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Chadema's second presidential hopeful



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Child injured in hyena attack



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Pleas for more women in politics



## UNAIDS: Covid-19 blowing HIV care progress way off envisioned course

GENEVA

THE United Nations agency on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has released a new report which shows remarkable but highly unequal progress, notably in expanding access to antiretroviral therapy.

As these achievements have not been shared equally within and between countries, the global HIV targets set for 2020 will not be reached. The report, seizing the moment, warns that even the gains made could be lost and progress further stalled if the world fails to act.

It highlights just how urgent it is for countries to double down and act with greater urgency to reach the millions still left behind.

"Every day in the next decade decisive action is needed to get the world back on track to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030," said Winnie Byanyima (pictured), the Executive Director of UNAIDS.

"Millions of lives have been saved, particularly the lives of women in Africa.

The progress made by many needs to be shared by all communities in all countries.

Stigma and discrimination and widespread inequalities are major barriers to combating AIDS. Countries need to listen to the evidence and step up to their

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# Kenya steers US trade pact as other EAC partners differ

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha



With yesterday a public holiday (Sabasaba) in Tanzania, hundreds of people from across Dar es Salaam and its environs - and well beyond - found time to visit the ongoing (July 1-13) 44th edition of the annual Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF). But, too bad, hardly any wearing face masks - while Covid-19 is not completely done with! Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siame

AS Kenya and the United States begin negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement, 27 Pan-African civil society organisations are protesting the move.

Kenya's East African Community partner states Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Tanzania and South-Sudan, are meanwhile under civil society pressure against going by Kenya's example and rushing into the deal, as the US is up to no good, the NGOs assert.

Tanzanian civil society organisations have joined other African institutions for trade and economic development in signing a joint petition directed at regional and international trade bodies to protest the start of the negotiations.

Mildren Ngesa, who coordinated the move, says Western countries could be taking advantage of the Covid-19 driven global economic slump to capture economies of poor countries.

Ngesa represents the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) in Nairobi.

Civil societies argue that the US and Kenya Free Trade Area (FTA) envisaged pact is faulty because of its ill-timing, lack of wide consultation on the agreement especially on the Kenya side and "glaring gaps of inequality especially on the part of Kenya that will impact Africa as a whole."

The letter is addressed to the head of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), the African Union, the East African Community (EAC) as well as to President Uhuru Kenyatta, amongst other stakeholders.

Signed by civil society organisations from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Rwanda and Burundi, the dispatch warns that after Kenya, the US may

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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.



**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)

## Last independence minister Job Lusinde breathes his last

By Guardian Reporter

THE last member of Tanganyika's first cabinet after independence in 1961, Job Lusinde, died in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

His family confirmed that the first phase leader died at Muhimbili National Hospital's (MNH) Mloganzila campus early yesterday at the age of 90.

Lusinde was the only one among 11 people appointed ministers by Tanganyika's first Prime Minister and

later President - Julius Nyerere - before the 1964 union with the short lived People's Republic of Zanzibar that led to the birth of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The family's spokesman, former Prime Minister John Malecela, said funeral preparations are under way at his residence in Dodoma. He said the late former minister was taken ill since February and his condition did not improve appreciably.

"My brother has died. He served this

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## NBC injects 80bn/- into SMEs in a year

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) Ltd has for the past year injected

about 80bn/- in loans and entrepreneur training facilitation for small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs).

Managing Director Theobald Sabi said in an interview yesterday that the total number of SMEs reached were 3,000 during the past half year.

"The benefitting SMEs range from distribution, building contractors, oil and gas, tour guiding and hotels, transportation, manufacturing and agriculture," he elaborated.

The bank is currently implementing initiatives like reviewing credit policy.

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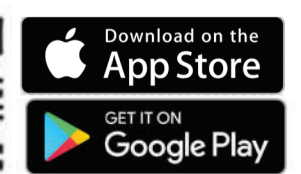
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Immediate past Mbeya Urban legislator Joseph Mbilinyi alias Sugu (R), who is seeking re-election, pictured at the weekend receiving a form through which to seek nomination as the opposition party's candidate for the position in later this year's General Election. The form was paid for by members of the party's Mbeya District women's wing, led by chairperson Elizabeth Mwakimomo. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## Chadema gets second presidential hopeful

By Guardian Reporter

THE main opposition party Chadema yesterday handed over presidential nomination forms to the second presidential hopeful for October's General Election.

Dr Mayrose Mazinge picked up the forms at the party's headquarters in Dar es Salaam, becoming the second person to do so after Vice Chairman Tundu Lissu, whose representative David Jumbe did so on his behalf at the weekend.

Dr Mazinge was handed over the nomination forms by Chadema director of elections Reginald Munisi. She becomes the first woman to declare interest in the Union presidency via Chadema.

The party closes the window

for picking and returning the nomination forms for the top seat on 19th July 2020.

Speaking after picking up the forms, Dr Mazinge said if nominated by her party and finally makes to the helm of the country's leadership, her top priorities will be to put in place strong institutions of governance for the benefit of the current and future generations.

The Presidential hopeful said should her realise her dreams, she will oversee the review a number of laws with the view to putting in place legal frameworks that serve the interests of the people on rule of law.

The aspirant added that as chief executive of the country, she will ensure that the country achieves food security and

reform the education sector to ensure that curricula produce competent and highly-skilled manpower to spur national development.

"If elected, I'll work to ensure creation of enough job opportunities in professions and sectors of our country's socio-economic development," she said.

The politician said her agenda is to improve agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and mining sectors by ensuring greater participation of Tanzanians alongside foreign investors.

Should her succeed in her bid, her government will change the law to permit duo citizenship which she said will immensely benefit Tanzanians in the Diaspora.

## NBC injects 80bn/- into SMEs in a year

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formation of an SME business credit committee to cultivate fairness in decision making, formulating an excel scorecard to ensure fast turnaround time (TAT) and removing detailed financial statements for loans below 100m/-.

"Other initiatives include a new SMEs organization structure on coverage and credit, risk appetite statements for sectors holding most SMEs, simplification of SMEs' lending process and documentation, and review of channels and distribution strategy for SMEs," he further noted.

Development strategies targeting business clubs to provide education and training to club

members were initiated, inviting club members to networking events and trade exhibitions like the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair, international business trips to help members make connections with large firms and potential investors.

The bank has also introduced Customer Value Proposition (SME-CVP) for SMEs to increase its market share through potential value that the bank is delivering to its chosen market segment, he stated.

"The bank has introduced unsecured loans for SMEs as part of our strategy in supporting their journey to growth. The loans include facilities for distributors and suppliers of large companies.

The bank has also developed a dedicated online platform to facilitate transactions for clients' convenient locations, in a reliable manner. It allows all payments to local and international markets," he asserted.

Prioritization of SMEs empowerment as an engine to fast-tracking the industrialization agenda is the core element in the bank's vision, as SMEs occupy close to 95 per cent of business and is a fast growing sector of the economy, contributing about 35 per cent of the country's GDP.

Thus the bank sees a need to grow with the sector where it conducts regular market research for appropriate financial solutions that respond to SME customers'

needs in supporting their journey to growth.

"In the bank, we have evidenced a 12 per cent year on year growth of SME business, something that has triggered the bank to make the segment to be number one priority. This gives rise to improved provision of financial solutions to customers," he declared.

The bank has 3,000 plus agents and 49 branches across the country.

NBC Ltd Tanzania is the oldest serving local commercial bank present across five decades, offering a range of retail, business, corporate and investment banking, wealth management products and services.

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sign similar FTA agreements with other African countries, much to the disadvantage of the latter.

"We are writing to you today to strongly urge you to consider intervening to convince Kenya to abandon or, at the very least, postpone the United States-Kenya Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations to a later date," reads part of the dispatch.

The CSOs stated that Kenya must be cognisant of its development strategy and how it fits into the overall picture.

"Reciprocal trade between Kenya and the US essentially puts two extremely unequal countries on a path of enhanced harmonization of rules and policies. This is a complete

## Kenya steers US trade pact as other EAC partners differ

mismatch. For example, California alone is the fifth largest economy in the world. Kenya on the other hand is currently ranked 98th on the US trading partners list with exports of US\$ 365 million and imports worth US\$ 644 million."

They are of the view that the FTA agreement "has the danger of crippling sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing and disintegration of the Kenyan economy."

"In agriculture, for example, the US seeks to secure comprehensive market access for US agricultural goods, promote greater regulatory compatibility with US rules and

establish specific commitments for trade in products developed through agricultural biotechnology."

In their view, the likely outcome is that the agreement will likely negatively impact food security, as the ability of local farmers to produce will be limited by stiff competition from cheaper products from US large scale producers.

"Further, it may limit the ability of the Kenyan government to regulate risky pesticides or agricultural technologies or even shelter local production from volatile prices or supplies," the CSOs maintained.

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human rights responsibilities."

About 14 countries have achieved the 90-90-90 HIV treatment targets (90% of people living with HIV know their HIV status, of whom 90% are on antiretroviral treatment and of whom 90% are virally suppressed).

This includes Eswatini, which has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world, at 27% in 2019, and which has now surpassed the targets to achieve 95-95-95.

Millions of lives and new infections have been saved by scaling up antiretroviral therapy.

However, around 690 000 people died of AIDS-related illnesses last year and 12.6m of the 38m people living with HIV were not accessing the life-saving treatment.

"We cannot rest on our successes, nor be discouraged by setbacks. We must ensure that no one is left behind. We must close the gaps. We are aiming for 100-100-100," said Ambrose Dlamini, the Prime Minister of Eswatini.

The world is far behind in preventing new HIV infections. Some 1.7m people were newly infected with the virus, more than three times the global target. There has been progress in eastern and southern Africa, where new HIV infections have reduced by 38 per cent since 2010. This is in stark contrast to eastern Europe and central Asia, which has seen a staggering 72 per cent rise in new HIV infections since 2010. New HIV infections have also risen in the Middle East and North Africa by 22per cent, and by 21 per cent in Latin America.

Seizing the moment shows unequal progress, with too many vulnerable people and populations left behind. Around 621 per cent of new HIV infections occurred among key populations and their sexual partners, sex workers, people who inject drugs and people in prison, despite them

## UNAIDS: Covid-19 blowing HIV care progress way off envisioned course

constituting a tiny portion of the general population.

Stigma and discrimination, together with other social inequalities and exclusion, are proving to be key barriers. Marginalized populations fearing judgment, violence or arrest struggle to access sexual and reproductive health services, especially those related to contraception and HIV prevention.

Stigma against people living with HIV is still commonplace. At least 82 countries criminalize some form of HIV transmission, exposure or non-disclosure, sex work is criminalized in 103 countries and 108 countries criminalize the consumption or possession of drugs for personal use.

Women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa continue to be the most affected and accounted for 591 per cent of all new HIV infections in the region in 2019, with 4,500 adolescent girls and young women between 15 and 24 years old becoming infected with HIV every week. Young women accounted for 24 per cent of new HIV infections in 2019, despite making up only 10 per cent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa.

However, where HIV services are comprehensively provided, HIV transmission levels are reduced significantly. In Eswatini, Lesotho and South Africa, a high coverage of combination prevention options, including social and economic support for young women and high levels of treatment coverage and viral suppression for previously unreachable populations, have narrowed inequality gaps and driven down the incidence of new HIV infections.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted the AIDS response and could disrupt it more. A six-month complete disruption in HIV treatment could cause more than 500,000

additional deaths in sub-Saharan Africa over the next year (2020-2021), bringing the region back to 2008 AIDS mortality levels. Even a 20 per cent disruption could cause an additional 110,000 deaths.

"Those of us who survived HIV and fought for life and access to treatment and care cannot afford losing the gains that took so much effort to win. In some Latin American countries we are seeing how HIV resources, medicines, medical staff and equipment are being moved to the fight against COVID-19," said Gracia Violeta Ross, President of the Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV. "Some good lessons and practices of the HIV response, such as meaningful participation and accountability, are being ignored. We will not allow HIV to be left behind."

To fight the colliding epidemics of HIV and COVID-19, UNAIDS and partners are leading a global call for a People's Vaccine for COVID-19, which has been signed by more than 150 world leaders and experts demanding that all vaccines, treatments and tests be patent-free, mass produced and distributed fairly and free for all.

UNAIDS is also urging countries to increase investments in both diseases. In 2019, funding for HIV fell by 7.0 per cent from 2017, to \$18.6bn. This setback means that funding is 30 per cent short of the \$26.2bn needed to effectively respond to HIV in 2020.

"We cannot have poor countries at the back of the queue. It should not depend on the money in your pocket or the colour of your skin to be protected against these deadly viruses," said Byanyima.

"We cannot take money from one disease to treat another. Both HIV and COVID19 must be fully funded if we are to avoid massive loss of life."



Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina speaks at Monday's launch in Dodoma city of boards of directors of three agencies under the ministry: Livestock Training Agency, Veterinary Council of Tanzania, and Marine Park and Reserves Unit. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Last independence minister Job Lusinde breathes his last

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country with all his heart and for a long time. He has done a lot during his time when working in government, including serving as High Commissioner to Kenya for ten years and ambassador to China for close to a decade as well," he said.

Malecela said the late Lusinde would be remembered for his service to the nation in the various positions he served.

A member of the Dodoma elders' council, Peter Mavunde, said Lusinde wrote a book on the Uhuru Torch "but he has died without launching it."

"In the book the late Mavunde aimed at educating Tanzanians on the importance of the Torch. It's unfortunate that he has gone

without launching it," he said.

Lusinde was for years chairing the council, advocated making Dodoma the country's capital, which was finally realized under President John Magufuli's leadership, he further noted.

The country has lost a great man who was a treasure and a source of history to young Tanzanians interested in the country's political struggles in which he participated, the city elder underlined.

Antony Mavunde, the Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) said the late Lusinde was a friend to youthful leaders.

Mavunde, also MP for Dodoma

Urban said the late Lusinde was a pool of wisdom for youthful leaders to tap wisdom.

His vision and aspirations will continue to live because central region and other leaders learned from his experiences, he said.

Lusinde held various ministerial posts including Local Governments (1961-1963), Home Affairs (1963-1965), Communication, Transport and Labour (1965-1967), and was appointed on the same communication ministry in 1974 to 1975.

He was among ministers who participated in preparations for the union with Zanzibar and witnessed the signing of the union in April 1964.

In 1975, he was appointed ambassador to China and served

there up to September 1984 when he was shifted to Kenya.

On the 47th anniversary of the union, he was accorded "The Order of the Union First Class" medal by former President Jakaya Kikwete for dedicated public service.

Born in 1930, the late ambassador Lusinde attended mission primary school and Alliance Secondary School (later Mazengo Secondary School in respect to the Gogo chief).

He passed his O-level education and continued his 'A' level education at Tabora Boys secondary school.

He later joined Makerere University in Uganda to study education, from 1950 to 1953 and was retained as a tutorial assistant at the college.



Bishop Dr Frederick Shoo (L), Head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, addresses Interfaith Committee officials in Kilimanjaro Region yesterday during deliberations on the position of religious leaders in this October's General Election. The event was organised by ELCT and sponsored by Norwegian Church Aid - Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

# Magufuli picks 15 DEDs and one DC

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has unveiled yet another list of new appointments including 15 District executive directors (DEDs) and one district commissioner (DC).

A statement issued yesterday by the Directorate of Presidential Communications at State House Chamwino said former assistant administrative secretary for Songwe Region Lauteri Kanoni becomes the new DC for Wang'ombe in Njombe Region. He replaces Ally Kasinge whose fate has not been divulged.

The Head of State has also appointed Bashir Mhoja s the new DED for Iringa District Council in Iringa Region. The former Geita Town Council lawyer takes over from Robert Masunya. The statement is silent about the status of former office holder.

President Magufuli has also named Ramadhan Possi the new DED for Chalinze District Council in Coast Region. The former Tanga City Planning Officer replaces Amina Kiwanuka who has retired.

Baraka Zikatimu becomes the new DED for Urambo District Council in Tabora Region. The former Planning Officer for Bumbuli District in Tanga Region replaces Margareth Nakainga who has retired, the statement said.

The new DED for Babati District Council in Manyara Region is John Nchimbi who served as human resource office for Morogoro District Council in Morogoro Region.

Emmanuel Matinyi is the new DED for Kishapu District in Shinyanga Region. Before this appointment, Matinyi was District Education Officer for Kwimba in Mwanza Region.

The State House statement said the appointments took effect yesterday July 7, 2020.

The appointments of new DEDs, DCs, and Regional Commissioner commenced in earnest on Friday last week and continued on Monday

when the President revealed that he had received several requests from his appointees who wish to relinquish their current positions and take aim at parliamentary posts.

Speaking in Dodoma on Monday, the Head of State said he had given a nod to all those who had trained their eyes on currently vacant parliamentary seats ahead of general election slated for October this year.

President Magufuli made it clear that all public servants he appointed who want to pursue political interests just need to let him know and he is more than ready to release them with immediate effect and appoint new ones.

He made the revelation at Chamwino State House during a swearing in ceremony for Kigoma and Tabora Regional Commissioners Thobias Andengeny and Dr Philemon Sengati respectively. Simiyu Regional Administrative Secretary Mariam Mmbanga also took oath of office at the event where 10 DCs were also sworn in. These were new office holders who were appointed by the President on Friday last week.

**President Magufuli made it clear that all public servants he appointed who want to pursue political interests just need to let him know and he is more than ready to release them with immediate effect and appoint new ones**

# Child injured in hyena attack

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

A child has sustained serious injuries in an attack by a rogue hyena late on Monday evening at Ndembezi area in Shinyanga municipality. The hyena attack left a small child with a neck injury.

As a result the residents of Shinyanga Municipality in Shinyanga Region have urged officials responsible for wildlife management to remove hyenas that continuously attack humans especially children in the area.

This follows recent incident in which a hyena attacked a group of children

who were playing in the evening at Ndembezi area on Monday, seriously injuring one child.

Speaking here on behalf of the area residents, Rev Elias Madoshi of the Free Pentecostal Church who rushed the victim to hospital said the child, Abel Kimbui, (13) sustained serious injuries in the neck after the attack.

"Kimbui was playing with other children at around 7pm when the animal appeared, started chasing them and finally pounced on him and injured his neck," he said.

The other children who were playing with Kimbui ran faster enough to

escape the animal but the victim could not sprint as fast as his playmates and ended up in the jaws of greedy carnivorous. But they boy and his colleagues made loud noises that led to people coming to his rescue. The animal disappeared into nearby bushes.

The clergyman it was not the first incident as reports of hyena attacks in the area are commonplace. He wondered why this continues in a place that is not rural but part of an urban municipality.

"In other previous incidents, these animals also targeted children. We

appeal to responsible authorities to act and remove these hyenas from our midst," he said.

The latest victim is a Standard Five pupil at Ushirika primary school in the municipality.

Rose Malisa, medical officer in-charge of Shinyanga Regional Referral Hospital where Kimbui was rushed said the patient was referred to Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza Region.

"I have communicated with doctors at Bugando and they told me the patient's condition is improving," she said.



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The East African Community (EAC) is a regional organization mandated by the governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan to spearhead the East African economic, social and political integration agenda. In support of the on-going integration process, and in line with its objectives to support the EAC Secretariat, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is seeking consultancy services for Design of Conformity Assessment Training Manuals, Learning Plans, and Training of Lead Assessors in the EAC Region.

The tender document for this assignment can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above tender title and number should be emailed to [procurement@trademarkea.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkea.com).

Interested bidders MUST submit separate technical and financial proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address [procurement@trademarkea.com](mailto:procurement@trademarkea.com) quoting the tender title and number. The closing date for submission of proposals is **31 July 2020**. Only applications from firms/consortiums shall be accepted.

**TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender seven days or less prior to the submission deadline.**



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# Life at Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair - yesterday..



This is at the National Assembly's pavilion yesterday, with official Rehema Kipera (R) and a colleague briefing visitors on the legislative body's activities. Photo: National Assembly



Tanzania Sisal Board Planning official Frederick Sospeter (R) briefs High Court Judge Yose Joseph Mlyambina (L) on the board's operations. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Livestock and Fisheries ministry permanent secretary Prof Elisante ole Gabriel (L, in glasses) views animal feeds at the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute pavilion. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



A car running on natural gas attracts visitors to the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology pavilion. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Muhimbili National Hospital's Dr Lawanna Msiliwova (R) has a word with visitors at the referral hospital's pavilion. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siame



Dr Samwel Lunyelele (L), a lecturer with Dar es Salaam's Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, has a brief audience with Chamazi Islamic Secondary School Form VI students at the academy's pavilion. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siame



Cashewnuts processed and packed by a group known as Matango Cashewnuts on display at one of the pavilions. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



National Assembly official Debora Sanja (R) and a colleague 'introduce' the legislative body to visitors. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Zungu promises to solve copper waste export challenge

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) Mussa Azzan Zungu has praised electric cable manufacturing firm - OK Plast Ltd for adhering to environmental regulations.

Zungu also pledged to work on the challenge posed on the export of copper waste (slime and slug)

produced by the factory.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday soon after visiting the factory, Zungu said the factory is a big manufacturer of electric cables whose market is readily available within the country and promised to deal with the challenges it faces.

"Since there is no ready market in the country for the slime and slug I will appoint a team of experts to come and

assess effects that may be posed in its export before I issue export permit," said Zungu.

He also called all factory owners in the country to stop sabotaging power, water and bridges infrastructures in order to obtain raw materials for manufacturing power cables.

Meanwhile Zungu called upon factory owners to put in place friendly infrastructures to ensure the

prevention of polluted air produced by the factories that pose health hazards to people in the surrounding areas as well as causing climate change.

"Factories must abide by environmental regulations including treating of waste water before it is allowed to flow away and the appropriate way to control carbon dioxide that pose destruction to living organisms," he said.

The factory's environmental officer Gilbert Grid said their factory will continue production by adhering to all procedures and regulations to avoid conflicts with government institutions including the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC).

"For a long time we have had this challenge of slime and slug export and the coming of the minister who has seen for himself power cables

production and the copper waste that apart from posing challenge for its storage at our premises, also denies us income for failure to export it," he said.

NEMC manager for the Eastern Zone Arnold Mapinduzi has called upon factory owners who use scrap metal as raw materials to follow laid down procedures including purchase of the raw materials from duly licenced dealers.



Tigo managing director Simon Karikari (2nd-R) listens to a briefing by Nancy Lyimo (R), supervisor of the firm's pavilion at the DITF, during a tour of the fair grounds yesterday. Left is Tigo Coast Zone director Joseph Mutalemwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

## Govt advised to give more leadership posts to women

THE government has been challenged to provide more leadership positions to women in the country as part of the plan to achieve the fifty percent leadership target between men and women.

While Tanzania ranks second in East Africa and 25 globally in women empowerment, a lot more needs to be done to help women rise to leadership positions.

This was said by the Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP)'s Executive Director, Lilian Liundi, calling on the public to vote for more women in the coming general elections.

She said Tanzania is ranked in 25 position globally for having 36.9 percent of members of parliament being women. In East Africa, it is second to Rwanda that leads globally by having 36.3 percent of all lawmakers

as women.

Speaking during a meeting to sensitise women and youth on the importance of seeking elective positions in the forthcoming election, she said all people in the country have the right to vie for any position, regardless of gender, physical ability among others.

The TGNP boss mentioned the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)'s January 2019 report that ranked Tanzania second in East Africa and 25th globally in women empowerment and leadership.

"Despite the realised steps taken by the government in empowering women, we still have the role to play to ensure the 50/50 target is realised"

she said, adding that everything is possible.

She said the forthcoming elections is an important opportunity for women, youth and people with disabilities to exercise their national right to vie for any position.

According to Lilian, the nation has taken major steps in empowering women, adding that the coming elections has come at a time when the country has made history by having the first female vice president.

She said records shows that by January 2019 there were 10 women in top leadership in their countries, equivalent to 6.6 percent, globally. She said in Africa there were two female presidents and a prime minister.

## Teenage pregnancy, GBV rates at record high in Siha District

By Guardian Correspondent, Siha

TEENAGE pregnancy and incidences of gender based violence (GBV) have continued to increase in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region, a situation which is attributed to existing traditional Maasai cultures.

In the past year, five secondary school students from the district dropped out of the school due to pregnancy.

This was revealed in the quarterly report issued by paralegals working in Siha District. The report included GBV incidents recorded between April and June this year.

The paralegals work under the Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Consultancy Organisation (KWIECO) with support from Legal Services Facility (LSF).

One of the paralegals from Gararagua ward, Hamza Munisi who is the vice board chairperson of the Magadini secondary school said following the traditional customs, some parents in the Maasai community select fiancée for their children while they are still in Form One.

"There are always a good number of students getting pregnant while at school each year, we are working with the district authorities to end the problem which is fuelled by traditional cultures of the Maasai people," he said.

Siha District Community Development Officer, Marko Masue called upon the school managements to work closely with parents and partners to end the problem which ruins the girl's dreams.

Masue underscored the need to educate the community on the effects of GBV and early pregnancies.

"Victims of various forms of gender based violence should be encouraged to form or join groups of women entrepreneurs to start generating income as well as be able to access loans for expansion of their business. "These girls need to be empowered economically, they should have their businesses to stop depending on men for survival," he said.

Officer of the police gender desk at Siha police station, Eusebius Ndauka promised to cooperate with the district authority and partners to end the problem especially at the Magadini secondary school where five girls were impregnated in 2019.



EMBASSY OF DENMARK  
Dar es Salaam

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- Entertainment: Arranging, in close consultation with Embassy team and Residence staff, events at the Ambassador Residence, including securing dates, issuing of invitations and follow up as appropriate.
- Point of contact: Handling of correspondence and phone calls with government officials, representatives of the Tanzanian society at large, the diplomatic community, incoming Danish visitors etc. Maintain and update the Embassy's contact data-base.
- Drafting basic letters, official correspondence etc. as directed by the Ambassador
- Translation of documents and speeches from English to Kiswahili and vice versa.
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If you are interested in this exciting career opportunity, e-mail us your CV (maximum 5 pages) and one page application letter explaining your suitability for the role. Please, do not include your certificates. Write "PA\_Ambassador" in your e-mail subject line. The deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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# Impact of Covid-19: Activists underline need for strategies to support children

By Getrude Mbago

WOMEN and child rights stakeholders in the country have urged schools and authorities to come up with special strategies to support children affected by violence acts during the three-month Covid-19 holiday.

They are calling that the strategies should include setting up special rooms in schools to provide early service to children who will be found to have been affected physically or psychologically by the coronavirus pandemic as well as any kind of abuse.

Speaking during a tele-media conference on Monday, the director of the country's Transformative and Integrative Build Out for All (TIBA), Malcela Lungu said that as schools have reopened, strong strategies are needed to ensure that children remain safe during their stay both in schools and homes.

"There are children who faced various violence challenges such as rape, beating and other brutal actions during the holiday something which should also be considered on how to help them especially psychologically," Lungu said.

She also said that the strategies should focus on training teachers on how to help the affected children.

Lungu further advised that teachers should also be taught to help minimize fear and worries of children in schools as the majority of them still have stress of the Coronavirus pandemic.

"We have also heard of hundreds of girls who got pregnant during the holiday, so we should also think how we are going to help this group, what is the alternative way to ensure that they continue with their studies after delivery," she said.

For his part, Salim Mtepellah, an officer from TIBA said that the organisation has trained a number of people in Dar es Salaam region on GBV fight and Coronavirus prevention.

He noted that there is a number of women who are going through hard times in their communities with others facing violence acts which affect their development.

"We are conducting awareness on GBV and Covid-19 in Tandale and Mwananyamala wards in Kinondoni district. We engage social welfare officers, majority of people are still unaware of GBV impacts, we educated people to report incidences of GBV," he said.

Michael Jackson, one of the conference participants said that more coordinated efforts are needed to fight GBV in the country.

"GBV including violence against children remains one of the most serious human rights violations in the country which calls for determined efforts to curb it. For example, we have witnessed an increase of violence cases during Covid-19 period, particularly home based violence, with this situation we have to collect our efforts and make sure that we fight the challenge," he added.

TIBA is a non-governmental organisation working to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and strives to ensure access to education for all children, with a specific focus on the girl child and children with disabilities. The organisation moreover addresses the impact of climate change on women and youth, as well as sexual and reproductive health, amongst other issues.



Tanzania Breweries Ltd Plc communication manager Amanda Walter symbolically presents to Assistant Commissioner of Police Mkadam K. Mkadam (2nd-L) T-Shirts donated by the company for use in the national Road Safety campaign. The event was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Same

FARMERS in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region have been urged to cultivate crops that are in high demand in factories to be certain of ready markets.

Angellah Kairuki, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), made the call yesterday during her working visit in the district where she suggested the need for farmers to venture into growing crops with readily market.

According to Kairuki, working on one crop has great benefits to farmers because investors can buy large quantities of the crops from one area at a time.

## Produce highly demanded crops to win markets, Kairuki tells farmers

She said there are crops that are in high demand by various industries in the country; hence if many farmers grow the same crop in high demand, they will be certain of the market's availability.

"Same District has ample farming opportunities due to soil fertility that enables many kinds of crops to grow compared to other areas, including areas for irrigation farming, hence mobilise farmers to grow crops that are

in great demand," Kairuki said.

She also called same District government to quickly solve land conflicts in particular those pitting the residents and investors to enable spur investments for economic development.

Meanwhile, Kairuki said the District authorities should look into the possibility of establishing a modern abattoir, saying it has many livestock and the abattoir would be an

appropriate investment for the District Council.

The minister also called on the council to establish a mineral museum which would be visited by tourists and other Tanzanians to see various minerals obtained in the District.

Same District Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule said for farmers to grow one crop in the area will make easy for crops buyers to get the crops they need in large quantities.



TPB Bank operations officer Jennifer Liyumba (L) briefs Stephen Kigai (R), Clerk of the National Assembly, at the bank's DITF pavilion yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Handeni

## Counsellors called on not to seek re-election unless they have fulfilled previous promises

OUTGOING counsellors have been advised not to vie for leadership posts if they have not fulfilled the promises they made when contesting similar positions in the past General Elections.

CCM chairman for Handeni District, Athumani Malunda gave the warning yesterday when opening a meeting of the district executive committee. He said that only those who have fulfilled their promises in accordance with the party's election manifesto should join the race.

According to Malunda some of the councillors underperformed in the five years, hence no need for them to seek re-election in the October elections. "If you have not fulfilled your promises within five years, you better not contest for the post because citizens will not vote for you," he said.

He cautioned voters in the party's primaries to select good candidates who will spearhead development. He said selected candidates

must be well financially and should be a family man.

"I will be surprised if you vote for someone who doesn't have a home, we do not want to have councillors who are staying at their brother's homes," stated Malunda.

CCM Secretary in Handeni District, Salehe Kikweo commended the outgoing councillors for a job well done in five years. He said the party is likely to win many council seats due to recorded development under the fifth phase government.

"You have done a better job in helping our President to implement the party's election manifesto. May I also congratulate legislators for their contribution in bringing development changes in the district," said Kikweo noting they have put in place strategies to win all the 12 wards.

Former Handeni-Urban Member of Parliament, Omary Kigoda (CCM) said he was confident that the ruling party would win all the councillorship and parliamentary seats. He said the opposition is not strong enough to win any of the constituencies.

"The government has performed better within five years; this guarantees us a landslide victory in the coming General Elections. President John Magufuli has done a number of good things aimed to transform our country into an industrialised nation," he said.

Kigoda urged the outgoing councillors to inform citizens at their respective areas on the good things done by the government in their wards. He said once the residents are aware of the many things done by the CCM government they will confidently vote for it in the coming elections.

## Stop TB, partners unite to fight tuberculosis

By Guardian Reporter

THE Stop TB Partnership and the Johnson & Johnson with support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have announced joint efforts to help low and middle-income countries to rapidly scale up the use of SIRTURO® (bedaquiline) 100mg tablets so as to fight Tuberculosis infections.

According to the Global Tuberculosis Report 2019 released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), tuberculosis (TB) remains the single most lethal infectious disease globally, surpassing HIV/AIDS, killing some 1.6 million people annually.

In a telemedia briefing held on Monday, Dr Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director of the Stop TB Partnership said that the move would reduce the effective net price of bedaquiline by 32 percent, compared to the original USD\$400 price.

In the first year alone, this could lead to an estimated savings of up to USD\$16 million for national TB programmes - equivalent to the amount needed to treat an additional 30,000 people with short-course DR-TB regimens.

He said that effective immediately, Johnson & Johnson will make bedaquiline available to Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility (GDF) at a price of USD\$340 per six-month treatment course for more than 135 eligible countries. The treatment will be provided in support of new, recently-released World Health Organisation (WHO) treatment guidelines.

"To help support and accelerate further scale-up of all-oral treatment regimens, the company will also provide an escalating percentage of free goods when certain volume thresholds are reached on an annual basis: 10 per cent above 55,000, 20 percent above 125,000 and 30 percent above 200,000 treatment courses," he said.

With support from the Global Fund and USAID, as well as governments and other partners, the Stop TB Partnership expects to receive confirmed orders for at least 125,000 people with DRTB in 2020 and will, therefore, receive two treatments for free out of every 10 orders. "In a world filled with worrying news, this new agreement is a welcome development and one that will help us move closer to the United Nations High-Level meeting target of treating 1.5 million people with DR-TB by 2022. Even though these days we fight against the new COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot let this new virus stop our progress against TB, and it's critical that diagnosis and treatment for all forms of TB continue to be prioritised."

Joint efforts aim to accelerate scale-up of WHO-recommended all-oral treatment regimens - a transition urgently needed to help protect the

health of people with drug resistant-tuberculosis who are particularly vulnerable during COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, the initiative aims to reach at least 125,000 affected people and could save National TB Programmes in low- and middle-income countries up to USD\$16 million.

As the leading funder of TB programmes in low and middle-income countries, the Global Fund is working with partners to support countries in reaching the 125,000 MDR-TB treatment target for 2020. "As the world responds to COVID-19, it is critical that we don't just fight the new pandemic but act decisively to mitigate the knock-on impact on other diseases, protecting lifesaving programmes and shoring up overstretched health systems," said Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

According to him, this new agreement offers an opportunity to save more lives through scaling-up more effective treatment of a difficult-to-treat and deadly disease.

Also speaking, Tereza Kasaeva, Director of WHO's Global TB Programme said that the organisation welcomes the new agreement and calls all countries and partners to come together and implement ambitious programmes to test and treat all people with TB for drug resistance, in line with the new WHO guidelines.

"Enabling access to affordable, effective all-oral treatments for people with MDR-TB is an urgent and important step towards ending TB," he said.

People affected by TB are among the most vulnerable populations to the COVID-19 pandemic mitigation measures. Lockdowns can result in the interruption or absence of access to treatment, and the pandemic has also brought about new forms of economic hardship, isolation, stigma and discrimination. As such, the COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be a major setback in achieving the UN TB targets, as TB case detection has dramatically fallen, treatment initiation is being delayed, and the risk of treatment interruption and potential increase of people with drug-resistant TB has increased.

"Even as the world wages an unprecedented battle against a new enemy - COVID-19 - we must continue to protect vulnerable people around the world who are suffering from other health challenges, such as DR-TB," said Dr Paul Stoffels, Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chief Scientific Officer of Johnson & Johnson.

He added: "As we strive for people with TB to be safely treated at home where possible, during this challenging time of a global lockdown and social distancing, our joint efforts will help enable countries to transition to simpler, all-oral regimens and achieve that goal as quickly as possible."

# PCCB recovers 148m/- from Manyara Region residents

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has recovered 147.8m/- which were embezzled by some dishonest Manyara Region residents.

PCCB Head in the Region, Holle Makungu said this yesterday when presenting a report on how the monies were taken back to the targeted citizens in between April and June 2020.

According to Makungu, part of the recovered funds belongs to the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank Limited (TADB).

He said during the period, PCCB managed to stop auctioning of a house worth 70m/- belonging to a widow who has inherited the house after the death of her husband.

Makungu said the anti-corruption body also returned some 90 sacks of maize to Sunya-Juu Ward Councillor (CCM). He said the councillor entered into contract with farmers who cultivated in the village farm under agreements that they should provide one sack of maize per acre after harvesting.

"The villagers had refused to give the maize sacks after harvesting, we have managed to collect all the 90 sacks of maize which have been given to the ward councillor," he stated.

He said the maize will be given to Loltepes primary school in Kiteto

District for preparation of pupil's meals.

He said they are still following two government officials who are also said to have entered into similar contracts with the village government. He said the officials are yet to present the maize in accordance with a signed agreement.

"May I call upon the officers to submit the maize to the village office because we are searching for them," said Makungu insisting on the residents to respect the contract terms to avoid being arrested and arraigned.

**“The villagers had refused to give the maize sacks after harvesting, we have managed to collect all the 90 sacks of maize which have been given to the ward councillor”**



People visiting the DITF use automated teller machine services at the NMB Bank Plc pavilion, as found yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Mpina orders arrest of fake veterinary officers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina has ordered the arrest of veterinary officers who lack required skills.

He also gave 25 directives to three livestock and fisheries boards saying those who will fail to implement the directives, their appointments

will be revoked any time.

Mpina issued the directives here yesterday when speaking to newly appointed board members in Livestock Training Agency (LITA), Veterinary Council of Tanzania (VCT) and Marine Parks and Reserves Unit (MPRU).

He instructed all these boards to ensure they supervise veterinary officers' ethics by arresting

fake veterinary officers who provide veterinary services to the livestock in the country while knowing they are not qualified to do so.

He said the ongoing amendment of the laws must go in tandem with the loss which a fake veterinary officer has caused to the livestock owner by prescribing wrong drugs, adding that fining them was not adequate, the fake

veterinary officer must pay the livestock owner the loss of his animals.

He also directed the boards to increase government revenues that has to at least reach 1bn/- per year from the current 250m/-.

Mpina also instructed the deregistration of all veterinary officers who have not paid their fees in accordance with the law.

The ministry's Permanent Secretary Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel mentioned the Board Members including Prof Mkongo Mlozi (LITA) Dr Bonaventura Baya (MPRU) and Prof Kazwala Rudovick (VCT).

Prof Mlozi thanked the minister for their appointment and pledged to work on the directives issued.

## KILIMANJARO NATIVE CO-OPERATIVE UNION (1984) LIMITED (KNCU (1984) LTD) REG.NA.4054

### INVITATION FOR TENDER FOR THE LEASE OF LERONGO FARM

- 1) KNCU (1984) LIMITED, (hereinafter known as the Union) is a legal entity duly registered under the Cooperative Societies Act. The Union is the owner of land property known as CT NO. 9641 (Lerongo Farm) situated at Sanya Juu West Kilimanjaro, Siha District within Kilimanjaro Region covering 541 acres with water right permit from Gararagua River. The farm is located at 30 km from Bomang'ombe (Arusha -Moshi highway), and borders with Kilimanjaro forest reserve on the North, also border with Siha District council on the West, also shares borders with other farms i.e Gararagua and Molomo Farm.
- 2) The Union intends to let out farm for agricultural investment purposes prioritizing coffee growth. With competitive tendering from local and foreign tenderers with eligibility to invest in Tanzania.
- 3) Tenderers are allowed to visit and inspect Lerongo farm soon after the publication of this notice upon making appropriate communication with the Union.
- 4) A complete set of tender documents in English language, must be purchased by the interested parties.

#### How to Apply:

- a. Obtain a tender documents from undersigned after effecting non-refundable payment tender fee of Tshs three hundred thousand (Tshs.300,000) into account no.01J1038612801, at CRDB Bank account name **KNCU (1984) LIMITED GENERAL**.
- b. Fill up one original plus one copy of the tender document, with relevant attachments.
- c. The complete tender document has to be in the sealed envelope, clearly marked **"Tender for Leasing Lerongo Farm"**
- d. The sealed Envelopes with tender documents must be physically submitted at the Head office with the undersigned contacts, on or before **Monday of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020, at 16:30 hrs.** Tenders will be opened thereafter on Tuesday of 21st July 2020 at 10:00 hours, in public and in the presence of Tenderers or their representatives for those who choose to attend at the Board Room located at the Union head office.

#### Contacts;

**GENERAL MANAGER, KNCU(1984)LTD., KNCU HQ BUILDING, ROOM NO.2, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR, PLOT 33, OLD MOSHI ROAD, P.O BOX 3032, MOSHI. EMAIL; [gm@kncutanania.com](mailto:gm@kncutanania.com), Cel;0739544582, Office;027 275 2785**

## WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health

July 6, 2020

### POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT PhD Training Washington State University – Global Animal Health Tanzania Vacancy No. W076

The University of Nairobi and Washington State University are recruiting clinically trained physicians and veterinarians for research culminating in a PhD. The program will be funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health and will provide tuition at the University of Nairobi, stipend, and funded research opportunities.

**Position : PhD training (1 position)**  
**Location : Arusha, Tanzania**  
**Contract Duration : 4-year program**  
**Reporting to : Principal Investigator**

#### Position Overview:

The program will provide specialized training in infectious diseases with tailored coursework and seminars with laboratory and field research in emerging and zoonotic infectious diseases. Training will be supported by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and multiple additional funding agencies. Mentorship will be provided by integrated University of Nairobi, Washington State University, and Kenya Medical Research Institute scientists.

#### Qualifications:

- Candidates must have completed medical degree (MBChB) or veterinary degree (BVM)
- Master's degree (MSc, MPH, MMED, or equivalent) at the time of program start (anticipated September 2020).

Interested candidates who meet the criteria above are encouraged to send in their applications.

#### To Apply:

Submit:

- Cover letter highlighting your suitability for the advertised position (clinical, and research experience as well as your interest in PhD training in zoonotic and emerging infectious diseases)
- Current Curriculum Vitae with contact information (name, institutional affiliation, email address, and phone number) of 3 references
- Copies of your bachelor's and master's degree certificates, and transcripts.

by **2359Hrs (EAT) 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020** to [cvm.allenschool.hrs.ghk@wsu.edu](mailto:cvm.allenschool.hrs.ghk@wsu.edu)

Indicate **"PhD Training"** in the subject line of your application email. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

WSU is an equal opportunity employer; we do not charge any fee at any stage of the recruitment process.

#### About:

More information about Washington State University – Global Health Program, can be found at [www.globalhealth.wsu.edu](http://www.globalhealth.wsu.edu)

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# The Guardian

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WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## NCAA can do with less land, and make these feuds history

CHANGE is in the air in the way the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) relates to the surrounding villagers or wider community traditionally outside its borders but increasingly encroaching on the proper conservation area. NCAA administrators say that a request has been put to the Law Reform Commission to prepare subsidiary legislation meant to 'relax' tough rules on the conservation zone, so as to allow surrounding villagers undertake agricultural and livestock-keeping activities within its current boundaries. That means either a redefinition of the boundaries or scaled use.

What was interesting about remarks by top officials of NCAA is that they are themselves remorseful about the sort of regulations that have been applied for decades, that they overly protect the area. They say that the regulations are outdated and derail aspirations of the nearby communities to expand their economic activities - meaning for no good reason. What is now required is to create an environment that would also allow villagers to continue with agriculture or livestock keeping, the conservators assert.

While those officials express surprise that fact that the laws prohibit villagers from farming or keeping cattle in the area - anyone familiar with the rules know precisely why that is the case or has been the case for a long time. If there are conditions for changing the land use regime that will do the villagers fine, and diminish problems for regional administrators. Indeed the president has over the past few months complained that problems that can be solved by DCs or RCs should not reach his desk for the same.

The tone that conservation officials at the site have adopted is one of open

sympathy for economic activities in the area, in contrast with habitual worries from activists who see the area being encroached upon by farmers and cattle keepers. In part this isn't just a changed mood to become somewhat more populist, people-oriented but realistic, that animal numbers have come down and don't need the old stretch of territory as before. The key reference was to rhinos, which were in their thousands mid last century when state authorities created the conservation area, but would scarcely cross the 100 mark now. It means much of the space can be surrendered to the growing population there.

Despite this optimism there are unfinished issues either with the specific conservation area or with applying the mode of thinking of NCAA officials as a feasible outlook for conservation as a whole. The point is that everywhere one goes among conservation areas of varying levels of importance for instance as tourist attractions, there are vaster population numbers to contend with. Lamenting population growth and, wishing to control 'human activities' isn't friendly to villagers and a balance was sorely needed.

The rules require that villagers seek permission from the conservation commissioner to build houses and also restrict villagers from building water wells - as such a facility is likely to attract scores more to settle there as well. All this can be changed but in other conservation areas a better animal mix or game viewing priorities must be conducted, NCAA can for instance afford to release land by considering the space needed for its 100 rhinos, chiefly. It would have far less space if it added roaming space for wild dogs, but chroniclers say they were reintroduced in the Serengeti after they had disappeared.

## Africa has reason to groom youth in cassava processing

CASSAVA is one of the oldest root and tuber crops, used by humans to produce food, feed and beverages. Currently, cassava is produced in more than 100 countries and fulfils the daily caloric demands of millions of people living in tropical America, Africa, and Asia.

Its importance as a food security crop is high due to its ability to produce reasonable yields in poor soils and with minimal inputs. Traditionally a famine reserve and a subsistence crop, the status of cassava is now evolving fast as a cash crop and as raw material in the production of starch (and starch based products), energy (bio-ethanol) and livestock feed in the major producing countries. Cassava leaves, which are rich in protein and beta-carotenoids, are also used as a vegetable and forage (fresh or dehydrated meal) in various parts of the world.

A robust national policy, market development, and dissemination and extension programmes are required to realise the full potential of innovations and technologies in cassava production and processing.

Cassava was first introduced to the Africa continent, close to the mouth of the Congo River by Portuguese explorers and traders from Brazil, South America in the course of the 16th and 17th centuries. From there it was diffused by Africans, to many parts of sub-Saharan Africa over a period of two to three hundred years. In the course of its spreading across the continent, cassava has replaced traditional staples such as millet and yam, and has been successfully incorporated into many farming systems. It was initially adopted as a famine reserve crop as it provided a more reliable source of food during drought, locust attacks and the hungry season, the period before seasonal food crops are ready for harvesting. At present, approximately half of the world production of cassava is in Africa where it is cultivated in around 40 countries.

Cassava is grown by millions of poor African farmers, many of them women, often on marginal land. For these people, the crop is vital for both food security and income generation.

On the basis of current projections, it is expected that by 2020, over 60 per cent of global cassava production will be in sub-Saharan Africa, where economic growth will be slow but population growth fast.

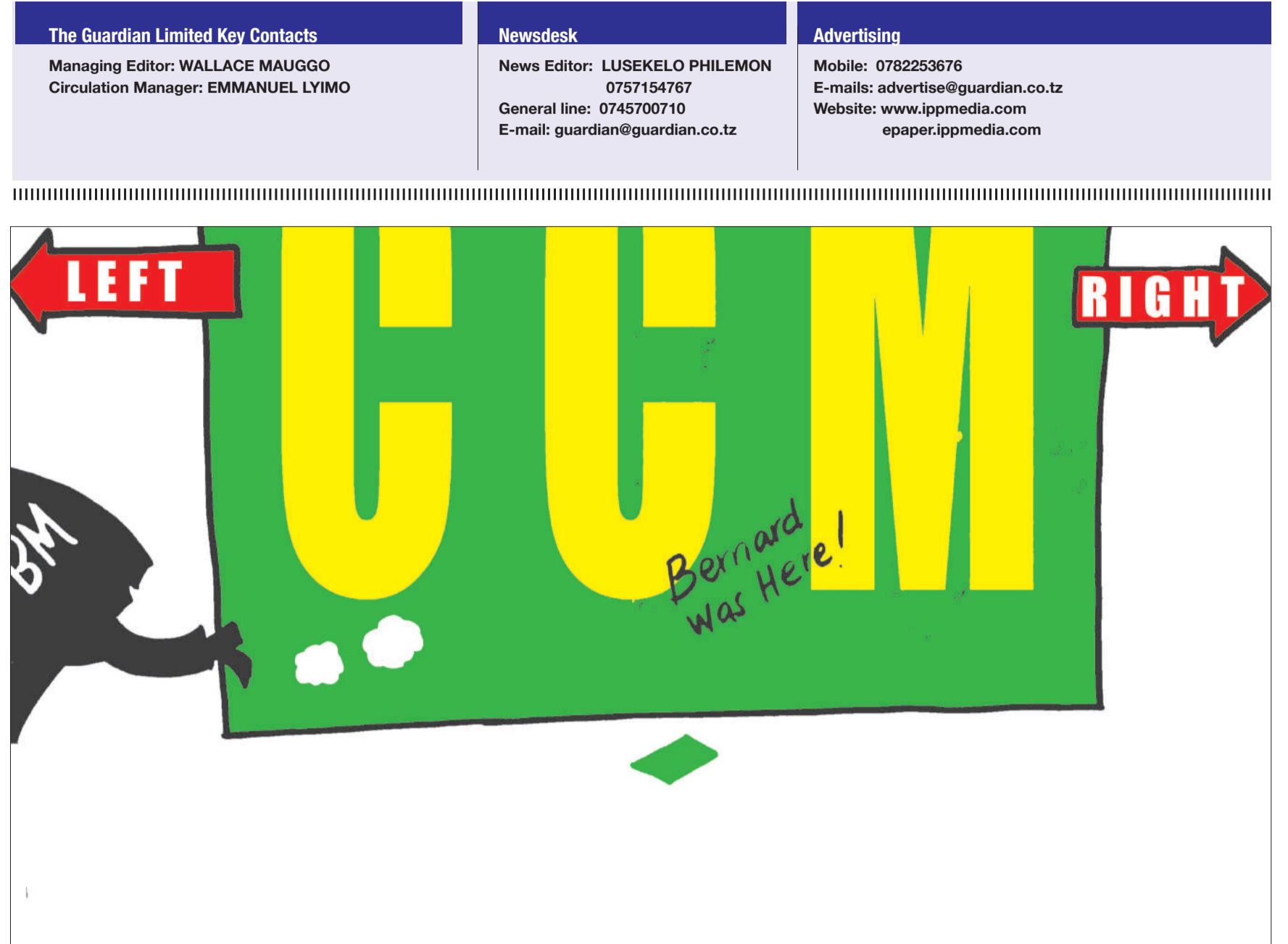
In Tanzania plans are afoot for the Anglican's Diocese of Central Tanganyika and an Indian investor, Ramani Veerappan, to open an ultra-modern cassava processing plant in Hombolo ward, Dodoma region. If all goes well, through the envisioned pact, the Anglican diocese will provide a total of 100 acres for the construction of the said plant, whereby the foreign investor will be responsible for construction of the factory, installment of machines, as well as other relevant facilities.

However, in ensuring abundant supply of raw materials, the diocese is expected to cultivate at least 1,000 acres of cassava nearby the factory.

We are told the talks have reached a crucial stage and both sides are demonstrating high spirits and readiness to have the project start as soon as possible. Upon its completion, the facility is expected to stimulate cultivation of the tubers in the central zone corridor, a move which will also see many households cheat poverty through cultivating and selling the cash crop to the plant.

Most farmers in central zone are currently in forefront to acquire chunk land for establishing cassava plantation due to recently news released during the China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) 2018 that some Chinese traders want to chip in the county and invest in cassava processing factories.

Tanzania is the twelfth largest producer of cassava in the world, and the sixth in Africa after Nigeria, DRC, Ghana, Angola, and Mozambique.



## Libertarians may have won a battle, but death will for sure win the war

By Ismail Lagardien

HERE is no example, anywhere in the world or in the history of the past 100 years, of what South Africa, or any other country faces with the Covid-19 pandemic. This is what is so hard for the economy-first brigadistas to understand. When the deaths pile up, they won't have to pick up the bill.

Libertarianism, or libertarianism, is a political philosophy and movement that upholds liberty as a core principle. Libertarians seek to maximize political freedom and autonomy, emphasising individualism, freedom of choice and voluntary association.

The Democratic Alliance, and the libertarians have won a battle, in the sense that they have effected a de-escalation of the government's war against the Covid-19 pandemic. However, their victory may result in a compulsory escalation of this war on the virus in the coming weeks and months. That is when the DA and libertarians - fellow travellers - will pivot, and blame government for the inevitable devastation. In short, government has capitulated, given in to the DA, its acolytes and those who pray at Gareth Cliff's shrine.

I use libertarians as a portmanteau concept to include institutions like the Free Market Foundation, the South African Institute of Race Relations, and the functional intellectuals around Gareth Cliff, South Africa's version of Rush Limbaugh, (here's a sample of Limbaugh's followers on the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown) who have created a reality that effectively places profit before people. So, they've won in the sense that "the economy" is starting to open (it's "commonsensical" because nobody can contest the idea that people need to put food on the table), and parts of the lockdown have been lifted, and people may now be able to take their poodles to parlours or show off their Chihuahua's new jersey. They have their "freedom" and "liberty" back.

### On functional intellectuals

The functional intellectuals are, probably, the most dangerous. Charles Wright Mills, the US academic who died in the early 1960s, referred to them as a type of "consultant" to people of dubious character, as being neither "king-like" nor "philosophical", (a reference to Plato's ideal leaders). But let's not get too philosophical. The problem with functional intellectuals is their scientism, loyalty to economics

orthodoxy, and obeisance to "rationalism" - which is usually a fig leaf for the worst type of social Darwinist governance. This was expressed by the Lieutenant Governor of Texas, Dan Patrick, in defence of Donald Trump's appeal to open the economy and reopen businesses - despite dire warnings from public health officials, and said the elderly should sacrifice themselves (by ignoring lockdown and personal distancing regulations) in order to save the country and the economy. In response, New York State Governor, Andrew Cuomo replied: "No one should be talking about social Darwinism for the sake of the stock market."

In its original conception, the functional intellectuals are drawn from the dominant group in society - in the case of South Africa it may well be the group that has yet to come to terms with their loss of dominance - that are embedded in the media, educational institutions or corporate bodies, and present themselves as autonomous and independent.

The very idea of "common sense" (with reference to opening the economy) is drawn from the Italian *senso comune*, and read literally to denote something as reasonable, sensible, and undeniably true. In presenting the idea of "opening the economy" as commonsensical the intellectuals overlook the baggage of that which is commonsense, and that which conceals injustices that lie below the surface, or is accepted as inevitable. Remember, somewhere in the Bible, I think in Matthew, Jesus or someone in his posse said something like, the poor will always be with us. In a stroke, by presenting "the economy" as commonsensical, the libertarians invalidate any critical scrutiny.

### The people or the economy - a false binary

I am not suggesting, not for a moment, that people, from their naked early hominid selves, more than 200,000 years ago, do not need as a first-order set of priorities to feed, clothe and house themselves, which in the early 21st century means having some source of income (a job). What I am saying is actually quite simple. There is no example, anywhere in the world, or in the history of the past 100 years, for what South Africa, or any country in the world, for that matter, faces with the Covid-19 pandemic. This is what is so hard for the economy-first brigadistas to understand. Let each

one of them present evidence of where this pandemic has been stopped in its path. Anyone's first response to such a catastrophe may reveal a lot about the respondent.

In my secret life (yes, really), I pretend to be a physicist with a deep interest in cosmology, astronomy and astrophysics. Recently, one of my secret-life colleagues sent me a meme on social media. It was a photograph of an astronaut standing on the moon witnessing the Earth destroyed by some astronomical body. Above the photograph is a question: "If you were this astronaut what would be your last words?"

While many commentators made jokes ("I hope I brought enough toilet paper") or raised serious scientific questions about the Kuiper Belt, one wiseacre said (something like), "OMG. The economy". This, then, is the problem with what Peter Flemming, Professor of Business and Society at Cass Business School, at the University of London, described as "homo economicus". Obsessed as they are with "the market" and the "stock exchange" they are, at the best of times, too vacuous to warrant much reflection, Flemming suggests.

If I were to run a comparison between the 2007/08 global crisis and the pandemic, I would, as Flemming did, explain that the worst is yet to come (my words), those who survive this pandemic, especially the crusty neo-liberals, who reduce "all social life to the logic of profit-seeking behaviour" will witness the devastation among the poor, the weak, the marginalised - the precariat. And take no responsibility. That's the market fundamentalism at the base of libertarians or classical liberals.

The libertarians want the lockdown to be lifted (some of them quite seriously, and unashamedly produce moralequivalencebetweenrestrictions on walking their dogs, and apartheid's oppression or historical dictatorships), but those countries that have relaxed lockdown measures, have seen a spike in infections. In the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia, local lockdown measures are brought back after a new coronavirus outbreak. More than 1,500 employees of the Tönnies meat packing plant have tested positive.

There have been new outbreaks in South Korea with the country experiencing a second wave of the coronavirus in and around Seoul. The government warned that stronger physical-distancing measures would

be reimposed if the daily increase in infections does not come down. In Israel, the government announced that a lockdown could be reintroduced amid a sharp rise in cases. At the same time, a team of contact tracing experts has been prepared to be deployed to the Australian state of Victoria to tackle a new outbreak in the city of Melbourne.

In South Africa, the libertarians would insist, not without evidence, it should be said, that children should return to school. Yet, health authorities in the Eastern Cape are scrambling to contain a coronavirus outbreak at Makaula Senior Secondary School after about 180 pupils tested positive. Earlier in June, it was reported that more than 30 schools - mostly in Eastern Cape's Buffalo City - closed after more than 20 people tested positive for Covid-19. The Eastern Cape has 16,895 confirmed Covid-19 cases, and 303 people have died from Covid-19. In response to these infections a legal expert, Saber Ahmed Jazbhay, said parents who will send their children back to school will be able to sue the state in the event that a child contracts Covid-19 while at school. He said the state would have to take responsibility.

Herein lies the key. The virus is spreading fast among the poorest communities in the country. While the libertarians and their fellow travellers have effected some kind of rolling back of the lockdown regulations - not a single member of the DA, nor popular radio hosts or any of their acolytes: the alt-right, libertarians, liberty lovers, surfers, rationalists or classical liberals - will pick up the bill.

In this sense my somewhat wasted analogy of compulsory escalation of war will be the government's responsibility. Rosebank, Claremont, Constantia, Sea Point, Melrose Arch, Sandton Mall and other places where you can take your poodle for a public piddle are open. The people who called for this, are a whisper away from Donald Trump or Jair Bolsonaro's approach to the virus.

In a couple of months from now, we will count the bodies and show them to the libertarians. Remind them that they called for lifting the lockdown, opening the economy (some of it has to function, to be sure, but not at the cost of human lives) and find ways to pay for the catastrophe. Popular talk show hosts should probably cancel all their guests because we already know their arguments. It's the government's fault.



# Building purpose-driven businesses crucial for economic empowerment

JOHANNESBURG

**E**ARLY last month and following the death of George Floyd, SoftBank announced a \$100m investment fund for minority-owned businesses.

The Opportunity Fund will invest only in companies led by people of colour, and it is the first such fund to be created in response to growing protests in the US and worldwide against racism and lack of equal opportunities for black people.

While the initiative is not the first of its kind in the US or abroad - South Africa has several financial institutions dedicated to providing financial support to black entrepreneurs - its significance is much stronger now.

The US is in fact home to several financial institutions dedicated to supporting low- and moderate-income communities of colour. However, as their relevance grows in the wake of the current crisis, their number has been steadily declining over the past years.

One of the oldest institutions of the kind still in business today is the Unity National Bank. It is Texas' only black-owned bank and an example of what purpose-driven businesses can accomplish for their communities and their countries. The Unity National Bank was established in the early 1960s and has since supported the banking and capital needs of low- and moderate-income communities across Texas. It used to operate in a banking industry with 47 African American-controlled banks in the early 2000s, but the recession of 2008 took its toll on its peers. The US had only 22 remaining black-owned banks last year.

Since 2005, the Unity National Bank is majority-owned by Nigeria-born oil executive Kase Lawal and his family. Lawal is also Chairman of CAMAC International and is seen as one of the few successful black entrepreneurs in the energy sector, which remains an industry widely dominated by whites.

Lawal currently serves as



Board Chairman of the Unity National Bank and, under his leadership, the bank has been able to weather the storm since 2008 and keep expanding. In 2018, it opened in Atlanta, its first expansion beyond the state of Texas, in order to consolidate and serve the African American community better.

The bank's lending programme is focused on supporting and rebuilding its community, especially via commercial and mortgage loans. It has forged a network of partners and agents that are able

to support the very core of its activities, from lending to supporting financial literacy across the community.

Like other African American-owned banks, Unity National Bank has struggled in recent years owing to its small size and financial performances, but its management is putting the foundations in place for the business to continue growing.

The bank recently partnered with Citigroup and introduced a Paycheck Protection Programme (PPP), which reportedly allowed

the saving of 3,000 jobs. The PPP loans, acclaimed for their support to small black-owned businesses, even earned the bank a visit by US Vice President Mike Pence earlier this year.

"Kase Lawal is real, a legend. He is an improbable driver for black empowerment through entrepreneurship, even as most people never saw him coming and counted him out. I am not surprised that he will rise to the occasion, walk the walk and execute during these times when our communities are dealing with the scourge of Covid19 and difficult economic conditions," stated NJ Ayuk Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber.

"His humanity and humility lets him walk with the little guy and still keep his virtue. He may seat

with presidents and ministers yet never loses the common touch or forgets where he came from. He is always thinking about the poor and the upward mobility of those who have not been dealt a fair hand by our economy," added Ayuk.

Now that the Covid-19 pandemic has taken its toll on American jobs and lives, and even more so for African American communities, and at a time when the world calls for better support to black entrepreneurs and businesses, the Kase Lawal-chaired institution is set to benefit.

Unity National Bank remains one of the few institutions in the US with a true purpose of working with communities and linking their fate together to create a better future for African American families while giving countless of

talented young women and men the means to build a successful future.

As the world seeks new ways to build equal societies, developing successful business models that promote equal opportunities and bring much-needed capital to talented communities is becoming the need of the hour.

In doing so, looking at black-owned banks and businesses and learning from their experience would prove hugely beneficial. Beyond looking at pure business principles and balance sheets fundamentals, these companies are driven by a true social purpose which could well be the kind of basis the world needs to build fairer societies.

*An African Energy Chamber dispatch.*

## Future of facial recognition technology in Africa

BY KAREN ALLEN

**W**HEN several United States (US) companies withdrew their facial recognition software products amid concerns about flaws, biases and misuse in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, did leaders in sub-Saharan Africa take note? Have events in the US served as a clarion call for governments to ensure that regulations are in place before the rollout of what many see as one of the most intrusive forms of surveillance?

Emerging biometric technologies have become ubiquitous across many parts of Africa, including facial recognition technologies in Zimbabwe, Uganda and South Africa. They're used to help combat identity theft, fraud and other threats, including terrorism. Much of the technology is being developed by the private sector as well as Chinese state entities as part of the drive to develop 'smart cities' across Africa.

High-speed internet has made it possible to collect vast amounts of data that must be recorded, analysed and stored. Although internet usage in Africa remained behind world figures in 2017, one in five households in Africa uses the internet now, according to the World Bank, and these figures are rising.

Facial technology exposes citizens to potential harms such as hacking, invasion of privacy and bias

Where infrastructure permits, biometric data is being used to monitor borders, to grant access to government services such as welfare payments, and to protect commercial entities from fraud. Facial recognition, or its close cousin facial authentication technology, is used by law enforcement and private security companies for security, digital forensics and predictive policing. In business it is among the technologies deployed for access control and client registration.



Facial recognition technology is considered by many to be more reliable than fingerprint technology, and helps to reduce fraud. In South Africa last year a 20% increase in digital banking fraud was reported by the South African Banking Risk Information Centre compared to the previous year.

Artificial intelligence-driven one-to-one authentication, where someone's identity is matched against an ID document or another identifier, is less susceptible to abuse as it requires prior consent. This is according to Gur Geva, CEO of iIDENTIFIi, a South African biometrics company, speaking at a June Institute for Security Studies (ISS) webinar on the issue.

In contrast, facial recognition technology, where a 'match' is made against a database, doesn't depend

on this. Therefore facial recognition technology has attracted the greatest controversy. In the extreme, it has seen US companies such as Clearview AI face legal challenges by civil liberty groups. The company is accused of amassing a database of billions of faces, captured from images placed on social media platforms and other websites, and selling an app to provide access to law enforcement agencies.

Central to this challenge is the issue of presumed consent. South Africa's Protection of Personal Information (POPI) Act of 2013 sets out the circumstances under which data can be collected, gathered and stored. Although much of the law has only just been rolled out and is yet to be tested, such harvesting of data made public for one intended use, and sold on for a different purpose, would almost certainly be deemed illegal under the act.

In light of COVID-19 and the growing use of biometric technologies, opting out isn't really possible

The potential harms that facial technology expose citizens to include hacking, invasion of privacy and bias. 'Cybersecurity is a huge problem,' says Dr Brett van Niekerk, a cyber expert at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, 'because biometric technologies operate within the system of cyberspace,' and the data stored, if not sufficiently secured, can be leaked, altered or stolen.

A stolen identity could then be used almost as a digital balaclava to perpetuate further crimes, for instance gaining access to a building, a computer network or someone's bank accounts. Furthermore, with data being centralised, such as it would under Kenya's proposed Huduma Namba digital ID scheme, a single point of failure creates a particular

risk for hacking attacks.

The denial of privacy is another potential harm. The right to privacy is enshrined in numerous international conventions and national constitutions. There are concerns that the technology, if not properly checked, is prone to 'function creep' and being deployed as a tool of mass surveillance.

This could be either to identify individuals in protests, for example, or as reported in Uganda, to potentially identify and track opposition politicians. There Huawei has installed facial recognition systems in closed-circuit television cameras as part of its Safe City initiative.

With the convergence of health surveillance initiatives in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and growing use of biometric technologies, opting out isn't really possible.

Facial recognition tech is prone to 'function creep' and being deployed for mass surveillance

The third threat is algorithmic bias, where repeated studies have shown facial technologies to have a high error rate in accurately identifying people of colour. Renée Cummings, a US criminologist and advocate of ethical artificial intelligence, said at the ISS webinar that such biases had led to an 'over-policing of black and brown communities in the US by law enforcement.'

It prompted a debate about whether countries such as South Africa needed to develop context-specific algorithms before the technology was deployed. This would help ensure that the database against which a face is matched is an accurate reflection of local demographics.

In South Africa a raft of legislation including the 2013 POPI Act and the Cybercrimes Bill of 2017, which is yet to become law, try to mitigate the unintended consequences of emerging technologies that could offer positive transformations in African states. Yet the speed with which digital innovation is progressing threatens to outpace the law and the lawmakers.

Regular audits of facial recognition databases, context-specific algorithms and checks to ensure that the most robust cybersecurity measures fortify against intrusion are some measures policymakers should consider. At a United Nations level, discussions on cybersecurity must ensure that networked biometric technologies are included.

# Beyond fact-checking: Fighting onslaught of disinformation on the COVID-19 crisis

By Jennifer Dorroh

To fight the Covid-19 “disinfodemic”, journalists must move beyond simply debunking the false information spread online, three experts said during a webinar held last week.

As the global pandemic nears the four-month mark, a “disinfodemic” is growing, with bad actors churning out an onslaught of dangerous misinformation - some of it deliberately misleading about the coronavirus and its impacts.

Increasingly, governments are using disinformation as a political weapon, and the consequences are sometimes deadly. Disinformation campaigns also often target journalists through online violence laced with racist and misogynistic hate speech. “Misogyny” would here suggest a cultural attitude of hatred, mistrust or dislike of females just because they are female.

Through it all, reporters and news outlets are bombarded with the task of fact-checking and de-bunking a never-ending stream of false claims.

Experts say that, while this work is important, journalists and news organisations should also demand reform from social media platforms and more aggressively cover the stories behind the disinformation, counter-disinformation.

“If the platforms wanted to, they could restore facts, and that, I think, should be our call,” said Maria Ressa, founder of the Philippines independent news site Rappler.

“In the short term, right now, if we want to protect our democracies, if we want to have integrity in elections, the social media platforms have got to kick in, and they are doing it at way too slow a pace,” Ressa said.

Journalists should report on disinformation “just as we cover any other story”, said Natalia

Antelava, cofounder of independent news site CodaStory. “It’s a story that has victims and perpetrators, that has those who lose and those who win,” she noted.

“There have been amazing fact-checking sites and organizations, but I think a very important juncture is the one where we are going to stop reacting to the agenda set by others and start setting our own agenda,” she added.

Antelava and Ressa joined BuzzFeed reporter Jane Lytvynenko and Gilberto Scofield of fact-checking organisation Agencia Lupa on a panel examining the disinfodemic with ICFJ (International Centre for Journalists) Global Research Director Dr Julie Posetti.

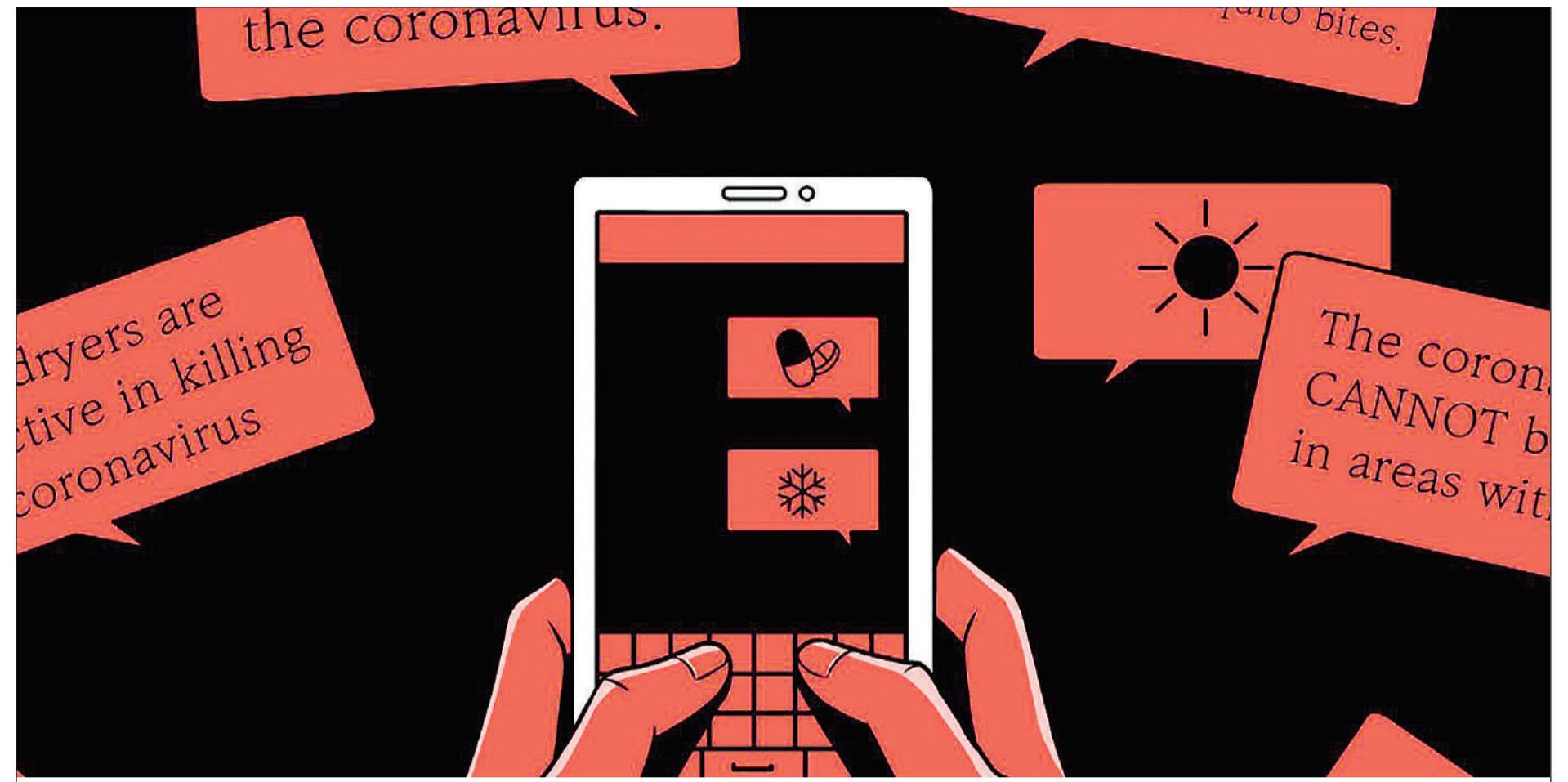
Lytvynenko, who covers disinformation, was emphatic that news organisations should also educate the public on how they contribute to the problem.

She said people “might not necessarily understand the role they would be playing in not just passing false information on to their relatives or their immediate circles, but how that disinformation spreads through diasporas, through translations, through comments - and how that transcends borders”.

“We are, even in the US, now seeing lawmakers use disinformation and use conspiracy theories as a way of building up audiences,” she said.

That strategy - undermining factual reporting and attacking the reputation of journalists - is proving effective for Brazil’s (President Jair Messias) Bolsonaro administration, Scofield said. Agencia Lupa debunks government statements, which often underplay the danger of the Covid-19 virus.

“The government is saying things on a daily basis that are really unsupported in terms of science, in terms of databases, in terms of how the



pandemic is moving around the country and the number of people dead,” he said.

“Every time we do a fact-check like this, we receive a lot of criticism saying that we are being partisan, despite the lack of a strong opposition party in Brazil,” Scofield said.

The government spreads anti-journalist vitriol, and he and his team receive death threats on a daily basis. “We’re really living through hell here in Brazil,” he said of the epidemic of disinformation during the pandemic.

Rappler’s Ressa meanwhile said social media platforms are “allowing governments to manipulate not just what’s in your mind, what you’re thinking, but it is radicalising all of us to a point that...it has killed democracy”.

In 2016, Ressa first alerted the journalism community and Facebook about how Phil-

ippines President Rodrigo Duterte was weaponising social media.

In 2017 she spoke for the first time about how troll armies linked to the state were attacking Rappler and her personally. In the intervening years, Ressa and Rappler have been charged in connection with a total of 11 cases; Ressa has been arrested twice, and detained once.

Last month saw Ressa convicted of “cyber libel” under the Philippines’ Cybercrime Prevention Act, for a story in fact published prior to the enactment of the law. The Committee to Protect Journalists called Ressa’s conviction and sentencing of up to six years in prison “an outrageous crime against press freedom”.

ICFJ President Joyce Barnathan described the campaign of harassment against Ressa as “a bevy of charges designed to silence her and Rappler”.

Ressa said Facebook, which is a Rappler fact-checking partner of Rappler, has played a large role in “my criminalisation, in my conviction, I would say quite a lot because it seeds the ground”.

She declared: “It has enabled the rise of these populist leaders who have consolidated power using these platforms, using disinformation as a political tactic, tearing down journalists, news organisations, because critical to their consolidation of

power is getting rid of any kinds of challenges. And journalists pose challenges.”

Their algorithms are behavioural modification systems “designed on the idea that ‘like attracts like’”, which she said builds radicalisation into the system.

“We lose the nuances,” Ressa said, adding: “It makes facts debatable. Lies laced with anger and hate spread fastest. This is manipulative. It is meant to divide. It reminds me of terrorists. You know, it is ‘us against them’. And that is part of the reason our world is where it is today.”

Lytvynenko believes that the “disinfodemic” presents an opportunity. “Social media platforms have very clearly become more afraid of the direct effects that disinformation can have. This is an opportunity where reporters can keep pressing social media companies for answers,” she said.

She said she stood convinced that thinks US journalists should take the lead. “Social media companies respond to US reporters,” she said, adding: “Often, they do not pay the same level of attention to smaller markets and international reporters.”

“Focus on how this is playing out in other countries, both as a way of understanding what will eventually happen to the US, but also as a way of supporting reporters whose livelihood is being put

in danger because of this problem,” Lytvynenko advised.

The webinar was part of the Journalism and the Pandemic Project, a collaboration between ICFJ and the Tow Centre for Digital Journalism at Columbia University. The project is also mapping the impacts of Covid-19 on journalism worldwide, and it is meant to help inform the recovery from the pandemic.

**In partnership with its parent organisation, the Washington-based ICFJ, IJNet (International Journalists’ Network) is connecting journalists with health experts and newsroom leaders through a webinar series on Covid-19. The series is part of the ICFJ Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum. This article is part of the initiative’s online coverage of reporting on Covid-19.**

## Could a llama save the world from the Covid-19 pandemic?

By Jillian Kramer

A llama named Winter recently made headlines when scientists announced that her small-but-mighty antibodies could fight the novel coronavirus. Think of it: a South American member of the camel family - which is what a llama is - could save the world from Covid-19.

Scientists have for decades looked at “unusual” animal antibodies - including those of camelids, the family to which llamas belong - to see how they might be harnessed for human treatments. In fact, the antibodies of horses, chickens and even sharks could fight other, non-Covid-19 human afflictions.

In working with Winter, Xavier Saelsens, a molecular virologist at Ghent University in Belgium, followed in the footsteps of other Belgian scientists who, in 1993, published their discoveries on llamas’ antibodies.

Unlike human antibodies, which are made of both heavy and light chains of connected proteins, llamas can create antibodies that are composed of only heavy chains - which makes them smaller and nimbler, better able to bind to various pathogens.

In cell tests, the llama antibodies neutralised the virus that causes Covid-19, and researchers are moving towards clinical human trials for a drug that uses the llama-derived antibodies by the end of this year.

Dozens of other animal antibody-derived treatments, for diseases ranging from lupus to rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis, are currently under development or in clinical trials. Last year, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Cablivi, a treatment derived from both llama and camel antibodies for a rare blood disorder called acquired thrombocytopenic purpura.

Here’s how the animal antibody research works: animals are used as

agents to create the type of antibodies that scientists might want. For example, injecting an animal with a protein from human cancer will cause the animal’s immune system to generate antibodies that specifically target that cancer, says James A. Duty, a microbiologist with the Centre for Therapeutic Antibody Development at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City.

Scientists say that, while animals are injected with human diseases in order to produce antibodies, the doses are so mild that the animals don’t get sick.

Animal antibody research has long used mice and rabbits. But some scientists have moved beyond these critters and onto more unconventional animals in search of unique antibody properties that could better help fight disease or offer production benefits.

Xi Song, a senior research scientist at Creative Biolabs, says that thanks in part to their size, and the accompanying higher volume of blood, horses produce large quantities of antibodies that have demonstrated efficacy against some in-

fectious diseases including Ebola and H5N1 influenza virus. He says horses are also easy to work with. Chickens are more apt to produce high-avidity antibodies, or antibodies that strongly bind to antigens, when compared to mammals - a very desirable quality. This is according to Fawzi Al-Razem, a biochemist and dean of the College of Applied Sciences at Palestine Polytechnic University.

Antibodies from chickens can also be taken from their eggs. “In one month, a single chicken can produce more than ten times the number of antibodies that can be generated from a rabbit,” says Al-Razem.

Those egg antibodies are available after just 25 days. That’s about a week sooner than it takes most other animal systems to produce high-avidity antibodies, Al-Razem explains.

Sharks’ antibodies are meanwhile smaller than human antibodies - in fact, they’re even smaller than camelids’ antibodies - and researchers believe that their diminutive size could fight viruses that can hide from immune destruction, such as

Ebola, or be used in cancer treatments.

This is according to Helen Dooley, an immunologist at the University of Maryland who has worked with shark antibodies for more than 20 years.

To study the sharks’ antibodies, Dooley immunises an aquarium’s nurse sharks with a killed virus or human cancer target, then returns to their tanks a few weeks later to collect small blood samples from their tails.

The sharks are, as one might expect, sedated for the process. But “the procedures we perform are no more painful or harmful than us getting our yearly flu jab or a routine blood test”, Dooley explains. Scientists say the less aggressive, land-based animals don’t need to be sedated, and the injection and blood sampling are equally non-invasive.

Similarly, lampreys could hold appeal in antibody treatments. Max Cooper, an immunologist at Emory Vaccine Centre in Atlanta, has worked with the jawless fish for 20 years. He says their antibodies are “small and tough, and we think they

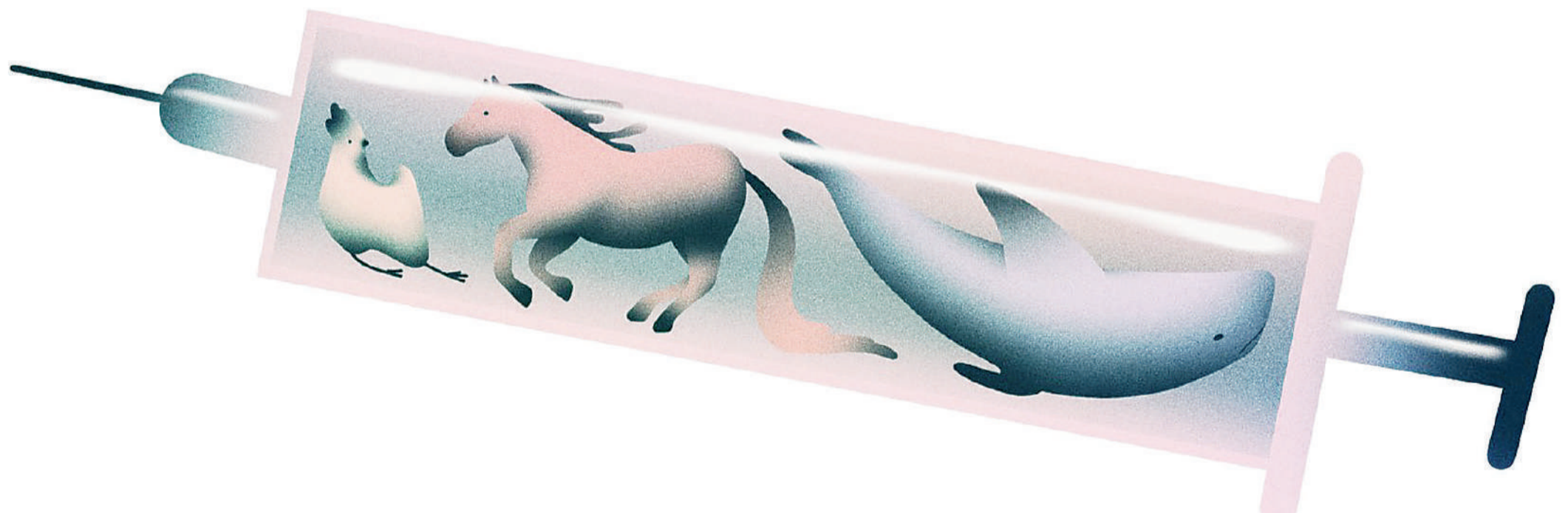
can be used for a number of biological uses”.

Whatever the animal, their antibodies must go through a process called humanisation before they can be used in human treatments, says microbiologist Duty.

Humanisation, which modifies the antibodies to make them more similar to human antibodies, allows the antibodies to retain their unique disease-fighting attributes while being manipulated so that the human body won’t reject them as foreign or something that it needs to fight.

So rest easy: if one day you find yourself receiving a treatment derived from a shark, you won’t get ill - or grow fins. “The FDA will not let an antibody go forward without some measurable amount of humanisation,” Duty says.

**A piece originally published in *Elemental*, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Jillian Kramer is a journalist whose writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *Travel + Leisure*, and more.**



# With drones and masks, innovators keep Covid-19 hit economies afloat

ROME/WASHINGTON/HARARE

GHANAIAN pilot Eric Acquah started a drone company in 2017 to spray crops with pesticides, but when coronavirus hit the West African country he found a new mission - saving lives.

The company has used 20 drones to disinfect about 38 open-air markets in Ghana, spraying a couple of acres in minutes, a job that would take a dozen people several hours, and there are now also plans to use them to disinfect classrooms, said Acquah.

"We targeted the market areas because in Africa they are open-air and always overpopulated. So we thought if the virus is going to spread fast it will be from them," said Acquah, who was paid by local authorities to spray the markets.

"Just closing the borders and quarantining the whole country wouldn't make sense unless there is a mass disinfection of places where people gather in larger numbers," the founder of AcquahMeyer Drone Tech told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The markets have since re-opened, with everyone wearing masks and social distancing, and traders and buyers said they felt safer, said Acquah, who is lobbying private donors for funds to disinfect other public areas - at about \$15 per acre.

Acquah is just one of a host of African innovators helping poor households adapt to and survive the pandemic which has so far infected more than 416,000 people in Africa with



more than 11,300 deaths, according to a Reuters tally based on government statistics and WHO data.

As job losses mount and incomes plunge due to coronavirus lockdowns and border closures, many African countries risk spikes in poverty and hunger, food experts have warned.

## INNOVATION

In Benin, a dozen entrepreneurs are developing ideas to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, from masks to 3D-printed protective gear, with financial and technical support from a government-United Nations taskforce launched in April.

"Because it hasn't been easy to import goods into the country, we have to take a hard look at what we can produce locally," said Claude Bona, head of Seme City, the government's innovation and entrepreneurship centre, co-leading the project.

"I think people are slowly taking measure of what's happening here in Africa with innovation, and how it can be a very powerful tool."

Atigan is one start-up which received backing from the taskforce to adapt to the crisis, switch-

ing from making eco-friendly stoves to hand-washing stations operated by pedals so users do not have to touch anything.

They have sold more than 600 units for about \$100 each to clients that include the United Nations, said Franck Zanhoundaho, who founded the company with his brother.

"All of the artisans, all the welders in the country have started to make them," he said, adding that the simple medal frame is easily replicable, and that they have shared the design to encourage wider production.

The production of handwashing stations has enabled the small company to survive the crisis, he added.

The Alodo Initiative - a group of fashion designers - is another project receiving support from the taskforce to rapidly scale up its work, both to bolster the fight against COVID-19 and minimise its negative economic impact.

It is producing masks from locally available fabrics, which were tested in a lab to ensure their effectiveness in preventing coronavirus transmission. They have sold millions, some of which

the government bought to distribute in schools.

"The textile sector often takes a hit when there is an economic crisis. And it's a sector that employs a lot of workers," said Charlemagne Amoussou, President of the Association of Fashion Designers of Benin.

"This local production breathed life into the textile sector in Benin, and I think that almost all the tailors, all the designers had work."

## DIGITAL

With coronavirus cases still rising in Africa, digital networks have proven crucial in keeping economic activity going.

As disease-wary customers shun open-air markets, food sellers using Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp have seen a surge in demand, said Rumbidzai Mbambo, 27, founder of Quickfresh, one of the newest Zimbabwean online grocery start-ups.

Mbambo set up the company in April after seeing that a government-imposed lockdown had left small-holder farmers stranded with fresh produce while people stuck at home could not buy food.

"The pandemic has redefined our way of life and our business model suits the low-touch new (environment)," she said, adding that the business has attracted more than 60 clients in its first two months.

Paida Moyo ventured into farming herbs just a few months earlier and feared she would have to bin her produce. But linking up with QuickFresh has saved her business.

"We did not lose anything and we're not in debt," said the 24-year-old, who

is expanding to grow tomatoes and cabbages. "I was a bit worried but not for long when QuickFresh came into the picture. They rescued us."

In Kenya, charities are boosting economies in poor communities by using a blockchain-backed local currency to provide slum-dwellers with emergency aid on their mobile phones which they can spend on local goods and services.

Grace Hellen, a 53-year-old tailor in Nairobi's Mukuru informal settlement, saw her monthly income plunge when the virus struck in March as customers stopped coming to her shop.

The 620 Sarafu (\$6) a week she receives supplements the small stipend of \$19 she earns as a volunteer community healthcare worker, and enables her to buy essentials like kerosene for cooking and beans.

"Life would be more difficult without this, not only for me but the community as a whole because many people are going through the same challenges," said the mother-of-five.

The project was set up by the Danish Red Cross and Kenya-based foundation Grassroots Economics in 2019 and expanded to respond to help people whose income has been hit by the coronavirus crisis.

Meanwhile, Acquah is negotiating with officials in Togo and Benin who have expressed interest in using his drone service to disinfect public spaces on a tight budget.

"We want to offer subsidised services," he said. "This epidemic has crippled a lot of economies. Right now, we are not looking to make profit. We started this company in the first place to give back to Africa."

# AERC plenary mulls Africa's economic recovery post COVID-19

By Special Correspondent

THE African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) recently held its virtual 52nd Plenary Session themed on Business Environment, Competitiveness and Economic Growth in Africa.

The plenary was held over two days with a special session titled: African Economies Amid

COVID-19 - Impacts & The Road Ahead, with the official opening and keynote by Betty C. Maina, Cabinet Secretary for Kenya's Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and Enterprise Development.

In her official opening speech, Maina highlighted that Africa must reimagine business beyond COVID-19, and that there is an opportunity to reshape Af-

rica's manufacturing if it focuses on self-reliance.

She noted that African manufacturers are stepping up to produce essential medical supplies, which could contribute \$1.5 billion dollars to the continent and, in the long run, African manufacturers can take advantage of opportunities that lead to African trade and global supply chain realignment.

The importance of strengthening Inter-African trade and supply chains could create a springboard for export-orientated growth. The opportunity to catalyse the formalisation of Africa economies, improve productivity and access to finance will create additional protection and opportunity for employees and SMEs. "Targeted campaigns need to be launched for SMEs so that they can famil-

iarise themselves with access to finance and labour. It is important to leverage the informal employment sector as it has 70% of the working population and cuts across manufacturing and trade that leads growth to GDP. It is important to create the shift of competitiveness for economies in Africa," Maina concluded.

Professor Njuguna Ndung'u, AERC's executive director, com-

mented: "Competitive economies are most likely able to provide an environment conducive to business, market development, policy clarity, strong institutions that define the rules/incentives mechanism and effective coordination; and hence will grow more sustainably and inclusively."

"This means that there is a likelihood that everyone in that particular society, market segment or

physical location will benefit from the fruits of economic growth," he said.

The forum had a diversity of presentations by various economists and was attended by senior government officials and scholars virtually, who discussed policy options to boost economic recovery after months of lockdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Heavy rainfall could threaten food security in parts of Africa - experts

By Special Correspondent

METEOROLOGISTS are warning of devastating floods in the months to come, resulting from erratic weather patterns that threaten cropping seasons.

The weather forecast predicts an elevated risk of flooding to the Nile River Basin, Lake Victoria Basin and surrounding low-lying areas of the region.

Some regions in Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan and Ethiopia, have been warned by experts, to expect above normal rainfall, and a return of floods between June and September.

According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (Fews Net), "the overall impact of the devastating floods is yet to be fully assessed due to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Floods cause significant crop damage and destroy various infrastructure in affected areas."

Based on Fews Net report, there will be 40 percent of paddies in southwestern Kenya due to the damage caused by Lake Victoria overflows in surrounding low-lying regions.

Fews Net is concerned about food security in eastern and southeastern Kenya, southern and northwestern Somalia, southwestern Ethiopia, parts of Uganda, and southeastern South Sudan regions.

The prospect of food production becomes an issue of concern in Africa, due to the mixed effects of heavy rainfall,

floods, the early end of the long rain season, and the invasion by desert locusts.

According to the network, satellite-derived crop simulation models and key-informants have confirmed that several areas are currently experiencing rainfall deficit and are consequently exhibiting drier-than-normal vegetation conditions.

Rainfall deficits are also expected to emerge in coastal Kenya and Tanzania in the upcoming season. This could create the formation of a third-generation of desert locust swarms, groups, and bands hence threatening food security in the region.

For crops planted in February or early March, satellite imaging indicates broadly average to slightly above-average crop yield prospects outside of flood-affected riverine or low-lying areas.

However, Fews Net says "there are concerns that late-planted crops (planted in April) will be subject to significantly reduced yields or even crop failure in marginal cropping areas in eastern and southeastern lowlands of Kenya due to prolonged crop water stress in May and early June."

In Uganda, the report states that most early-planted maize crops in the south are in the late maturity to harvesting stages.

In the rest of the country. However, there is increasing concern for reduced yields of maize, which is mostly in the reproductive to maturity stages, due to poor May rainfall.



Food security in the eastern and northern regions are not guaranteed.

These regions are at higher risk of flooding, especially around the Lake Victoria

and Nile River basins and flood-prone areas in the Mt Elgon region.

# Polio eradication expertise backs Africa's Covid-19 response

By Special Correspondent

EXPERTISE in polio eradication that has put Africa on the verge of being certified free of wild poliovirus has been brought to the frontlines of the Covid-19 fight.

A network of responders from the World Health Organization (WHO) polio eradication programme and partner organizations is providing critical resources and skills to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic.

To boost testing in the WHO African Region, the WHO-coordinated polio laboratory network comprising 16 laboratories in 15 countries is now dedicating 50% of its capacity to Covid-19 testing.

Hundreds of tests are carried out every day using polio testing machines

in Algeria, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa.

"In Africa, no one has the footprint of neither the polio programme nor the expertise for mounting effective response campaigns. So with COVID-19 threatening to overwhelm health systems, the extensive polio response network is once again lending crucial support as countries build up systems to contain COVID-19," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Regional Director for Africa.

Contact tracing has also been a central pillar of the WHO polio programme's support to the Covid-19 response. Mobile phone applications originally developed for health workers to use in polio outbreak response and disease surveillance have been adapted by WHO to be used against

Covid-19. In Zimbabwe, for example, over 100 disease surveillance officers are using these tools for case investigations and contact tracing in many provinces where Covid-19 has been confirmed.

In addition, the WHO Geographic Information System (GIS) centre in Brazzaville, Congo - which was opened in 2017 to support the polio programme with adapted technologies and data management - is using its huge experience in outbreak response and disease surveillance to support countries with a range of GIS and software technology and manual solutions to respond to Covid-19. The GIS team is now working around the clock supporting countries to take up the technology for Covid-19 responses.

More than 2000 polio response experts from WHO, UNICEF, Rotary,

as well as STOP consultants from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are supporting the COVID-19 response in the African Region. A quarter of WHO polio staff are dedicating more than 80% of their time towards COVID-19 efforts, with 65% anticipating a commitment of six months or more.

Alongside the support to the Covid-19 response, WHO polio staff are also maintaining critical functions including disease surveillance and planning to resume mass polio immunization campaigns once the situation permits to reduce the risk of new polio outbreaks.

"It is important that the support to Covid-19 response does not jeopardize the progress made in stopping all forms of polio transmission in the region. The fight against the pandemic

should not come at the detriment of other health emergencies," emphasized Dr Moeti.

"With Zimbabwe's first COVID-19 case, we used paper tools to facilitate data management during case investigation and contact tracing, but our contact tracers faced many challenges with follow up and reporting," says Manes Munyanyi, Deputy Director Health Information and Surveillance Systems for Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Care.

"Using digital tools [provided by the polio programme] for outbreak responses cannot be overemphasized as the technology provides responders with data management, visualization and information dissemination platforms that support informed decision making at all levels."

**With Zimbabwe's first COVID-19 case, we used paper tools to facilitate data management during case investigation and contact tracing, but our contact tracers faced many challenges with follow up and reporting," says Manes Munyanyi, Deputy Director Health Information**

# What's false and what's true on China-related human rights matters (Part 2)

### Prologue

**F**ULL of ignorance of and bias against China, some people from certain countries have recently made groundless accusations against and disseminated many fallacies about China's human rights conditions concerning Hong Kong, COVID-19, and Xinjiang.

Even a small discrepancy will lead to a great error. Malicious lies will, still worse, result in huge misconception and misunderstanding.

In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China have compiled What's False and What's True on China-related Human Rights Matters, with the purpose of setting the record straight with facts.

Falsehoods find no market among the fair-minded, as we are confident that people will tell right from wrong!

### 11. False: China tried to cover up COVID-19, resulting in its spread across the world with over 10 million infections.

#### True:

The Chinese government adopted the most comprehensive, stringent and thorough measures in the shortest possible time. The infections were largely kept within Wuhan with the chain of transmission effectively cut off.

On 9 May, researchers from Yale University and the Jinan University found in a joint study that the measures China has taken, including city lockdown, closed management of communities, quarantine and family outdoor restrictions, have significantly decreased the virus transmission rate. Thanks to these measures, the spread of the virus was effectively curbed in mid-February. China's national and provincial public health measures may have prevented over 1.4 million infections and 56,000 deaths outside Hubei Province by 29 February. A report published by the journal Science estimated that China's rigorous measures resulted in about 700,000 fewer infections, or 96% of cases.

On 25 February, the China-WHO Joint Mission consisting of 25 Chinese and international experts elaborated on the response measures taken by China and their effectiveness at a press conference in Geneva. The Mission pointed out that the usual epidemiological trajectory would be a surge in cases following an outbreak like COVID-19. China, with its robust intervention, significantly bent the curve. The Chinese people, with their resilience and sacrifice, have remarkably slowed the spread of the virus and won a precious window of opportunity for the world.

On 23 January, when Wuhan went into lockdown, the US counted only one confirmed case. On 2 February, when the US shut down its border to China, its official case count was merely eleven. According to news reports, statistics from countries including Canada, France, Russia, Australia, Singapore and Japan indicate that most of the cases in their countries did not come from China.

As Governor Cuomo of the State of New York pointed out, a research by the



Firefighters gather to prepare for disinfection works at the Wuhan Railway Station in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei province, March 24, 2020. Despite China's own battle against COVID-19, the country shared its experience with the world. [Photo/Xinhua]

Northeast University of the US shows that the first strain of the novel coronavirus entered his state not from China. As reported by the New York Times, many US experts have confirmed that Asia was not the main source of the outbreak in New York. Canada's provincial data also suggest that the country's early coronavirus cases came from American travelers.

On 21 May, Dr. Pavan K. Bhatraju from the Harborview Medical Center, University of Washington published a paper on the New England Journal of Medicine involving 24 severe cases in nine medical facilities in Seattle between 24 February and 9 March. None of the patients had recently traveled to China, the ROK, Italy or Iran, or had known exposure to a returning traveler. The source of infection in those cases was unidentifiable.

A report released on 8 June by Oxford, Edinburgh University and Cog-UK, an academic research organization, detected at least 1,356 independent transmission lineages based on more than 20,000 genome sequencing in the UK. Only 0.08% of the transmissions could be traced to China, an impact almost negligible. The report found that the contribution of China and other Asian countries to the number of importations in the UK was "very small".

A recent NYT article "Why Is the United States Exporting Coronavirus?" pointed out that the US, with the largest number of coronavirus cases in the world, is continuing to deport thousands of illegal immigrants, many infected with the coronavirus. In late April, the government of Guatemala reported that nearly a fifth of the country's coronavirus cases were linked to deportees from the US. For instance, 71 of the 76 deportees on one flight tested positive.

### 12. False: The Wuhan lockdown measures violated citizens' right to personal liberty.

#### True:

Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province, was the first to report novel coronavirus cases. At the most critical moment against the virus, Wuhan enforced temporary travel restrictions in accordance with the law, which mainly include suspension of public transportation, such as city buses, subway services, ferries and coaches, and temporary closing of transport links, including airports, train stations and expressways. These important measures strictly contained the infections at the source, cut off the chain of transmission, and effectively forestalled massive spread of the disease. These measures helped reduce case exportation to other parts of China and the rest of the world, playing a positive role in the containment of COVID-19.

For a mega-city like Wuhan with more than 11 million people, restrictions on inbound and outbound travel pose an enormous challenge. The Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government took a string of measures to minimize the impact. Essential travel and much-needed key supplies were ensured, with priority given to people's daily necessities. President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang traveled to Wuhan during the city's battle against COVID-19. They visited local communities for first-hand information on the life of the residents, stressing that people's essential needs must be ensured.

Thanks to the timely, most comprehensive, rigorous, and thorough containment measures taken by the Chinese government, the chain of transmission was effectively cut off. What China did was widely recognized by the science community. In an interview on 25 January, Dr. Gauden Galea, the WHO Representative in China, said that Wuhan's lockdown measures would effectively curb the spread of the virus, and the temporary sacrifice would be a strong contribution to global public health security.

Recognizing the right to life as the most fundamental human right, the Chinese government is committed to putting people and life first. To protect people's life and health, China put its socio-economic activities on hold, decisively adopted measures such as quarantine and followed WHO's professional recommendations. Guided by science, China stopped the virus in its tracks and committed itself to saving lives at all costs. From a 108-year-old man to a 30-hour-old newborn baby, every patient was treated with no effort spared. To date, more than 3,000 senior patients aged 80 or above, including seven centenarians, have recovered after treatment in Hubei. In fact, some critically-ill elderly patients were brought back to life from the verge of death. There was a case of a 70-year-old patient who might not have survived COVID-19 had it not been for the many weeks of intensive treatment and care from about a dozen health workers. The expenses of the treatment, nearly 1.5 million yuan, were fully covered by the government.

In contrast, the US government has ignored science, played down the threat of the virus, and even resorted to blame shifting. This resulted in massive domestic outbreaks that cost the lives and health of many Americans, plunged the economy into recession and led to social turbulence. It was a typical example of putting political self-interests first. By 30 June, the US reported over 2.68 million confirmed cases and nearly 130,000 deaths, or 387 deaths per million. They are 30, 27, and 129 times the numbers in China. According to US CDC Director Robert Redfield, the number of coronavirus infections in the US could be 10 times higher than the confirmed case count. In other words, the number of infections in the US may have exceeded 20 million.

Vulnerable groups in the US are struggling to survive under COVID-19. The NYT website on 11 May reported that at least 28,100 residents and staff at nursing homes and other old-age care facilities across the US had died of the coronavirus, accounting for a third of the death toll in the US. According to USCDC statistics, as of 13 May, 22.4 percent of the country's COVID-19 fatalities were African Americans, much higher than their 12.5 percent share in the US population. Hispanic Americans also suffered higher infection and fatality rates. Data from the city of New York in early April recorded 34 percent of COVID-19 deaths as Latinos.

In comparison to other countries' COVID-19 response, China's control measures have proven to be most effective at saving lives. As reported by the NYT website on 20 May, a study from the Columbia University suggests the delay in imposing travel restrictions claimed at least 36,000 American lives. Had the US government acted one week earlier, 36,000 lives could have been saved. Had the restrictions been introduced two weeks earlier, 83 percent of the deaths could have been avoided.

### 13. False: During COVID-19, the Chinese government cracked down on journalists and medical workers as they exercised their right to freedom of speech on the Internet, resulting in lack of information trans-

#### parency.

**True:** All countries have strict regulations on the confirmation and information release of infectious diseases. This is an international common practice. In China, the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases stipulates rigorous reviewing procedures and requirements concerning the reporting, verification and information release of infectious diseases.

Open and transparent information is key to tackling epidemics. China's National Health Commission collects and releases, on a daily basis, data of confirmed cases of all provinces to ensure that the data is accurate and reliable. Any cover-up or under-reporting is strictly held accountable. At the same time, the Chinese government exercises law-based management over the Internet, including social media. Heated debates among different views are easily found online in China. The Chinese government welcomes oversight by the public and media, while at the same time opposes illegal acts of starting and spreading rumor, creating panic or disrupting public order.

In China, no one gets punished or penalized simply because of making remarks. China's criminal law clearly stipulates what actions constitute crimes. Violating the criminal law is a prerequisite of conviction. A handful of people, out of their hidden agenda, purport to have been convicted for speaking out in China. Their claim has no factual basis.

The Chinese government has all along conducted its COVID-19 response in an open and transparent manner, and has made widely recognized achievements. China is a country under the rule of law. Whether during the fight against the virus or in other times, China's public security authorities handle cases and illegal activities in strict accordance with law.

### 14. False: China detained Dr. Li Wenliang and other whistle-blowers.

#### True:

Li Wenliang was an ophthalmologist. He was not a whistle-blower and was not detained. Dr. Zhang Jixian, a respiratory doctor, was the first to report COVID-19 cases, and was awarded for this contribution.

On the afternoon of 30 December 2019 (three days after Dr. Zhang Jixian reported cases of unknown infection and one day before Wuhan released the relevant information), Dr. Li Wenliang sent a message to his alumni WeChat group. He claimed that there were "seven confirmed SARS cases", and asked the group not to spread the information. However, leaked screenshots of the conversation spread quickly on the Internet and caused panic.

On 3 January 2020, Wuhan's local police authorities asked Dr. Li to a police station for inquiry, and issued him a letter of reprimand as a means of persuasion.

In mid-January, Dr. Li started to show symptoms of infection. And on 31 January, he was confirmed to be infected with COVID-19.

On 7 February, Dr. Li passed away after all rescue measures were exhausted. On the same day, the National Health Commission publicly expressed condolences over his death. The National Supervisory Commission decided to send an inspection group to Wuhan to investigate issues related to Dr. Li.

On 19 March, the inspection group released its findings and held a press briefing. Wuhan's Public Security Bureau announced the decision on the matter, pointing to the misapplication of relevant legal provisions in Dr. Li's case, and revoked the reprimand letter.

On 5 March, Dr. Li Wenliang was named a "national model healthcare worker in fighting COVID-19". On 2 April, he was honored as a martyr. On 28 April, he was awarded the 24th "May Fourth Medal".

Dr. Li Wenliang was a good doctor and a member of the CPC. Labeling Dr. Li Wenliang as an "anti-establishment hero" or "awakener" is highly disrespectful to Dr. Li and his family. It is pure political manipulation without decency. On 30 May, responding to the bills introduced by US lawmakers to rename the street outside the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C. "Li Wenliang Plaza", Dr. Li's wife Fu Xuejie issued a statement on Weibo that said, "Wenliang was a CPC member.

He loved his country deeply. Should he know about this, he would never allow anyone to hurt his motherland in his name."

### 15. False: China has taken advantage of COVID-19 to conduct large-scale surveillance with big data, violating its citizens' privacy.

#### True:

COVID-19 struck during China's Spring Festival, the annual travel peak on a scale rarely seen elsewhere in the world in this country with 1.4 billion people. This created unprecedented challenges for disease control. China has harnessed big data, artificial intelligence, 5G and other technologies, and devised a smart technology app called "health code" for virus containment. This app helped avert the risk of infection, and facilitated transportation and reopening of the economy. The "health code" app has been used in other countries as well, and tens of thousands of users downloaded it on the first day of its overseas launch. We have also noted that quite a number of countries have drawn on China's experience and practice in this regard in their COVID-19 response.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to protecting citizens' privacy and has been working to improve relevant laws and regulations. Clear stipulations on the collection, use and protection of personal information are set out in China's General Provisions of the Civil Law, the Cybersecurity Law, the Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Strengthening Internet Information Protection and other laws and regulations.

China has long been deeply concerned about the large-scale electronic surveillance and personal data collection worldwide and violations against national sovereignty and human rights, especially the right to privacy, conducted by certain countries. China advocates that the United Nations take concrete measures to stop the certain countries from making such moves. Illegal or arbitrary surveillance over communications and collection of personal data not only violate people's privacy, but also affect their right to exercise freedoms of expression, association and assembly and right to know. Because of the highly globalized nature of communication technologies represented by the Internet, large-scale electronic surveillance not only infringes upon the human rights of a country's own citizens, but also flagrantly violates the human rights of people in other countries, seriously undermines the sovereignty of other countries, and goes against the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs.

The USA Patriot Act introduced after the September 11 incident requires that Internet companies provide user information on a regular basis. According to information exposed under the PRISM program, Americans have no privacy in their phone calls, correspondence, documents and voice mails, which are all under the surveillance of intelligence agencies. Phone calls by the leaders of US's once-close allies have long been wiretapped by the US as well. As it turns out, it is the US that has carried out the largest-scale cyber surveillance and cyber theft worldwide. This country is the world's largest "empire of hackers". In this regard, the United Nations adopted a resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age proposed by European countries.

Cybersecurity threats and risks are increasing by the day, with privacy infringements and other cybercrimes occurring from time to time. China places importance on strengthening data security management and personal information protection through legislative and technological means. Relevant laws such as the Cybersecurity Law have clear stipulations on the collection, use and storage of personal information and the protection of data security.

China cracks down on data theft, privacy infringement and other related illegal and criminal activities in accordance with law.

China is committed to enhancing dialogue and cooperation with other countries on the basis of mutual respect and trust to jointly address cybersecurity threats and challenges and build a cyberspace community with a shared future.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 103 00--

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

3 letters: TRY, EAR, ERA, USE, EVE, GET, SEE, INS  
 4 letters: USED, EDEN, EDEN, LEEK, EROS  
 5 letters: KRAAL, MECCA, USHER, KRAFT, PENCE, ARAME, TOWNS, ASSET  
 6 letters: KAGAME, GARAGE, AFRICA, ERASED  
 7 letters: SEVERE, CARINA  
 8 letters: LUGGAGE, CONDOMS,  
 9 letters: EEL GRASS

CLUES: Across  
 1 hot well  
 2 a brief time of importance  
 3 used for emphasis to express anger  
 4 Yemen's Capital  
 5 carved human image  
 6 part of a town  
 7 a person who donates something  
 8 violent anger  
 9 syllable added to the end of the word to modify its meaning  
 10 name for lake Malawi in Tanzania  
 11 chopped into small pieces  
 12 an air-like substance with the capacity to expand  
 13 times between sunrise and sunset

Down:  
 1 symbol  
 2 a student at an armed forces  
 3 male cat  
 4 to give back  
 5 an authorised weight or measure  
 6 Boss  
 7 a state of serene calmness  
 8 coverings for the feet  
 9 a room for business  
 10 the bark of a tree  
 11 short prose work  
 12 a mischievous child  
 13 military commander during Ottoman Empire  
 14 Donkey

WORD-FIT: U R G O E L O V E, M O D E R N, S, U R M O P, O A V E, D O H A, E N A M O U R, D M O R O C C O, I F, Y D O T A K U, B E K E, D U L L, D R E A D, H A R E, A N D E S, O L L, A L L, K E Y, S, M A I L, Y I E L D S, A D E, S A L S O, A W N, N O O P S, A I O N I C, A G E, E D I T O R, S, A V O W, A Y, V, I E M I R A I E, A L A P S E, A, M A I D, N, O, A R R A T, D, N, S I R I P E, S, D Y E L I N E

44TH DITF

## Workers' fund readies 8.5bn/- to compensate members injured while on duty in year 2020

By Guardian Reporter

EMPLOYEES injured while on duty this fiscal year will share 8.5bn/- in compensation which has been allocated by Workers Compensation Fund.

Speaking at the 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair currently going on in the commercial capital, WCF's Managing Director, Masha Mshomba said the money is part of contributions made by employers.

"Establishment of the Fund has been a blessing to many workers who get hurt while on duty sometimes being rendered completely incapacitated to work again which reduces families of victims into beggars," Mshomba said while noting that

when death of a member occurs, the WCF also takes care of the believed family.

He pointed out that since its establishment in 2016, the WCF has been paying compensation with 1.5bn/- paid then, an amount which has increased to over 8.5bn/-." "This fund has played a key role in providing relief to workers who have suffered chronic diseases or injuries that render them incapable of working again," the WCF's chief added.

He further stated that apart from compensating working victims, the WCF is also engaged in sensitization of stakeholders who include employers, medical doctors and other health practitioners that play a role



Workers Compensation Fund director general Masha Mshomba (2nd-R) listens to a visitor being attended to by the Fund's Senior Compliance Officer, Melinda Matinyi (L), at the ongoing 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo courtesy of WCF.

in the process.

Mshomba explained that the stakeholders are also taught about what the law says relating to compensation to workers, occupational

health and security so that incidents of people being injured or losing life while on duty are minimised.

"So far, we have trained over 1,064 medical doctors and health practi-

tioners countrywide on how to evaluate injuries and diseases caused by work place hazards so that processing of compensations should be speeded up," the WCF chief executive noted

while commending the government of President John Pombe Magufuli for piloting the country into lower middle income status as recently announced by World Bank.

RELIEF

## Udzungwa Park sees surge in tourists after govt eases Covid-19 restrictions

By Guardian Reporter, Kilombero

THE number of tourists visiting Udzungwa Mountain National Park has increased since the government's decision to ease restrictions imposed in March to contain the coronavirus which included the reopening of the country's airspace last month.

UMNP's Park Warden, Richard Hayri told a visiting group of 40 domestic tourists from Dar es Salaam and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro early this week that Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism followed suit by introducing national Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for management of the novel coronavirus for the industry which heavily relies on foreign arrivals.

Hayri said the government's decision breathed a new lease of life into the tourism industry which had been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak which has forced governments globally to impose lockdowns to contain the virus.

"The government's decision

has put in place an enabling environment for tourists to visit various attraction sites such as Udzungwa," he said noting that due to restrictions imposed by government in mid March, even domestic tourists stopped visiting the park.

"At Udzungwa during this post coronavirus period, we are receiving tourists while taking all the necessary protective measures to curb the virus including hand washing and taking body temperature before entry into the facility," he added.

The Udzungwa Park Warden urged Tanzanians to cultivate a culture of visiting conservation areas such as the Morogoro based sanctuary and see nature's beauty physically. "At Udzungwa costs for local tourists have been made affordable as an incentive to allow many people visit and see the unique attractions," Hayri stated. The park which is famous for unique flora and fauna and wild animal, the entrance fee is 5,900/- while spending also fetches 5,900/-.

Speaking on behalf of the group of 40 tourists, Husain Ja-

noowalla said it is high time that Tanzanians take time to visit the country's tourist attraction areas such as Udzungwa in order to see and enjoy while contributing to economic growth.

"Tanzania is blessed with beautiful and unique attractions for which most of the citizens are unaware. Interestingly some go to other countries like Thailand to visit the same attractions which are available in country," Janoowalla said.

Recently, Tanzania Tourist Board in collaboration with the private sector prepared several films to market different tourist attraction areas in the country as a means of ensuring continuity amidst Covid-19 pandemic.

Udzungwa is the largest and with most biodiversity and a chain of a dozen large forest-swathed mountains that rise majestically from the flat coastal scrub of eastern Tanzania. Known collectively as the Eastern Arc Mountains, this archipelago of isolated massifs has also been dubbed as the African Galapagos for its treasure-trove of endemic plants and animals, most familiarly being the delicate African violet.



A baboon welcomes visitors at the main entrance of Udzungwa Mountains National Park in Morogoro Region.

CRISIS

## 'Global tourism could lose up to \$3.3 trillion owing to Covid-19 pandemic'

GENEVA

THE global tourism sector stands to lose up to \$3.3 trillion as the Covid-19 pandemic cripples international travel, with developing countries to suffer the biggest hit, according to the United Nations.

In the most optimistic scenario, international tourism could lose \$1.2tn, or 1.5 per cent of global gross domestic product (GDP), after a four-month standstill due to the coronavirus crisis, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said in a report on Wednesday.

It examined the economic impact of the halt in tourism through three scenarios, depending on the duration of the global restrictions on travel, to quantify the effects on countries' incomes, trade and employment.

The sector could suffer a \$2.2tn reduction as a result of an 8-month standstill in inter-

national travel. The worse-case scenario points to a dramatic \$3.3tn loss from a 12-month pause, which is more than double the size of the international tourism industry.

"Many countries depend heavily on tourism and will experience dramatic effects in the labour market and national income," UNCTAD said. "Women are likely to be disproportionately affected due to a high share of female employment in the tourism sector. However, almost all sectors of the economies reliant on tourism are negatively affected due to the inter-sectoral linkages."

The tourism industry has borne the brunt of the damage unleashed by restrictions to contain the coronavirus as countries sealed their borders and airlines grounded their planes. The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) projects 850 million to 1.1 billion fewer internation-

al tourist arrivals, leading to a loss of \$910 billion to \$1.2tn in export revenues from tourism in 2020. The drop in demand will have severe consequences for employment levels.

Countries that are highly reliant on tourism or have less diversified economies will suffer the most, according to UNCTAD. Jamaica, where the tourism industry accounts for 20 per cent of GDP, stands out with a loss of 11 per cent in GDP, according to the report.

Thailand is among the worst hit countries with a 9 per cent loss in GDP, followed by Croatia, Portugal and the Dominican Republic, which record losses of 9 per cent, 8 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

Other tourism hotspots such as Kenya, Egypt and Malaysia could lose over 3 per cent of their GDP, the report showed. China and the US, the world's biggest economies, face the largest declines in absolute terms. The US incurs the high-



est losses with a drop of \$187bn in GDP in the best-case scenario, while China faces a loss of \$104bn in GDP.

Major tourist destinations such as Thailand, France and Germany stand to lose approximately \$47bn each in GDP due to the contraction in tourism. Coronavirus-induced losses in tourism have a knock-on effect on other economic sectors that supply the goods and services travellers seek while on vacation, such as food, beverages and entertainment.

Therefore for every \$1 million lost in international tourism revenue, a country's national income could decline by \$2m to \$3m, according to UNCTAD estimates. "Intersectoral linkages worsen the impact of a decline in tourism."

A fall in tourist arrivals has a negative impact on the suppliers to hotels, food and recreational activities," the report said. "It is these intersectoral linkages and corresponding losses which lead to the large indirect losses when the tourism sector contracts."

Countries heavily dependent on tourism, a major employer in many countries, could see a loss of 10 per cent of unskilled jobs in the most optimistic scenario and more than 40 per cent in the worst-case scenario, the UNCTAD found.

OPTIMISM

## Rwanda's green energy sector will likely create 31,000 jobs annually

KIGALI

WITH ambitions of investing in renewable energy in Rwanda in the build-up to 2030, a new report has noted that the sector could lead to the creation of around 31,000 direct jobs every year.

Dubbed "Employment assessment of renewable energy", the report was prepared by Global Green Growth Institute. The study and report notes that to reach renewable energy targets that can create such a number of jobs requires a direct domestic investment of \$ 645 million in large hydro and solar projects.

This study was aimed at assessing the employment creation potential of renewable energy technologies based on future power sector scenarios for Rwanda, Mexico and Indonesia. Goals of this study included estimating the jobs that can be created by selected renewable energy technologies compared to selected fossil fuel-based technologies.

The study identified and assessed the occupation and skills requirement by the renewable energy sector for each stage of the value chain. It provides estimates of the required investments for

achieving renewable energy targets set up by Rwanda's climate plan in the next 10 years.

The climate plan dubbed "National Determined Contributions" was recently submitted to The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as part of implementing Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius with an ambition to contain any increase at below 1.5 degrees.

"The additional 171 MW renewable energy capacity required under the high ambition scenario will generate around 31,000 direct jobs. Direct investments in green energy under this scenario could generate around \$316 million in value-added to the Rwandan economy," reads part of the report.

Under the set ambitions, most of the direct jobs, around 69%, that will be generated in large hydro and solar projects will be in construction and installation. The report highlights that in addition, operations and maintenance is estimated to create around 22 per cent of all direct job, whereas project development and equipment, manufacturing and distribution create 6 per cent and 3 per cent of all direct job.

## DIGITIZATION

## UBA customers can now pay for govt services, taxes through GePG

By Guardian Reporter

CLIENTS of UBA Bank Tanzania can now pay for goods and services obtained from over 600 state affiliated agencies, ministries and public companies through Government electronic Payment Gateway (GePG) thanks to the lender's integration into the system.

The Dar es Salaam based bank said yesterday in a statement that

its system has been successfully integrated into the GePG hence allowing clients to effectively make all government related payments including tax and non-tax revenue at any of UBA Tanzania's branches countrywide.

UBA Tanzania's Head of Public Sector, Dominick Timothy said the integration its system into GePG is one of several ways that the pan-African lender is supporting state development initia-

tives collection of tax and non-tax revenue.

"It has always been our aspiration to support government's initiatives of which efficient means of revenue collection through digital expertise of the bank, is a key component," Timothy adding that the bank appreciates decision by Tanzania Revenue Authority and Treasury to endorse it as an agent in revenue collection.

He further noted that follow-

ing the successful completion of the GePG integration for tax and non tax government revenue payment, UBA will also be integrating the platform into its multiple digital banking channels like mobile application, internet banking, Leo chatbot, USSD Magic Banking and Webcollect.

"I must be clear on this, with the GePG, every person, irrespective of whether or not he/she is an UBA Bank client, can effect pay-

ments to TRA and other government agencies through any of our branches," he said.

The GePG was adopted in 2016 by President John Pombe Magufuli's administration to improve revenue collection across its institutions, ministries, departments and agencies, a bold initiative that has effectively plugged revenue leakages while boosting collections.

UBA Tanzania was one of the eight banks in the country that

were certified by TRA to start collecting government revenue through GePG from July 1, 2020. Last year, UBA Tanzania was one of the two commercial banks in the country that provided guarantees on behalf of the JV of Arab Contractors and Elsewedy Electric of Egypt for the construction of the US\$2.95 billion 2,115MW Nyere Hydroelectric Power Project at Rufiji to catalyse the industrialisation objective of the government.

## ULTIMATUM

## Vaseline, Smirnoff risk removal from trademark registry

NAIROBI

MORE than 2,000 products, including global brands like Vaseline, Smirnoff and Total Gas, risk losing their market protection in Kenya following the expiry of their trademark licences.

The Kenya Industrial Property Institute (Kipi), the custodian of trademarks in the country, said it would clear 2,162 products from its register if their owners failed to renew their respective trademark licences by next Wednesday.

"Where no application for renewal of a trade mark published herein is received within 30 days from the date of this publication, the trade mark shall be forthwith removed from the Register of Trade Marks," John Onyango, the acting managing director at Kipi, said in a notice on June 15, adding that the proprietors of the affected marks have until July 15 to renew them.

A review of the notice by Kipi shows that several global brands risk being affected by the register clean-up. They include Colgate registered by Colgate-Palmolive; Vaseline by Unilever; Hostess flour by Unga Limited; and Total Gas and Total Gaz by Total. Others are Hennessy and Hennessy Cognac by Societe Jas Hennessy and Company, and Philips by NV Philips Loeilampenfabrieken Vas.

Once removed, firms can apply to have the trade marks reinstated at Kipi's discretion, raising fears that the firms could be exposed to counterfeit goods. "The trade mark shall then be restored to the Register of Trade Marks upon being satisfied that it is just to do so and upon imposing such conditions as the registrar may deem fit," said Mr Onyango.

A trade mark registration is valid for 10 years from the date of application, according to the Trademarks Act. Six months prior to the expiry of the 10 years, the registrar is required by law to notify the owner of the trade mark of the imminent expiry of the concerned trademark.

When a trade mark is registered with the Kenyan Trade Marks Office, it accords protection in Kenya only. Registra-



UBA Bank Tanzania's CEO Usman Isiaka speaks at a past event.

tion of a trade mark gives a proprietor direct evidence of exclusive ownership and helps keep off potential infringers who may try to ride on the goodwill of one's mark.

In 2016, Apple lost a trademark fight in China, meaning a firm which sells handbags and other leather goods was allowed continue to use the name "IPHONE." Xintong Tiandi trademarked "IPHONE" for leather products in China in 2010, but Apple filed a trademark bid for the name for electronic goods in 2002, but it was not approved until 2013.

The Chinese court ruled that Apple could not prove it was a well-known brand in China before Xintong Tiandi filed its trademark application in 2007. The notice says some

of those trademarks expired years ago. For instance, the Colgate trademark is stated to have expired in 1998, Vaseline (2008), Hostess (2008); Total Gas (2010) Hennessy (1981) and Philips (1983).

Other expired trademarks are Pepsi registered by Pepsi Co that expired in 1998, Smirnoff registered by Guinness UDV North America, (expired 2017), Skoda by the Czech company Koncernovy Podnik (2009), IBM by American company International Business Machines Corporation that is said to have expired in 1980.

The roll also includes trademarks by Pegasus that expired in 1976, Finlay's by James Finlay and Company Limited (expired 1993), BP (2007), Martini by Barcadi and Com-

pany Limited (2008), Sellotape by Adhesive Company Limited (1980), and Citroen (1982).

A number of trademarks in the Kipi list are however of products that are out of the market such as Softa by Kiguru Food Complex that expired in 2008 – or those that were trademarked by overseas companies to protect against any trademark abuse in Kenya. Others have had their parent company change ownership.

Other trademarks in the notice include Pegasus that expired in 1976, Finlay's by James Finlay and Company Limited (expired 1993), BP (2007), Martini by Barcadi and Company Limited (2008), Sellotape by Adhesive Company Limited (1980), and Citroen (1982).

## HOPE

## Mozambique's export business to take time to rebuild

MAPUTO

MINERAL coal, aluminium and tobacco are some of the products that Mozambique sells to other countries, mainly in Asia and Europe.

Mozambican businessman and president of the Fiscal Policy, Customs and International Trade at the Confederation of Economic Associations of Mozambique (CEA), Kekobad Patel, says that the export of those and other products has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Patel, who is also on the board of the Mozambique Community Network (MC-Net), which manages the Single Electronic Window (JUE), predicts that the export business will take time to rebuild, with companies having significantly reduced production and exports in the face of uncertainties imposed by the crisis. In an interview with 'Carta', Patel noted that the collection of revenue for the state is also impaired, and that the JUE already shows evidence of this.

"The impact is evident in the JUE. Naturally, if companies are not working, they are not exporting either, and when that happens, it means that there is no revenue for the state. In an analysis of the last two months, compared to the same period last year, the drop in revenue collection is 35%, and the same in relation to imports."

Patel says the fall in exports will contribute to the continuous depreciation of the national currency, the metical, against other currencies, especially the US dollar, and, consequently, the prices of imported goods will rise, ul-



Kekobad Patel of Mozambique's Confederation of Economic Associations.

timately increasing the cost of living.

Our interviewee expressed reservations about the future of the export business in the midst of a pandemic, because the process lifting of restrictions and reactivation of economies in the countries which consume our products will only take place gradually.

In addition, Patel points out, "suppose that for any reason another wave of infections comes, these countries will close. China, for example, is experiencing more infections, again, and does not yet know how far the virus will spread. But, if it is bigger and closes again, what will happen? So there are a

number of issues here that need to be addressed."

With no foreign market, Patel says it is time to develop the national market, ensuring internal production and distribution, mainly of agricultural products, in order to avoid dependence on exports. For this to materialize, Patel

says it is necessary to get companies up and running again, requiring practical and not just verbal support from the government. For the government to start collecting taxes again, "the measures announced to support companies need to be implemented, and swiftly", Patel concludes.

## SUPPORT

## US to offer Zim US\$60 million in food support

HARARE

THE United States says it will provide US\$60.55 million to assist Zimbabwe with its food insecurity during the lean season.

Early in June, Zimbabwean authorities said the southern African country's 2019/20 maize production of 907 628 tonnes would not meet its requirement for 1.8 million tonnes. As a result, there are more than 4.3 million severely food insecure people in rural areas in Zimbabwe, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, undertaken in February 2020.

In addition, 2.2 million people in urban areas are "cereal food insecure", according to the most recent Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) analysis. The United States has, however, said it will provide funding toward the World Food Programme's (WFP) 2020/21 Lean Season Food Assistance program in Zimbabwe.

In a statement released on Monday, the United States Embassy in Zimbabwe said the lean season assistance will begin in August and will feed nearly one million people during the peak of the season, from January to April 2021.

According to the Harare-based US Embassy, Zimbabwe faces one of its worst food security crises in a decade due to the "combined effects of failed economic and agricultural policies, corruption, consecutive poor agricultural seasons, the aftermath of Cyclone Idai, and now, the Covid-19 pandemic."

"The United States remains committed to responding to the humanitarian situation, providing critical food assistance to Zimbabwe's most vulnerable, while responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and maintaining essential services," Ambassador Brian A. Nichols said.

"Our Lean Season Assistance programme addresses the urgent food needs of the most vulnerable Zimbabweans, who are facing a triple threat of climate induced drought, economic crisis, and the Covid-19 pandemic," said WFP Zimbabwe Country Director and Representative (OIC), Niels Balzer. In June, USAID announced an additional US\$10 million to ensure that nearly 100 000 people in eight urban areas have access to adequate food supplies between July and December 2020.

Meanwhile the Zimbabwe government through revenue collector Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) has said it will allow selected agricultural goods and livestock to be imported into the country duty free.

In a statement released over the weekend, ZIMRA listed goods such as combine harvesters, agricultural tractors, potassium chloride/sulphate, and live pure breeding pigs, goats and sheep as some of the goods and livestock that can be "imported duty free." "It is that time again when farmers are preparing for the beginning of the forth-coming cropping season."

## REOPENING

## First tourists land in Dubai to a warm welcome by airport staff

DUBAI

THE first batch of commercial flights carrying overseas holidaymakers landed on the tarmac at Dubai International Airport shortly after midnight. Passengers arrived from a number of destinations including London, Cairo and Amsterdam.

They were among the first tourists to enter the country since airports were closed in March to contain the spread of Covid-19. Wearing face masks and gloves, visitors were discreetly screened by thermal scanners on arrival and were greeted with a smile by the Dubai airport staff.

The General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai posted videos of the occasion on its social media channels. The various clips also showed officers at the immigration desks placing special stickers on visitors' passports wishing them a warm welcome to their "second home."

Speaking to The National from JFK Airport in New York early yesterday morning, Dubai-bound passenger Jeremiah Tshimanga said he was looking forward to his first visit to the UAE.



# WORLD

## Growing infections put shadow on Trump event

NEW YORK

WITH COVID-19 cases rising across the United States, US President Donald Trump is downplaying the threat of the coronavirus even as a top Trump administration health official on Sunday cast doubt on the safety of holding the Republican National Convention, or RNC, in Jacksonville, Florida, next month.

Florida reported 9,999 new infections on Sunday afternoon, taking the state's total number of cases to 200,111, according to the Florida Department of Health website.

Florida reported eight new deaths on Sunday; some 3,731 people have died of COVID-19 in the state so far.

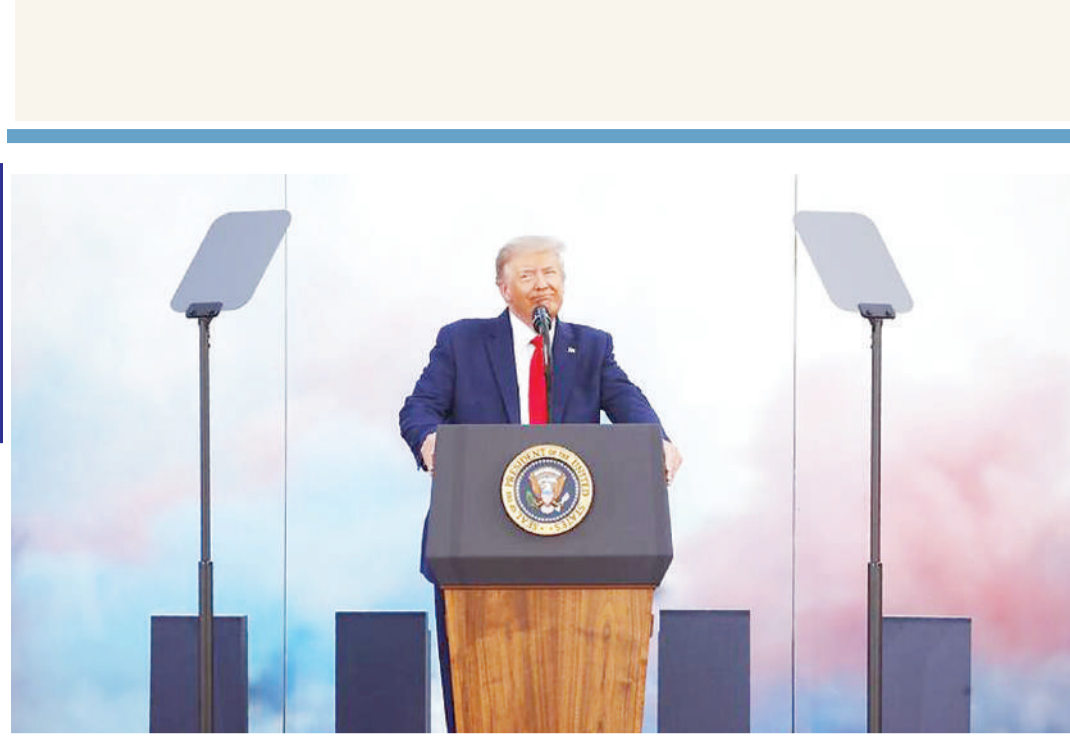
This news came a day after state officials announced 11,445 new daily cases in Florida an all-time high.

Speaking on CNN, US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn refused to confirm Trump's claim on Saturday that "99 percent" of cases were "totally harmless", calling the COVID-19 situation a "serious problem".

With record numbers of people testing positive for the virus in Jacksonville and across Florida, Hahn was asked if it would be safe to hold the typically large political gathering in just seven weeks. "I think it's too early to tell," Hahn told CNN. "We will have to see how this unfolds in Florida and elsewhere around the country."

Hahn, a member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, was asked to comment on his boss' statement made during the Fourth of July speech at the White House.

"I'm not going to get into who is right and who is wrong," he said. "It's a serious problem that we have. We have seen the surge in cases. We must do



something to stem the tide."

The Republican Party moved most of the RNC's activities to Jacksonville from Charlotte, North Carolina, last month after a battle over coronavirus safety concerns with that state's Democratic governor.

Trump enjoys seeing large crowds at his rallies, but he has not embraced masks or social distancing measures at campaign events held since the country began reopening from the coronavirus shutdown. On Wednesday he endorsed mask wearing despite resisting wearing one himself in public.

"I'm all for masks. I think masks are good," Trump told Fox Business News.

### Further spike

Coronavirus cases rose in 39 states, casting a shadow over the nation's Independence Day celebrations. Ahead of the Fourth of July weekend, public health experts warned that holiday parties could cause further spikes in infections that could overwhelm hospitals.

In the first four days of July alone, 15 states have reported record increases in new cases. There are more than 2.8 million cases with at least 129,900 deaths, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally.

Florida's cases have risen by over 10,000 for three of the past four days. Cases are also soaring in Arizona, California and Texas and trending upward in Midwestern states that once had infections declining, such as Iowa, Ohio and Michigan, according to a Reuters analysis. "We opened way too early in Arizona," Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego said on Sunday.

She said the city was in a "crisis related to testing", with people waiting in eight-hour lines in their cars to find out if they were infected.

Xinhua

## US envoy arrives in ROK as DPRK rejects talks

SEOUL

A US envoy arrived in the Republic of Korea (ROK) yesterday in an effort to renew stalled nuclear talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), hours after it issued a statement saying it has no intention of sitting down with the United States and told the ROK to "stop meddling".



US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun, who had led working-level talks with the DPRK, landed at a US military base south of Seoul, media reported, and was due to meet ROK officials on Wednesday and Thursday.

Earlier yesterday, Kwon Jong-gun, director general for US affairs at DPRK's foreign ministry, accused the ROK of misinterpreting a DPRK statement dismissing an "untimely rumor" about another summit between DPRK leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump.

The DPRK said on Saturday it did not feel the need for a new summit, days after ROK President Moon Jae-in, who had offered to mediate between Kim and Trump, suggested the two leaders meet again before the US elections in November.

"It is just the time for (the ROK) to stop meddling in others' affairs but it seems there is no cure or prescription for its bad habit," Kwon said in a statement carried by the DPRK's official KCNA news agency.

"Explicitly speaking once again, we have no intention to sit face to face with the United States."

Trump and Kim met for the first time in 2018 in Singapore, raising hopes for a negotiated end to DPRK's nuclear program. But their second summit, in 2019 in Vietnam, and subsequent working-level negotiations fell apart.

Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said Kwon's statement reflected lingering inter-Korean tension and DPRK's view that nuclear issues should be discussed only with the United States.

The DPRK is also referred to as North Korea and the ROK as South Korea.

"It also suggested that North Koreans would ditch the past concept of negotiations where the South played a broker role, and won't return to the table without major US concessions," Yang said.

Biegun said last week there was time for both sides to re-engage and "make substantial progress" but the novel coronavirus pandemic would make an in-person summit difficult before the US presidential elections on Nov 3.

The coronavirus complicated Biegun's visit in a more personal way as well.

A newspaper reported that because of the outbreak, the envoy would not be visiting a Korean chicken soup restaurant that has been a regular stop on previous visits, and instead had arranged for the dish to be prepared at the US ambassador's residence.

Agencies

## Russia to retaliate over UK sanctions imposed over Magnitsky case - Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will respond to UK's imposition of personal sanctions over the Magnitsky case to the extent that would fit the Russian interests, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

"We can only regret such unfriendly steps. Of course, the principle of reciprocity will be enforced to the extent that would fit the interests of the Russian Federation," the spokesman said.

### About the Magnitsky Amendment

On July 6, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Dominic Raab announced the so-called Magnitsky Amendment to the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill.

It was adopted by the House of Commons in May 2018, and was supposed to enter force immediately after the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

The amendment is named after Hermitage Capital lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who died in 2009 in the Matrosskaya Tishina detention facility. London believes that people in the sanctions list were involved in his torture and death.

The list of sanctioned people includes Russian Investigative Committee head Alexander Bastrykin, Deputy Prosecutor General Viktor Grin, Deputy Minister of the Interior Alexei Anichin.

The people in the list have been barred from entering the UK, and their assets in the country, if they have any, will be frozen. They will be barred from conducting business both inside the UK and via UK citizens' mediation.

Besides Russians, the list includes citizens and agencies from Saudi Arabia, Myanmar and North Korea.

Agencies

## 'Implementation rules of new law won't expand police power'

HONG KONG

HONG KONG Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor said yesterday the newly announced enforcement rules of the national security law for the special administrative region will neither expand police's power nor cause erosion of freedom of press.

The statement came a day after the government gazetted the Implementation Rules for Article 43 of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The rules took effect yesterday.

The rules clearly state in detail

the procedural requirements and circumstances that must be met and conditions for approval when police officers implement the law.

The article specifies that a police officer, with a rank not lower than that of assistant commissioner, can authorize officers to enter premises to search for evidence without a court warrant in critical situation.

Speaking to the media before the weekly Executive Council meeting yesterday, Lam (pictured) said the rules were introduced not to grant police more powers in enforcing the law, but to facilitate its law enforcement actions.



Most of the implementation

rules are similar to current laws stipulating police operations. As other laws do not apply to offences related to national security, the government formulated the implementation rules to clarify it further, she said.

Asked whether the government could guarantee the law will not cause erosion of press freedom in the city, the CE said such freedom must be based on the premise that journalists and news organizations do not violate the law.

"If the Foreign Correspondents Club or all reporters in Hong Kong can give me a hundred percent guarantee that they will not commit any offense under this piece

of national legislation, I can do the same (to guarantee hundred percent press freedom)," she said.

She reaffirmed that the rules were made in accordance with a guiding principle of the law - protecting human rights and press freedom.

Ultimately, time and facts will tell that the law will not undermine human rights and freedoms and will restore stability to Hong Kong, added Lam.

Lam also said the new law is conducive to the region's prosperity and stability and to the steady and sustained development of "one country, two systems."

Xinhua

## Disputes over release of inmates remain hurdle for intra-Afghan peace talks

KABUL

THE Afghan government has suspended the release of the last batch of Taliban inmates over their involvement in serious crimes, local media reported yesterday.

"The Afghan government on Monday once again stated its firm stance of not releasing nearly 600 Taliban prisoners who are reportedly guilty of serious crimes beyond membership in the Taliban," Tolo News TV said.

In early March, Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani issued a decree to release 5,000 Taliban inmates on parole, and the Taliban agreed to release 1,000 soldiers but the exchange of prisoners was repeatedly delayed.

The exchange of prisoners is part of a peace deal inked between the Taliban and the United States in Qatar in February. However, the Afghan government was not a signatory of the deal.

According to the agreement, the exchange of prisoners had to take place in early March before the start of the intra-Afghan peace talks involving Taliban delegation and government representatives. So far, more than 4,000 Taliban prisoners and over 500 Afghan



security forces had been released. The two sides were agreed to kick start the intra-Afghan talks in Qatar shortly after the release of the prisoners.

Local experts believe that the latest suspension of Taliban inmate's release may delay the Taliban and government peace negotiations.

Under the agreement, about 10,000 US and NATO-led coalition forces would leave Afghanistan by July next year depending on whether the Taliban meet the conditions envisaged in the agreement, including severing ties with

foreign terrorist groups.

On Monday, the Afghan president inaugurated a consultative regional meeting via a video conference under the theme of "support of consensus for peace" and discussed the peace process with the delegations of 20 countries, Afghan strategic partners and the United Nations, according to the country's presidential palace.

"We all are facing terrorism threats, and danger from regional criminal networks and extremism. Security, stability and interest connect us with each other. Regional understanding also makes

us stay alongside each other, and as a regional cross, Afghanistan can play a significant role for the stability and prosperity of the region," President Ghani (pictured) told the participants via video conference.

The president noted that "our perspective is that Afghanistan should remain the center for stability and regional development and growth crossroad.

"Touching on threats and dangers against peace, the president noted that the peace process would face serious challenges if the Taliban militants persist in

war and continue to fight with the Afghan security forces. President Ghani regretted over the growing violence and said the level of the current violence was higher compared to last year.

The UN reports suggested that the Taliban were yet to fulfill their promises and still have links with some foreign terrorist networks, he said.

The Taliban should consider a reduction in violence after the peace deal but contrary to the Afghans' desire, the Taliban have increased violence and conducted violent attacks all over the country within the past four months, Ghani noted.

"We have taken great steps in order to help the Taliban give up violence, release our prisoners and they should remain committed to direct peace talks.

They must observe humanitarian ceasefire to help us fight COVID-19 well, but regretfully, violence increased against the people of Afghanistan," Ghani said.

President Ghani added that the international consensus for ending war exists and the regional and neighboring countries' support for strong regional consensus would help Afghanistan to reach peace and stability.

Agencies

## CPC always puts people above everything else

AT the critical moment when China aims to secure a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eliminate poverty, the Communist Party of China (CPC) celebrated the 99th anniversary of its founding on July 1.

For a party that fights for the eternal wellbeing of the Chinese nation, the centenary only ushers in its prime of life.

With greater faith, conviction and confidence, all Party members are walking in a Long March of the new era, overcoming challenges with great courage and seizing every day to strive for great undertakings.

The sudden outbreak of COVID-19 is a special witnessed to the remarkable

performance of the CPC. Facing the epidemic, China has waged a resolute and all-out people's war against the virus. Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core, the Chinese people have made major strategic achievements in their response to the virus through concerted efforts and tremendous sacrifice.

Such great practice spoke volumes for the marked political advantages of the CPC's leadership and China's socialist system, and the Party's lofty philosophy of serving the people at all costs. It also

showed the political character of the communists who stay true to the Party's founding mission and have the courage to shoulder responsibilities. Besides, it demonstrated the monumental force unleashed when the Party and all Chinese people were united, and revealed that the CPC, a large party, has always been vital during its near century-long journey.

Facing the storms in the course of China's revolution, construction and reform, the CPC remains unchanged in its original aspiration and mission to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation

for the Chinese nation.

Rather than seeking political interests of its own, the Party always gives top priority to the interests of the people. This is what distinguishes the CPC, a Marxist political party, from other political parties.

Since its founding, the CPC, relying closely on the Chinese people, has surmounted numerous obstacles and accomplished monumental achievements that have gone down in the history of the Chinese nation. It has helped China realize a tremendous transformation: the country has stood up, grown rich and is

becoming stronger.

The CPC has braved thorny paths over the past 99 years and completed an extraordinary journey with unremitting endeavors.

It is the people that have given life and prosperity to the Party, and the people are the Party's foundation, lifeblood and strength, enabling it to move forward against all risks and challenges, from one victory to another.

"Only by remaining true to our original aspiration, keeping our mission firmly in mind, and keeping on striving, could the

Party stay young and live," said Xi, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

Some moments are always vital for the development of history. For China, the year 2020 is characterized by standing at the conjunction point of the two centenary goals.

Having withstood the test of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Chinese people are making the final push for attaining the first centenary goal - the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, an aspiration of the Chinese nation throughout centuries. This will be a milestone in the process of realizing national rejuvenation.

People's Daily





China's national flag and the flag of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on the Golden Bauhinia Square in Hong Kong (Photo by People's Daily Online)

## Landslide support for HK law at UNHRC

A TOTAL of 53 countries supported China's national security law for Hong Kong at the 44th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva recently, triumphing over 27 members that attacked and called for harsh measures against China over issues involving Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet.

The landslide victory was seen by experts as showing that China's achievements in human rights have won more supporters and become known by wider audiences.

The double standards of some Western countries that tried to politicize the UNHRC and to use human rights-related issues as weapons to attack China, brought themselves more criticism within the international community.

On behalf of 53 countries, Cuba made a joint statement in Geneva recently, expressing support for China's passing the national security law for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The representative from Cuba said that not interfering with a sovereign state's internal affairs is the basic principle of the UN Charter and the international order. The National Security Law for Hong Kong is China's legitimate power. This is not a question about human rights and it should not be discussed at the human rights council, the Cuban representative said.

The Cuban representative stressed that every country has the right to safeguard its national security via legislative means, and enact measures based on such a purpose. Cuba welcomes the passing of the national security law for Hong Kong, stressing it sticks to the "one country, two systems" principle.

The person said the move is beneficial for Hong Kong's long-term prosperity, and it guarantees that Hong Kong residents can better exercise their legal rights and freedoms in a safe environment.

Cuba said that Hong Kong is an inseparable part of China, and Hong Kong's affairs are China's internal affairs, and this should allow no interference from the outside. It also urged relevant parties to stop using Hong Kong to meddle in China's internal affairs.

Meanwhile, UK's Ambassador to the WTO and UN in Geneva Julian Braithwaite delivered a cross-regional joint statement on behalf of 27 countries at the session.

Braithwaite urged the Chinese governments to "reconsider the imposition of this legislation and to engage Hong Kong's people, institutions and judiciary to prevent further erosion of the rights and freedoms that the people of Hong Kong have enjoyed for many years."

Global Times

## Malawi new president pledges accountability, calls for rebuilding country

LILONGWE

MALAWI new president, Lazarus Chakwera was inaugurated Monday with a pledge for accountable leadership and a challenge to all Malawians to stand up and join in rebuilding the country.

Chakwera (pictured) was inaugurated at Malawi Defense Force Headquarters, Kamuzu Barracks, in Lilongwe, before a sizeable audience strictly admitted in with total adherence to COVID-19 preventive measures.

He said Malawi requires rebuilding "from the rubble of corruption, passivism, laziness and donor dependency" among others.

"Today, I promise to give this coun-



try my best and do my best for you as your servant. More importantly, I promise to set a good example of submitting myself to the constitutional processes, provisions, and institutions that are designed to ensure that the President and Vice President are always at their best," said Chakwera.

He added that as required by law, he will make a full declaration of his assets each year and that he will go to the parliament to be questioned about his handling of state affairs.

The new Malawi leader further said he will propose legislation to reduce the powers of the presidency and empower institutions to operate independently, including the parliament and the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Chakwera also committed to meeting with the leader of opposition personally every three months to listen to alternative ways of running government affairs.

The president also stressed on the need for Malawians to commit themselves to hard work to rebuild the country.

Xinhua

## WHO reviews report on airborne spread of Covid-19

GENEVA / CHICAGO

THE World Health Organization (WHO) is reviewing a report urging it to update guidance on the novel coronavirus after more than 200 scientists, in a letter to the health agency, outlined evidence the virus can spread in tiny airborne particles.

The WHO says SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, spreads primarily through small droplets expelled from the nose and mouth of an infected person that quickly sink to the ground.

But in an open letter to the Geneva-based agency, published on Monday in the Clinical Infectious Diseases journal, 239 scientists in 32 countries outlined evidence that they say shows floating virus particles can infect people who breathe them in.

Because those smaller particles can linger in the air, the scientists are urging WHO to update its guidance.

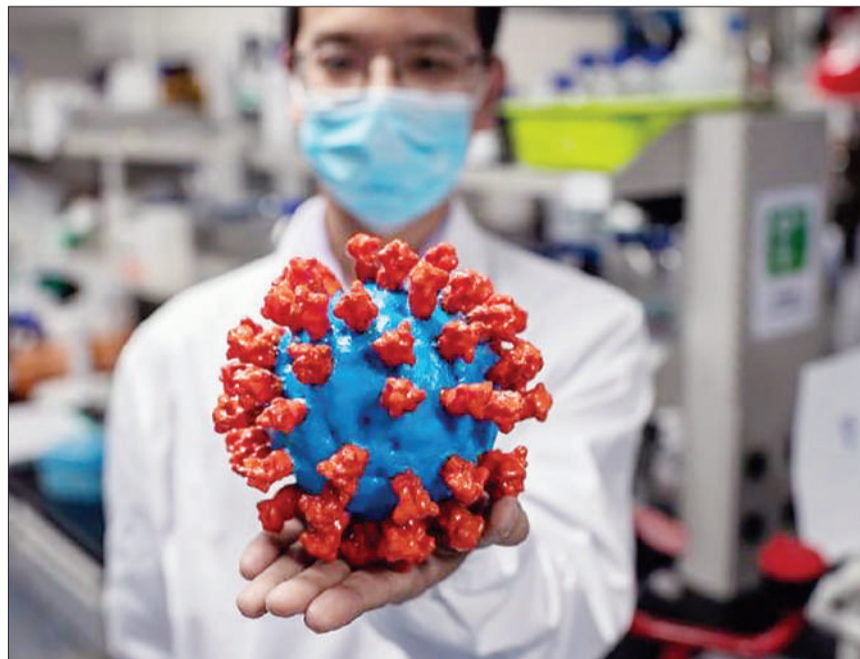
"We are aware of the article and are reviewing its contents with our technical experts," WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said on Monday in an email.

How frequently the coronavirus can spread by the airborne or aerosol route - as opposed to by larger droplets in coughs and sneezes - is not clear.

Any change in the WHO's assessment of risk of transmission could affect its current advice on keeping 1-metre (3.3 feet) of physical distancing. Governments, which rely on the agency for guidance policy, may also have to adjust public health measures aimed at curbing the spread of the virus.

Although the WHO has said it is considering aerosols as a possible route of transmission, it has yet to be convinced that the evidence warrants a change in guidance.

Dr. Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease expert at the University of Minnesota, said the WHO has long been reluctant to acknowledge aerosol transmission of influenza, "in spite of compelling data," and sees the cur-



In this picture taken on April 29, 2020, an engineer shows a plastic model of the COVID-19 coronavirus at the Quality Control Laboratory at the Sinovac Biotech facilities in Beijing. Sinovac Biotech, which is conducting one of the four clinical trials that have been authorised in China, has claimed great progress in its research and promising results among monkeys. (AFP)

rent controversy as part of that simmering debate.

"I think the frustration level has finally boiled over with regard to the role that airborne transmission plays in diseases like influenza and SARS-CoV-2," Osterholm said.

Professor Babak Javid, an infectious disease consultant at Cambridge University Hospitals, said airborne transmission of the virus is possible and even likely, but said evidence over how long the virus stays airborne is lacking.

If it can hang in the air for long periods of time, even after an infected person leaves that space, that could affect the measures healthcare workers and others take to protect themselves.

WHO guidance to health workers, dated June 29, says SARS-CoV-2 is primarily transmitted through respiratory droplets and on surfaces.

But airborne transmission is possible in some circumstances, such as when performing intubation and aerosol-generating procedures, the WHO

says. They advise medical workers performing such procedures to wear heavy duty N95 respiratory masks and other protective equipment in an adequately ventilated room.

Dr William Hanage, an epidemiologist at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, said the report under review at the WHO "makes many reasonable points about the evidence that this mode of transmission can happen, and they should be taken seriously."

But how often airborne transmission happens, which is unknown, also matters.

"If airborne transmission is possible but rare, then eliminating it wouldn't have a huge impact," he said in emailed comments.

Officials at South Korea's Centers for Disease Control said on Monday they were continuing to discuss various issues about COVID-19, including the possibility of airborne transmission. They said more investigations and evidence were needed. **Agencies**

## World to miss 2020 targets against AIDS due to unequal progress, COVID-19 - report

GENEVA

THE global HIV targets for 2020 will not be reached due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the highly unequal pace between countries, said a UNAIDS report released on Monday.

Missed targets have resulted in 3.5 million more HIV infections and 820,000 more AIDS-related deaths since 2015 than if the world was on track to meet the 2020 targets, according to the "Global AIDS Update 2020-Seizing the Moment."

In 2019, 1.7 million people acquired

HIV, and 690,000 died of AIDS-related illnesses. Globally 38 million people were living with HIV, said the report.

In 2016, UN member states endorsed the target of reducing both AIDS-related death and new HIV infections to fewer than 500,000 by 2020.

The latest data, however, showed that the global response is coming up short, and the 2020 goal will be missed.

The report said that different regions are progressing unevenly. For example, the number of newly-infected people has reduced by 38 percent

in eastern and southern Africa since 2010.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in stark contrast, has seen a 72 percent increase in new HIV infections in the past 10 years.

Similarly, new HIV infections have risen by 22 percent in the Middle East and North Africa, and by 21 percent in Latin America.

"Saving lives of COVID-19 should not come at the expense of lives from other threats," the report urged, as the COVID-19 pandemic has severely disrupted the AIDS response.

Xinhua

## Other countries may leave Open Skies Treaty after US, says diplomat

MOSCOW

THE Russian Foreign Ministry does not rule out that other countries can exit the Treaty on Open Skies after the United States withdraws from it, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told TASS.

"The more substantive question is: what will happen to the treaty itself [after the US withdraws from it]? That depends on several factors. To begin with, will some other countries follow in the United States' footsteps?"

Secondly, will we be provided guarantees of non-transfer by the United States' allies in the treaty of the data that these allies collect during flights over our territory as part of Open Skies missions? We need solid guarantees of that," he said.

On May 21, US President Donald Trump declared Washington's intention to quit the Treaty on Open Skies, which enables the signatories to perform flights over each other's territory to monitor military activity.

US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo explained in a written statement that this decision would take effect in six months' time after May 22. The US claimed that Russia's alleged violations of the agreement were the reason. Moscow rejected these accusations, saying that it is committed to the treaty and put forward counterclaims.

A conference of the signatories to the Treaty on Open Skies devoted to the United States' pullout from it will be held on July 6. The participants will discuss the prospects of that international agreement after the United States' statement on its plans to withdraw from the treaty.

## Decision to quit Open Skies Treaty

Russia is absolutely sure that the United States will not change its decision to withdraw from the Treaty on Open Skies despite the conference on the issue scheduled to be held on July 6 and other events, Sergei Ryabkov told TASS on Saturday.

"We are absolutely sure that, in spite of any events due to be held before November 22, which include a special conference scheduled to be held on Monday, a regular review conference on the accord due in early October and meetings of the Open Skies Consultative Commission in Vienna at the level of the delegations of the permanent missions, Washington will not deviate from the decision to leave the treaty," he said.

According to Ryabkov, the problem is "the United States systematically quits international arms control agreements and destroys the entire architecture in this area."

"The withdrawal from the Treaty on Open Skies is just one of the elements of that policy. Accordingly, everything will be brought to the logical conclusion, and the United States will not be a signatory to the treaty on November 23," he said.

## Exerting all efforts to salvage Open Skies Treaty

Western countries should make every effort to ensure the viability of the Treaty on Open Skies, said Sergei Ryabkov.

"We do not rule out any options for ourselves," he said. "We will make it abundantly clear to our colleagues on Monday [at an online conference on the Open Skies Treaty] so that they have no illusions." **Agencies**

## NZ police warned of another threat before Christchurch massacre

WELLINGTON

NEW ZEALAND police and security services were warned of a threat against another mosque for the same day that a gunman killed 51 Muslim worshippers in Christchurch in 2019, an Islamic women's group told an inquiry into the shooting massacre.

The Islamic Women's Council of New Zealand said it warned police and security services repeatedly about threats from white supremacists, including when they received a Facebook message threatening to burn

the Quran outside a mosque in Hamilton on March 15, 2019, the same day as the Christchurch attack.

Although the threat was not directly connected to the mass shooting, extra security measures could have been taken at all mosques, said the submission to the closed-door inquiry which was made public on Tuesday.

"The police had enough intelligence to warrant a coordinated national strategy," the group said in the 130-page submission

"If there had been such a

strategy, then the message would have alerted every mosque in the country to a threat to one mosque on Friday 15 March 2019 and for all mosques to take extra security measures. Whether or not the threat was connected to the Christchurch killer is irrelevant."

Armed with semi-automatic weapons, Australian Brenton Tarrant, a suspected white supremacist, attacked two mosques in Christchurch on March 15, 2019, broadcasting New Zealand's worst mass shooting live on Facebook.

Tarrant has pleaded guilty and a court will begin his sentencing on Aug 24.

The Islamic Women's Council submission said police, security services and government representatives were focused only on combating terrorism by Muslim extremists, leaving the community vulnerable to the rising alt-right movement.

"Evidence indicates that public sector employees were, at best, asleep on the job and, at worst, intentionally ignoring our pleas and actively undermining our work," Aliya Dan-

zein, who leads the group's government engagement, said in a statement.

Police said no comment would be made until the Royal Commission had concluded. However, on the specific threat in the report it said the person was identified and formally warned.

A government spokesman said the government will wait for the Commission's report before making any comment.

The Royal Commission inquiry into the shooting massacre is due report its finding by end of July.

Threats to the Muslim community have continued since the attack, with a threatening social media post appearing earlier this year.

New Zealand, unlike the United States or Britain, has never recorded specific hate crime offences, raising questions about what signs security agencies may have missed.

Islamic Women's Council estimates there would not be a Muslim woman in New Zealand who wears the head scarf who has not been abused in public at some time.



**Evidence indicates that public sector employees were, at best, asleep on the job and, at worst, intentionally ignoring our pleas and actively undermining our work**

The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT



In this June 3, 2012, file photo, Jack Nicklaus, left, talks with Tiger Woods after Woods won the Memorial golf tournament at the Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio. The PGA Tour has a deal that would bring a one-time event to Muirfield Village a week before the Memorial, giving it tournaments in consecutive weeks. (AP Photo)

## PGA calls off plan for fans at Memorial over virus fears

MIAMI

SPECTATORS will not be allowed at next week's Memorial tournament, the US PGA Tour announced Monday, citing concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic that is spiking near the host course.

Since returning last month, the tour had aimed to have fans back at events at the Jack Nicklaus-hosted event in Muirfield Village at Dublin, Ohio.

But there were 968 cases of the deadly virus across the state of Ohio on Sunday, 42 more than the day before, and a state-high 248 of them were in Franklin County, the Columbus area where the PGA is staging events this week and next. Ohio's COVID-19 death toll reached 2,911 with 19 killed on Sunday.

"The Memorial tournament and the PGA Tour have made the right decision in not allowing spectators to attend this year," Ohio Governor Mike DeWine said.

"I know it was a difficult decision to make, but the organizers of the Memorial tournament have put the health and safety of players and fans first."

No timetable was given for when the PGA might eventually welcome spectators during tournaments.

"While this was a difficult decision, it was one made collectively, and we are appreciative of the process undertaken to this point that will allow us to welcome on-site fans when the time is right," US PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan said.

## Sports jumps on PPP bandwagon, but big leagues take a pass

NEW YORK

RAPPER Ice Cube, Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and longtime boxing promoter Bob Arum led a cavalcade of sports leagues, federations, businesses and teams that navigated a federal loan program designed to help small firms cope with the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Data released Monday showed hundreds of thousands of Paycheck Protection Program recipients across a wide range of industries, and sports-related businesses were well represented. However, none of the four major North American sports leagues – the NFL, NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball – were among the businesses that applied, according to the data.

Big 3 Basketball LLC, a Los Angeles-based 3-on-3 basketball league co-founded by Ice Cube, received \$16 million and returned \$700,000, Jeremy Watkins, a spokesman for the company, told The Associated Press. The remaining \$600,000 was used to pay coaches and players for this season and ensure the league could play its 2021 season, Watkins said.

At least four Major League Soccer teams tapped the PPP program, according to the data: D.C. United and Inter Miami were approved for loans in the \$1 million to \$2 million range, while Orlando City and the Seattle Sounders each applied for between \$2 million and \$5 million.

Because the federal government released loan amounts in ranges, it wasn't possible to tell exact amounts. The data showed businesses that

This week's Workday Charity Open was created and planned without fans at Muirfield Village as a tune-up for having fans back next week, but despite a "robust" health and safety plan by organizers and permission from state officials for limited attendance of 9,000 a day, the idea was scrapped in the wake of growing infection numbers in the area.

"We had a good plan in place," said 18-time major winner Nicklaus. "I could not be more proud of everyone who contributed to it. In the end, we have the responsibility to recognize the health and safety of the players and all who attend the Memorial tournament."

DeWine said last month fans could come to the Memorial under COVID-19 protocols allowing up to 20% maximum capacity with fans and essential staff, but warned the situation would be monitored and could change.

Six US PGA players have tested positive for coronavirus since the tour resumed competition last month -- Americans Chad Campbell, Harris English, Nick Watney, Cameron Champ and Denny McCarthy and South African Dylan Frittelli. Two caddies also tested positive.

The early move allows spectators who might have traveled to the event to know they will not be able to attend before they would have arrived for competition days.

Many top players have already arrived in order to play back-to-back weeks at the famed course.

applied for and received loans, though some may not ultimately have taken the funds.

The National Women's Soccer League, which made headlines last weekend after a majority of players in the Challenge Cup tournament took a knee during the national anthem, applied for and received between \$1 million and \$2 million and reported that the money was used to support 213 employees.

An AP survey completed in May found 32 U.S. Olympic sports organizations – about 70% of all federations – had applied for PPP loans. Among those listed in the government's data drop were the U.S. Figure Skating Association and USA Softball, which did not respond to the survey.

The requests for federal money shredded the long-held and distinctly American tradition of not relying on taxpayers to fund the pursuit of Olympic medals. But as one official explained at the time, "The sports organizations we work with closely are feeling revenue pain. And it's immediate."

Under the PPP, Congress created \$659 billion in low-interest loans that will be forgiven if employers use the money on payroll, rent and similar expenses. With about \$130 billion unclaimed as the application deadline closed June 30, Congress extended the program until Aug. 8.

The public may never know the identity of more than 80% of the nearly 5 million beneficiaries to date because the Trump administration has refused to release details on loans under \$150,000. That secrecy spurred a lawsuit by news organizations including The Associated Press.

## To survive in stage show niche, youths must avoid troupes mode

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

WITH educational certificates being replaced with skills as the way to enter the job market, or other paying attachments of one kind or another, an interesting area to see how youths can make it in their endeavours is music. The matter came to mind over the weekend when watching a fairly big number of youths (in terms of what an entertainment joint may possibly need for a stage show sort of engagement) 'doing their thing' at a pub with rather limited space within the vicinity of Sinza suburb in Dar es Salaam. They were a rather hard working lot, but it was doubtful if there was a propitious environment for the job.

In that specific joint, the dancing troupe occupied the main hall, which usually has 'patrons' avoiding the scattered mosquito bites on the outside perimeter as the bar lounge is fairly airy and not quite distinctive from sitting outside. The control post for the troupe, where the playing numbers and sound balancing equipment was placed had to take one of the guest corners or rather those to it, which was fair enough, but occupying most of the limited lounge space may have inconvenienced a few customers. They were also inconvenienced in having to jostle for space with gambling machine players, maids picking orders, etc.

It was clear that the troupe size wasn't appropriate for that joint, and even half of them would still have been a few too many, and in addition, just too many of them were boys and a scatter of girls. There is no doubt that if one is thinking of those who frequent bars, the girls doing their thing could be somewhat exciting from a skills angle and even admiration, while the converse is unlikely, as even the skill goes more or less unnoticed with male patrons. Women patrons appreciate boys' skills more but are fewer.

Listening to what the bar manager had to say about the 'invasion' of the place by a dancing troupe, he remarked that a nearby joint, one with far more space to spare for the



Waluguru Original Music Band's artistes in action during the troupe's recent show which took place in Morogoro. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

skills and movements of the youths was making a 'killing' in selling beer owing to their presence. It wasn't clear if the trick could work for the manager explaining how his colleagues were succeeding, as there are other factors, for instance the other bar is positioned on a busy road and busier area for instance in relation to food vendors, etc. What was rather evident was that the space this bar had to offer was limited, and earnings would be low as well.

That observation leads to one rule, that any bar can have youths performing music to attract patrons and many remain loyal to their new outing spots, but one bar can't just imitate what another bar is doing. In that sense, each bar has to look around what sort of space it has and ability to attract patrons even with a dance group around, in which case it figures out how many such performers it can accommodate, but for the space and likely earnings. In the weekend case at issue none of these aspects were optimal in the least.

What is incumbent on bars is also an operational rule for such artistes or those

who sponsor them, seeing them through their first paces as performers and then seeking out niches of that sort for them to start picking coins in a regular manner. It enables them release their playful energies in a way that boosts their egos, self-esteem if the old psychology term is often maligned, and definitely helps to keep them out of crime or misdemeanor if they can earn a coin or two, and an appreciation from neighbors, and at times obtain beneficial acquaintances via those motions. But then the design, how the coat is cut, must be appropriate.

There was something a bit traditional in the way in which that group was organized, having anywhere up to 20 people that could be seen dancing, and other handlers besides in which case the space around the lounge and the gambling spot, and even the immediate outside space used by patrons was all filled by the special guests.

Predictably they could buy few drinks on their own, and some collective large 'konyagi' drink (or two) had been placed for their use, but the going was a little hardy, and drawing empathy for anyone

who cared. There was an element of wishing that those patronizing the place reach out to them, but scarcely did such moment arrive, even if one wasn't there for more than one hour or slightly beyond.

If music performance is to take shape and be accommodated in bars, efforts must be made to cut out the numbers so that one has casual performance, say a couple of girls and a musical apparatus companion as that is a different sort of skill. If they need one other dancer or even two more that would be up to them to get organized, as similar to any petty trade, the personality part is important as the contracts, earnings are skimpy. Critics or activists can't say there is discrimination against boys since as they say, life is like that.

## LeBron's quest for fourth ring may be now or never

NEW YORK

THE Los Angeles Lakers exceeded expectations through the first 63 games of the regular season. It did not hurt that journeyman coach Frank Vogel wrested production and chemistry from first-time general manager Rob Pelinka's ragtag collection of supporting cast members, but as it turns out all they really needed was LeBron James and Anthony Davis playing like superstars to be a championship contender.

It seems obvious in retrospect that the Lakers would enter the playoffs as the Western Conference's No. 1 seed, but there were no guarantees any of this would work so seamlessly. All of which puts enormous pressure on them to maximize this campaign, because it may well be LeBron's last best chance at a title.

James will turn 36 years old later this year, two years older than Michael Jordan was at the start of his "Last Dance" season. Including the playoffs, James is approaching 60,000 career minutes, a figure only eclipsed by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Karl Malone in NBA history. Granted, James is still playing at an MVP level, but each new season carries with it less assurance of his sustained performance and health.

James was one of 27 players who exceeded 2,000 minutes through the first three quarters of this season. Given how much exertion it took to lift the Lakers into the top seed, it was already going to take a historic effort to maintain that pace through four playoff rounds. What are the odds he can carry that forward throughout another season, especially one that is slated to start so soon after this one ends?

One of the few benefits from the NBA's extended break is the opportunity to see a fully rested LeBron James in the playoffs. Barring major injury, there is little chance James ever gets another five months free from high-pressure basketball to revitalize his body in preparation for the playoffs. (Never mind the fact James was coming off his first playoff-less summer in



Anthony Davis and LeBron James will enter the playoffs as a No. 1 seed in their first season together. (Agencies)

15 years.) If ever an aging superstar were to beat Father Time in the Finals, it would be him now, so long as the NBA keeps the health threat of COVID-19 at bay.

The best argument that the Lakers can continue contending to this degree next season, when James will be in the third of a four-year contract that features a player option for 2021-22, is that they also boast a 27-year-old Anthony Davis. The seven-time All-Star is a transcendent star who should be capable of headlining a title team, even if he only had one playoff series win to his name before joining James in L.A.

There has been no indication Davis plans to leave in free agency, even if he batted eyes at his hometown Chicago Bulls earlier this season, so L.A. should have another legendary big man locked up longterm once his max contract offer hits the bargaining table in mid-October. Whether Davis will be as durable as Lakers predecessors Shaquille O'Neal and Abdul-Jabbar were in L.A. before him is another question.

This was only the third time in his eight-year career Davis played more than 85 percent of his team's games, and even this season he has missed time with shoulder, ankle, back and knee ailments. He too is presumably rested and healthy entering the stretch run. If you are banking on the Lakers enjoying similar championship

chances next year, you are also banking on both James and Davis being 100 percent.

Even assuming good health, there is also no guarantee this works so seamlessly again. Half of the Lakers' expected playoff roster can leave after this season, including veteran rotation players Dwight Howard, Rajon Rondo, JaVale McGee and Markieff Morris. We will see how much the Lakers miss Avery Bradley, a starter who opted out of the season's restart and will also be a free agent at season's end.

Sure, Pelinka can piece together another hodgepodge of players wanting to play with James on a title contender, but who knows if Vogel can replicate this chemistry experiment. There is no question this year's Lakers developed a deep bond in the wake of Kobe Bryant's death and their experience in China.

Almost the entirety of the Lakers' salary cap next season will be tied up in James, Davis, Danny Green and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, the latter two of whom Pelinka signed into cap space when his bid to lure Kawhi Leonard failed. That means the second-year front-office shot-caller will fill out his roster with salary cap exceptions and minimum contracts in a barren free-agent market. Even if they run the same roster back, Green, Caldwell-Pope and Bradley – the team's three most prolific

3-point shooters not named LeBron – are high-variance players who all hit at high marks from distance together this year.

The Lakers have no trade assets and almost no opportunity for development. Established veterans, many of whom are in decline, make up much of the rotation. Counting on a leap from Kyle Kuzma, Alex Caruso and/or Talen Horton-Tucker significant enough to improve their title chances is a fool's errand.

Kuzma had little value on the trade market this season, and should have even less next year, when he can command a raise in 2021 restricted free agency. He is the only Lakers first-round pick on the roster, and he came in a trade that cost them former No. 2 overall pick and 2019 All-Star D'Angelo Russell.

Their four first-round picks since were all dealt in the Davis trade, and they cannot deal another first-round pick until 2026. They do have the 29th pick in this year's draft. Horton-Tucker is the only other Lakers draft pick of any kind on the roster, and they do not have a second-rounder to trade until 2023.

In essence, the Lakers need James and Davis to repeat as First Team All-NBA forces next season, while everyone around them performs at the same high level that set them on a 64-win pace this season, all without serious injury, to enter the playoffs with a comparable shot at the 2021 title. And if they fail on their championship quest in Orlando, their best chance to upgrade comes with a mid-level exception.

In other words, yes, this is LeBron James' last best chance to win a fourth ring in his prime.

(Agencies)

## Mourinho delighted by Lloris-Son clash during Tottenham win

LONDON

WHEN Tottenham captain Hugo Lloris confronted Son Heung-min on the field at halftime, Jose Mourinho was far from annoyed.

The manager renowned for his own flashpoints and volatility was delighted to see tensions between teammates erupting in public view.

"It was beautiful," he said. "Probably it's a consequence of our meetings."

Angered by the timidity of a 3-1 loss at Sheffield United in the previous English Premier League round, Mourinho saw the passion he wanted as Tottenham this time secured a 1-0 victory over Everton on Monday.

Just before the break, with Tottenham leading, Son lost the ball which led to Richarlison having a chance to equalize but striking wide of Lloris' post.

"I think to concede a chance a few seconds before halftime because we don't make the pressing properly," Lloris said, "that annoys me but it's part of football. Move on."

Only, Lloris didn't when the whistle blew for halftime, shouting as he raced over to Son. Giovanni Lo Celso and Harry Winks intervened to split the clashing teammates before they headed into the dressing room.

Son had created the goal in the 24th minute. The South Korea forward knocked the ball forward to Harry Kane who squared for Lo Celso to strike on the turn and Everton defender Michael Keane deflected the ball into his own net.

"An amazing kid that everyone loves like Sonny, a team boy," Mourinho said. "But in that situation the captain thought the last minute of the first half you have to do more for the team. You have to give a different effort than you give. A couple of bad

AP

## Ribery's Fiorentina future in doubt after burglary

MILAN

FRANCK Ribery has said he could reconsider his future in Italy after his house was burgled on Sunday afternoon while he was playing for Fiorentina at Parma.

The 37-year-old former Bayern Munich and France winger posted a long message on social media alongside a video showing his house ransacked with drawers and clothes on the floor of one of the bedrooms.

In his message, Ribery, who joined Fiorentina last summer after leaving Munich, where his wife and their five children were staying at the weekend, explained his distress.

"What shocks me the most is the impression to be naked, to have my trousers down and that I can't let go," he said on Instagram. "I can't accept it. Thank God, my wife and my children were safe in Munich but how can I have trust now? How can I/we feel good here after this?"

"I don't run after the millions, thank God, we don't need anything.

(Agencies)

## World Cup 2022 organisers to cut staff - sources

DOHA

THE organisers of the 2022 World Cup will lay off an undisclosed number of staff as gas-rich Qatar cuts costs amid the coronavirus economic downturn, several sources have told AFP.

The job losses, which have not previously been reported, follow similar redundancies at state-run organisations including Qatar Petroleum and Qatar Airways.

The government body organising the tournament, known as the Supreme Committee, directly employs 550 people - both Qataris and expats - but oversees the work of tens of thousands of contractors.

"The Supreme Committee has recently undertaken an internal exercise to assess the current workforce and engaged in a budget management and operational efficiency exercise as part of this transition," the organisation said in a statement to AFP Monday.

The 2022 organisers did not con-

words but I think it's something very important for the team to grow up."

In the dressing room, Mourinho told them: "I have no doubt you will stick together until the end."

That they did. Tottenham moved up to eighth place with its second victory from the four games since the league resumed after a three-month suspension.

But it's not only the hopes of returning to the Champions League that are in the balance for Spurs. Even qualifying for the Europa League is uncertain with five games remaining.

"If you want to blame someone for that it is me," Mourinho said. "I was critical of my boys because they are not enough critical of themselves (in Sheffield) ... I ask them to demand more from each other. That pressure to give for everyone."

Mourinho was hired in November to rescue the season after Mauricio Pochettino was fired with a team that reached the 2019 Champions League final in 14th place.

"When you play a season like this one it is very easy to fall apart as a team," Mourinho said. "Today we showed we are still together and ready to compete and ready to fight until the end."

At the end of the game, Lloris and Son embraced on the pitch - despite the need for social distancing to be maintained due to the coronavirus pandemic which means no fans are allowed into games.

"What happened between me and Sonny is just something that is part of football sometimes," Lloris said. "But there is no problem at all. You can see at the end of the game we are more than happy to be part of the team and to have these three points."

However, I still run after the football because it is my passion. But passion or not, my family is first and we will take the necessary decisions for our well-being," he added.

Some expensive designer bags and some jewellery as well as some cash were stolen in the raid, Ribery said. Ribery's wife, Wahiba Ribery, posted her thoughts on social media, saying that she was fearful following the break in.

"If you knew how much I love Florence, this city which welcomed us so warmly. I love all the persons we met since we arrived here. But I am hurt as a woman, as a wife and as a mother," she wrote.

"It is true, we are not the first or the last to go through something like this but I have the right to be scared and sad. What would have happened had we been in the house? I have learned a good lesson from all of this: the human being can really be bad and we can only turn to the Sky."

MADRID

"BARCELONA haven't thrown in the towel", read the front page of Mundo Deportivo after a night that offered hope to the team and a lifeline for their coach Quique Setien.

Setien has been in charge for only three months of competitive football but looked likely to be out in the cold by next season, following Tuesday's draw away at Atletico Madrid.

Three draws in four games, deteriorating performances and unrest in the dressing room were all stacking up against Barca's new coach but the loudest alarm bell of all was rung by his captain.

Frustrated with the lack of direction at the club, Lionel Messi halted talks about extending his contract beyond 2021 and his current plan is now to leave, said Spanish radio station Cadena Ser.

Messi's principle grievance is not with Setien but Barcelona's board who, under president Josep Maria Bartomeu, have overseen a string of political blunders off the pitch and a period of decline on it.

With presidential elections to come next year, Messi's hesitation may be aimed at undermining this regime to accelerate change, but Setien was undoubtedly caught in the crossfire.

Amid the chaos at Barcelona, he has increasingly looked like a bystander, "a passenger" according to Antoine Griezmann's father, demonstrated all too literally by his lack of influence in teamtalks.

Messi ignored him and his number two Eder Sarabia during one water break and the contrast was unfortunate against Atletico, whose players huddled round, hanging on the every word of their coach Diego Simeone.

And yet the 4-1 victory over Villarreal on Sunday gave a glimpse of what this Barca could look like under Setien and what presumably the board were hoping for when they appointed him in January.

Free-flowing, dynamic, confident, it was the team's best performance under Setien and perhaps their most complete all season.

Some complaints were answered too as Griezmann started, played well, scored a sensational chip and combined instinctively with Luis Suarez and Messi.

The passing was quicker and the chances more regular, a welcome improvement after a series of plodding displays in which possession too often came at the expense of end product.



Quique Setien is under pressure despite being appointed Barcelona coach in January. (AFP Photo)

And Setien was bold, dropping Messi back into a more central attacking position behind Griezmann and Suarez, who was then taken off after an hour with the result still not yet secure.

It was a morale-boosting win that will surely come too late for Barca's title bid given Madrid's four-point lead and a friendly looking run-in.

But it might renew some faith in Setien, from Bartomeu, who visited his house for discussions last week, and from Messi, whose approval is the one that really counts.

Removing Setien this summer would be another admission of failure for Barca, who would have to pay compensation they cannot afford and find a replacement for a job that might prove difficult to promote.

This is a squad that needs renovating at a time when funds are no longer readily available while the prospect of presidential change next year would offer a new coach little long-term security.

Xavi Hernandez is waiting in the wings, with his new Al-Saad contract reportedly containing a break clause that allows him

to join his former club at any time. Setien, for another season at least, would be the easier option then but a failing team will not help Bartomeu and it will not bring comfort to Messi either.

At 33, every year for him is precious. Barcelona have four games left and then the Champions League next month, with the chance to resuscitate one of their most disappointing seasons in recent memory. Setien's future depends on it.

AFP

## Tension mounts in Premier League relegation battle

LONDON

TENSION is mounting at the bottom of the Premier League as the fight to avoid relegation heads towards a dramatic conclusion.

With just five games left, rock bottom Norwich are seven points from safety and are sliding towards the Championship.

Bournemouth and Aston Villa, who currently fill the remaining two places in the relegation zone, are locked in a four-team battle for survival with fellow strugglers Watford and West Ham.

AFP Sport takes a closer look at the teams scrapping to preserve their top-flight status:

### Bournemouth

Thrashed 5-2 at Manchester United on Saturday, Eddie Howe's side are in free-fall after an eight-game winless run featuring five successive defeats.

The second bottom Cherries, one point from safety, face Tottenham, Leicester and Manchester City in their next three games.

That sequence that will surely determine whether Bournemouth can extend their five-season stay in the top-flight for another year.

Bournemouth's lack of goals has been a huge part of their downfall, with the starting line-up at Old Trafford managing just eight between them so far this season.

"Games are running out. If we're going to stay in the division, we're going to have to start picking up points," Bournemouth winger Junior Stanislas said.

"We'll have no excuses. We can't keep talking. It's time for action.

"There's no reason why from now until the end of the season we can't pick points up."

### Aston Villa

A wretched run of nine matches without a win has left third bottom Villa one point from safety.

Dubious pre-season investment in several underwhelming signings have left Villa relying on captain Jack Grealish to inspire their survival bid.

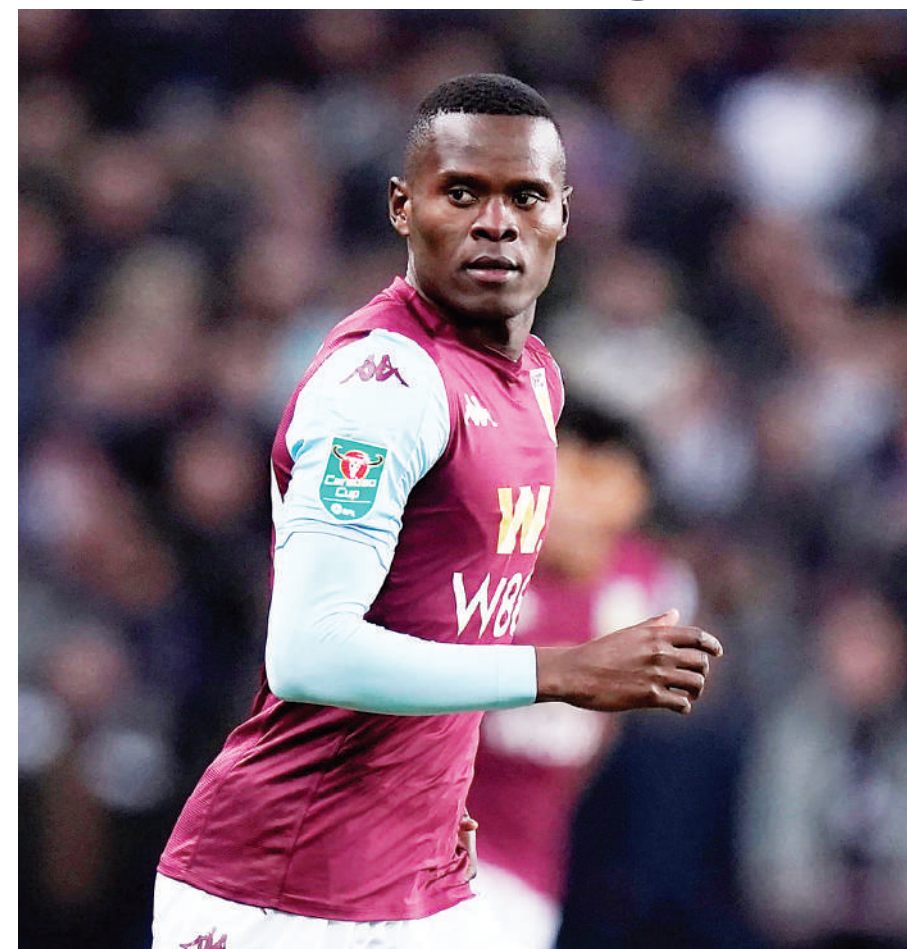
But Dean Smith's side have lost three of their five games since the restart and still have to face Manchester United and Arsenal before a potential final-day shootout with West Ham.

They could count themselves unfortunate not to have secured what would have been a point at Anfield in Sunday's 2-0 defeat against champions Liverpool.

That obdurate display offered hope that Villa could still avoid an immediate return to the Championship, but Smith knows they will have to be more ruthless to achieve that aim.

"I don't want to be a valiant loser, we're scrapping for points," Smith said.

"To out-shoot Liverpool at home at Anfield, in terms of efforts on goal, it's excellent, but we need to take



Mbwana Samatta

our opportunities. We never found the quality in the final third they did."

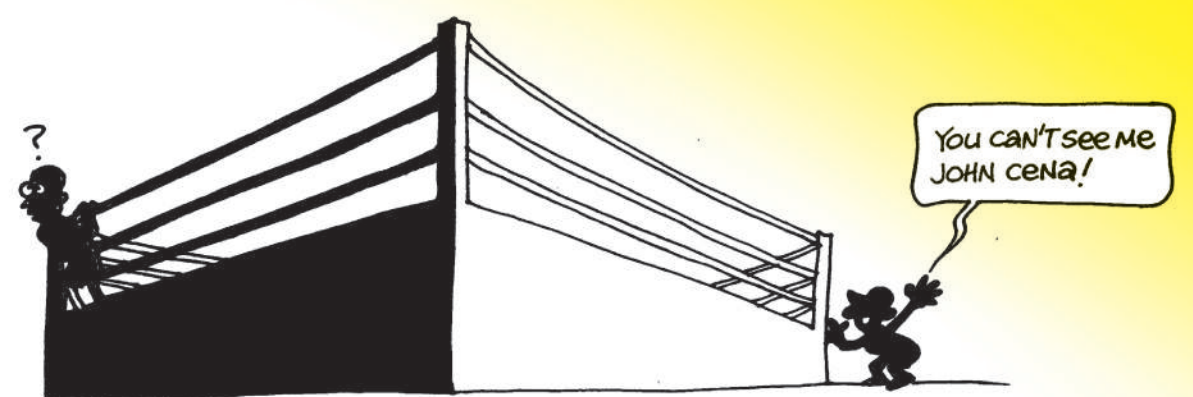
### Watford

Saturday's 3-0 drubbing at Chelsea con-

demned Watford to a third consecutive loss, leaving them perilously positioned one point above the bottom three.

Nigel Pearson's fourth bottom team have not won just their stunning 3-0 success

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Barca wake from slumber to give glimmer of hope to Setien

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Senior national men's soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals, which are set to be played early next year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Coastal Union yet to post win since VPL restart

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

TANGA'S Coastal Union have yet to come out victorious in any of the outfit's outings in the Vodacom Premier League, since the top flight's restart on June 13.

Sports activities were suspended for almost three months, a per directives by the government, with a view to containing the coronavirus disease outbreak.

The Tanga club had, since commanding a 2-0 victory over Lipuli FC in the top flight duel, which took place on March 10 this year, taken part in five outings without claiming a win.

The squad has recorded draw in two games and suffered loss in three outings.

Coastal Union, on Monday, went down 3-1 to Mbeya City FC at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya and the former, as a result, stretched their less impressive spell from the day the league resumed.

Coastal Union's head coach, Juma Mgunda (pictured), admitted his squad has not performed well from the day the league resumed but was adamant he will slowly rectify the weaknesses.

"Looking at an encounter with Mbeya City FC, we succumbed to the loss because of repeated defensive mistakes, we were duly punished," he stated.

A section of football fanatics in Tanga are, nevertheless, claiming the side hardly performs well now given the players are confident the squad will not face a drop to First Division League (FDL).

There are some of the supporters who claim the outfit's below par showing has been caused by failure by a section of the squad's players to give their all, given they are now linked with a move to other top flight sides.

The players include defender, Bakari Mwanjyeto, and midfielder Issa Abushehe.

After the top flight resumption, Coastal Union settled for 2-2 draw with Namungo FC on June 13. Coastal Union thereafter managed a 0-0 draw with Mibwa Sugar on June 20 and the former later lost 1-0 to Mbaio FC on June 23.

Coastal Union went on to lose 1-0 to Alliance FC four days later, prior to conceding the 3-1 loss to Mbeya City FC on Monday.



Aces Club's cricketers (L-R) Kibwana Salum, Salum Jembe and Nassib Kelvin, pictured before the squad's training session, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. Aces Club has entered two teams in this season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML), namely Aces A and Aces B. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACES CLUB

## Aces B cricketers hammer GP B squad in Kazim Nasser League

By Guardian Reporter

ACES B team cricketers have opened their campaign in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A1 in style as they hammered General Petroleum (GP) B side by four wickets in a clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)-organized league is held annually in memory of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Event and Tournament Manager, Kazim Nasser, who passed away in the city in 2015.

ACES B's resilience at the crease made the difference for the side, given they mounted a solid chase of GP B's score to eventually come out victorious.

ACES B won the toss and put GP B in to bat first in the duel, which took place at Leaders Club venue.

The GP B amassed 153 runs all out in 23.3 overs, thanks largely

to solid batting by top order batsman, Abdallah Jabir.

Jabir, to a great extent, helped the club stay within reach of an imposing total, nailing 55 runs which included eight boundaries.

The young batsman's displays came in handy for GP B following an early exit of openers, Sheraz Khan and Nasser Yattoo.

Khan and Yattoo could only manage nine runs and three runs respectively, with the former cracking two fours before dismissal, leaving their squad reeling at 24 runs after 3.2 overs.

The GP B's skipper, Maqsood Alam, did have a shot spell at the crease too, posting 16 runs which included three fours.

Zahid Naveed and Humayun Taj chipped in with 15 runs, which included a boundary and a six, and 13 runs which included a four.

Youngster Jaffary Kanyita put scintillating displays during Aces B's bowling spell, completing his

spell with a five-wicket haul and leaking 27 runs in 4.3 overs.

He was ably assisted by Waheed Mushtaq who finished his spell with two wickets and leaked 17 runs in three overs.

Jatin Prajapati, who took one wicket and leaked 17 runs in four overs, and Azim Thakur, who ended with a wicket and leaked 10 runs in one over, made matters worse for GP B.

ACES B later made confident chase of GP B's score, dropping six wickets in 24.2 overs.

Ejaz Aziz, who opened the innings, was in particular in scintillating form, as he almost single-handedly helped his squad get down to the successful chase.

Aziz scored 66 runs which included seven boundaries and two sixes to give Aces B the much-needed confidence at the crease.

Much as his impressive batting spell was brought to an end by Jabir, who run the former out, fellow opener Raza Imaam and top order batsman Azim Thakur

steered Aces B to the win.

Imaam scored 29 runs which included four fours, whilst Thakur posted 22 runs which consisted of three boundaries.

Quick dismissals of Hasnain Hyderi, skipper Shailesh Tripathi and Raj Jatan did little to frustrate Aces B's mission, given Kanyita, who notched two runs not out, and Ajith Shetty, who scored nine runs not out, made certain of the victory.

ACES B were already well within reach of the successful chase after Hyderi's dismissal given they were in need of 11 runs with seven overs and three balls left.

The GP B's spinner Tambwe Rashid ended his spell with two wickets, leaking 29 runs in six overs. The experienced bowlers' efforts, however, failed to prevent his outfit from succumbing to the loss.

The 30-over event is one of the league's three tiers. The Division A and Division B are the league's other competitions.

## Taifa Stars' players salute Dar company sponsorship

By Guardian Correspondent

SENIOR national men's soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players have expressed their gratitude to Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) for the company's sponsorship of the squad, through Serengeti Premium Lager brand.

The players disclosed that the financial backing has contributed immensely to the team's solid and consistent winning ways.

John Bocco, one of Taifa Stars' linchpins and a striker of outstanding repute, in an interview with The Guardian, said that the sponsorship had immensely led to the team's enviable achievement registered in recent years.

Through the support, Taifa Stars qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in 2019 after almost four decades of being on the limbo of continental soccer.

"It is undoubtedly through Serengeti Premium Lager sponsorship that we are registering a string of great performances, culminating to the return, last year, to this prestigious continental soccer show after a prolonged wait of 38 years," an elated Bocco said.

The player disclosed: "I believe that had it not been for the sponsorship that facilitated our adequate preparations, we would not have made it that far."

Serengeti Premium Lager became the official main sponsor of Taifa Stars in May 2017 when Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) inked a three-year, 2.1bn/- contract with SBL that saw the brewers' flagship brand assume the role of the main sponsor.

Bocco's sentiments were echoed by his fellow player, Frank Domayo, a prolific midfielder in the team, who acknowledged the spirit of patriotism that SBL had built among Tanzanian soccer lovers.

"The sponsorship has played a pivotal role in influencing Tanzanians to love and stand with their national team through media and outreach campaigns which also involved players," Domayo said.

The sponsorship, according to the midfielder, had enormously motivated the players by ensuring that all of their requirements were provided on time and their welfare was well-catered for.

"We have seen a real difference with current sponsors, SBL. We stay in good hotels when travelling and when in training camps. Our general welfare is also well looked after and as a result, we are very motivated and that's why our performance is improving," Domayo said.

The team's defender Erasto Nyoni noted that apart from the material support that the players received from SBL, the brewer went an extra mile by ensuring that the team is morally supported.

"Besides the financial support, the sponsor has always been with us in and out of the pitch. We have been receiving a lot of encouragement and this has motivated us to play ever harder," he said.

The senior national team's goalkeeper Metacha Mnata specifically appreciated the closeness that the sponsor has maintained with the team, attributing the team's good performance to the aspect.

"The sponsor has been with us in every step. The investment made to the national team is beyond the pitch. The sponsor has been very successful in bringing the nation together in support of their national team through very robust media campaigns," Mnata enthused.

**TONIGHT @ 7:00**

**EATV SAA 1**

**WEDNESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
13:30 Kaili Za Wana  
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Nirvana (r)  
16:00 Skonga (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

**EATV SAA 1**  
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

**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

I AM A VEGAN, NOT BECAUSE I LOVE ANIMALS. IT'S BECAUSE I HATE VEGETABLES. I EAT 'EM!

