the international community signed the Paris Agreement, an international treaty in which for the first time all nations came together into a common cause to undertake joint efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects.

The Paris Agreement has two fundamental pieces to fight climate change. First, foster low Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHGs) development by incorporating carbon planning in government policy, and the second, finance flows consistent with a pathway towards a low carbon economy.

Walking the Talk on Climate Change
Today more than ever, if governments are to respond according to the crisis, one of the best instruments they have are their State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

SOEs have a competitive advantage in their readiness to emerge from a crisis and embrace the international new low-carbon development framework, for three reasons: corporate governance, mandate and scale.

Corporate governance. SOEs have an institutional structure in which there are representatives of the government. Therefore, board members representing the State would be careful enough to voice and reflect the views of the government administration into the assessments and performance of the SOE.

Mandate. SOEs typically are seen as a mean to pursue development strategies of the sector, or as tools to buy into foreign technologies and know-how.

Thus, embedding sustainability into the mission of the SOE on one hand, would be easier given that usually the majority of the board members are government officials; and on the other, an SOE normally operates in sectors that are deemed strategic for the state, energy being one of those, and sustainability would certainly have an effect in the way SOE corporate policy is conducted.

Scale. SOEs in the energy sector represent 70% of all the assets of oil and gas production, and around 60% of the coal power plants globally [3]. Therefore, to accelerate the recovery and the pace towards low-carbon development, size matters, and in this case, given that SOEs dominate the energy sector, a policy focused on low carbon growth naturally has to be led by SOEs.

If governments reorient SOEs mandate towards sustainability, they will have at their disposal the tools arising from their 2030 ASD and Paris Agreement commitments.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 82 00--

WORD-FIT

SOLUTIONS:

3 LETTERS: ACT, MAT, AOK
4 LETTERS: SCAR, ALLY, ABLE, ROON, EELS, UNIT ALOE,
5 LETTERS: PORTS, YEARN, THEME, HORSE, TONER
6 LETTERS: DETECT, PRESET, KRAKEN, PHASES, SENATE,
7 LETTERS: CHANNEL
8 LETTERS: MEANDERS
10 LETTERS: SLAVE TRADE

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

- Deepest lake in East Africa
- to encounter
- monetary unit of Nigeria
- an evil spirit
- a pigist
- partial darkness
- device for giving light
- the lawn around someone's house
- the act of causing to exist
- a metal coin equal to one penny of a dollar
- the opposite of sinister

Down:

- minutes, hours, days etc
- call for, demand
- Monetary unit of China
- unarmed combat using the hands and feet to deliver and block blows
- behave in a particular way
- Oslo is the Capital city
- building where dramatic performances are presented
- abet, aid
- a flat dish
- at a higher level
- Ruling party in Tanzania
- the final part of something



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Local, foreign wildlife farm investors land Tawa consent

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

EIGHTEEN Tanzanian and foreign wildlife farm investors have been approved by Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority to keep the animals for commercial purposes.

Tawa's Principal Game Warden, Mary Kashangaki said in Dar es Salaam last week that the investors want to keep the wild animals including snakes as a tourist attraction but also for the export market.

Kashangaki said Tawa has invited interested investors to get its permits to establish the wildlife captive facilities and get details of the laws and regulations governing the trade.

"As Tawa we are very glad to work with investors because, among other things, the business will earn our country foreign currency but also for conservation as the animals are taken care of professionally," she said.

She further noted that investment wildlife farms will also help market the country abroad because of the unique species of wild animals that Tanzania has compared to other African countries.

"For example we have an investor in Arusha who has established a snake farm which apart from attracting tourists but also exports venom extracted from the serpents," she noted while stressing



A tourist having a feel of a snake at Meserani Snake Park in Arusha.

that the unique farm also earn the country foreign currency as a gram of venom fetches as much as US\$4,000 (over9m/-) at the world market.

Snake venom is used to make expensive perfumes, medicine for curing human diseases and other luxury products especially in Europe and Asia with countries such as China with big demand.

"In China, they use venom to make some food ingredients but also make snake wine which is used to cure some spinal and liver diseases but also snake meat is also consumed," she noted.

In order to establish a wildlife farm, an investor needs to get a permit for 40,000/- for an individual while a company pays 100,000/-.

In a bid to qualify for a license, the investor is required to have an area of between 500 to 2000 hectares of land and should be far from a conservation facility. The licenses are issued quarterly and not annually.

The law also requires that an investor should employ or hire a qualified wildlife veterinary officer who shall be in charge of the farm.

The law also forbids any keeping of protected species of animals as per local and international regulations.

"The death of any animal at such a farm shall be reported in writing to the Tawa Director General and such report shall be accompanied by a post-mortem report from qualified veterinary officer," Kashangaki stressed.

Furthermore registration and issuance of certificate of ownership for newly born animals in a controlled environment shall involve payment of 5 percent of parent stock price as per regulations.

SA orders MTN, Vodacom to close stores



Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, South Africa's Communications and Digital Technologies minister.

CAPE TOWN

THE government has reversed its earlier decision that stores operated by telcos will remain open for the duration of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Mobile operators that were classified as essential services for the period have been ordered to close shop to help reduce exposure of employees to the deadly virus that has wreaked havoc across the world.

Earlier this week, leading telcos, MTN and Vodacom, told ITWeb they will be open as per the government directive. The telcos had vowed to adhere to strict hygiene protocols in stores and promised to supplement this with additional actions, including the clearing of non-essential items (such as phones on display) to limit the number of items that can be touched in the store.

But, yesterday, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, minister of communications and digital technologies, said that decision had been reversed. In a letter to MTN SA CEO Godfrey Motsa, the minister said: "Reference is made to your undated letter received on 30 March 2020, wherein you requested the minister of communications and digital technologies to clarify details of the essential services classification of telecommunications services."

"Please be informed the Disaster Management National Command Centre (NCC) deliberated on this matter and decided that cellular shops in malls and shopping centres are to be closed to ensure more employees remain at home during the lockdown period to curb the spread of COVID-19."

However, she said: "Call centres must continue to operate during the lockdown period." Furthermore, Ndabeni-Abrahams advised that her department is reviewing the electronic communications, postal services and broadcasting directions gazetted on 26 March "to provide clarity on matters raised by MTN and other industry players, which may result in amendments to the directions issued, subject to the approval of the NCC." The minister also noted the maintenance of home fibre is one of the matters that will be considered.



Banji Fehintola, senior director and head of treasury at the Africa Finance Corporation.

Coronavirus pandemic makes African free trade 'more important than ever'

JOHANNESBURG

THE domino effect of the coronavirus pandemic will plunge many economies into recession and means the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is now needed more than ever to ensure that member states are trading with each other and supporting one another at this time, according to Banji Fehintola, senior director and head of treasury at the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC).

He says South Africa has a very important part to play. It is the most industrialised and diversified economy on the continent and is one of the only financial markets that is sound enough to be tapped for infrastructure projects.

"Trade finance and infrastructure finance are incredibly important in the creation of growth

across Africa. However, since the global financial crisis of 2008/2009, some global banks have retreated from emerging markets, including Africa. These means credit capacity from global banks for African Financial Institutions (FI) has reduced considerably, constraining their ability to serve clients' needs," he tells Fin24.

No amount of policy change or cuts in taxes will truly make Africa competitive when the physical hinderances are ignored, according to Fehintola. He says the AfCFTA is not just a dream, but there is a long way still go before it becomes a tangible reality.

The next phase comprises a new set of challenges as the ratifying countries commence implementing the AfCFTA with the goal of truly unlocking Africa's potential through the free movement of goods, services, and people. He points out that the

elimination of tariff and nontariff barriers through the AfCFTA's ratification is vital to develop intra-Africa and international trade.

As such, infrastructure investment is the foundation on which the objective of intra-Africa trade growth must be built upon. Airports, seaports, bridges, highways and roads must be constructed and properly maintained to allow people to be better connected and ensure goods and services flow seamlessly.

"This is how we put African countries in the best position to truly leverage the AfCFTA," he says. Recent estimates by the African Development Bank (AfDB) put the minimum infrastructure needs - for countries to sustain the growth of their economies, population, income level and replace aging infrastructure - at US\$130 billion to US\$170 billion

per annum. At least half of that requirement is currently unfunded.

"Without this funding we will not be able to make the AfCFTA dream a reality. Bridging that gap will require a collaborative effort between governments and private enterprise as well as supranational organisations and Development Financial Institutions (DFI) like AFC, which bridges the divide between a government's development impact objectives and the private sector's return-on-investment objectives while also taking the lead in environmental and social responsibility," he says.

"South Africa, as the most industrialised and diversified economy on the continent, has a very important role to play. It must use its position of strength to show the AfCFTA will be used to level the playing field instead of exacerbating inequality."

He points out that some African countries have inherent geographical challenges (such as being landlocked), are fragile (such as Guinea, which had its economy collapse during the Ebola outbreak) or have nascent industries, which cannot compete with more-established counterparts.

Therefore, South Africa must be a role model to show that the currently dominant players will not take advantage of the AfCFTA to further entrench itself at the detriment of others. The Bakwena toll road, for instance, which connects South Africa to Mozambique is an example of sharing the wealth and the burden, in his view.

"This road stimulates agriculture, manufacturing, mining and tourism by integrating the value chain from South Africa's industrial and commercial heartland all the way to a deepwater port in

TRA and ministry get 25.5bn/- from Tancoal's profits in 2019



Intra Energy Corporation Limited's Graeme Robertson.

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 25.2bn/- in royalty and tax backlog was paid by Tancoal Energy Limited to the Tanzania Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Energy last year.

In its half year resulted for year ended December 2019, Intra Energy Corporation Limited said its half year results dominated by contingent liabilities dating back to 2011 when it started operations at Ngaka Coal Mine in Ruvuma region. Australian based IECL is Tancoal's holding company which jointly owns with National Development Corporation.

"The Ministry of Energy and Minerals has made a claim to Tancoal for US\$10.4 million (US\$6.939 royalty and inspection fee and US\$3,470 penalty) for a royalty that it has deemed payable on the transport portion of sales to customers to their final domestic and international destinations for sales between September 2011 and June 2019," IECL's Board Chairman, Graeme Robertson, said.

In the half year results report, Robertson further noted that Tanzania Revenue Au-

thority advised that a fuel exemption paid to Tancoal in 2015 and 2016 was contrary to the purpose of the performance contract under which it was paid and the company had to refund 1,020,838,410/-.

"An additional significant item is an assessment from the TRA for a withholding tax audit of 278,662,706/-, the majority of this assessment was for withholding tax on the full value of management fees up to 30 June 2016."

Robertson noted saying the assessment was imposed retrospectively after the law was brought in on 1 July 2016, prior to this withholding tax under the law was properly charged on only 30 percent of the management fees.

He stated that underlying profit after tax on continuing operations also includes an expense of \$1.521m for royalty on transport charges in the half-year, the re-charging of the costs to customers is however still under discussion.

Australian based IETL owns a 70 percent interest in Tancoal, a joint venture with National Development Corporation which holds the remaining 30 percent interest. Tancoal was granted a mining licence by

the government in August 2011 and commenced mining and supply of thermal coal to domestic and regional industrial customers mainly in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. The mine is manned exclusively by Tanzanians.

During the period, Tancoal produced 307,360 metric tons and sold 317,645MT compared to 408MT produced in 2018 while sales were 364,519MT. "Sales began strongly at the start of the half-year but the imposition of the royalty on transport, the startup of some smaller competitor mines, lower sales to some major customers undergoing refurbishment of their plants and the rainy season reduced sales during the period," the IECL Board Chairman explained.

Production capacity at the mine has been increased to 80,000MT per month which enables the company to increase production and meet rising demand. "The focus remains on meeting the requirements of local customers in Tanzania and then the marketing of coal into regional economies while working on the development of export facilities through the Port of Mtwara to allow barge and/or handymax deliveries to overseas consumers," Robertson added.

Zoom's chief executive admits to security flaws

NEW YORK

ZOOM Video's chief executive said he "messed up" in running a service that has been easily hacked, attracting scrutiny from regulators and privacy advocates as well as unwanted lawsuits.

"I really messed up as chief executive and we need to win their [users'] trust back. This kind of thing shouldn't have happened ... if we mess up again, it's done," Eric Yuan said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal.

He said end-to-end encryption to secure conversations was on the cards, but a "full-encryption feature won't be ready for a few months." The videoconferencing app has had a huge increase in users over the past two months as hundreds of millions of people are confined to their homes to prevent the spread of the coronavirus outbreak.

From enabling business conferences, client meetings and training webinars, Zoom Video is also used for virtual school lessons, salsa classes, yoga sessions, college reunion parties and dinner gatherings. But the practice of "Zoombombing" has presented a problem - entering others' meetings and then sharing hate speech or pornographic images.

"I thought I was letting our users down ... I feel an obligation to win the users' trust back," said Mr Yuan. Partly propelled by Zoombombing



Zoom Video's chief executive Eric Yuan takes part in the Nasdaq bell-ringing ceremony after his company's IPO in New York in April, last year.

incidents, the FBI issued a warning about videoconference hijacking last week.

Zoom, which was floated in April 2019, said that the offices of more than 25 attorneys general in the United States had raised questions about privacy issues and it is working with the authorities. A user also filed a lawsuit claiming that the site had disclosed personal information without his permission.

The current number of daily meeting users across Zoom's paid and free services has surged to

200 million, from around 10 million in December. Its shares have more than doubled since January and its market capitalisation stands at \$40.3 billion.

For the past few weeks, supporting this influx of users has been a "tremendous undertaking and our sole focus," Mr Yuan said in the company's latest blog. "However, we recognise that we have fallen short of the community's - and our own - privacy and security expectations."

On Friday, security researchers at University of Toronto's Citi-

zen Lab said the company used inferior encryption technology, routed some calls made in North America through China and, in some cases, stored data on servers in the world's second-largest economy.

Zoom said it has taken steps to address the concerns. "In our urgency to come to the aid of people, we added server capacity and deployed it quickly," it said. "In that process, we failed to fully implement our usual geofencing best practices."



Sub-Saharan Africa jumps in financial inclusion ratings

LUSAKA

A NEW report says Sub-Saharan African countries have relatively high rates of financial inclusion due to widespread use of mobile money.

The report by Centre for Global Development (CGD) finds that just 56% of citizens across 99 developing countries, including Sub-Saharan Africa, have access to a phone, a bank account and an identity card (ID).

However, the report said the widespread use of mobile money services in Sub-Saharan Africa has led to more financial inclusivity than in Latin America where the rate of financial inclusion remains relatively low.

The report said while nearly 80% of Latin Americans have access to a mobile phone, barely more than 50% have a bank or mobile money account. Research shows that Kenya leads in the use of mobile money within the SSA region.

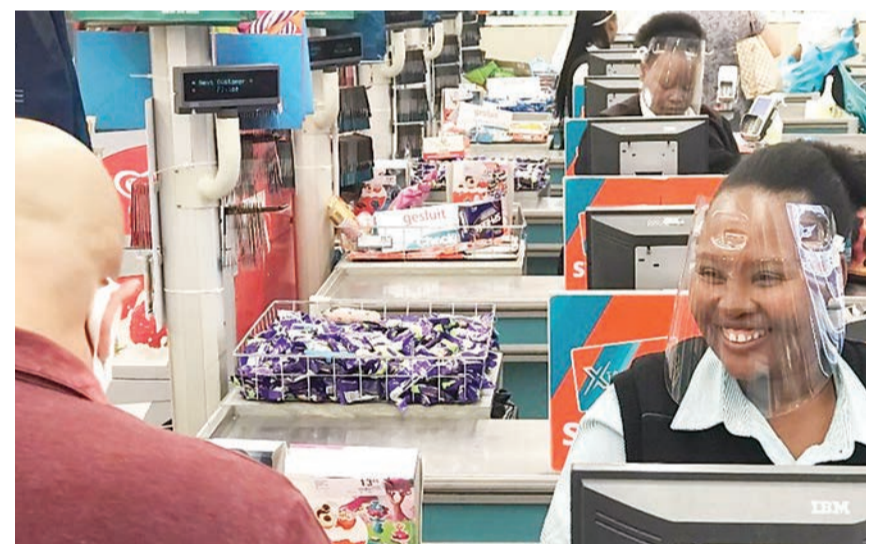
It added, however, that there are significant gender gaps in access to phones, IDs and especially bank accounts in the region - with men more likely (9 percentage points) to have access to each of these items than women.

Anit Mukherjee, a policy fellow at CGD and a co-author on the report, said, "We found that the lack of bank and mobile money accounts is the biggest gap in digital readiness. It's difficult to get money to citizens who don't have either."

Finance market analyst at Zambia's Ministry of Finance and National Planning Edith Mwale said it is true that Sub-Saharan countries - including Zambia - have made a lot of progress in ensuring financial inclusivity through the use of mobile money.

She said although in Zambia financial inclusion remains relatively low at 60%, in Kenya, 82.9% of the population are financially included, while other countries including Rwanda, Uganda and Nigeria follow Kenya closely.

"While I do not have figures on Latin American countries on where they stand in terms of financial inclusion, I want to agree with the report that Sub-Saharan Africa is way ahead of other countries in terms of mobile money financial inclusion through mobile money," said Mwale.



Checkers and Shoprite employees are now wearing plastic face shields.

Staff at Shoprite, Checkers tested for COVID-19, get face shields

JOHANNESBURG

SHOPRITE and Checkers have rolled out daily temperature testing of their employees at the start of their shifts.

A high temperature is typically the first symptom of Covid-19. Research from China shows that 99% of the patients in one study developed a high temperature, while more than half experienced fatigue and a dry cough. About a third also experienced muscle pain and difficulty breathing.

Those who have high temperatures will be referred to the store's mobile clinics, which are being established across the country. The Shoprite Group already has 13 mobile clinics in Gauteng and the Western Cape, while a further eight will be deployed in the coming week to reach KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and the Free State.

Mobile clinics will be allocated to densely populated areas and areas where state clinics are under tremendous pressure, the company said in a statement. Employees have also started wearing plastic face shields that are sanitised on the hour.

Other South African retailers have also been rolling out protective measures for their staff over the past week. Clicks has equipped its workers with perspex visors designed to offer protection from droplets from potentially infected customers.

Shoprite and Checkers stores have also introduced quick entry and speedy check-out options for all healthcare and law enforcement personnel, who have to work during the lockdown. There are also now dedicated till points for elderly and vulnerable people. They are also invited to enter stores ahead of the social distancing queues.

Impact of COVID-19 on financial markets with evidence taken from China, the US



Trading at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange.

By Nuhu A. Sansa

DIFFERENT international organisations and platforms have alerted that the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak will have serious effects on the global economy and perhaps the effects will surpass those of the 2007/8 world economic crisis.

World Economic Forum, insisted that, "Globally, the coronavirus shock is severe even compared to the Great Financial Crisis of 2007/08." Indicators of the impact of the Covid-19 to the financial markets have been witnessed in different parts of the world, in particular in the US where the Dow and the S&P trading rates dropped significantly because of the virus.

By late March, the Dow and the S&P had experienced their biggest one-day drop since 1987. Lawmakers in Washington continued to work on an economic rescue package to bailout companies as a way of responding to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Economic experts analysing the Covid-19 said it will have an impact on social welfare and the economy at large, particularly to financial market trading, general business in terms of imports and

export, production and fuel prices. To support the matter, experts argued that, "Therefore, the crucial actions taken to limit the spread of the pandemic will have the greatest impact for both the broader welfare and the economy."

The recent Covid-19 has impacted all financial markets worldwide in particular share prices trended significantly and continuously. Among the financial markets which experienced this situation include The Dow and S&P from the US as quoted by Financial Times of early March 2020, "The Dow Jones, and S&P both of which take into account the share prices of a variety of companies in the US have dropped by over 20 percent."

Another world evidence of the impact of the financial markets worldwide is from Nikkei in Tokyo which indicated a trend of price volatility of the shares mostly due to the outbreak of the coronavirus which has become a global pandemic. Another report in Financial Times of early March elaborated that, "Similarly, the Nikkei, which takes into account share prices of companies has also dropped significantly in the last few days."

Different literature also suggests that the Covid-19 will lead to global recession. Global recession is a situation where production goes down worldwide with negative impacts on employment while imports and exports also drop significantly.

In an attempt to reduce the impact of the coronavirus outbreak, central banks worldwide have slashed interest rates to record levels while

governments are waiving taxes and preparing stimulus packages to bailout private companies.

There is enough evidence that the Covid-19 has seriously pushed financial markets globally to lowest volumes with bond yields and equity prices falling sharply with assets value also plummeting. Experts warn that measures to rebuild the global economy may be more daunting this time around compared to the 2017 financial crisis.

Already the pandemic has impacted productivity of companies due to partial or complete lockdowns being announced by governments to contain the spreading of the virus as has been the case in Europe and Africa.

As a result, companies will experience decreased revenues, higher operating costs and/or cash flow challenges that will require state bailouts. Chinese companies and stock markets however have started to regain stability after a rough period when Wuhan was the epicentre of Covid-19 pandemic.

Experts however argue that since the world largely depends on goods manufactured in China, slowing production means that shortage will surface as has been the case with Covid-19 prevention gear which includes masks, gloves and ventilators to treat patients.

The rapid spreading of the virus globally also meant that demand for medical equipment and drugs has spiked which is working in favour of listed companies which manufacture such important materials needed to stop the pandemic.

Virus spurs global free-for-all over \$597 billion medical trade

BERLIN

GERMANY'S Vice Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said the shared experience of battling the coronavirus could lead to a "new age of solidarity."

There's little sign of the crisis bringing nations closer together, though. From India to Europe and the US, governments are rushing to get hold of masks, ventilators, gloves and medicines in a free-for-all that's stoking tensions in a world already stung by globalisation. Countries are rushing to introduce export restrictions, contributing to what the World Trade Organisation calls a "severe shortage" of goods needed to fight the virus.

"Understandably, governments are taking protective measures to stem the pandemic," the WTO said in a report published on Friday. However, "some of these measures may inadvertently impact the flow of critical medical goods across territories."

The tussles show just how vulnerable the world trade in medical supplies is to unilateral action by individual nations, and how dependent developing countries are on the richer world for basic medical gear to fight an epidemic. That's all happening in a climate of distrust as President Donald Trump pushes his America First agenda, which has seen him frequently criticise global institutions as well as longstanding US allies like Germany and France.

The wrangling also reflects the rising economic clout of Beijing and its entrenchment in global supply chains. China is either a provider of raw materials for medical equipment for many countries, or their main source of completed goods. As the policy focus shifts to public health, the lack of control over supply chains translates into political pressure on governments. In India, the main opposition Congress Party berated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for allowing the export of testing kits until Saturday, calling it "the ultimate betrayal to India."

India also ran afoul of Trump at the weekend when it banned all exports of hydroxychloroquine, a malaria drug the US president has repeatedly championed in the fight against Covid-19. Trump said on Saturday that he spoke to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to appeal for the release of shipments the US has already ordered, and that India is giving his request "serious consideration."

A major exporter of generic drugs, India had already restricted foreign sales of certain medicines and pharmaceutical ingredients in response to the coronavirus crisis. That's raised concern in Europe. The Indian export ban has been repeatedly discussed by the European Union's Integrated Political Crisis Response mechanism, a group of experts and senior diplomats in Brussels seeking to coordinate the bloc's policy, according to internal documents seen by Bloomberg. The EU's executive arm has been negotiating with the government in New Delhi to ease the restrictions.

Export limits

So far this year there have been 91 export curbs implemented by 69 jurisdictions, the "overwhelming majority" enacted in March as the virus epicentre shifted to Europe and then the US, ac-



Germany's Vice Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

cording to Simon Evenett, professor of international trade and economics at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland. That is setting off international friction. Officials in Germany and France have clashed with Washington over what they say are American attempts to unfairly obtain safety equipment.

The interior minister of Berlin city state, Andreas Geisel, blamed "the USA" for confiscating 200,000 masks ordered from a US producer when they were in transit through Bangkok. "We view this as an act of modern piracy," Geisel said.

French officials accused unidentified Americans of paying over the odds to secure masks in China that had been earmarked for France. The US Embassy in Paris rejected any suggestion the federal government had been involved in such actions as "completely false." Also at the weekend, Spain accused Turkey of retaining a shipment of respirators bought by two regional Spanish governments from a Turkish company. The Berlin official backed off his account on Saturday, saying on Twitter that the masks were ordered from a German company and why they didn't reach Germany is being reviewed.

The crunch affects critical medical equipment worth about \$597 billion in 2019, according to the WTO. The issue arises because not all countries produce the necessary goods, from hand soaps and sanitizers to syringes and protective glasses. One example: China, Germany and the US export 40% of the world's personal protective products. China, meanwhile, is the world's biggest exporter of face masks, with a 25% share.

Joint procurement

In a bid to ease the flow of imports, the European Commission on Friday waived tariffs and value-added tax on such medical gear until end-July. That reduces the price of masks in Italy by a third, said Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. "We stand by our health workers and hospitals and we will do all we can to help them further," she said in a video message.

The commission has sought to begin joint procurement for various medical supplies while ramping up production of in Europe.

Von der Leyen and Thierry Breton, the EU official responsible for the bloc's internal market, held talks with industry representatives recently and concluded that boosting output under existing capacity was more feasible than retooling other manufacturing at the likes of auto and aerospace companies. By contrast the US, the world's largest importer of medical products for the last three years, has turned to carmakers such as General Motors to produce ventilators during the crisis.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

SA's pandemic lockdown an opportunity to boost its economic immune system

JOHANNESBURG

AS many countries continue to struggle to contain the ongoing spread of the novel coronavirus and keep their populations healthy, some nations are seizing upon the crisis to transform how government and the economy operate.

Across the world's democracies, panicked citizens are giving up civil liberties such as privacy in an effort to track the virus's spread. In others, the crisis contains an ironic silver lining. Simply put, some nations are in desperate need of a profound transformation. South Africa is one such place.

This is not to deny the gravity of this health crisis. There is no denying the possibility that Covid-19 could bring wholesale destruction to South Africa and many other countries on the African continent. A struggling economy compounded by a decade of mismanagement and sky-high unemployment is the last place that could benefit from a once-in-a-century health emergency. Throw into the mix a large population of immune-compromised citizens due to HIV, and the situation is downright dire.

According to the OECD, governments across Africa spend roughly \$12 per capita per year on health care, compared with more than \$4,000 in the United Kingdom. Some countries have less

than 100 ventilators on hand with little recourse to purchase additional supplies.

Leading the continent's response to the crisis, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a strict nationwide lockdown more than 10 days ago. Beginning on March 26 and lasting to April 16, the lockdown is far more serious than similar examples in the West. The government has imposed restrictions on everything from walking your dog to purchasing cigarettes.

This is no small feat in a country like South Africa, which has a sordid history of lockdowns and curfews from the Apartheid era. In densely populated poor slums, moreover, people do not have the ability to stockpile food and social isolation is impossible in such cramped living quarters.

The lockdown announcement was hailed by a broad section of South African society and virtually all political parties. Glowing articles in the Western press have praised Mr Ramaphosa's leadership, despite the toll it will take on the country's already fragile economy.

Last week, Moody's became the final major credit agency to downgrade the country's investment grade to junk status. This is a dreaded development for any economy, and triggered an outflow of passive investment income. The South



Residents of the Alexandra township of Johannesburg, South Africa, wait in line to enter a supermarket on April 3, 2020.

African rand, which has been one of the worst-performing emerging market currencies, has now lost close to 40 per cent of its value to the dollar since January.

But here is the silver lining. This type of dramatic and deep shock to the economy was perhaps the only thing that could bring about systemic change. Mr Ramaphosa was elected on a platform of reforming the economy and reversing the damage his predecessor Jacob Zuma wrought through mismanagement, corruption, and cronyism. But his efforts have been stifled by political infighting,

internal corruption in his party, and the outsized power of several unions. Few critical measures have been taken to triage the economy since he came to power more than two years ago.

Consider the fledgling state-owned airline South African Airways. Mired in debt, the state has essentially been forced to keep pumping money into the carrier. The Covid-19 crisis is wreaking havoc on the global aviation industry and might just be the nail in SAA's coffin. Most economists agree that the airline's collapse is a necessary step in any economic recovery.

The national power utility, Eskom, is another state-owned enterprise that is benefiting from the Covid-19 crisis. Due to its ageing infrastructure, Eskom has been forced to implement rolling blackouts through the country, which has humbled the manufacturing sector. With heavy industries shuttered for three weeks, Eskom has been able to conduct several repairs to the power grid that will at least buy more time while a political decision is made about future investment in energy.

Mr Ramaphosa himself is likely the greatest winner in this crisis, depending upon how the next several months unfold. His position has been strengthened as opposition parties have been forced to simply fall in line behind the commander-in-chief.

While there have been widespread reports of excessive police brutality in administering the lockdown, political goodwill remains strong across various sectors of society.

Thus far, the lockdown has been able to flatten the curve of infected people and the government is creatively re-tooling testing kits for TB to be used on possible coronavirus patients. But anything can change and given the vicious spread of the disease, no official is ready to say that South Africa has reached the peak.

WORLD

UK's Johnson in hospital for tests, government says he's still in charge

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson was undergoing tests in hospital yesterday as he is still suffering coronavirus symptoms 10 days after testing positive for COVID-19, but the government insisted he remained in charge.

Johnson, who had been isolating in Downing Street after testing positive for the virus last month, was taken to hospital on Sunday night because he still had a high temperature and his doctors felt he needed additional tests.

His office and ministers said Johnson, 55, continued to run the government, that the prime minister was doing well and that he would undergo "routine tests" as a precaution, though Downing Street declined to say which tests he would have.

"He'll stay in hospital as long as he needs to do that, but I've heard that he's doing well and I very much look forward to him being back in Number 10 as soon as possible," Housing Secretary Robert

Jenrick said.

"This isn't an emergency admission and so I certainly expect that he'll be back at Number 10 shortly," he said, though he gave no time frame.

On March 27, Johnson became the first leader of a major power to announce that he had tested positive. The 55-year-old went into isolation at an apartment in Downing Street.

It was not clear how an ill prime minister could lead the government's emergency response to the outbreak from a hospital. Some medics told Reuters it was unclear what was meant by precautionary tests for COVID-19 complications.

With only an unwieldy collection of sometimes ancient and contradictory precedents to go by, there is no formal succession plan should the prime minister become incapacitated.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, 46, chaired the government's emergency COVID-19 meeting on Monday.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Johnson was a "strong man" as he passed



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson

on his nation's best wishes.

"All Americans are praying for him," Trump said. "I'm hopeful and sure that he's going to be fine."

The pound fell against the dollar on news of Johnson's admission to hospital, which occurred just as Queen Elizabeth delivered a rallying call on Sunday night to Britons. The currency rose when Jenrick said he expected him to be back at Downing Street shortly and was trading at \$1.2294.

"PRECAUTIONARY TESTS"

Doctors said a person of Johnson's age with COVID-19 symptoms after 10 days was likely to be assessed for their oxygen levels, lung, liver and kidney functions, and undergo an electrocardiogram heart check.

"Clearly the prime minister is finding it difficult to

shake this thing off," said Jonathan Ball, Professor of Molecular Virology at Nottingham University.

"What it does show is how difficult it is to predict how this infection will develop, and whilst most people will experience nothing more than an annoying cold, for others this can develop into a serious and sometimes life-threatening disease."

Medics said that patients with COVID-19 can deteriorate after about 10 days, with some developing pneumonia. National Health Service guidelines advise those who are self-isolating not go to hospital unless they develop new symptoms or become sufficiently unwell.

Johnson, who is not a smoker, said earlier this year that he wanted to lose weight. He plays tennis and while mayor of London used to cycle around the capital.

Agencies

China's US envoy calls for cooperation against coronavirus

WASHINGTON

CHINESE Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai on Sunday called for cooperation between Beijing and Washington to combat the coronavirus pandemic, saying "this is a time for solidarity, collaboration and mutual support."

"Let's acknowledge there has been unpleasant talk between our nations about this disease. But this is not the time for finger-pointing. This is a time for solidarity, collaboration and mutual support," Cui (pictured) wrote in an opinion article on The New York Times.

"We will always remember that

in our most difficult days, our friends in so many places -- many of them Americans, many of them New Yorkers -- offered us a helping hand. We stand ready now to repay their kindness and help them make it through too," said he.

Cui noted that China is doing whatever it can to support the related countries in need, including the United States.

"We are facilitating the US government's purchase of personal protective equipment made in China. Indeed, factories are operating in full swing to fulfill the orders of medical supplies from New York State and other parts of America.



China's provincial and city governments are rushing to help their sister states and cities in America too. And donations are pouring in from the country's business sector," he said.

Cui suggested China and the

United States make joint efforts to defeat the pandemic.

"China and the United States need to lead international efforts in collaborative research into treatments and vaccines, and explore the sharing of pharmaceutical technologies among nations. We need to help countries with underdeveloped medical systems and contribute to better global health governance," he said.

Cui also called for the two biggest economies in the world to "enhance our coordination of macroeconomic policy to stabilize markets; ensure growth and people's livelihoods; and keep the global

industrial and supply chains open, stable and secure."

In the meantime, the Chinese ambassador warned against fanning racism and xenophobia as well as scapegoating other countries or races at this moment, when solidarity is essential.

"Such acrimony will not only undercut cooperation between our nations, but also sow seeds of suspicion and confrontation that could put our peoples -- and even the world -- in grave danger from this runaway virus and the economic fallout it is causing," he cautioned.

Xinhua

Running out of beds and gear, Tokyo medical staff say Japan's 'state of emergency' already here

TOKYO

AS Japan faces a fresh wave of coronavirus infections and the government prepares for a state of emergency, medical staff say a shortage of beds and a rise in cases linked to hospitals are pushing Tokyo's medical system to the brink of collapse.

The crisis has already arrived at Eiju General Hospital, a pink, 10-storey building in central Tokyo, which has reported 140 cases of COVID-19 in the past two weeks. Of those, at least 44 are doctors, nurses and other medical staff.

On a recent weekday, the glass doors of Eiju General were plastered with posters saying the hospital was closed until further notice.

More than 60 patients with the virus are still being treated inside. One person who was transferred to another hospital infect-

ed others, according to health officials in Tokyo's Taito ward.

Japan has only a small fraction of the number of cases reported by its neighbours China and South Korea. Yet scenarios similar to that at Eiju General are playing out across Tokyo, as a dozen doctors and nurses in the city told Reuters there is a shortage of gear and staff even as infections surge.

"We could empty out an entire ward and use it just for corona patients, but that means those patients (with other illnesses) will have to go elsewhere," said a doctor specialising in infectious diseases at a major hospital in the greater Tokyo area. "If we can't do that, it will lead to the virus spreading all through the hospital and lead to a collapse of our medical system."

Official data tell a similar story. Tokyo's government said that as of Sunday, 951 people with COV-



COVID-19 were hospitalised; in a live YouTube address Sunday night, Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike (pictured) said there were about 1,000 beds allocated for coronavirus patients in the city.

Even as other countries have locked down borders and ramped up testing, Japan appeared to have side-stepped the kind of mass infections seen elsewhere - an effect some experts say was mostly due to a lack of testing. In the early stages

of the epidemic, Japan was also weighing whether to postpone the Summer Olympics, a decision that eventually came in late March.

Since mid-January, Japan has tested 39,446 people, while the United Kingdom has tested 173,784 and South Korea has conducted 443,273 tests, according to data from Oxford University.

Authorities have tried to test and track in a way that avoided overwhelming Japan's hospitals, said Hitoshi Oshitani, an infectious disease specialist on the government panel shaping the country's coronavirus policy.

Despite that, the total number of positive cases nationwide nearly doubled in the last seven days to 3,654. Tokyo is now the largest hub for COVID-19 in Japan, with more than 1,000 confirmed cases.

With cases surging, officials said, some who tested positive

have had to briefly wait at home or in outpatient sections of hospitals until beds became available. Koike said on Sunday that to ease the burden on medical staff, Tokyo would transfer people with mild symptoms into hotels and other accommodations starting tomorrow.

Hiroshi Nishiura, a Hokkaido University professor and member of a panel advising the government on its coronavirus response, said Eiju General, like many Tokyo hospitals, has no infectious disease department. That meant coronavirus patients were initially treated alongside everyone else, allowing the virus to spread.

"We have not been able to clearly contain the contagion from the first wave," Nishiura said, referring to Eiju General. A spokesman from the hospital declined to comment yesterday.

Agencies

US faces 'really bad' week as coronavirus deaths spike

WASHINGTON

THE United States is entering what a senior official warned on Sunday would be the "hardest" week of the coronavirus crisis as the death toll mounted, but some saw glimmers of hope from a slight slowing of fatalities in hard-hit New York.

New York, the epicenter of the U.S. coronavirus outbreak, reported on Sunday that for the first time in a week, deaths had fallen slightly from the day before. But there were still nearly 600 new fatalities and more than 7,300 new cases in the state.

Louisiana has become a hot spot for the virus, reporting a jump in deaths to nearly 500 and more than 13,000 cases. The governor predicted the state would run out of ventilators by Thursday.

Places such as Pennsylvania, Colorado and Washington, D.C., are also starting to see rising deaths.

"This is going to be the hardest and the saddest week of most Americans' lives, quite frankly. This is going to be our Pearl Harbor moment, our 9/11 moment, only it's not going to be localized," U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams warned on Fox News on Sunday. "It's going to be happening all over the country. And I want America to understand that."

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said on Sunday that new hospitalizations had fallen by 50% over the previous 24 hours. He cautioned that it was not yet clear whether the crisis was reaching a plateau in the state, which has a total of 4,159 deaths and more than 122,000 cases, by far the most of any U.S. state.

Nationally, cases the respiratory disease topped 336,000, while the death toll stood at 9,573, according to a Reuters tally.

Cuomo said that once the peak of the epidemic passed, a mass rollout of rapid testing would be critical to help the nation "return to normalcy."

President Donald Trump said the country faced a "great hour of grief," but expressed hope that deaths could be "leveling off" in New York.

"We see light at the end of the tunnel. Things are happening," he told reporters.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a member of Trump's coronavirus task force, said it took weeks for efforts like social distancing and stay-at-home orders to slow the virus' spread.

"What you're hearing about potential light at the end of the tunnel doesn't take away from the fact that tomorrow, the next day, are going to look really bad," Fauci told reporters.

Most states have ordered residents to stay home except for essential trips to slow the spread of the virus in the United States

But eight states, all of them with Republican governors, have yet to order residents to stay home: Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Georgia, which has recorded 6,600 cases and more than 200 deaths, ordered residents to stay home but then allowed some beaches to reopen.

Republican Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson defended his refusal to order statewide restrictions, saying the situation was being watched closely and that his more "targeted approach" was still slowing the spread of the virus.

Adams, the surgeon general, said governors who had not issued month-long stay-at-home orders should at least consider one for the upcoming week.

White House medical experts have forecast that between 100,000 to 240,000 Americans could be killed in the pandemic, even if sweeping orders to stay home are followed.

A few churches held large gatherings on Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week in Christian churches.

Pastor Tony Spell, who was arrested last week for holding services, summoned his faithful again, three weeks after Louisiana banned gatherings of 10 people or more.

Oregon, which has reported around 1,000 cases of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, said it was sending New York 140 ventilators, machines that help people breathe after the virus attacks their lungs. Washington is returning over 400 of the machines to the Strategic National Stockpile for hard-hit states like New York.

New York Mayor Bill De Blasio said the city had enough ventilators to get through Tuesday or Wednesday, and he was seeking between 1,000 and 1,500 more from federal and state stockpiles, which he estimated had 10,000 and 2,800, respectively.

Agencies



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo

'We're not hungry, we need masks' says Australian doctor on frontline

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIAN hospital workers on the coronavirus frontline say they daily receive letters of thanks, some people even bring them pizzas, but what they really need is proper respiratory face masks to replace faulty and homemade face shields.

While doctors and nurses in some hospitals struggle to obtain respiratory N95 face masks, Australians walking the streets can be seen wearing them.

"Every day we get a lot of thank you letters, some people bring pizza for us etc," one senior emergency doctor told Reuters. "But I just want to go there and say 'Hey, we're not hungry. We need masks'".

"If you go into the community you see on the faces of a lot of people the N95 masks and not enough in the hospital," said the emergency doctor in the state of New South Wales (NSW), which has nearly half of the country's more than 5,700 cases and has recorded the most deaths as of Monday.

Emergency doctors and healthcare workers union representatives say they have been assured by authorities there are stockpiles of personal protective equipment (PPE) and efforts to produce more are ramping up.

But staff in some stretched hospitals in NSW are facing tight restrictions on the use of higher specification N95 face masks and are relying on face shields made from plastic and rubber bands

from hardware stores to stay safe.

"Some are even using scuba gear," said Andrew Miller, President of the Western Australia state branch of the Australian Medical Association.

"We have doctors and nurses who have been disciplined for trying to wear a mask at work. It's a situation full of conflict and confusion."

Health workers say the guidelines on using PPE issued when Australia only had a few COVID-19 cases were now no longer adequate as the disease was spreading throughout the community, including asymptomatic carriers who may be among patients arriving in hospitals for other conditions.

They say the highest standard PPE is now necessary throughout the hos-

pital, not just when dealing with confirmed COVID-19 cases, especially in the emergency department.

Miller said there was a lot of PPE in storage across Australia that was not being made available to frontline healthcare workers now.

"Our frontline medical staff do not trust that PPE would be available when they need because they have seen in other countries healthcare workers dying from a lack of PPEs," he said.

A global shortage of N95 masks and other protective equipment has sparked anger and protests by healthcare workers in the United States and elsewhere.

Australian medical workers have sent a petiti to Prime Minister Scott

Morrison, demanding access to safe PPE. The petition had gathered more than 155,000 signatures by Sunday.

Australia's Health Minister Greg Hunt on Sunday said the government would immediately release 10 million masks for healthcare workers.

"There is more to come, including significant amount of gloves, gowns, goggles," Hunt told Nine News television.

NSW state health authorities said public hospitals across the state had sufficient PPE, including P2 masks and hand sanitiser, and Queensland's state government said a local company will start producing 60,000 N95 masks a day.

South Australia Health was consider-

ing an untried approach of collecting used N95 masks, sterilising and re-using them, according to a report by the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Gerard Hayes, the national president of the Health Service Union, said authorities needed to be transparent on how much PPE will be available and whether it will be enough if demand surges further.

"As demand and pressure on health services increases it will be good to get some clarity on how big a stockpile there is and how it will be distributed," Hayes said.

"That will give confidence to our members. Right now they don't have that confidence."

Agencies



Main venue of G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan, in June, 2019 (File photo)

Let the power of solidarity spread

COUNTRIES around the world are now extending their warm appreciation to China for the assistance the latter has offered in midst of the COVID-19 epidemic.

The Chinese government has announced assistance to 82 countries and regions, the World Health Organization and the African Union, including testing reagents, masks and protective suits. Batches of these supplies have been delivered to the recipients.

Besides, China has so far shared epidemic prevention and treatment guidelines with more than 100 countries and regions, and over 10 international and regional organizations around the world.

Such solidarity is forged as the world needs to cope with the challenge together.

When China is consolidating its epidemic control efforts at home, it is also rendering help to other countries as much as possible, which contributes to the global public health security and showcases the sense of responsibility of a major country.

A team of Chinese medical staff with experience in fighting COVID-19 arrived in the Serbian capital of Belgrade on March 22, local time, to help with the Balkan state's battle against the virus.

They were received by Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic at the Belgrade Airport. The President gave an elbow bump to each of the team member and kissed the Chinese national flag to express his gratitude.

A Chinese and a Serbian national flag were also knotted together at one end, as a manifestation of mutual help between the two countries.

Many buildings were illuminated in the color of the Chinese national flag in Belgrade on the same evening as a sign of Serbia's gratitude to its iron-clad friend China.

Such practice revealed the deep friendship between the two peoples sharing weal and woe, reflected the brilliance of humanity and deeply touched the two peoples at this difficult time.

Vucic announced a state of emergency in the country to fight the spread of the novel coronavirus on March 15. Under the measures announced by the president, Serbia banned entrance to all foreigners. However, "the only ones allowed will be Chinese doctors," the president expressed, saying that it was the only country that would help.

On the same evening, the first batch of testing kits donated by China ar-

rived in Belgrade. Two days later, the Chinese side expressed the willingness to send medical experts to the country.

By delivering on its promise, China has spread the power of solidarity to the world.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. Stories of mutual help keep on emerging in the joint fight against the disease, bringing warmth to this tough spring.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that the European Union is "grateful for support from China", in a speech videotaped in English, French and German.

Czech President Milos Zeman said, "I would therefore like to thank the People's Republic of China, which was the only country that has helped us deliver these supplies."

Similar stories are way many, and that's why "Thank you, China" has gone viral on social networks where people speak different languages but convey the same appreciation.

A growing number of countries have seen the value of friendship in China's pursuit for greater love and common interests, and realized that solidarity and cooperation are the sharpest weapon to prevail over this rampant disease that concerns all.

"China has set a good example for the international community by lending a helping hand to other epidemic-hit countries in a timely manner," said Russian President Vladimir Putin.

An official of Bosnia and Herzegovina noted that a friend in need is a friend indeed, adding that China's generous donation reflected the sincere friendship between the two countries.

Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro Lopez Locsin lauded China for being a global model in the fight against the coronavirus. He called for countries around the world to "start working together to help each other", instead of blaming each other.

Mankind is a community with a shared future, and combating the epidemic through cooperation is a joint responsibility for all players in the international arena. The world should carry on concerted efforts and fight to the last until the epidemic is terminated in every single country around the globe.

In the joint fight against the epidemic, people have come to realize the value of friendship, built up the confidence to go through the difficult times, as well as seen the hope for victory over the disease.

People's Daily

Moscow, Riyadh 'very close' to deal on oil output cuts

MOSCOW

RUSSIA and Saudi Arabia are "very close" to a deal on oil production cuts, Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, a sovereign wealth fund managing US\$10 billion, said yesterday.

"I think the whole market understands that this deal is important and it will bring lots of stability, so much important stability to the market, and we are very close," Dmitriev said in an online interview with CNBC.

OPEC+, a group of 24 oil-producing nations made up of the 14 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and 10 other non-OPEC members, including Russia, are expected to hold a video conference on Thursday to discuss oil output cuts.

Dmitriev told CNBC he recalled Russian President Vladimir Putin's suggestion for a combined production cut of around 10 million barrels per day in an online meeting with the country's oil producers on Friday.

Agencies

'Homebody economy' spikes sales of small appliances in China in midst of COVID-19

"HOMEBODY economy" gains steam in China as people are spending more time at home to curb the spread of COVID-19, and relevant industries start embracing robust growth.

Li Siying, a big fan of hotpot, stayed at home during the epidemic and turned into a "chef". After the outbreak of COVID-19, hotpot restaurants across the country suspended operation, forcing her to cook on her own. Therefore, she bought a multi-

functional hotpot online which can also grill and steam.

With the appliance, Li can make hotpot in a very easy way - all she has to do is to pour the saucing and water into the pot, and place food when it boils.

Li is only one of the many who boosted the sales of such kitchen appliances.

The growth of the "homebody" consumption highlighted the general consumption in recent days, said Zhao Ping, director of the international trade research

department at the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Academy.

Zhao noted that home appliances play a big role in family life, and both traditional and emerging appliances are able to entertain people at home. That's why they became necessary in midst of the epidemic, she added.

Kitchen appliances are not the only category that sees surging growth, and the sales volume of disinfecting appliances also witnessed an explosive growth.

According to statistic released by Suning, one of the largest electrical appliance retailers in China, disinfection cabinets experienced a year-on-year sales growth of 205 percent, and the figures for ventilation systems stood at 304 percent.

Nowadays, home appliances that can greatly improve people's life quality, such as dishwashers, are enjoying more and more popularity in China, despite their relative high price.

A report released by China

Center for Information Industry Development indicated that consumption upgrading was one of the major characteristics of China's home appliance industry last year. The sales of 4K televisions accounted for 85 percent of the total, and 59.2 percent of the air conditioners sold last year featured top energy efficiency. Besides, washing machines with the top energy efficiency made up 87.4 percent of the total sales.

The upgrading of both industries and consumption has driv-

en home appliance enterprises to develop a series of small appliances, such as blenders, coffee makers, multifunctional glass kettles and food processors.

These appliances, featuring huge market space, abundant varieties, low unit price and convenience, were in a phase of market exploration, which happened to coincide with the time when people stayed home for self-quarantine. The supply and demand were thus matched.

Consumers' preference for

quality, branding and classy lifestyles is a major characteristic of the ongoing consumption upgrading, said Zhao, adding that small appliances are exactly an important tool to improve life quality.

"Quality is made by details, and small appliances can satisfy people's demand in different scenarios. Besides, the consumption of such appliances also reflects the tastes of the consumers given the available varieties and brands," Zhao noted. *People's Daily*

UN chief warns against rise in domestic violence amid coronavirus lockdowns

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday warned against a rise in domestic violence due to growing worries and pressures as a result of lockdowns and quarantines to contain the spread of COVID-19.

"I recently called for an immediate global ceasefire to focus on our shared struggle to overcome the pandemic," said the UN chief.

"I appealed for an end to violence everywhere, now. But violence is not confined to the battlefield. For many women and girls, the threat looms

largest where they should be safest. In their own homes." "And so, I make a new appeal today for peace at home - and in homes - around the world," said Guterres.

The UN secretary-general noted that lockdowns and quarantines are essential to suppressing COVID-19, "but they can trap women with abusive partners."

"Over the past weeks as economic and social pressures and fear have grown, we have seen a horrifying global surge in domestic violence," said the UN chief.

He said that in some countries, the number of women calling support ser-

VICES "has doubled," adding that meanwhile, healthcare providers and police are overwhelmed and understaffed and local support groups are "paralyzed or short of funds."

"Some domestic violence shelters are closed; others are full," he noted.

The UN chief urged all governments to make the prevention and redress of violence against women a key part of their national response plans for COVID-19.

"That means increasing investment in online services and civil society organizations," said Guterres.

Xinhua



Michael Atkinson

Head of US intelligence watchdog says Trump fires him for his doing job

WASHINGTON

THE head of the U.S. intelligence watchdog who reported to Congress about a whistleblower complaint, which eventually led to President Donald Trump's impeachment, said Sunday that the president fired him just because he fulfilled his duty "faithfully."

"It is hard not to think that the President's loss of confidence in me derives from my having faithfully discharged my legal obligations as an independent and impartial Inspector General, and from my commitment to continue to do so," Michael Atkinson, the Intelligence Community Inspector General (ICIG), said in a statement.

Trump informed the Senate and House intelligence committees in a letter Friday that he was removing Atkinson from his duties. "This is to advise that I am exercising my power as President to remove from office the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, effective 30 days from today," he wrote.

Trump said "it is vital" that he as the president has "the fullest confidence in the appointees serving as Inspector General. That is no longer the case with regard to this Inspector General."

Atkinson notified Congress in September of a whistleblower complaint he had received from an anonymous intelligence official, who expressed concerns that Trump's dealings with Ukraine amounted to soliciting foreign interference in the 2020 U.S. election and undermined U.S. national security.

The complaint triggered the impeachment investigation into Trump, who was subsequently impeached by the Democratic-controlled House on Dec. 19 with two articles of impeachment accusing him of "abuse of power" and "obstruction of Congress," respectively. He was acquitted on Feb. 5 as the Senate, where the Republicans hold the majority, concluded its impeachment trial.

Trump defended his decision Saturday, calling Atkinson a "disgrace."

"I thought he did a terrible job. Absolutely terrible. He took a whistleblower report, which turned out to be a fake report ... and he brought it to Congress with an emergency," the president said at a White House briefing. "Not a big Trump fan, that I can tell you."

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, the California Democrat who led the impeachment investigation, condemned the ICIG's removal in a tweet Friday.

"Trump's dead of night decision to fire ICIG Michael Atkinson is another blatant attempt to gut the independence of the Intelligence Community and retaliate against those who dare to expose presidential wrongdoing," Schiff said. "It puts our country and national security at even greater risk."

Agencies



Zak Brown

McLaren boss Brown warns F1 must change to survive

LONDON

FORMULA One is in "a very fragile state" due to the new coronavirus crisis and risks losing some of its 10 teams unless some big changes are made, McLaren boss Zak Brown warned on Sunday.

The season has yet to start, with two races – including the showcase Monaco Grand Prix in May – cancelled and six postponed so far.

The sport has already made some changes, including postponing a planned major technical rule change from 2021 to 2022 and agreeing teams will use the same cars next year but Brown said more was needed.

"Could I see – through what is going on right now in the world if we don't tackle this situation head on very aggressively – two teams disappearing? Yeah," the American told the BBC.

"In fact, I could see four teams disappearing if this isn't handled the right way."

Brown said the economic and health situation meant it should not be assumed anyone would be lining up to take over any struggling teams.

"I don't think the timing could be worse from that standpoint," he added. "So I think F1 is in a very fragile state at the moment."

McLaren last week became the first team to put staff on furlough while ratings agency Moody's changed Formula One's outlook to negative from positive.

Team bosses are due to discuss cost-saving plans on a call on Monday.

A \$150 million budget cap, still well above the spending levels of some smaller teams, is due to come into force next year but Brown indicated there was a push for it to be reduced further – possibly to \$100 million.

"You have everyone at \$150m, and the strong majority – including one of the big teams – willing to come substantially under \$150m," he said.

There is also some discussion about a further postponement of the technical rule changes to 2023.

Meanwhile, Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was a dominant winner on his Formula One esports debut on Sunday while World Cup-winning England cricketer Ben Stokes brought up the rear in a virtual Vietnam Grand Prix.

The 28-lap race was the second in a series organised to provide some entertainment for fans starved of real-life action due to the new

coronavirus pandemic that has stalled most sport worldwide.

Sunday was originally scheduled to be the inaugural Vietnam Grand Prix but the virtual race, with the 20 drivers joining remotely from their homes, was staged on a version of Melbourne's Albert Park.

The Hanoi street circuit is not yet available on the official F1 video game.

"It was unbelievably hard," said Leclerc, who led from start to finish and took the chequered flag 14.094 seconds clear of Danish Renault junior Christian Lundgaard with Williams F1 driver George Russell in third place.

"We are sitting on a chair, so there is not even the G-force we have in a real car, but I am sweating like crazy," added the Monegasque, winner of two races last year in his first season with Ferrari.

"The muscles are not hurting but the concentration and everything, I've been sweating a lot."

Leclerc's 19-year-old brother Arthur was fourth for Ferrari, just ahead of Italian Alfa Romeo driver Antonio Giovinazzi.

Lundgaard would have started on pole but was given a five-place drop for exceeding track limits in qualifying.

Jenson Button, the retired 2009 world champion, was 11th with McLaren team mate Lando Norris failing to start due to technical problems for the second race running and Mexican Esteban Gutierrez also absent.

Norris's Twitch streaming platform still had more than 77,000 viewers at its peak while more than 190,000 watched Formula One's official livestream on YouTube.

Stokes finished last, behind retired grand prix winner Johnny Herbert, but the all-rounder acquitted himself well in a field with six current F1 drivers and gave a cheerful thumbs up from his living room.

China's Guanyu Zhou, winner of the first race for Renault on a virtual Bahrain layout, did not compete.

The next official virtual race is the Chinese Grand Prix on April 19.

Formula One is hoping to resume racing for real with a reduced 15-18 round calendar from the European summer, subject to the spread of the virus.

REUTERS

TFF new U-15 teams rule exemplary

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IN spite of the deepening gloom stemming from extremely disheartening daily news reports of how the coronavirus disease continues to spread apace around the world, it is still cheering to see that a number of international sports organizations are laying out plans for the eventual resumption of sporting competition in earnest, that is, once the devastatingly costly and ominous threat of COVID-19 has been totally negated.

For example, the eagerly awaited 'Mother of all grand sporting contests' the Olympic Games had been initially slated to take place in Japan's technologically savvy capital, Tokyo, starting from July 24, this year.

However, following the rapidly burgeoning danger which COVID-19 can inflict upon a global populace, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which is the body charged with running the said Olympic Games, has now made the prudent move to postpone the Tokyo Olympics to mid-next year.

Likewise, here on our chunk of earthly terrain, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) announced a bold, new regulation last week which mandates every club in the country's top tier football league to set up an Under-15 youth team, and this process of setting up youth teams must have been completed by the outset of next season, the TFF said sternly.

Indeed, this is such an impeccable decision taken by the TFF that it deserves to be lauded to the hilt.

Admittedly though, it has to be acknowledged that as a country, we have covered extensive ground where the particularly significant matter of grassroots football development is concerned.

This is evidenced by the giant



Youths that are featuring in a junior soccer development program overseen by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) attend a training session at Karume Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

strides taken by the national Under-17 men's team on the sink-or-swim continental youth football landscape.

Nevertheless, this same staunch commitment to youth football has NOT been exhibited to the same admirable extent in the country's pre-eminent football championship, the Mainland Premier League.

Granted, there was the Mainland Premier League's U-20 tourney fondly nicknamed the 'Uhai Cup', which was launched several years ago to wide acclaim.

Sadly though, the 'Uhai Cup' swiftly came to naught merely after a few years for some important reasons.

Ever since the 'Uhai Cup' was roughly shoved aside, the need for Premier League clubs to nurture the growth of their own talented youngsters was an issue that was relegated to the back-burner.

Doubtlessly, it should be noted that the 'Uhai Cup' was revived a few years

ago, which was a truly encouraging development.

Having said that though, few would dispute the argument that local football was negatively affected during the bad spell when the 'Uhai Cup' was conspicuously absent.

Nonetheless, all that is now thankfully in the past. And, at the risk of repeating myself it has to be recognized that the TFF's directive for all Premier League outfits to have youth teams, especially Under-15 football sides is a true gem of an idea.

It is hoped then that more Mbwana Samattas, Ibrahim Ajibus and Simon Msuvas will rise from obscurity to stardom as a result of the TFF's new initiative, which merits great praise indeed.

Switching gears now, there was another major talking point which set tongues a-wagging on the domestic sports patch.

And refreshingly, it had nothing at all to do with football. Instead, the notable and praiseworthy development stemmed from domestic volleyball.

Indeed, last week, a Tanzanian volleyball coach, Alfred Selengia, was selected by the Confederation of African Volleyball, CAVB, to be one of the 12 continental volleyball instructors starting from this month.

According to the terms of his new, respectable position, Selengia has now acquired the technical nous to train volleyball coaches in practically any country on the continent.

This is no mean feat. In fact, it is tantamount to Tanzania winning a prestigious continental volleyball competition, in this writer's humble estimation.

Thus, lavish praise should be heaped on Alfred Selengia, who has single-handedly put Tanzania on the African volleyball map.

At home with kids, pets and spouses, country stars play on



This combination photo shows country music stars, from left, Miranda Lambert, Keith Urban and Carrie Underwood, who are among 23 performers that will be featured in "ACM Presents: Our Country," an at-home country music special that is airing on CBS on April 5, in lieu of their delayed Academy of Country Music awards show. (AP Photo)

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

COUNTRY music's biggest stars should have been on the carpet of the Academy of Country Music Awards on Sunday in Las Vegas, but like most of America, they were homebound because of the coronavirus. Still, the musicians played on, surrounded by spouses, kids and – in one case – a horse.

"ACM Presents: Our Country," a TV special aired on CBS in lieu of the delayed awards show, featured acoustic performances, special duets, clips from previous ACM Awards telecasts and a tribute to the late country icon Kenny Rogers. The country artists, spread out from coast to coast, shared details of their home lives, their hopes for the future and their best wishes for the emergency medical workers on the front lines.

Keith Urban, the host for the awards show that now will air in September, started the special with an acoustic version of "Wasted Time" from his home studio, which he joked felt like his living room. The only thing missing was his wife and actress

Nicole Kidman, who has been seen dancing in some of Urban's social media videos lately.

"Me, Nic, our girls, we all say thank you so much to all the first responders out there, everybody in the health care field all over. We thank you so much," said Urban. "There's an insurmountable amount of people who are out there on the front lines who are risking so much for so many."

Three-piece country group Lady Antebellum showed the new reality for many working-from-home parents when they were joined by their kids in their performance of "What I'm Leaving For."

Carrie Underwood, holding a glass of red wine sitting on a couch, sang an appropriately named song called "Drinking Alone," finishing with a "Cheers!" and a sip.

Canadian superstar Shania Twain did have a small audience for her performance of "Honey, I'm Home" and "Man, I Feel Like a Woman," which included a sleepy dog and a curious horse, who at times blocked Twain's face from the camera.

The casual performances were filled with little impromptu moments. Brad Paisley's wife, actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley, played the role of camera operator as Paisley and Darius Rucker played together via video conference. Dierks Bentley's stomps on his porch in Colorado jiggled the camera and an off-camera crew cawed at him. Thomas Rhett's home security alarm chimed in his video.

In the midst of the pandemic, the country music community has been hit hard with the death of Rogers, who personified "The Gambler," as well as the deaths of Grand Ole Opry stars Jan Howard, 91, and Joe Diffie, who died at the age of 61 after contracting the virus. Country folk songwriter, John Prine, has been hospitalized with coronavirus symptoms.

Paisley and Rucker started the tribute to Rogers with a performance of "Lucille" and "The Gambler," followed by Luke Bryan who sang "Coward of the County." Lionel Richie, who wrote one of Rogers' biggest hits, "Lady," delivered the night's final memory of Rogers.

"Not only did we have a hit record, but I found one of the greatest friends I've ever had my whole life," Richie said.

Artists debuted new songs as well, including Eric Church, who played "Never Break Heart," and Kane Brown and John Legend, who sang together via a video phone call on their new duet, "Last Time I Say Sorry."

"The important thing to remember is to not fear, to be brave and to endure," Church said.

Blake Shelton and Gwen Stefani planned to play their duet, "Nobody But You," at the ACM Awards, but instead they performed the song in front of a bonfire at their home in Oklahoma, bundled up in plaid and camouflage clothes.

Miranda Lambert was accompanied by a bubbling stream on her Tennessee farm in her performance of "Bluebird."

"I want to remind everybody to lean into your music," Lambert said. "Lean into your guitars and your pianos and your voices and let that heal you."

AP

Man City investigate Walker's party with sex workers

LONDON

MANCHESTER City have launched an investigation after Kyle Walker apologised for allegedly hosting a party with sex workers during the coronavirus lockdown.

The England defender is facing disciplinary procedures after a report in The Sun newspaper claimed he and a friend paid for two sex workers to visit his Cheshire home just hours after issuing a plea to his social media followers to follow UK government advice and "keep following the protocols" during the pandemic.

A statement issued by Walker, 29, read: "I want to take this opportunity to issue a public apology for the choices I made last week which have resulted in a story today about my private life in a tabloid newspaper."

"I understand that my position as a professional footballer brings the responsibility of being a role model. As such, I want to apologise to my family, friends, football club, supporters and the public for letting them down."

"There are heroes out there making a vital difference to society at the moment, and I have been keen to help support and highlight their amazing sacrifices and life-saving

work over the past week.

"My actions in this matter are in direct contrast to what I should have been doing regarding the lockdown. And I want to re-iterate the message: Stay home, stay safe."

Walker and the rest of the City squad are training at home following the suspension of the Premier League. He has not played since the Carabao Cup final victory over Aston Villa on March 1 and is facing a club fine after City said they were "disappointed" with the allegations.

A City statement read: "Manchester City FC are aware of a story in a tabloid newspaper regarding the private life of Kyle Walker in relation to a breach of the UK lockdown and social distancing rules."

"Footballers are global role models, and our staff and players have been working to support the incredible efforts of the NHS and other key workers in fighting the effects of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, in any way we can. Kyle's actions in this matter have directly contravened these efforts."

"We are disappointed to hear the allegations, note Kyle's swift statement and apology, and will be conducting an internal disciplinary procedure in the coming days."

(Agencies)

Man City says will not ask government to pay staff

LONDON

MANCHESTER City will not seek to use the government job retention scheme and furlough staff during the shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the Premier League club has told its employees.

Several clubs, including Premier League leaders Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur, have drawn fire for taking advantage of the government's scheme which pays 80% of the wages of staff furloughed by their companies due to the global health crisis.

City, owned by Sheikh Mansour's Abu Dhabi United Group, are the first Premier League club to state that they will not be going down that route.

Employees were sent emails this weekend reassuring them that their jobs would be protected.

"We can confirm, following a decision by the Chairman (Khaldoon Al Mubarak) and Board last week, that Manchester City will not be utilising the UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme," a spokesperson said.

"We remain determined to protect our people, their jobs and our business whilst at the same time doing what we can to support our wider community at this most challenging time for everybody."

The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is in a stand-off with the Premier League over whether or not players should agree to 30%

pay cuts due to the season being suspended.

The players union's apparent reluctance to endorse wage cuts has led to accusations of "in-fighting" from Oliver Dowden, Britain's Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

With the issue of players' wages during the shutdown rumbling on across Europe and England's rich top-flight clubs being closely scrutinised, Liverpool's announcement that it will furlough many employees is looking like a PR own goal.

Former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher said it could damage the club's reputation.

"(Liverpool manager) Jurgen Klopp showed compassion for all at the start of this pandemic, senior players heavily involved in @premierleague players taking wage cuts," he said on Twitter.

"Then all that respect & goodwill is lost, poor this @LFC."

Tottenham, Bournemouth, Newcastle United and Norwich City have all furloughed staff during the health crisis that has claimed 4,934 lives in Britain as of Saturday evening.

An internal document seen by Reuters on Sunday showed FIFA is getting ready to deal with complaints and appeals over wage cuts for players, producing guidelines for clubs and football bodies looking to cut costs during the stoppage caused by the pandemic.

REUTERS

German clubs resume training amid tight virus restrictions

BERLIN

BUNDESLIGA clubs were allowed to return to team training on Monday, with some opting to train players in small groups amid strict measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

Soccer in the country has been suspended for almost a month and the German Football League (DFL) has said the ban will remain in place for the top divisions at least until April 30.

Clubs, however, were given the all clear to resume training this week, with champions Bayern Munich deciding to train players in small groups to minimise the risk of infection.

"Obviously all health guidelines are being adhered to," the club said in a statement.

"Obviously the training is closed to the public. FC Bayern are asking fans to continue following guidelines and

please do not come to the team's training centre."

Germany has seen the number of infected people rise above 100,000 this weekend and nearly 1,600 have died after testing positive for the virus that has forced the country into lockdown.

Despite the training resumption the DFL made it clear last week it was not known if or when the season would resume, and the stop in play has also had major financial effects on clubs.

Two weeks ago Borussia Dortmund, Bayern, RB Leipzig and Bayer Leverkusen came together to create a 20 million euros (£17.59 million pounds) solidarity fund to help clubs in the top two tiers.

Dortmund have also provided part of their Signal Iduna Park stadium for the treatment of suspected virus cases.

REUTERS

FIFA draws up guidelines to tackle pay-cut complaints

MANCHESTER, England

FIFA is getting ready to deal with complaints and appeals over wage cuts for players, producing guidelines for clubs and football bodies looking to cut costs during the stoppage caused by the coronavirus pandemic, an internal document seen by Reuters showed.

The issue of pay cuts for players has exploded as a major controversy in England while in other countries, such as Germany and Spain, players have accepted temporary reductions in earnings.

With football halted across the globe, however, FIFA is aware that it may well have to deal with a series of different agreements and possible complaints, and its guidelines urge any cuts to be "proportionate".

FIFA's Coronavirus working group met last week and agreed on a wide range of issues, summarised in the document, including that player contracts due to run out in June should be extended to the end of any resumed season.

The internal paper notes that such decisions will inevitably reflect national law and specific agreements in each country but says it is keen to avoid large discrepancies between similar leagues and clubs. It also urges clubs, leagues and players to reach "appropriate collective agreements".

The guiding principles behind such deals should be to "guarantee some form of salary payment to players and coaches, avoid litigation, protect contractual stability, and ensure clubs do not go bankrupt, while considering the financial impact of COVID-19 on clubs".

Crucially, the document states that where clubs and employees cannot reach agreement and where "national law does not address the situation or collective agreements are not applicable", unilateral decisions to change contracts "will only be recognised when they are otherwise deemed reasonable" by FIFA's Dispute Resolutions Chamber or Players Status Committee.

A "reasonable" contractual change will take into account the economic situation of a club, the pro-



FILE PHOTO: The logo of FIFA is seen in front of its headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland September 26, 2017. REUTERS

portionality of any salary amendment and the net income of the employee after that amendment, FIFA writes in the document.

FIFA will also take into account whether the decision applies to the entire squad or only specific employees, and whether the club attempted in good faith to reach a mutual agreement with its employees.

The FIFA document summarising the working group's views will be submitted to the Bureau of the FIFA Council for approval.

A FIFA spokesman said it was not in a position to comment as a proposal was

being made to the Council, and "we cannot pre-empt that decision".

The coronavirus working group is composed of representatives from across the game including the FIFA administration, confederations, national federations, the European Club Association (ECA), players union FIFPRO and the World Leagues Forum.

The group also offered an alternative approach in which "all agreements between clubs and employees should be 'suspended' during any suspension of competitions provided proper insurance coverage is maintained, and adequate al-

ternative income support arrangements can be found for employees during the period in question."

The group agreed that transfer windows should be adjusted to reflect the changed dates of seasons, with priority given to teams finishing the current season with their existing squad.

FIFA has also ruled that planned new restrictions on loan deals will not come into effect until the end of the current period of uncertainty surrounding the game due to the pandemic.

REUTERS

Spanish players criticize league's call for furloughs

MADRID

SOCCER players in Spain on Sunday criticized the Spanish league's decision to ask clubs to put the footballers on government furloughs during the coronavirus crisis.

The league on Friday said the furloughs were needed because there was no agreement on the size of the salary cuts that players must take to reduce the financial impact of the pandemic.

"It is strange that the Liga supports (the furloughs)," Spain's players' association said in a statement.

It said the league should have created a financial cushion for this period considering it had always boasted about its "economic control measures" and the "well-balanced economy" of the Spanish clubs. The association said it also should be taken into account that the league has been temporarily suspended and not yet canceled.

The league and the players' association have been in talks to try to find ways to mitigate losses that could reach nearly 1 billion euros (\$1.08 billion) if the season cannot be restarted because of the pandemic.

The players said they agree with a salary reduction to help the clubs during the crisis, but not to the extent the league wants, which could amount to nearly half of the total losses if the competition is not resumed. Players said they want to keep negotiating directly with the clubs instead of being forced into furloughs.

"The clubs and the players have been reaching agreements regarding the salaries," the players' association said. "What footballers are not going to do is relinquish labor rights."

Barcelona and Atlético Madrid are among the Spanish clubs requesting furloughs, but both directly negotiated the amount of the salary reduction with players - 70% in both cases. Both clubs and their players are contributing to guarantee the wages of non-playing employees being furloughed.

Spanish media said Espanyol on Sunday became one of the first teams to have the furlough request approved.

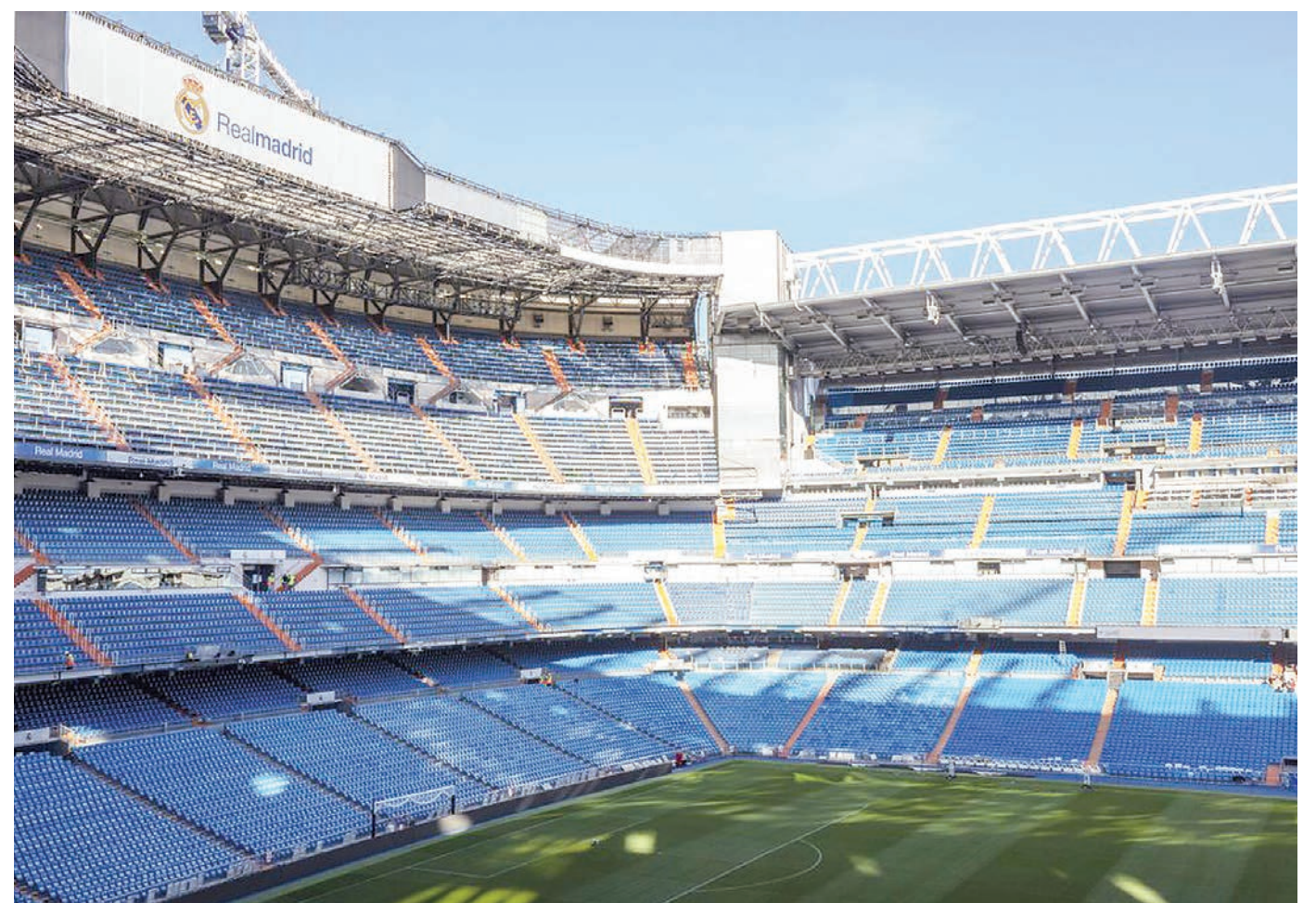
The Spanish league said it expects such agreements - furloughs or individual deals between clubs and players - to cover the vast majority of professional football in Spain. It said they "will ensure that the industry suffers a minor blow in this health crisis that also brings an economic crisis."

The league said Friday the furlough was "an exceptional mechanism to avoid and mitigate the negative impact that COVID-19 is having on the sector, and thus guarantee its subsequent recovery." It said it is responsible for preserving a sector that represents 1.37% of Spain's gross domestic product and employs about 185,000 people.

The league had said clubs and players were far apart on the proposed salary cuts. The reductions being discussed reportedly varied depending on the clubs, and also on whether they were playing in the Champions League or the Europa League.

The government furloughs help reduce the clubs' labor costs while also guaranteeing players their jobs once the crisis is over.

Spain has more than 130,000 confirmed cases



General view of the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, March 10, 2020. All upcoming professional soccer games in Spain, France and Portugal, as well as some in Germany and a European Championship qualifying match in Slovakia, will be played in empty stadiums because of the coronavirus outbreak. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. (AP Photo) General view of the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, March 10, 2020. All upcoming professional soccer games in Spain, France and Portugal, as well as some in Germany and a European Championship qualifying match in Slovakia, will be played in empty stadiums because of the coronavirus outbreak. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. (AP Photo)

of COVID-19, with nearly 12,500 deaths. The nation is expected to remain in lockdown until April 26.

There is no timetable for the return of the Spanish league.

Players maintained their position to only resume competing when health authorities deem it safe for everyone's health, a view also shared by the Spanish

league.

"We've met with all the captains of the teams in the first and second divisions and the message is clear: Health is more important than anything else," said David Aganzo, president of Spain's players' association. "They demand maximum security for themselves, for their families and for everyone else in the world of

sports."

The league has reportedly suggested it will recommend teams resume training while the lockdown is still in place, if it's possible to do so within the restrictions imposed by authorities.

Barcelona has a two-point lead over Real Madrid after 27 of the 38 rounds.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

FIFA draws up guidelines to tackle pay-cut complaints

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania Moja Movement's members (standing, back row), pictured with children that are taken care of by Morogoro-based Dar Ul Muslimeen Orphanage center when the former visited the center to hand over hand sanitizers, food and sanitary facilities to the kids on Sunday. The movement, which has brought together Tanzanian youths from across the country, has called on people to start a campaign for fighting the Coronavirus pandemic in the country. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Wider interests can help players cope better with shutdown-mental coach

NEW DELHI

CRICKETERS who have interests beyond the sport are likely to cope better with the shutdown forced by the COVID-19 pandemic, said mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton.

Professional cricket, like most other sports, has come to a grinding halt in the wake of the global health crisis which has also forced lockdowns in several places.

"A significant change in the status quo is stressful for most people," South African Upton, who worked with the 2011 World Cup winning India team, told the Times of India newspaper.

"For athletes, there would be a range of experiences, from welcome relief for the established to anxiety and insecurity, both professionally and financially, for possibly a greater number.

"The athletes who had interests outside of cricket, and which they can still pursue, will be coping better than those who have made sport the sole focus and purpose of their lives."

Upton has also worked with the Pune, Rajasthan and Delhi franchises of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

He felt fringe players would be particularly disappointed with the uncertainty around this year's edition, which has been put back to April 15 with another postponement seemingly inevitable.

"Fringe players and those at the early stages of their career, especially those who have very recently broken through to the next level, would naturally be feeling this break very disruptive.

"Naturally IPL is a huge highlight on the calendar for many cricketers, and a cash cow," he added.

REUTERS



Swimming coach, Ramadhan Namkoveka (L), coaches a domestic Paralympic swimmer in Dar es Salaam recently.

TPC seeks to increase number of Paralympic athletes for Tokyo Games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) has disclosed it will beef up the number of athletes who will represent the country at the next year's Tokyo Paralympic Games.

Gwakisa Mwakabete, TPC chairman, said on Sunday they will beef up the squad with two athletes in shot put and discus.

He added the aim is to see to it the country is having many athletes at the Games so as to stand a chance of winning medals.

Currently, the country has Ignatius Mtwewe and Sauda Njopeka who as revealed by TPC were expected to represent the country at the Tokyo Paralympic Games.

The Tokyo Paralympic Games have though faced postponement due to

Coronavirus outbreak. The Games will be held next year.

Mwakabete stopped short of mentioning the two athletes, saying selection will base on their previous performances.

According to him the committee will soon start looking for funds to enable the two athletes to seek participation in qualifying events for the Tokyo Paralympic Games.

"Our aim is to have more athletes representing the country at the next year's Paralympic Games in Japan, we have decided to add two more athletes, they will go to Japan upon qualification not on solidarity ticket," he said.

Paralympic Games and Olympic Games which were to be held in Japan this year were postponed weeks ago due to the Coronavirus disease spread and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) president Andrew Parsons hailed the decision to postpone the Games.

"Postponing the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic

Games as a result of the global COVID-19 outbreak is absolutely the right thing to do," he disclosed.

"The health and well-being of human life must always be our number one priority and staging a sport event of any kind during this pandemic is simply not possible."

"Sport is not the most important thing right now, preserving human life is. It is essential therefore that all steps are taken to try and limit the spread of this disease," he said.

Parsons went on to say that the next year's Paralympic Games in Tokyo will be spectacular global celebration of humanity.

"When the Paralympic Games do happen in Tokyo next year, they will be a spectacular global celebration of humanity coming together again as one," he noted.

"In the meantime, we will liaise and work closely with our athletics community, National Paralympic Committees and International Federation impacted by this postponement," he said.

Ihefu FC stadium construction to start in June

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

CONSTRUCTION of Ihefu Football Club venue in Mbarali, Mbeya is expected to begin in June, officials of a construction firm tasked with working on the project disclosed yesterday.

Ihefu FC official, Thobil Mshana, said planning, surveying and designing scrutiny of the stadium which will have the capacity of 5000 to 6000 people is complete and they expect actual construction to begin in June.

He said the facility will be known as Estate Stadium and it will have 86 shops which will be rented and six to seven entrances to the stadium.

Mshana stopped short of disclosing the amount of money which the club will use to construct the stadium.

"All is ready for the stadium construction, which will be known as Estate, it will be one of the biggest in Mbeya and surrounding areas," he noted.

"It will have all facilities which modern stadia do possess, and it will also have seven running tracks, 86 shops which will help the club generate its own income," he said.

Ihefu FC plays in the First Division League (FDL) and the announcement of the stadium construction follows a recent visit by Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) leaders in Mbeya.

The TPLB leaders toured Mbeya with the aim of appreciating the region's football outfits' efforts and their readiness for implementing Club Licensing.

The leaders observed that one of the biggest challenges clubs in the region face is that they do not own venues.

Infrastructure remains an integral part of the game and also in Club Licensing but unfortunately, many clubs in the country do not have their own stadia.

Waqar wants Pakistan policy to stop abrupt format-dropping

LAHORE

BOWLING coach Waqar Younis wants Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to formulate a policy to stop players from abruptly dropping the test format, the former captain said on Monday.

Experienced quicks Mohammad Amir and Wahab Riaz quit test cricket last year to focus on the short formats and Pakistan's bowling frailties were subsequently exposed in Australia where they lost both the test and Twenty20 series.

"Of course you can't stop anyone or force anyone. But there should be a policy by the board," Waqar said in a video conference with reporters.

"If a star player suddenly leaves, or drops a format, it's a massive setback for the team. You're forced to fast-track rookies, which is a big problem and we faced it in absence of Amir and Wahab.

"I'm not saying we'd have won in Australia with them, but we could have done better, benefiting from their experience."

Waqar felt Pakistan needed a bigger pool of fast bowlers to cope with the demand of limited-overs cricket and was optimistic he could help create one.

REUTERS

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

NIRVANA

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrika RADIO

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

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

