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## LDCs to save \$12bn via 2020 debt relief

**NEW YORK**

THE world's poorest countries could save over \$12 billion owed to sovereign and other creditors this year by participating in a debt-relief program, with Angola alone saving \$3.4 billion, on the basis of estimates published in a database update at the World Bank.

The savings under the Covid-19-linked Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) will be short-term, since the initiative only provides for suspension of debt payments due up to the end of the year. It postpones those payments until a later date but does not cancel them outright.

The second-largest saver among eligible DSSI countries would be Pakistan with \$2.4 billion, followed by Kenya with \$802 million, the update indicates.

In terms of savings compared with gross domestic product, Bhutan would reap the most benefits from the plan with 7.3pc of GDP savings, followed by Angola at 3.7pc and Djibouti at 2.5pc.

Besides each country's estimated savings, the database includes details on debt owed to multilateral institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as

**“The United Nations, many African countries and civil society groups have called for the debt relief to be extended for two years**

well as public and private sector bilateral debt disbursed and debt service due per year.

IMF and World Bank officials have warned that the Covid-19 pandemic will hit developing and emerging markets particularly hard given high levels of debt, sharp drops in oil and other commodity prices and insufficient healthcare systems.

The DSSI is backed by the G-20, the World Bank, the IMF and the Paris Club of sovereign lenders. The database provides a new level of transparency about debts and creditors, including China, which has become one of the largest creditors in Africa and elsewhere over the past two decades.

The Jubilee Debt campaign has estimated the cancellation of poor countries' debt payments, including to private creditors, would free over \$25 billion for those countries this year, or \$50 billion if extended through 2021.

The United Nations, many African countries and civil society groups have called for debt relief to be extended for two years to allow countries to recover more fully from the economic shock of the pandemic.

# Zanzibar presidency: Chadema also in race



Jenista Mhagama (3rd-R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disability) looks on yesterday as residents of Kelema village seek to verify their Voter Registration status at a centre in Chemba District, Dodoma Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

**By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar**

THE race for the Zanzibar presidential candidacy took a further step forward as three Chadema cadres picked up forms to seek nomination.

Kado Salim, the opposition party's organisation director for Zanzibar, told journalists here yesterday that the three have submitted their credentials, declaring interest in contesting.

He said they are Chadema elders' council chairman Hashim Juma Issa, South Unguja Region party chairman Mohamed Ayoub Haji and the party's vice chairman for Zanzibar, Said Issa Mohamed.

Salim said the party's constitution requires cadres to begin by presenting their credentials to the secretary general declaring interest in the position before actually picking up the nomination forms, he said.

Chadema opened the doors to would-be aspirants to declare interest from June 6 to June 15.

CCM's Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed meanwhile also picked up the nomination forms yesterday, making a total of 15 ruling party aspirants for Zanzibar's top post.

Dr Mohamed, a former Zanzibar Finance and Planning minister, was presented with the forms by CCM's organisation secretary in

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## TPSF donates 2bn/- medical equipment

**By Guardian Reporter**

STAKEHOLDERS in the private sector have donated medical equipment valued at 2bn/- to the government.

The Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children received the supplies intended for use in various new health centres, as well as in aiding government efforts in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) chairperson Angelina Ngalula presented the items to the Chief Medical Officer (CMA), Prof Abel Mkubi at a ceremony in the city yesterday.

"We in the private sector recognize and support the efforts of the fifth phase government led by President John Magufuli. That is why we are in the frontline in contributing medical supplies for use in providing quality healthcare to the community," she stated.

She called upon business people to continue supporting the government as it contributes to the development of the private sector in its efforts to improve public services.

Huge strides have been made in the

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## UN Security Council poll reveals divisions in Africa

**JOHANNESBURG**

YOU can't have Africa Free Trade and not have a politically stable continent, which is why it was important for South Africa to ensure it got support for Kenya at the Security Council.

The United Nations Security Council elections are always highly contested and a lot of lobbying happens behind the scenes. Making deals between countries to secure a seat as a non-permanent member is never easy. You have to field your best diplomats to lobby other countries in support of the position of your country. This time around, Africa was divided over the bids by Kenya and Djibouti, despite the African Union position in

support of Kenya.

In the first round of voting both Kenya and Djibouti did not reach the required threshold to get a seat, which meant there needed to be a rerun, as Kenya got 113 votes and Djibouti split the votes by getting 78 votes. This election continues to show the divisions in the African continent.

At the same time, the debate on deeper reforms at the United Nation Security Council, including giving more countries a permanent seat, with veto powers, is still ongoing.

South Africa, as the outgoing non-permanent member for its second term, also holds the position of chairperson of the African Union and

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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





## TPSF donates 2bn/- medical equipment

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construction of infrastructure in the health sector, she pointed out.

The supplies donated by stakeholders in the private sector include mattresses, beds, surgical equipment, soap and cash that will be used in various health centres, she elaborated.

Receiving the items on behalf of Health Minister Umyy Mwalimu, Prof Mkubi thanked the private sector stakeholders for recognizing the importance of government efforts and contributing supplies and cash to the

Health Ministry.

"The fifth phase government has built 1,769 new health centres, hence the supplies are a significant contribution in running those centres, and we in the government appreciate this assistance," he said.

Dr Godwill Wanga, the Secretary of Tanzania Business Council (TNBC) thanked TPSF for assisting the health sector, urging them to contribute to other sectors that are also in dire need.

The private sector is a big development stakeholder, he added.

## Zanzibar presidency: Chadema also in race

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Zanzibar, Galous Nyimbo, at the party's Kisiwandui offices.

Addressing journalists shortly after picking up the forms, Dr Mohamed said his decision to vie for the nomination was based on "self-esteem" and his ability to lead Zanzibar residents as while also serving the party.

An outgoing member of the Zanzibar House Representatives for Donge constituency in North Unguja Region, Dr Mohamed said he would ensure justice for all the people of Zanzibar.

"I am vying for the nomination to contest because I am confident and capable of leading the nation (Zanzibar). I will work to harness the Zanzibar Revolution and protect the Tanganyika/Zanzibar Union since the two aspects are crucial in spearheading development," he said.

He commended CCM for "setting the stage for a democratic electoral process" by allowing interested members to pick up presidential candidacy nomination forms.

He praised outgoing Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein for "spearheading Zanzibar's development and successfully implementing the CCM election manifesto".

Dr Mohamed was in 2006 appointed Permanent Secretary in Zanzibar's Ministry of Elders, Empowerment, Youth, Women and Children.

In 2008, he was shifted to the Ministry of Agriculture in the same capacity, before being shifted to the office of the Second Vice President in 2010 where he was responsible for Union matters.

He supervised implementation of various projects, including the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) programme, which stakeholders say it has been successfully coordinated in Zanzibar.

Those who had picked up nomination forms for the Zanzibar presidential candidacy nomination until yesterday are Mbwana Bakari, Ali Karume, Mbwana Mwinzi Yahya, Omar Shehe, Muhammed Jafar, Muhammed Hija, Major Gen Issa Suleiman Nassor, former Zanzibar Chief Minister Shamsi Vuai Nahodha, Defence and National Service minister Dr Hussein Mwinzi, Water minister Prof Makame Mbarawa, Mwantumu Mussa Sultani, Haji Rashid Pandu, Dr Abdulhalim Mohammed Ali, former Zanzibar Electoral Commission chairman Jecha Salim Jecha and Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed.



Legal and Human Rights Centre executive director Anna Henga addresses legal and human rights stakeholders in Dodoma city at the weekend when closing a meeting where deliberations revolved around the pros and cons of Tanzania having a new Constitution. University of Dodoma lecturer Dr Leonce Mujwahuzi (R) was the event's facilitator. Photo: Mbaraka Kambona

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has donated laboratory equipment and consumables to Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) for the diagnostic of domestic, livestock and wildlife pathogens and other priority zoonotic diseases in the livestock populations and food chain in the country.

The equipment will be used to help TVLA to address emergencies in the food chain, particularly zoonotic and other high impact diseases.

FAO in collaboration with the ministry for livestock and fisheries are implementing the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA-ZDAH) programme that aims to mitigate future health threats and to accelerate compliance with the World Health

## FAO gives to veterinary lab agency equipment, supplies

Organization (WHO)'s International Health Regulations (2005).

"Specifically, FAO is supporting and capacitating the laboratories through technical support, workforce development and deliveries of equipment and consumables," said Prof. Folorunso Oludayo Fasina on behalf of the FAO representative to Tanzania.

Prof Fasina who is also the FAO's project team leader said the support will also contribute to training manpower for the Tanzania health systems and capacitate

the new laboratories that is being established.

In his remarks during the event, the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega said currently the government was carrying out a programme to control livestock diseases countrywide by ensuring all domestic animals are dipped to protect them from diseases such as Rift Valley fever.

In doing so, the minister said the government was inviting various investors to invest in industries to manufacture vaccination to ensure

all animals are vaccinated from 13 strategic diseases listed by the ministry.

"Due to the sensitiveness of the sector, the government has put in place strategies to ensure the sector is improved for the country to produce the best animal products that fits international standards," he said.

GHSA-ZDAH is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The objective is to enhance global protection from infectious disease threats.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa waves to Nachingwea residents who turned up at the town's airport yesterday to welcome him when he landed there while on his way to Ruangwa District. Left is Lindi regional commissioner Godfrey Zambi. Photo: PMO

## Suspected maize thief attacked in Ruvuma Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

POLICE in Ruvuma Region are holding Faustine Haule (45) a resident of Matimila village in Songea district for allegedly attacking and injuring Mariboti Nyoni (50), who was said to have been stealing maize in his farm.

Acting Ruvuma Regional Police Commander, Amini Mahamba told this paper that the incident happened on the night of June 20th 2020 at the Wangila farm area in Matimila village. He said Haule used sharp objects to attack the suspected thief thus chopped-off his right arm.

The acting Commander added that Haule started harvesting maize from his farm at the Wangila area on June 16th whereas he and his wife spent the night at the farm to ensure no maize was stolen. He said that villagers normally leave the harvested maize

at the farms before being transported to their respective homes.

He said: "While at the farm, Haule saw Nyoni packing maize in a bag, but when attempting to arrest him, he resisted forcing Haule to use sharp objects to attack him."

Commander Mahamba said police inspected Haule's farm where they found a torch, sword and bloody drops. He said the suspected thief has been admitted at Songea district hospital where he is said to be stable.

The hospitals' senior medical officer, Dr Magafu Majura confirmed receiving Nyoni on June 20th this year. He said when he was brought to the hospital Nyoni had one of his hands chopped-off.

"The attacker separated Nyoni's right arm from his body, he is now progressing well with medical treatment," said the doctor.

## UN Security Council poll reveals divisions in Africa

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is a member of BRICS.

On the other hand, you also have India taking up a new position, and of course Russia and China, who have permanent seats at the Security Council.

While India and South Africa both have an interest in having a seat as permanent members of the Security Council should the reforms take place, the question is whether the other permanent members would support both India and South Africa should the time come.

With regards to China's position

at the Security Council, in the end it was clear that it was not supporting Kenya and Russia, and no one seems to know why Russia was very mute. South Africa's strategic allies seem not always to agree on the issues of peace and security.

In March 2011 there was the issue of Libya and African countries supporting Resolution 1973, while Brazil, Russia, India and China abstained. South Africa had a non-permanent seat and voted for the resolution, alongside Nigeria and Gabon. Today, largely as a result of what took place, Libya remains politically unstable. In that contentious vote on Resolution 1973, the Arab

League, on the other hand, supported the no-fly zone by the Security Council and was very active in lobbying for it.

These issues raise the question of what the real areas of cooperation are between the BRICS countries, as they seem to be engaging on economic issues, but in reality, you can't separate politics from the economy. Politics shape the economics approach; without peace and security, you can't achieve what you want to achieve. Political stability is important to advance the economic interests for any country and is essential for effective international cooperation.

With regards to China's position

at the Security Council, in the end it was clear that it was not supporting Kenya and Russia, and no one seems to know why Russia was very mute. South Africa's strategic allies seem not always to agree on the issues of peace and security.

What does this mean for South Africa when it comes to BRICS countries?

Kenya is very strategic for South Africa, compared to Djibouti, looking at the fact that in East Africa Kenya is economically strong and is very involved in fighting terrorism and the threat posed by Al-Shabab. The AU aspiration of Silencing the Guns depends on these actions, so it made

sense for South Africa to support Kenya as this would help to advance the engagements at the Security Council.

South Africa might have to review its area of engagements within the BRICS countries, and assess the ongoing value of this coalition. You can't separate the politics from economics to advance any vision. Alliances that only focus on economic diplomacy miss the point of this essential connection and the critical importance of balancing the two.

You can't have Africa Free Trade and not have a politically stable continent, which is why it was important for South Africa to ensure it got support for

Kenya at the Security Council.

Peace and security need to remain high on the agenda of the AU in order to make sure that Agenda 2063 is fully implemented by member states. If the implementation of Agenda 2063 is in the interests of South Africa, then it needs its allies in the AU and BRICS to recognise the political imperatives this entails, and act accordingly.

Congratulations to Kenya and the AU for putting up a fight under very difficult circumstances. This must be a lesson learned on how South Africa should approach things moving forward.

AGENCIES





Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Ltd (TICTS) CEO Horace Hui (2nd-R) with Chief Medical Officer Prof Abel Makubi (2nd-L) after the firm presented to the government 180m/- worth of medical equipment and supplies as well as personal protection gear in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. With them are Tanzania Private Sector Foundation chairperson Angelina Ngulula (L) and TICTS development director Donald Talawa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Govt happy with 'pace' of Prisons' officers, wardens

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Just like the Police and Judiciary, the Prisons establishment is also an important and useful part of our criminal justice system. Prisons have an important and useful role to play in establishing the rule of law and maintaining peace and order in the society.

The physical and practical shape of prisons, as well as their objectives and expectations from them, have kept changing as a result of evolution, development and changes in the society.

The prisons system is a useful and significant component of the criminal justice system, just like the Police and the Judiciary. Prisons play an important role in maintaining balance in society by helping establish peace and rule of law.

As a result of the development of civilisation and social change, the physical and functional nature, expectations and objectives of prisons are also evolving.

The main objective of the prisons system is to ensure secure detention of prisoners, help in their rehabilitation and integration into the mainstream of society, and to ensure that do not turn towards crime after their release, by providing them moral education and vocational training so as to minimize the sense of guilt and the mentality of crime in their minds.

Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene has said he is pleased by the work pace of the Commissioner General of Prisons (CGP) Suleiman Mzee from the big development changes in the short period since he pointed to the post.

Speaking at the launch of an excavator at Mbigili Prison in Mvomero district in Morogoro region yesterday,

Simbachawene said the Prisons department used to benefit only a few people, but since the appointment of CGP Mzee, big achievements had been recorded.

"Since his appointment, he has purchased three tipper trucks, a bus for the football team, and this excavator from the prisons' own money, these things were only dreams in the past, I am very much pleased," he said.

He said the Prisons officers and other workers are not supposed to oppose him, they are supposed to understand and support him from his work pace in the period when the service is gearing up for great changes.

He also called upon prison's warders to continue working day and night and after work everyone should ask himself what he has done on that day, as this approach will enable the prisons department to change in production that will see changes in the warders.

In the event Simbachawene unveiled a new slogan for the prisons department that says: "Tanzania Prisons: New thinking, New Concept, Hard Work and Self reliance."

Morogoro regional Prisons Officer SACP Ismail Mlawa thanked Simbachawene for his efforts in instituting changes to the department, and also asked President John Magufuli to reappoint him to the ministry in the new government after the elections later this year.

Mbigili Prisons Chief warden SSP Muyengi Burilo, reading the prison's performance report, said apart from the excavator bought that cost 331,060/800 to be used for drilling of bore holes; it will also be used to fell down trees, digging of trenches and will also be hired to other government institutions.

# Arrest all those engaged in corrupt activities in elections, orders PM

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed commanders of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to ensure they arrest all those who will be involved in corrupt activities in the period leading to general elections later this year.

"People are used in corrupt activities during elections, we have instructed defence and security committees to

work together to ensure there will be no such activities during elections and whoever will be found doing so should be arrested and dealt with accordingly.

The Prime Minister gave the directives over the weekend when speaking to Lindi regional leaders soon after he arrived at Nachingwea airport on his way to Ruangwa district for official visit.

He said receiving and soliciting bribes is a crime, hence PCCB officials must take stern measures against all

those who will be found engaging in such corrupt activities.

He said the directives aim to ensure the elections slated for October, this year are free and fair to enable the people choose leaders of their choice.

In his speech read in Parliament June 17 this year closing the 19th Parliament session, the PM called upon political leaders and other stakeholders to abide by the Constitution, laws, regulations and guidelines in the conduct of the elections.

He also used the occasion to plead with leaders and followers of political parties and the public in general to maintain peace and solidarity during the election period.

Earlier in the morning the PM travelled to Zanzibar where he participated in the dissolution of the House of representatives officiated by the Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, the event that was also attended by the outgoing Speaker of the union Parliament Job Ndogai.

# ACT and TAHA plead for more investments in agro-industries

By Guardian Correspondent,

Arusha

THE Agricultural Council of Tanzania and Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) have called upon local and foreign investments in agro-industries in the country following the government putting in place an enabling environment for them by removing import duties on some agricultural goods imported into the country from abroad.

Speaking here at the weekend in his office, TAHA chairman and managing director Jackline Mkindi said they congratulate the government by allocating a budget for an enabling environment that spurs investments in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors.

She said they attentively listened to the 34.88tr/- Budget read in Parliament by the minister for Finance and planning Dr Philip Mpango that is five per cent up compared to the preceding year's budget of 33.1tr/-.

She said they are pleased by the relief of tax and customs duties from 25 per cent to zero in packaging materials used by dairy producers such as bottle corks, packaging material for processed coffee, cashew nuts, cotton and seeds that will improve the products to prevail in the competitive market.

She said that translates into the reduction of production costs, increase profit and agricultural

project's sustainability and ensure customers of quality products.

She also hailed the government in the protection of domestic industries and the widening of local products markets

by increasing import duties in imported agricultural products including tea, coffee, tomato sauce, beef and edible oil.

"In addition, proposals in the reduction of trading licenses for fish dealers and

related products, reduction of tax rate on royalty on fish exports and other tax reliefs are all clear testimony that the government has mobilised itself in putting in place an enabling environment for investors.



**UNHCR**  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

**INVITATION TO BID: No. ITB/20/TZAKAS/SUP/001**  
**FOR THE PROVISION OF ROOFING MATERIAL FOR KITCHEN AND TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS AT NYARUGUSU CAMP, KASULU DISTRICT.**

- 1. Background:**  
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub Office, Kasulu, invites reputable qualified and Eligible Firms/Contractors to submit firm offers for Supply and Delivery of Roofing Material for Kitchen and Transitional Shelters at Nyarugusu camp, Kasulu.
- 2. Eligibility:**  
Firms/Contractors duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's requirements are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be collected from the following UNHCR Offices:

UNHCR Representation Office Tanzania Plot 1658 Masaki, Rufiji Street P.O. Box 2666 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania	UNHCR Field Office Kasulu Kimobwa (Mlimani Area) P.O. Box 332 - Kasulu, Kigoma
UNHCR Sub- Office Kibondo Kabigwa (Near TANESCO) P.O. Box 49 Kibondo	UNHCR Field Unit Mwanza Mwanza Airport P.O. Box 2273 - Mwanza

**CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

Deadline for receiving requests for clarification	Friday 3rd July 2020 at 14:00hrs EAT
Deadline for submission of offers	Monday 20th July 2020 at 16:00hrs EAT

**UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.**



**BUCKREEF GOLD COMPANY LIMITED** Tel: 028 2520727  
P.O. Box 10953 Geita, Tanzania.

**JOB ADVERT – ACCOUNTANT (1 VACANCY)**

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:**  
Buckreef Gold Company Limited is seeking to recruit Accountant to join our team. The successful candidate for this position will ensure activities in the Finance Department are effectively performed and undertaken in a safe and cost-effective manner to achieve targets in accordance to BGCL Mining Safety Standards, Policies and Procedures.

**Reporting to :** Chief Accountant  
**Work Schedule :** 6 weeks On / 2 weeks Off  
**Duration :** 2 Years  
**Listed Date :** 20 June, 2020

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Ensure safe work practices by attending compulsory safety courses and meetings, use of required PPE, incident/accident reporting and ensuring total adherence to all Safety, Occupational Health and Environmental Policies, as well as other policies, procedures and guidelines.
- Analysing and identify cost control data and adjustments prior to month end reports generated, ensuring operating expenses are correctly coded
- Generating and reviewing all department's monthly accruals & preparing monthly, quarterly, yearly forecasts
- Providing up to date financial information as and when required by Leaders
- Ensure all departmental financial & labour budgets prepared, updated & available at all times
- Processing inter-company charges and debits and ensure reconciles
- Assist is accounts payable procedures
- Processing and verifying all prepaid expenses, inventories and ensure are properly accounted in the accounts
- Preparing & capturing back-charge invoices in the financial reporting system from AR to AP
- Resolving of customer queries on time
- Maintaining accurate electronic records information in required databases
- Always adhere to Company Policies & Procedures
- Recording and maintaining required hard copy and electronic files as per Standard Operating Procedures
- Comply with the non-disclosure of company financial information.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Commerce/ Finance or Equivalent
- Certified Professional Accountant (CPA) Registration as a practicing accountant in Tanzania

**EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Minimum of 1-2 years' Post Graduate Experience as an Accountant
- Mining Industry experience will be an added advantage

**SKILLS / KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Computer literate in MS Office Suite.
- General understanding of reporting systems.
- Basic Supply Chain knowledge, including accompanying systems.
- Time management, scheduling and planning.
- Report writing, budgeting, auditing.

**WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOU:**

- A comprehensive compensation package including bonuses, benefits, and where applicable.
- Ability to make a difference and lasting impact.
- Work in a dynamic, collaborative, progressive, and high-performing team.
- Opportunities to grow and learn with the industry colleagues are endless.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

- Applicants are invited to submit their CV's/Resume's, careful read application guidelines
- Rename your CV in this format CV - YOUR FULL NAME
- Indicating the role title "ACCOUNTANT" in the subject of your email
- Send your application via e-mail to: [HR@buckreef.co.tz](mailto:HR@buckreef.co.tz) if you are not contacted by Buckreef Gold Company LTD within thirty (10) days after the closing date, you should consider your application as unsuccessful. Short listed candidates may be subjected to any of the following: security clearance; competency assessment; physical capability assessment, reference checking. Please forward applications before 27th June 2020

**BEWARE OF COMMEN! BGCL** does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Compliance Hotline, by calling +1 8443641830 or through [TNXCorporate@tangoldcorp.com](mailto:TNXCorporate@tangoldcorp.com)



# Project to supply L. Victoria waters to Dodoma region 'being considered'

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

FEASIBILITY studies on a huge water project that will see Dodoma Region getting water from Lake Victoria via Singida Region are in the pipeline in during the fiscal year 2020/21.

This was revealed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water Prof. Kitila Mkumbo at a function he received water pipes as part of a huge programme implemented in 17 regions countrywide, Singida being one of them.

Prof Mkumbo said since the funds for the project have been allocated in the current fiscal year, he believes in the coming five years Singida and Dodoma regions can receive water from Lake Victoria.

"Preliminary studies have shown that the issue is feasible - our experts say if the water reaches Meatu, they can pump it to teach Kisana Village in Kiomboi town," explained Prof Mkumbo.

He mentioned Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, Mara and Simiyu as being arid regions that receive little rains causing acute shortage; hence they largely depend on underground water.

He said fortunately Tabora, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions have already resolved the challenge by using huge water resources from Lake Victoria.

He said water from Lake Victoria has reached as far as Igunga district in Tabora Region where its residents benefit from the vital commodity from Lake Victoria.

The director of Rural Water Supply

and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) Clement Kivegalo said due to the policy change in the water sector, drillers of wells are part of RUWASA, as a fully fledged branch of the Agency.

"We plan to camp in Singida region to look for water sources and we are implementing various projects as much as we can so that in average the supply of water in Singida region is enhanced to the same levels as the other regions," he said.

He said he has used the occasion to instruct RUWASA managers in all regions to look for water sources and we are implementing various projects as much as we can so that in average the supply of water in Singida region is enhanced to the same levels as the other regions," he said.

He mentioned the projects as including Wembere and Kyalosangi projects in Ikramba District, Mughamo and Msisi in Singida District, Dung'unyi in Ikungi district and Kitaraka, Kikombo and Kashangu in Manyoni district.

According to Eng Saidi a total of 63,000 residents are expected to benefit by clean and safe water from the projects by the end of this year and that a total of 40 projects are anticipated to be completed during the period.

He said the schemes will be built in the next five years in Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Morogoro, Mtwara, Mwanza, Tabora and Katavi regions that will increase areas under

irrigation by 400,491.8 hectares.

"The money to be used will come from Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP) Phase II (ASDP II) of which the government will contribute 41 percent to the cost equivalent to 80.9bn/- per year," he said.

He said the building and upgrade of the irrigation infrastructures will use 'force account' procedure so as to reduce delay of the project as well as

implementation costs.

Kaali said the step will increase the sector's contribution in country's food security from 24 percent now to 30 percent by 2025.

In addition, Kaali said there is the problem of funds for the implementation of irrigation activities as the money allocated is little compared to actual needs and sometimes the money is not provided

in time.

He said in the 2019/20 season, 40 irrigation schemes were affected by floods and as of now NIRC continues to assess the destruction to know the cost of restoration.

He also said the Commission is in short of irrigation experts whereas there are 213 staff out 438 needed, hence a shortage of 225 staff.



Magu district commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati (2nd-L) pictured at the weekend symbolically receiving from NMB Bank Plc Lake Victoria zone manager Donatus Richard (2nd-R) the bank's support - timber and corrugated iron roofing sheets worth a total of 20m/- - for use by the district's Nsola health centre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) plans to construct and upgrade 384 water schemes to cost 986bn/- aimed to increase the country's production of various crops.

This was announced here at the weekend by NIRC Director General Daudi Kaali when speaking to reporters on the achievements in the irrigation sector in the past five years and their strategies for the next five years.

He said the schemes will be built in the next five years in Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Morogoro, Mtwara, Mwanza, Tabora and Katavi regions that will increase areas under

## NIRC to construct and upgrade 384 irrigation sector schemes

irrigation by 400,491.8 hectares.

"The money to be used will come from Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP) Phase II (ASDP II) of which the government will contribute 41 percent to the cost equivalent to 80.9bn/- per year," he said.

He said the building and upgrade of the irrigation infrastructures will use 'force account' procedure so as to reduce delay of the project as well as

implementation costs.

Kaali said the step will increase the sector's contribution in country's food security from 24 percent now to 30 percent by 2025.

In addition, Kaali said there is the problem of funds for the implementation of irrigation activities as the money allocated is little compared to actual needs and sometimes the money is not provided

in time.

He said in the 2019/20 season, 40 irrigation schemes were affected by floods and as of now NIRC continues to assess the destruction to know the cost of restoration.

He also said the Commission is in short of irrigation experts whereas there are 213 staff out 438 needed, hence a shortage of 225 staff.

## US farming agency and Zambian firm partner to boost crop yields

LUSAKA

AN American non-profit organisation has launched a \$40 million joint venture with one of Zambia's top farm suppliers to boost crop yields and food

security as farmers struggle to access finance amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the local company said on Sunday.

The chairman of African Green Resources (AGR), Zuneid Yousuf,

said the private sector deal with U.S.-based african fertiliser and agribusiness partnership (AFAP) included a scheme supporting 250,000 mainly subsistence farmers to double their

maize yields and help feed around 10 million people in Zambia and the southern African region.

"AFAP's role is not only sourcing fertiliser guarantees and credit lines, but to also act as an adviser for downstream activities like value addition," Yousuf told Reuters in his Lusaka offices.

Credit packages for seed, fertiliser and training will be provided to the farmers, while plans are also being made to use soya beans and maize to produce animal stock feed, among other products, Yousuf said.

In the 2018/2019 crop season, Zambia's national average yield rate for maize was 2.52 tonnes per hectare, far below Egypt at 8 tonnes and South Africa at 4 tonnes.

Zambia's 2019/2020 season maize production is projected to increase to over 3.3 million tonnes from around 2 million tonnes in the previous season but is still below potential, Yousuf said. [nLN2D948V]

The southern African nation is rebuilding an agriculture sector hit hard by a recent drought, with small-scale subsistence farmers who produce over 90% of Zambia's maize, losing access to markets and seeing a dip in productivity as they battle the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Zambia has reported 1,416 confirmed coronavirus cases and 11 deaths.

**Enabel** Belgian Development Agency

### PRE-BID MEETING FOR UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION TENDERS

Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency, through Water Sanitation and Kigoma Region Project (WASKIRP) plans to engage contractors and consultants for construction of water supply networks in Kigoma region. Several tenders are currently being prepared for publishing. Enabel therefore has organized a meeting for interested contractors and consultants for orientation to the bidding documents and processes so as to achieve appropriate responsiveness to the tenders. The meeting will be held as follows:

**Date :** Saturday, 27 June 2020  
**Venue :** Hotel Slipway, Slipway Road, Msasani Peninsula, Dar es Salaam  
**Time :** 10:00 – 14:30 PM

The meeting will allow a maximum of 2 people per company. Interested companies are encouraged to submit their interest and names of their representatives by Thursday, 25th June 2020. No company will be allowed to be represented in the meeting if they fail to register their interest to attend the meeting and if they do not submit their names before this date.

In the wake of the COVID 19 situation, the meeting will adhere to strict preventative measures as guided by the government for such meetings. All participants are required to bring facial masks to wear while the organizers will ensure availability of sanitization fluids and hand washing facilities.

Submit your interest to participate in the meeting and the name(s) of your company representative through email to [constantin.hien@enabel.be](mailto:constantin.hien@enabel.be) copying to [lilian.ayo@enabel.be](mailto:lilian.ayo@enabel.be)

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 research | training | services

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### PREQUALIFICATION OF VENDORS FOR PROVISION OF GOODS AND SERVICES TO IHI FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021

##### 1. Institute overview

Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) is a leading research organization in Africa with a strong track record in developing, testing and validating innovations for health. Driven by a core strategic mandate for research, training and services, the Institute's work now spans a wide spectrum, covering biomedical and ecological sciences, intervention studies, health-systems research and policy translation.

##### 2. Official Call

IHI invites applications from eligible, competent and qualified companies for the prequalification to provide goods and services listed below for the 2019/2020 financial year:

Lot No.	Service	Description
1	Repair and maintenance of laboratory equipment.	Various laboratory machines (List is provided)
2	Supply of field materials.	List of frequently required field items is available.
3	Supply of office refreshments.	List of frequently required consumables is provided.
4	Supply of hardware materials.	Various hardware items.
5	Supply of motor cycles and motor cycle spare parts	List of preferred brands is available.
6	Provision of injector pump service and repair	Description of current vehicles is available.
7	Provision of Water sewage services	N/A
8	Supply of Ford spare parts (Ford Ranger and Range Rover)	Description of current vehicles are available.
9	Provision of clearing and forwarding service	N/A
10	Supply of Motor vehicle Lubricants	N/A
11	Supply of Motor vehicle and Generator Batteries	N/A

##### 3.0 Instructions

- The tender is open to all bidders. The whole bidding process will be conducted through competitive procurement procedures specified in the IHI's Administration Manual.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain additional information from the Secretary's Office or inquire the same from IHI's Tender Committee via email at [procurement@ihi.or.tz](mailto:procurement@ihi.or.tz) from 09:00hrs to 16:00hrs local time, Monday to Friday, from the date of this announcement.

##### 4.0 Applications

- Interested bidders must pay a non-refundable fee of Tshs 50,000/= to the following bank account: **NMB bank account number BS 20103500224, Bank House.**
- Interested bidders must complete tendering documents which can be obtained after submission of a bank slip to IHI offices: Dar es Salaam – Mikocheni; Bagamoyo – District Hospital; and Ifakara – Off Mlabani Passage.
- All applications and deposits must be enclosed in an envelope with a seal and addressed to:  
**Chief Executive Director,  
 Ifakara Health Institute,  
 P.O. Box 78373,  
 Dar es Salaam**
- Hand deliveries should be submitted at IHI Front Desk (reception) not later than Tuesday, 14th July 2020 at 10:00 am local time.
- The deadline for all submissions is 14th July 2020 at 10:00 am. Thereafter, opening of the tenders will immediately start.

##### 5.0 Important

- Please note that, late applications **will not be accepted** for evaluation irrespective of circumstances.
- Other instructions and procedures for the bidding process will be found in the tender documents.

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# THOUSANDS OF CRDB SHARE HOLDERS EXPECTED TO ATTEND HISTORIC VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HOUSANDS of CRDB Bank Plc's shareholders, may for the first time this year, be able to directly attend their annual general meeting while sidestepping the coronavirus outbreak thanks to digital technology innovations.

The Bank's shareholders at the 24th Annual General Meeting, voted for the 2020 AGM to be held on May 16th, 2020. The 2020 AGM had to be postponed against the backdrop of the current COVID-19 pandemic. On June 27th, shareholders will be able to take part in the rescheduled AGM and live-streamed on the Internet.

The move means that unlike the physical presence AGM where a handful of representatives take part on behalf of others, this year will likely see thousands of shareholders take part because they can join or access the meeting at the comfort of their home, offices or on the go. All they need to do is press the finger on the link, it as simple as that, very simple.

AGM joining credentials will be sent to all shareholders through their email address and/ or phone numbers registered with the Bank. For those who will have proxies; they will need to fill Proxy Forms and register their proxy appointment. The Proxy Form is available online on our website [www.crdbbank.co.tz](http://www.crdbbank.co.tz).

Shareholders have to make sure they submit their Proxy Forms whether through branches, email to [shareholders@crdbbank.com](mailto:shareholders@crdbbank.com) or through WhatsApp number 0767 757 215 not later than 4:00pm on Friday 22nd June, 2020. After confirming attendance, shareholders will be supplied with AGM credentials, Meeting ID, Username and Password to enable them attend the meeting digitally.

"We understand that this is a new set up therefore our number one priority is to ensure that shareholders are not deprived of their right to participate fully in

the meeting through listening to presentations, voting, asking questions and other contributions as it pertains to the status of their bank," Nsekela added.

He said the virtual AGM which will be live-streamed will go through a number of agendas including adoption of Directors' Report, Audited Financials, 2019 Dividend, Directors' Remuneration, appointment of external auditors and election of two independent board members.

The CRDB Bank chief further stated that the ordinary virtual AGM will give full opportunity for shareholders to participate and even ask questions online with shareholders' voting rights being exercised through proxies.

"AGM joining credentials will be sent to all shareholders through their email address and/ or phone numbers registered with the bank. For those who will have proxies, they will need to fill proxy forms and register their proxy appointment," Nsekela added.

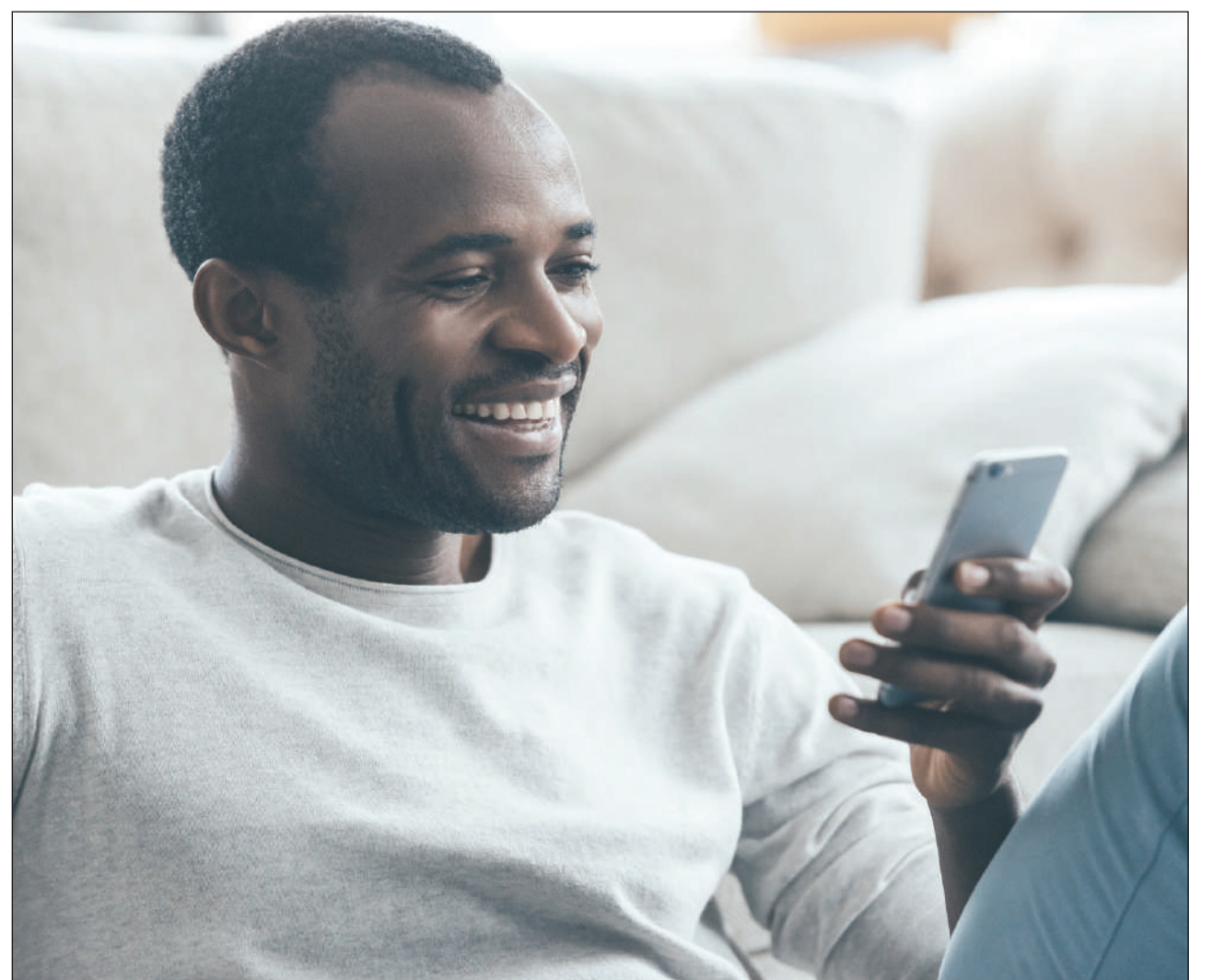
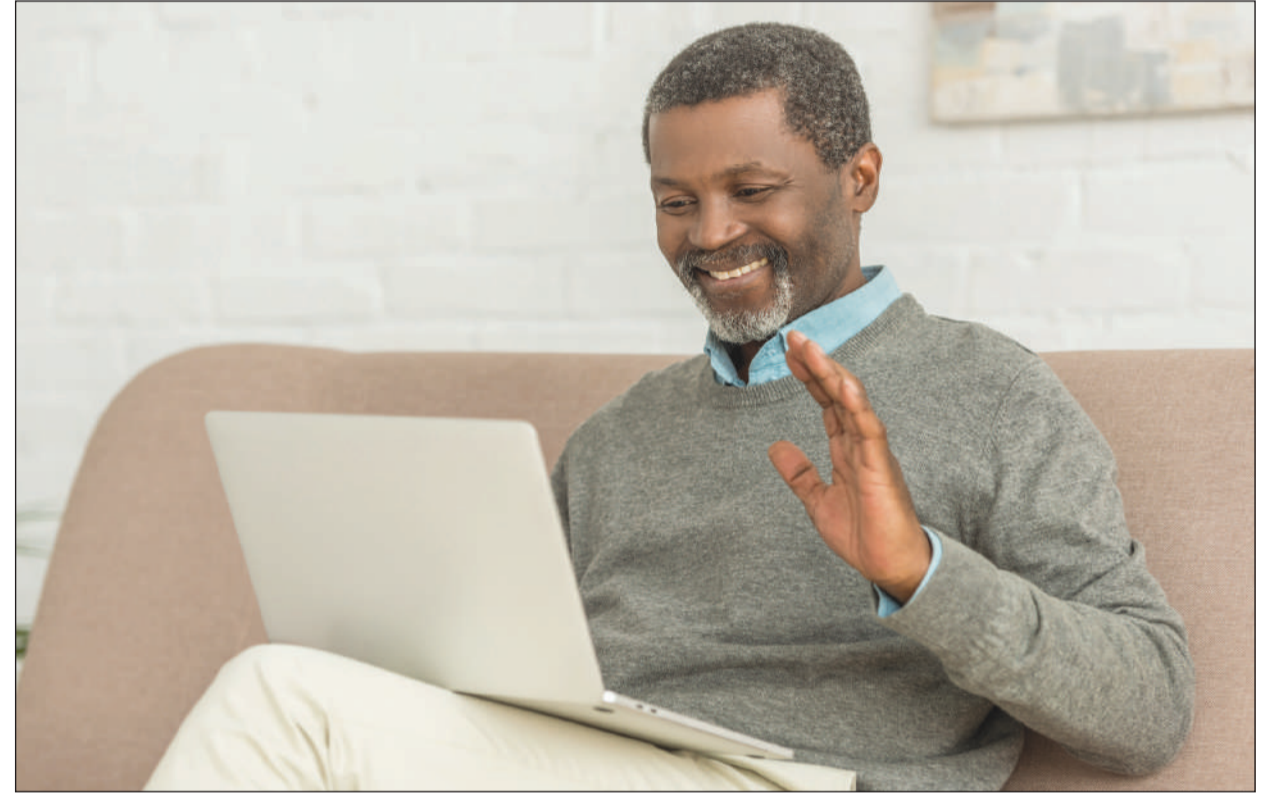
Shareholders and their proxies are strongly encouraged to utilize the options available for them to participate in the AGM. The meeting can also be accessed online at [web.lumiagm.com](http://web.lumiagm.com) or shareholder can download "Lumi AGM" App from Google Play Store or Apple AppStore and use credentials sent to them to participate in the meeting.

In a rejoinder, CRDB Bank Director of Corporate Affairs, Tully Esther Mwambapa said shareholders can also register and join the meeting on 27th June by visiting the Bank's website. Login to the meeting will start from 8:30am. Mwambapa said other items on the agenda include voting on a special resolution to allow the AGM to be held online; introduction of a board member representing DANIDA Investment Fund, the strategic investor of the bank; and discuss matters arising.

Other agendas to be transacted will include, "Deliberations on proposals received from shareholders;

any other business and set place, date and venue of the next meeting." Among the bank's minority shareholders are 28,000 individuals who own over 41 percent of the bank being the single largest group of shareholders rivalling the DANIDA a joint Investment Fund between Tanzania and Denmark with 21 percent and PSSSF Fund with 10 percent.

The Bank listed its shares at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange in June 17, 2009 after 125.4 million shares were issued through initial public offer and were oversubscribed by 170 percent. The IPO represented 7 percent of the shares with DANIDA offloading 5 percent of its stake hence leaving it holding 22.6 percent. In 2015 the banking group offered over 435,000 rights issue.





2020 World Refugee Day Speech Thematic: Inclusion, solidarity, respect, dignity

We must continue supporting refugees and the communities that host them

Globally, there are currently over 26 million refugees - this is the most there have ever been in recent history. As we commemorate to World Refugee Day, I believe that it is important to remember that refugees are people, just like you and I, that have been forced to flee their homes due to persecution and conflict. These are circumstances that are beyond their control - were any of us born in different circumstances we too may have been forced to flee our home nations. In fact, I have been a refugee once. I commend Tanzania as a model of peace and stability in the East and Southern African region that has had a long tradition of welcoming and hosting refugees. Currently the country hosts more than 283,000 refugees mainly from the DRC and Burundi. In the words of UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, "Today, we also recognize the generosity and humanity of host communities and countries that often struggle with their own economic and security concerns. We owe these countries our thanks, our support and our investment."

As the Secretary-General points out, I believe that it is important that we recognize the generosity of communities and countries that are hosting refugees and on behalf of the UN family, I thank the Government and people of Tanzania for their generosity. In particular, communities in Kigoma have been hosting refugees to many decades despite many also facing social and economic challenges of their own. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for leaving no one behind and this, of course includes refugees, but it also applies to the communities that are hosting them. In this regard, I trust in the investment of UN Tanzania to these communities. In 2017, the U.N. launched a more coordinated programme, the Kigoma Joint Programme, to help them accelerate their development. The USD 63 million Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) involves 16 different UN Agencies and is being implemented in cooperation with the regional and district authorities based on the development needs of the region and the capacities of the UN in Tanzania. Supported by Norway, Sweden, KOICA and Ireland, the KJP expands and increases support to host communities, and contributes to enhancement of co-existence between the refugee/migrant population and the Kigoma population which I believe is a very unique and important part of this project. Through supporting stability and prosperity in Kigoma the programme also contributes to the stability of those fleeing war and persecution."



Zlatan Milisic - United Nations Resident Coordinator

The programme has shown that development and humanitarian interventions can exist in harmony and as the UN in Tanzania we will continue to support both refugees and the communities that are hosting them.

Refugees and COVID-19 I would like to quote the UN Secretary General: "This year, the COVID-19 pandemic poses an additional threat to refugees and displaced people, who are among the most vulnerable. My recent Policy Brief on COVID-19 and People on the Move called on governments to ensure that they are included in all response and recovery efforts. Refugees and displaced people are also prominent among those who are stepping up to make a difference on the frontlines of the response. From camps in Bangladesh to hospitals in Europe, refugees are working as nurses, doctors, scientists, teachers and in other essential roles, protecting themselves and giving back to the communities that host them."

As history has shown, refugees, and particularly women and children are more vulnerable to the impacts of a pandemic such as COVID-19 due to their living conditions and we have been working with regional authorities to ensure the camps are ready to respond to the virus. As the Secretary-General highlights, all over the world refugees are actively supporting the COVID-19 response. In Tanzania, over 1,200 refugees are using their tailoring skills to produce over 270,000 face-masks for communities in Kigoma. Everyone can make a difference. Every Action Counts.

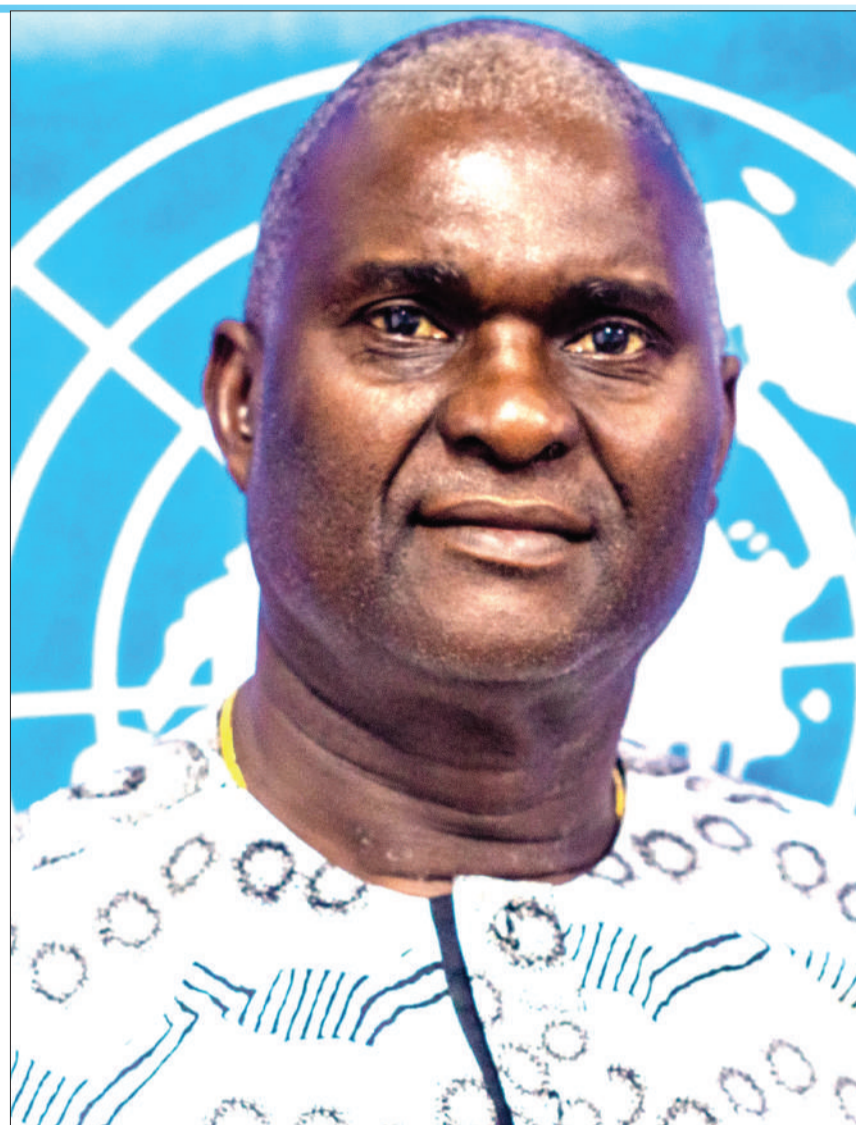
The UN in Tanzania will continue to support the Government to host refugees in Tanzania. We will all get through the pandemic by working together in solidarity - refugees have a role to play too. As the Secretary-General put it, "Today and every day, we stand in unity and solidarity with refugees and recognize our fundamental obligation to shelter those fleeing war and persecution."

Two decades ago, the numbers of refugees and internally displaced people seemed to be declining. Today the inverse is true. At the end of 2019, some 79.5 million people were displaced from their homes. Around the world, the number of conflicts has only increased. UNHCR estimates that 1 out of every 100 people in the world has fled their homes. These numbers are overwhelming - and it is important to remember that these represent real people whose lives have been torn apart, leaving their homes, family, jobs and schools behind. In 2020, we mark World Refugee Day against a backdrop of dramatic social change. Not only have record numbers of people fled their homes to find safety - but the entire world is grappling with the devastation of the global COVID-19 pandemic. This global health crisis is evolving into an economic crisis, and in turn, has exposed

Everyone Can Make a Difference, Everyone Action Counts

raw social inequalities in our societies. Racial discrimination and related intolerance are common causes of flight and can threaten the protection of asylum-seekers and refugees at all stages of the displacement cycles. More needs to be done in the fight against racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. These are challenging times. Yet, we have seen how the pandemic and the protests have created a connectedness that transcends borders. We have seen how ordinary people have become heroes by stepping up and learning to help. And refugees are contributing on the frontlines of the pandemic, despite living in extremely vulnerable conditions. In Tanzania, over 1,200 refugees are using their tailoring skills to make 270,000 face masks for their community. Refugee leaders have also come together and decided to use their influence to disseminate only verified and approved messages on COVID-19 to the public through their vast networks. This has been very instrumental in curbing the growing angst perpetuated by misinformation and disinformation from spreading in the camps. This is testimony that everyone can make a difference and every action counts.

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Antonio Canhandula - UNHCR Representative in Tanzania

In many refugee hosting countries, the pandemic presented a crisis on top of a crisis, where conflict and persecution continued to uproot families who, at the

very same time, needed to isolate. This has been a devastating task for countries that are already struggling to care for their own citizens. Almost overnight, ensuring

hygiene, and building adequate shelter and isolation space became essential. The challenges have been immense. Even preceding independence, Tanzania has been well known for its open and friendly policy towards displaced neighbours. The country currently hosts over 283,000 refugees, most of whom fled the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi in the Kigoma Region. It is a fact that providing asylum comes with sacrifices in many areas, including security and environment and for this, we say, Asante sana. Over the years UNHCR has often found itself on the frontlines of emergencies, yet the challenges we face today are of an entirely different magnitude. Our priority is to stay and deliver for the refugees, internally displaced and stateless people we are mandated to protect. In December 2019, hundreds of partners, governments and individuals converged in Geneva and made a commitment to stand behind the UN Global Compact on Refugees and help UNHCR deliver on its mandate to protect refugees. Through these new challenges, we see the strength of that commitment being demonstrated every day. The response from government, the private sector, foundations and institutions and individuals has been truly extraordinary - it shows that we are stronger when we work together. This World Refugee Day, UNHCR is appealing to everyone to help continue this global movement of solidarity and action. Everyone can make a difference, and everyone counts when it comes to promoting inclusion, respect, and dignity for all, including refugees, internally displaced and stateless people.

What Ambassador Dr. Augustine Mahiga taught me about refugees

By: Dr. James Milner, Carleton University, Canada

20 June may be World Refugee Day, but I think of it as global holiday with a distinctly African identity. After all, the date was selected to mark an African event: the coming into force of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa on 20 June 1974. In selecting this as the day to reflect on global refugee issues, the international community recognized the value and importance of African leadership.

The OAU Convention was a tremendous innovation in its day. It pivoted the international refugee system away from the realities of post-World War Two Europe to the realities of African refugees fleeing wars of national liberation, minority-ruled regimes and generalized violence in post-colonial African states.

But it also signaled an African approach to responding to refugees. But it also recognized the needs of states and includes provisions to safeguard refugee-hosting states. Since my first visit to Tanzania in 1999 as a Visiting Researcher at the Centre for the Study of Forced Migration at the University of Dar es Salaam, under the watchful eye of Professor Khadija Kamanga, I have learned so much from the journey of African states in navigating how to ensure the well-being of refugees, along with the well-being of the states and communities that host them. This is what I remember on World Refugee Day: the world has a lot to learn from Africa.

But on this World Refugee Day, I will be saying a quiet prayer of thanks for one great leader who taught me very important lessons about the principles and practicalities of refugee responses: Ambassador Dr. Augustine Mahiga.

I was so saddened to hear of his untimely passing on 1 May 2020. I was early in the morning in Canada when I read the news, and I immediately shared my condolences with Tanzanian friends and colleagues. In return, they encouraged me to write this piece to share my reflections on the leadership and life of Bakari Mzee Mahiga and how deeply I cherish all that he taught me. I knew Dr. Mahiga before I met him. As a graduate student researching refugee movements following the Rwandan genocide in the mid-1990s, I studied Dr. Mahiga's writings closely. He was then Deputy Director of the Great Lakes Unit for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva. His was a powerful voice on the need to understand the realities faced by refugee-hosting states like Tanzania following the mass arrival of refugees. He argued that it was not sufficient to lecture African states about their obligations and ignore their concerns. Instead, he wrote in 1997 that "it is important to demonstrate that humanitarian principles are compatible with legitimate state interests. This issue goes beyond resource mobilization for refugee programmes to include regular consultation between governments and humanitarian organizations." This challenge - to understand how the needs of refugees are compatible with the interests of states - became the focus of my scholarly work for the past 23 years. So, imagine my delight when I arrived in New Delhi, India, in late 1998, and discovered that my new boss was none other than Mzee Mahiga! I was a fresh graduate from the University of Oxford starting a junior position with the UNHCR office in New Delhi, where Mzee Mahiga was the Chief of Mission. It was an honor and privilege to work with him, and to learn from him, over the months that followed. My experience with Mzee Mahiga during that time shaped me in deep and significant ways. He was the most immaculate professional, visionary in his leadership, and skilled in the art of diplomacy. But he was also such a warm and sincere leader: I will never forget that day in October 1999 when Mzee Mahiga called me into his office to share the sad news that Mwalmu Julius Nyerere had died. He shared with me his memories of Mwalmu Julius and the lessons he learned from him about vision, courage, leadership and conviction. My respect for Mwalmu and Tanzania grew deeper from that time. Mzee Mahiga explained how Tanzania's global leadership on refugee issues under Mwalmu Nyerere was very intentional. Under Mwalmu, Tanzania's response to refugees was good for refugees and important for Tanzania as refugees made important contributions to their communities and the country as a whole. As if to underscore the importance of this approach, Mzee Mahiga was the first to explain to me why Mwalmu Nyerere preferred the Kiswahili words 'wagani wakazi' (resident aliens) rather than 'wakimbizi' (literary, those who have fled) to describe refugees. Mzee Mahiga also had a playful side. I remember, on UNHCR Staff Appreciation Day in 2000, the warm reception that Mzee Mahiga received when he arrived, with his family, at the staff gathering in Ludhi Gardens, across from the UNHCR office. And I will never forget the joy expressed by all staff when he took part in the cricket match - and was bowled first ball by his driver! Mzee Mahiga was the biggest smile on display. James Milner and Ambassador Dr. Augustine Mahiga, New Delhi, India, May 2000. It was such an honor to follow Mzee Mahiga's exceptional career of service to the world that followed. I saw him in New York when he was Tanzania's Ambassador to the United Nations (2003 to 2010), representing Tanzania on the UN Security Council in 2005. It was during that time that Mzee Mahiga championed the establishment of the UN Peacebuilding Commission to help countries emerge from conflict and avoid a return to violence. I followed with awe and admiration how he sought to realize this task by serving as the Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Somalia from 2010 to 2013 and worked tirelessly to help establish stability and governance in a country deeply affected by conflict for some three decades. And I was delighted to receive the news that he had returned to serve in Tanzania as Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation (2015-2019) and then as Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (2019 until his untimely passing). I met Mzee Mahiga in Dar es Salaam in February 2018. I was struck by his extraordinary intellect, grace, vision, and gentle charisma. I shared with him how fondly I remembered that time we shared together, some 20 years earlier and a continent away, on the day that Mwalmu Nyerere died. Rest in peace, Mzee Mahiga. You are already missed! I then

It is World Refugee Day, where are the traditional Burundian drums?

By Winnie Itaeli Kweka, Tanzania

It's mid-afternoon on a bright and sunny day. When the fluffy clouds drift across the blue sky as Joem Nshimirima, a traditional Burundian drummer, stares blankly into the distance. "This is not good," he mutters, "coronavirus has changed everything." Joem is a 29-year-old Burundian refugee who has been living in Nduta camp for the past five years. Before fleeing Burundi, Joem spent most of his days entertaining large audiences as he was part of a famous traditional drumming group. Following the political upheaval that rocked his country in 2015, he and his family left all their belongings behind and quickly fled Burundi to seek refuge in Tanzania.

A few months after arriving in Tanzania, Joem quickly set up - Ingoma Akaranga - a new traditional drumming group. "I have a passion for the drum. When I play it, I feel alive and briefly forget the pain of losing loved ones and my home. The drum allows me to preserve my heritage and celebrate my culture," he said. When Joem set up the group, he wanted to assist other compatriots in overcoming the painful memories of loss and suffering. In Burundi, drums have always been much more than musical instruments. They are used in rituals, coronations, funerals, weddings, among others. Since the entire population of Burundi recognizes the drum as a fundamental part of their heritage and identity, Joem hoped that such a powerful symbol could help his fellow refugees overcome trauma.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the world, the 30 members of Ingoma Akaranga group used to meet and practice twice a week. "The weather today is perfect for rehearsals," he says with a smile. He explains how at the start of each performance, the drummers enter balancing the heavy drums on their heads before breaking into a spectacle of powerful, synchronized drumming accompanied by dance, poetry and song. Preventive measures such as social distancing, handwashing and crowd restrictions are now being enforced in all refugee camps. "We cannot practice because even our drum-



ming practice sessions attract large crowds," added Joem. For the past four years, Ingoma Akaranga Group performances have been a central feature on World Refugee Day every year in Nduta Camp. On this day, held every year on June 20, the world commemorates the strength, courage and perseverance of millions of refugees who have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety. Due to the COVID-19 preventive measures put in place, there will be no crowd performances. Drumming is not only for entertainment but also a source of livelihood. "Through these events, we received, on average, US\$40 (Tsh100,000) per month, which we share amongst ourselves," he added. Joem uses these nominal earnings to supplement food for his wife and four children. To date, no suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus has been reported in any refugee camp in the country. Since the virus was first confirmed in Tanzania, preventive measures have been adopted. These include the establishment of isolation centres, provision of medical supplies, temperature screening at camps' main entrance, setting up hand washing stations in strategic locations, doubling soap distribution rations, and awareness-raising campaigns targeting the entire refugee population. "This whole situation is stressful. Interactions with the host community is not allowed and we spend less time at food and soap distribution centers." Joem laments. However, to comply with the guidance given to us because we understand the dangers of this virus. But when it is over, we will gladly get our drums and pick up from where we left off," he concludes with a smile.

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By: Maimuna Mtengela

"At first, many people did not believe a woman could lead, but I proved them wrong," says Angelique Abila. "Six years later, they all call me Camp President and even compare me to former presidents like Ellen Sirleaf Johnson and Joyce Banda," she laughs. As the Chairperson of Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, which hosts more than 130,000 refugees, Angelique has an enormous task. She coordinates the work of almost 600 camp leaders who are nominated by refugees in an electoral process. "Being a leader has been particularly difficult this year," says Angelique, who fled the Democratic Republic of Congo 14 years at the height of the conflict. "Everybody was frightened as news of the novel coronavirus dominated the media. So one even wondered if it was the name of a new gun, for only guns could kill that many people around the world in such a short time." Curbing the growing angst and misinformation that was spreading in the Camp was high on the priority list for Angelique and other Community leaders. "Everyone turns to you for solutions," she says. "Will the pandemic reach us? Will humanitarian agencies continue to support us, or will they flee? Are Africans immune to the virus?" are just some of the questions she received. This time, Angelique says, there were no easy answers! Following discussions with UNHCR and other partners, the community leaders, led by Angelique, were tasked to support in disseminating approved World Health Organization and the Government COVID-19

messages to the community. Through weekly meetings, the leaders are informed of the latest developments, and they, in turn, passed this to the community through their vast networks. "To ensure only the right information on COVID-19 reaches the population, we first verify the information and its sources before sharing with partners for dissemination and sensitization," says Ms. Malika Shakya, UNHCR Associate Public Health Officer. "This was greatly helped to counter misinformation on the virus and reassure the community that the humanitarian partners will continue to support them," she adds. Some of the changes that have come with the virus have not been easy, but the community is aware of just how crucial it is to abide by them. "We have had to change the way we do things. We are now conducting our leaders' coordination meetings by phone. Children are now learning how to read and write from home since the schools closed. We have also had to contend with fewer commodity varieties in the markets," says Angelique. "But as leaders, our message to the community is

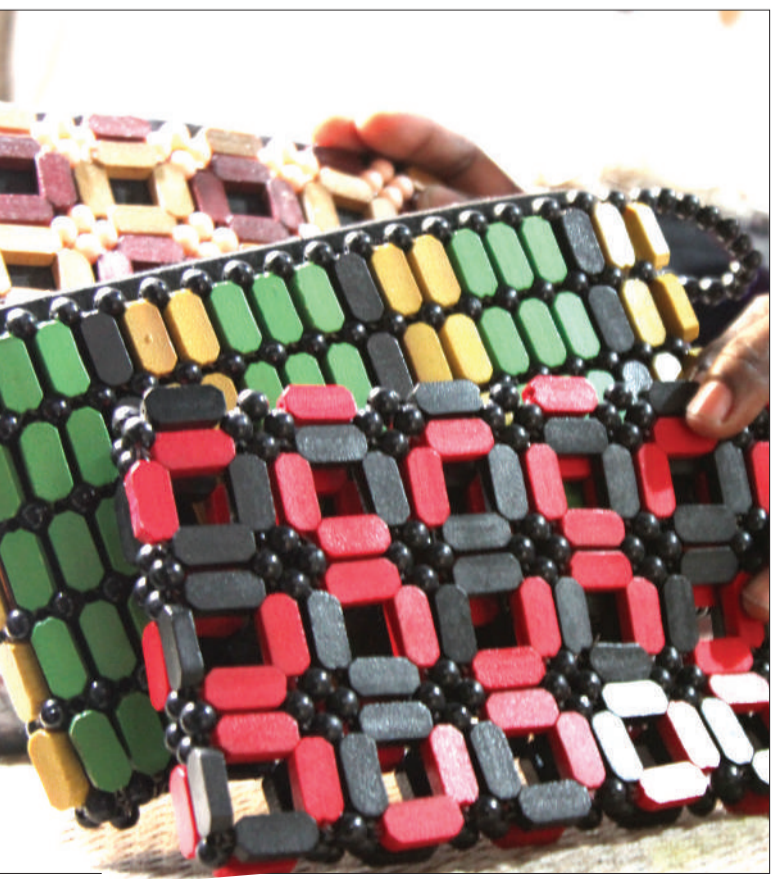


clear. We will only win the war against coronavirus if we all abide by the precautionary measures put in place - like regular hand washing and social distancing," she adds. In Tanzania, refugees have been integrated into the Kigoma Region's COVID-19 Contingency Plan. Within the umbrella of this Plan and in close cooperation with the Refugee Services Department in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Regional Authorities, UNHCR is coordinating and working with partners for camp level preparedness and response.

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MUKHTI: THE BEADED HANDBAG ENTREPRENEUR

"Nobody makes the decision to leave their home lightly. But if they stay, they face death by bombs, bullets machetes," says George Kuchio, UNHCR Deputy Representative in Tanzania. "So instead, they flee and take with them, only what their hands can carry, with the hope that the path they are taking leads to safety." Over the past 50 years, refugees from across Africa, the Middle East, and beyond have sought safety in Tanzania. The country is now home to some 283,000 refugees, mostly Congolese and Burundian. The vast majority of refugees live in camps, but about one out of every seven live in cities, amidst the local population. Mukhti (not her real name), age 41, is one of them. Mukhti fled unrest in her native Somalia in 1993 and found a haven initially in Zanzibar. Following her divorce in 2009, she struggled to feed her eight children, so she moved to Dar



es Salaam in search of better opportunities. "Raising a family of eight children alone is difficult. Uncertainty and fear crowd your thoughts," she says. Throughout the years, she has received cash grants and food support from UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. Most urban refugee women like Mukhti use their skills in weaving, sewing, soap making, and décor to produce handmade products and earn extra money to support their families. "I had to teach myself to make handbags and decorate them with beads," says Mukhti. From a modest four-roomed house sitting at the far end of a narrow gravel alley in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam, Mukhti set about learning all that she could about handbags. Soon after, and with just US\$ 13 mostly from contributions from her neighbours, she started a small handbag business. "I am grateful to them. They knew I needed support, so they gave

me the money and showed me a marketplace where I could buy reasonably priced beads." Mukhti sells the handbags by going door to door. Depending on the design and type of beads used, each bag fetches anywhere between US\$ 2 - 6. She uses the profits to cover basic family needs. "The handbag business keeps me busy. It doesn't pay much but gives the ability to buy more food and clothes for my family, especially during Eid," Mukhti says. She further recalls how multiple sets of new clothes and plenty of food were a tradition of the festive season when she was growing up. "But now things are different, we can not buy that many clothes, and we eat what we can afford." While refugees have consistently proven to be remarkably resilient in the face of crises, the potential consequences of coronavirus have caused them great anxiety. The fear of infection and loss of livelihoods have



weighed heavily in the minds of Mukhti and other urban refugees. "UNHCR has been working with partner organizations to provide health care and psy-

chosocial support. It has also distributed disinfectant, soap, water containers, masks, and sanitizer to all urban refugee households," says George Kuchio. "It has set up a dedicated hotline where refugees and asylum seekers can call to receive counseling," he added. Through her 27 year journey in Tanzania, Mukhti has faced many challenges but also experienced remarkable kindness. "There have been many sad days, but friends and neighbours have often stepped in to ease my suffering." She does not take the help for granted, so she is giving back. "Every weekend, I train my neighbours how to make handbags, so they too can make some extra money."

Although Mukhti has been a refugee for almost two-thirds of her life, she is defiant in her hope for a better tomorrow. "Being a refugee changes your life completely, but that doesn't mean that life stops," she says. "It must go on!"



**The Guardian Limited Key Contacts**

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

**Newsdesk**

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

**Advertising**

Mobile: 0782253676  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com

## African science needs more leaders: Here are hints towards having them

IT is widely accepted that the future of scientific development lies in enabling teams made up of people from different countries and disciplines. To do really great work, these often need to be quite big teams.

But training programmes for scientists don't typically include the types of leadership skills needed to pull this off. The kinds of skills needed to lead projects with diverse, multidisciplinary teams include reflective practice, strategic planning, engagement with a host of stakeholders, effective communication, and the ability to foster a culture of collaboration.

These kinds of skills in research programmes are especially important in the developing world. But it's also where programmes for their development are in shortest supply.

But there are some glimmers of hope. One of these is the Africa Science Leadership Programme, which was launched in 2015 and is coordinated by Future Africa.

This programme is grappling with questions around science leadership, such as how to be more intentional in providing the support base and skills for young African researchers to lead initiatives. It aims to inspire the best talent to enter and stay in the system; to expand investment in their careers; and to simultaneously grow the quality of research outputs.

By training young scientists on the continent to step into leadership roles and guide major projects, will transform the system to more effectively contribute to solving Africa's challenges.

It is clear that the speed and quality of the development of science capacity in Africa depends not only

on infrastructure and the technical training of people. It's also intimately linked to the quality of people who are able to inspire and lead change.

Countries in Africa lag behind the developed world in terms of scientific capacity and output. And the situation is not improving fast enough. Despite substantial investment over the past decades, developing countries - with the exception of Brazil and China - appear to be losing ground in research. Many of their brightest scholars have been trained around the world. Those who return home battle with poor infrastructure and a lack of support. Others emigrate for good.

Across the continent the bulk of the responsibility of developing science falls to scientists who are currently at an early stage of their career, or sometimes mid-career. Very few are supported or equipped for this task.

Africa's science capacity needs to expand by more than 10 times to have half the number of scientists per population that the UK has. For some countries it needs to expand by as much as 100 times to reach that level.

It's a huge challenge to build this capacity given that resources are low, support systems are weak and competition is strong.

One way to fast track the process is to focus on raising leaders. That's because they have a greater multiplying effect: they are equipped to inspire and lead the transformation of their environment.

Our hope is that an increased focus on science leadership development will provide support and networks for young African researchers who feel isolated and unsure of how to become the scientific leaders the continent so urgently needs.



By Nkanyiso Gumede

WHILE the country faces a looming food crisis, what is happening to those who received farms through land reform? And what needs to be done to support them so they can continue producing food and generating incomes?

Smallholder farmers and land reform beneficiaries have been greatly affected by the lockdown in South Africa. Disaster regulations have meant less mobility for these farmers, a drop in demand for produce, and, invariably, a loss of income. Smallholder farmers mainly supply informal markets, which include 'bakkie traders', street vendors, hawkers, people buying for traditional ceremonies, and niche markets such as restaurants.

On the other hand, the markets for large-scale commercial farmers have remained intact as supermarkets were declared an essential service from the beginning of the lockdown.

Seven days into the lockdown, on 2 April 2020, the regulations changed - now, informal traders could also trade. But this came with restrictions. Informal traders had to obtain permits, which was difficult since public transport was shut down. Without public transport, these traders had no means to travel to offices to acquire permits, and the police still harassed those who managed to get permits.

The spillover effect of this was that many land reform beneficiaries and smallholder farmers lost access to these informal markets. Other farmers, however, who had secure contracts with supermarkets, never had to struggle to access markets.

In some provinces, auctions were open for farmers to sell their livestock, but the prices were low. At the same time, there were reports that meat and other food prices were going up. The auctions were conducted online or in person, but lockdown regulations meant that not more than 50 people could attend. Some farmers decided not to sell and returned home with their livestock while others sold at a loss.

**In an interview on 14 April, one livestock farmer in KwaZulu-Natal told me:**

"I have cattle. I mainly sell on auctions. They are now online. But prices have declined drastically. Before lockdown you could sell a cow for between R11,000 and R12,000, but now prices range from R8,000 to R9,000. If you sell 10 cattle at R8,000, which cost R12,000 under normal conditions, you lose about R40,000. The same people that you sell to, then sell that same cattle at twice the amount. This needs to be fixed."

**Was relief support sufficient?**

On 6 April, the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development,

## Govt must come up with more effective ways of supporting small-scale farmers



Farmers plant crops in a paddy field. The Nepal government is being urged to take measures to minimise both short-term and long-term damage to the country's agricultural sector

Thoko Didiza, announced the Covid-19 relief fund for South Africa's smallholder farmers and land reform beneficiaries to the tune of R1.2-billion. Of this, R400-million was to be reserved for land reform beneficiaries of the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) programme - the rest would be allocated to smallholder farmers.

Land reform beneficiaries welcomed the initiative, but some raised concerns over the amount they would receive from the department: a maximum of R50,000. I spoke to a livestock farmer in the Eastern Cape on 30 April:

"The amount will not compensate for the loss that has come with the lockdown. It is too little for someone like me with a herd of 234 cattle, 140 sheep, and 30 goats."

Another concern is the prescriptive nature of the support, which often comes in the form of vouchers which are redeemable for production inputs and medication at pre-selected stores. These vouchers fail to meet the needs of the farmers. One livestock farmer in KwaZulu-Natal told me:

"What if I have inputs and medication, and want to use the relief fund to pay my employees? These vouchers need to be flexible and respond to our needs. They must consult us before taking decisions."

**Labour and related issues**

Lockdown meant that some workers from some sectors of the economy would be constrained at home. On 15 April, a crop and livestock farmer in KZN told me:

"When the lockdown was announced, I did not know whether we should continue to work on the farm or not. Some of my workers did not come to work because there was no public transport. I did not know whether I could fetch them. This meant that some activities had to stop on the farm. Only those from a nearby village came to work."

However, the opposite was true for commercial farmers. They have workers living on their farms and have easy access to information: they knew they were declared an essential service and could transport their workers.

In addition, some land reform farmers had to release their workers because lockdown meant they had no income to pay them. On 6 May a Free State farmer admitted to me:

"I had to release some of my workers because I am currently not generating any income. It would help if the government's support came in the form of cash, because I would use the cash to pay my employees."

Many farmworkers receive no income, which makes it difficult for them to survive the lockdown. The Women on Farms Project reported that, in the commercial sector, some seasonal workers on grape and wine farms in the Western Cape were facing a hunger crisis because they were unable to access unemployment benefits (UIF) since labour centres were closed. Social relief efforts in the form of food parcels also failed to reach workers on farms. Similar problems were experienced by workers on land reform farms.

**Rise in thefts under lockdown**

In an interview I conducted on 30 April, Mr Mfundisi, a land redistribution beneficiary in KwaZulu-Natal, told me he had reported incidents of theft, which he associated with the lockdown:

"People are stealing livestock to feed themselves. It is slaughtered in the dongas. You just find the head, feet and the skin. These animals are not sold, but are stolen and slaughtered because people are locked in their homes, and they are hungry."

"The challenge we face is that people are not at work. They are at home because of the lockdown. Children are not at school. There is no food at home. The food parcels have not been delivered to the people."

Mfundisi added that normally farmworkers were paid with income from sales at auctions, but these are closed or, even if open, have no customers because of physical distancing.

"The government's response is to give us feed... You cannot pay workers with feed, you have to pay them in cash. If you do not pay them, they are going to join the people who steal your livestock in order to feed themselves. The big question is, what will you have at the end of the corona pandemic as a farmer?"

**Enabling access to markets**

From my research, it is clear that the government's failure to expeditiously distribute social relief - both in terms of cash and food - has had a devastating effect on farmers and farmworkers.

With the relaxation of lockdown regulations, it is important to enable access to markets for land reform beneficiaries. Farmers suggest that government should purchase produce from land reform and smallholder farmers through the Covid-19 solidarity fund, and through government procurement in the longer term.

There are also calls from research institutions like PLAAS and civil society organisations for retailers to adjust their procurement requirements, and to buy their produce from small-scale and land reform farmers. They should also label the produce as such in their shops and ensure that they give farmers competitive prices. There is a burning need to create reliable and sustainable markets for land reform beneficiaries.

The C19 People's Coalition, which includes over 300 organisations, also points to the important fact that some farmers do not use the chemical inputs from commercial agriculture which were provided in the voucher system - they rely on organic inputs sourced from neighbours and small, local suppliers. Therefore, cash or flexible vouchers may be a better option for them.

Any relief aimed at mitigating the impact of Covid-19 must be relevant and based on a thorough consultation with those it targets. It must also be flexible and less prescriptive for it to be effective. Relief support that comes in the form of vouchers other than cash restricts farmers. It fails to offer farmers an opportunity to use the relief support to respond adequately to their needs.

If the government is concerned about accountability regarding cash or flexible vouchers, it must come up with ways of ensuring accountability. That cannot be used as an excuse to provide the support that is irrelevant and ineffective.

## Let us commemorate UN Public Service Day by honouring value of service to community

THE United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated on June 23 of every year.

The prestigious UN Public Service Awards are given away on this day. The UN Public Service Day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly's resolution of 2003, to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community. The United Nations Economic and Social Council established that the United Nations Public Service Awards be bestowed on Public Service Day for contributions made to the cause of enhancing the role, prestige, and visibility of public service.

The day also marks the anniversary of the date when the International Labour Organisation adopted the Convention on Labour Relations (Public Service) in 1978. This Convention is a framework for determining working conditions of all civil servants across the world.

Labour relations is a field of study that can have different meanings depending on the context in which it is used. In an international context, it is a subfield of labour history that studies the human relations with regard to work - in its broadest sense - and how this connects to questions of social inequality.

It explicitly encompasses unregulated, historical, and non-Western forms of labour. Here, labor relations define for or with whom one works and under what rules. These rules (implicit or explicit, written or unwritten) determine the type of work,

type and amount of remuneration, working hours, degrees of physical and psychological strain, as well as the degree of freedom and autonomy associated with the work

Public service is a service intended to serve all members of a community. It is usually provided by government to people living within its jurisdiction, either directly (through the public sector) or by financing provision of services.

The term is associated with a social consensus (usually expressed through democratic elections) that certain services should be available to all, regardless of income, physical ability or mental acuity. Even where public services are neither publicly provided nor publicly financed, for social and political reasons they are usually subject to regulation going beyond that applying to most economic sectors.

Public policy when made in the public's interest and motivations can provide public services. Public service is also a course that can be studied at a college or university. Examples of public services are the fire brigade, police, air force, and paramedics.

In the country's the Tanzania Public Service College an institution of higher learning in Tanzania, mandated to offer courses that prepare school leavers for effective delivery of public service to the citizens of the country. The institution also offers refresher courses to active public servants, to improve and update their knowledge-base and skills.



# EFTA LTD

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The agricultural industry adds to about one quarter of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in

Tanzania. It employs about three quarters of the whole Tanzanian population who are capable to work. Agriculture covers 90% the food needed in Tanzania where about 80% of production comes from smallholder farmers dwelling in rural settings.

EFTA has been working with government institutions, local government, Agricultural institutions and all key players in the sector as well as participating in Agricultural trade fairs like Nane Nane, national wide to ensure it reaches as many farmers as possible to push forward the economy.

Its by considering the importance of the agricultural sector that EFTA Ltd decided to invest more than Tzs. 25 billion and around Tzs 5 billion in Agri processing. We work closely with farmers knowing the importance of this sector and we are currently financing tractors, harvesters, Agri-processing equipment, power tillers and other agricultural machines/equipment's.

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# Blood in the banking halls

By Olusegun Adeniyi

In most countries, including those with high crime rates, men of the underworld avoid killing police personnel because it would bring too much trouble. In Nigeria, criminal gangs not only engage police in frequent combat, they sometimes target them for attack before carrying out their nefarious activities. The situation is so bad that on 23rd November 2016, the then Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris publicly admitted that “in the past three months, the [police] force has lost 128 personnel in various parts of the country due to (the) activities of undesirable elements in our communities.”

Last week in Kogi State, dare devil armed robbers invaded Isanlu community to raid a bank. On arrival in broad daylight, the armed robbers first went to the police station where they gunned down the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) and six other personnel (four males and two females) on duty. They then killed another policeman within the premises of the bank they robbed. This has become an all too familiar pattern.

With reports of ransom paid to kidnappers to secure the release of abducted policemen, it is evident that the capacity of the force to protect itself is increasingly being called into question. That eight police personnel and a civilian would be so casually executed by criminals is symptomatic of the state of insecurity in our country. But the concern here is not just the weakness of the police but the growing number of bloody bank robberies in our country. Statistics of fatalities from such robberies is quite chilling and no bank has escaped the scourge. The choice of location, audacity of attack and the ease with which these hoodlums get away are some of the issues security agencies must begin to address. They must also look at the complicity of some rogue policemen and that of compromised bank officers.

According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) records, there were 27 bank robberies across the country in 2019 with 12 of them at the United Bank for Africa (UBA) branches. Access Bank and Sterling Bank had four robberies each. Union Bank and Polaris Bank had two each. GTBank, Fidelity and Wema had one each. The highest haul in these robberies was N53.9 million carted away on 24th January 2019 at Polaris Bank in Ila Orangun, Osun State (a policeman and two civilians were killed) followed by N21.8 million taken away from Wema bank in Ise Ekiti (a policeman was also killed) on 3rd October 2019.

In total, from what I gathered, as much as N180 million was lost to the 27 bank robberies last year. This of course is no more than a mere token when compared with the quantum of money being stolen by smart Alocs who sit behind computers to rob these same banks and their customers. But that is not the issue here. From the attack in February this year in Ile Oluji, Ondo State, which claimed several victims, including two policemen to the latest in Kogi State, it is clear that bank robbers in Nigeria are not content with simply carting away money. They are also eager to leave a blood trail. That is what should most concern authorities, especially at a time like this.

Ordinarily, there is nothing unusual about bank robberies nor are they peculiar to Nigeria. In the United States of America, hundreds of such robberies are recorded annually. But bank robberies are hardly ever bloody in the US and the culprits are also almost always caught and brought to justice. On 18th January last year, the New York Times published the story of a California bank robber named “Travelling Bandit”. He had been declared wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) allegedly for robbing at least seven banks in six states within a month. According to the FBI, the man normally ap-



proaches the counter, presents a note demanding money with threats that he held a gun and after taking cash, he would walk away. Exactly five days later, the suspect, Jason Lee Robinson, was arrested. Those are the kind of bank robbers they entertain in America. In contrast, bank robbery in Nigeria is an organised crime that is hardly ever resolved and now costing many police personnel and other civilians their lives.

On 5th April 2018, several armed robbers stormed Offa, Kwara State, raiding five commercial banks, after first attacking the police station where they took out nine officers. The death toll from the attack lasting several hours is now as high as 30. Despite a subsequent breakthrough in the investigation aided by

security cameras in one of the banks, nobody has been brought to justice. Meanwhile, the principal suspect, a former operative of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) died in custody under controversial circumstances.

Four months later on 9th August 2018, no fewer than 10 persons were killed following a robbery attack at two banks in Igarra, Edo State. On reaching the community, the robbers first paid their ‘customary’ call at the police station where they killed personnel before launching their robbery operation at the bank where they also killed four security men.

And on 19th November 2018, two policemen, a security guard and a bank worker were killed when armed robbers invaded a new generation bank in Ijero, Ekiti State. They used the same

playbook of ‘visiting’ the police station first.

The foregoing represents just three of several documented cases of bank robberies that have claimed hundreds of innocent lives (police officers, bank workers/customers and bystanders) in recent years. In a country already grappling with insurgency, kidnapping, banditry and other associated crimes, a situation in which armed robbers now use dynamite to break security doors, force their ways into banking halls and kill innocent people, cannot be allowed to continue. Not only has it impacted negatively on economic growth and development at the grassroots, it has put the whole financial inclusion idea in serious jeopardy.

In 2012 when a certain Sanusi Lamido Sanusi was governor, the CBN launched the first

National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) with the aim of reducing the amount of cash transactions in the system and expanding access to financial services for more Nigerians. His successor, Godwin Emefiele has done much in the past six years to consolidate this goal. But Emefiele’s target of having 95 percent of Nigerians financially included by 2024 seems farfetched.

While that aspiration can be achieved substantially in major cities, the rural areas where the majority of our population still reside remain the issue. The challenge is that as armed robbers target banks domiciled in these communities, people will be further excluded from financial services.

That Nigeria remains a cash economy is a major bane. It is also the reason why corruption

thrives. In its report, ‘Financial Inclusion in Nigeria: Data and Hard Facts’ published on 28th September last year, Nairametrics highlighted how financial exclusion has contributed significantly to poverty in our country. “The wealthiest 20 percent of households are at least eight times more likely to have an account than the poorest households. It is no wonder that the poorest states in Nigeria are in the northern region of the country where banks have little to no presence... In spite of these statistics, the majority of the food produced in Nigeria comes from the North,” the report states. In a 2011 poll of unbanked Nigerians, according to Nairametrics, “61% expressed a desire to have an account, but there was no bank close enough to make their simple wishes a reality. Farmers consequently are reliant singly on cash availability despite their wide range of financial needs-for both agricultural activities and family life. They end up indebted and access financial services from informal sources because they cannot access credit from institutional and non-institutional sources.”

With the increasing rate of violent armed robberies that claim lives, including of their staff, it is understandable that many of the banks are not keen to expand their branches to rural communities. But we need to make the right calls to create incentives for growth.

And there is nothing more urgent than financial inclusivity for our people, especially those living in rural areas.

That won’t happen if armed robbers believe they can continue to invade our communities, kill policemen and walk into the bank tills to cart away money they did not deposit.

The threats posed to our country by the COVID-19 pandemic will manifest beyond the health sector. One of the areas we must pay special attention to is security. The crime rate among young people is already high and desperation will push many more into armed robbery. That will render banks in remote areas of our country vulnerable to opportunistic attacks.

By Omphehmetse S Sibanda

## Time to finally address demands of the Class of ’76

Is it time to revisit the issue of Afrikaans as a mandatory language for black learners at schools? And why not deal seriously with issues of transformation in schools and tertiary institutions, and of curriculum trimming and revitalisation beyond just responding to Covid-19?

“It was 10.30 on the morning of June 16, 1976. Six thousand pupils in school uniforms sang, shouted, and waved placards bearing slogans such as ‘Away with Afrikaans,’ ‘Afrikaans is the language of the oppressors,’ and ‘We are fed the crumbs of ignorance with Afrikaans as a poisonous spoon.’”

This is one of the trigger accounts of the 1976 Soweto Uprising as reported by Helena Pohlandt-McCormick in *I Saw a Nightmare... Violence and the Construction of Memory* (Soweto, June 16, 1976) published in the 2000 special issue of *History and Theory* journal under the theme “Not Telling: Secrecy, Lies, and History”.

There were those who spoke out against the commission’s findings, like Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, leader of the Opposition, who voiced concerns over the contemptuous and suspicious manner in which the Cillie Commission treated the evidence of black witnesses.

As stated by Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng, the vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town (UCT), in her delivery of the Tsietsi Donald Mashini Memorial Lecture at Morris Isaacson High School in Soweto on 15 June 2019 to commemorate Youth Day, “[The 1976 learners] were not just resisting being taught in the language of the oppressor; they also understood that this step would limit their ability to achieve academically.”

Soweto Uprising of 1976 – killing and displacing youths and families.

During the sitting of the National Assembly, Kruger announced plans to appoint the Cillie Commission of Inquiry into the uprising, led by Justice Petrus Malan Cillie, judge-president of the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa. The Cillie Commission was appointed on 24 June 1976, and the outcome was the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Riots at Soweto and Elsewhere from the 16th of June 1976 to the 28th of February 1977, issued in 1981. Disappointingly, as with many of the commissions we have had in South Africa, Cillie was at times shamefully apologetic in condemning the actions of the police; and tried to present a finding that would not upset the apartheid masters.

There were those who spoke out against the commission’s findings, like Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, leader of the Opposition, who voiced concerns over the contemptuous and suspicious manner in which the Cillie Commission treated the evidence of black witnesses.

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Celebrating the 44th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising as a reflection on an unfinished story

On Tuesday 16 June 2020 South Africa will commemorate the 44th anniversary of the Soweto Uprising. It was



the day our youth took a decisive step to be free from the coercion to learn lessons in Afrikaans, imposed pursuant to the Afrikaans Medium Decree of 1974, while their fellow white pupils could choose which language to learn between Afrikaans and English in a 50-50 mix. Yet, and I stand to be corrected, the 1976 Soweto Uprising is one of South Africa’s unfinished struggles on many fronts.

This year, June 16, known as Youth Day, is going to be celebrated differently amid Covid-19. The usual pomp and ceremony of the event will be missed. Perhaps this is a blessing in disguise to allow a pressing of the reset button for a proper commemoration of the uprising. I expressed a view in the *Sowetan Sunday World* (“We failed the class of ’76”) that the June 16 movement lost its way when South Africa transitioned from the apartheid era to the constitutional democracy of the ANC-led government. And that, “[w]hat now stands out as a true epitome of the historic struggle is the famous picture taken by Sam Nzima of Mbuyisa Makhubu carrying the limp body of Hector Pieterse”.

Our preoccupation was on reconciliation and building the rainbow nation, yet we could not reconcile ourselves as a

society that there was an urgent and overdue national imperative to correct the injustices that were directed at black public schools over decades.

Earlier I used the word “imposed” in reference to the issue of Afrikaans as a language of instruction during the Bantu Education era. It is because no consultation took place when the decision was made to “enforce” Afrikaans in black schools.

It is reported that when asked about consultation, the deputy minister of Bantu Education, Punt Janson, said: “No, I have not consulted the African people on the language issue and I’m not going to. An African might find that ‘the big boss’ only spoke Afrikaans or only spoke English. It would be to his advantage to know both languages.”

The ignorance and arrogance of the ruling National Party was clear from the following rhetorical questions asked by Jimmy Kruger before the National Assembly: “Why do they walk with upraised fists? Surely this is the sign of the Communist Party. I do not want to accuse them of being Communists, but where does this walking with upraised fist come from? Why do they walk through the streets shouting the

word ‘power?’ Where do these things among the young people come from?”

So patronising was Kruger that he never thought a black person could even know how to light a fire: “One must know how to set something alight if one wants to set fire to a building or if one wants to set fire to a tractor. One must know something about those things,” said Kruger. In trying to negatively portray blacks, the rhetorical questions by Kruger demonstrated his level of imbecility and ignorance.

The best-fitting tribute to sacrifices youths made in 1976

The question previously asked, which I would repeat as we celebrate the 44th commemoration of the 1976 Soweto Uprising, is: “Have we done justice to the legacy of the class of 1976?”

In his 2019 article in *Daily Maverick*, Busani Ngcaweni argued that “[t]here is no fitting tribute to the sacrifices of the youth of 1976 than implementing fully policies aimed at transforming our education system. We have the means, the tools, and significantly, political will backed by a popular mandate”.

From the perspective of our school environment, as it currently stands, the Soweto Uprising did not receive the traction it deserves – even under the successor ANC-led government. Much still needs to be done, including commemorating the Soweto Uprising differently. How about we revisit the issue of Afrikaans as a mandatory language for black learners at schools? And why not deal seriously with issues of transformation in schools and tertiary institutions, and of curriculum trimming and revitalisation beyond just responding to Covid-19?

Our preoccupation was on reconciliation and building the rainbow nation, yet we could not reconcile ourselves as a society that there was an urgent and overdue national imperative to correct the injustices that were directed at black public schools over decades.



# Aluminium company will get materials stranded at Dar port - minister

By Guardian Reporter

Musa Hassan Zungu Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) yesterday assured the Ocean Aluminium Company that they will get imported over 40 tonnes of aluminium detained at the Dar es Salaam port, but only after ex-

haustive inspection by experts.

The minister gave the assurance here after visiting the factory where he said: "I have come here to satisfy myself that factory exists. Yes you do. You employ over 100 workers and you are paying tax to the tune of L2bn/-. We shall take steps that are beneficial to both sides because the law pro-

hibits importation of hazardous materials into Tanzania."

Zungu said the company imported the raw material without informing the National Environment Management Council (NEMC).

The minister called on public and private institutions to observe guideline issued by NEMC,

especially institutions importing raw materials considered to be in the category of hazardous materials. According to the minister, the government did not want to frustrate investors.

For that reason, he said: "The government was solving emerging challenges in order to create an environment that was friendly

to investment and doing business."

The factory's personnel manager, Aisha Omary said the factory became operational in January this year but has had difficulties in getting enough raw materials.

She said the aluminium cargo impounded at the port was an important raw material in mak-

ing aluminium pots but was also frank to admit the company had contravened import regulations.

She said the impounding of their import provided them a good lesson.

"We did not observe some of the regulations governing importing raw materials into the country. We shall discuss with NEMC

issues regarding imports to avoid occurrences of this nature in future," she pledged.

Established 37 years ago, NEMC is meant to promote environmental management in Tanzania through coordination, facilitation, awareness raising, enforcement, assessment, monitoring and research.

## Project by TBL helps sorghum farmers to land reliable market

By Guardian Reporter

ISSA Dinya, a farmer from Bumbuta Village in Kondoa District, Dodoma Region, now has a reliable market for his sorghum.

He was part of TBL sorghum pilot project which aimed to equip farmers with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), that have improved the yield and quality of sorghum, as well as to provide them with a guaranteed market for their produce.

Prior to joining the sorghum project, Dinya and many other farmers in the area grew sorghum mainly for subsistence purposes. Two thousand smallholder farmers have benefited from the Tanzania Breweries Public Limited Company (TBL Plc), WFP and FtMA sorghum pilot project to date. Tanzania's smallholder farmers are an essential part of TBL's supply chain.

The project aimed to improve their livelihoods and they produced yields that were approximately 70% better than the previous year.

The trilateral project kicked off in January 2020 where TBL Plc agreed to purchase the sorghum produced by smallholder sorghum farmers in Dodoma and Manyara. TBL Plc, FtMA and WFP supported the farmers with access to sorghum seed; crop insurance; sorghum crop management protocols; agricultural extension services; as well as improved aggregation and market access to maximize their harvest.

For his part, TBL's managing director, Philip Redman,



said that he was pleased to see positive results from the sorghum project because this would play a crucial role in the company's commitment to improving sorghum farm-

ing in Tanzania, a development that will ensure that farmers have a reliable source of income going forward.

According to Redman, his company cur-

rently sources 74% of its raw materials locally and is committed to increasing its local sourcing over the coming years. TBL sources around 9,000 tonnes of sorghum

for the production of its fast-growing affordable brands - Eagle and Bi-Abingwa.

"Our local sourcing programs are one of the many ways in which we make a significant contribution to the government's wider efforts of enhancing Tanzania's economy," he said.

Speaking at one of the sorghum projects visits in Dodoma, executive director of Kondoa District Council, Mustapha Yusuf, commended the TBL local sourcing programme.

"The programme has greatly improved sorghum farming in Tanzania through direct contracting - a model that has proven to be conducive to improve both the yield and quality of sorghum in the country," he said.

In 2018, ABInBev publicly committed to skill, connect and financially empower their direct farmers by 2025.

"To this end, our business has made significant investments in supporting our smallholder farmers in Tanzania with the following products and services - KilimoUza: a bulk SMS and USSD platform to send farmers weather, market and agronomic information; An input advance credit scheme, coupled with financial literacy training, for the procurement of quality inputs and services; Research trials in Tanzania for developing improved sorghum seed variety and research based crop management protocols tailored to the Tanzanian context; and agronomic training and support throughout the season, to inculcate sustainable agronomic practices," says Redman.

## EASTC remains crucial resource centre of excellence in producing statisticians

THE Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC) is one of the leading official statistics training resource centre in Tanzania and Africa at large. Our Correspondent talked to the EASTC Rector, Dr Frank Mkumbo (pictured), on what the centre has been doing since its establishment 55 years ago. Excerpts:

**QUESTION: What was the motive behind establishing EASTC?**

**ANSWER:** The Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre was officially established on August 30, 1965 few years after Tanzania got its independence. In one of the meetings during the existence of the East Africa Common Services Organization (EACSO) - Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, it was agreed that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would provide sufficient equipment and leadership to the centre which would be located in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The centre as said earlier began to function in 1965.

Its main objectives were to organize training of middle and intermediate levels - Certificate and Diploma for National Statistical Office (NSO) personnel in Anglophone African countries. It was also meant to arrange for the participation of the trainees in the field surveys organized by EAC and the participating countries. But few years before the collapse of EAC in 1977, UNDP and other development partners ended their support to the Centre and it was therefore managed by the East African Common Services Organization (EACSO).

**Q: After the collapse of the first phase EAC, when did the centre resumed its operation?**

**A:** The Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) and Advisory Board of the Centre on 6th February 1978 came up with a resolution that apart from remaining a regional Centre, it should be expanded to serve more states from the African region. The Centre has therefore since then become a regional statistical institution serving Anglophone Africa but owned by 19 user countries namely Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi and Mauritius. Others are Namibia, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan,



Swaziland, Tanzania, Gambia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**Q: What the centre offer to students?**

**A:** Originally the centre used to handle only middle level training courses; that is at certificate level but it was upgraded later to impart training at intermediate level, that is diploma. Then in 2012, EASTC started offering the first degree of Bachelor in Official Statistics (BOS) alongside certificate and diploma courses. This was after it was accredited by the National Accreditation Council for Technical Education (NACTE) as a higher learning institution.

**Q: Does the centre offers post graduate or higher studies?**

**A:** Yes it does. We have such pro-

grammes like master's degree of official statistics (MOS) launched in April 2014. The first batch of students came from Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. They also came from Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Swaziland, Rwanda, and Zambia and of course from Tanzania. Here they specialized in national accounts, pure statistics, agricultural statistics, survey methodology and population statistics.

We also offer courses in Master of Science in Agricultural Statistics in collaboration with IASRI (India) and SUA (Tanzania), as well as Postgraduate Diplomas in Official Statistics and Agricultural Statistics. The courses aim at producing top-level Official Statisticians and Researchers to serve the African National Statistical Systems.

**Q: What do you consider to be the key roles and responsibilities of a statistician?**

**A:** In a nutshell, the specific tasks of statisticians depend very much on the kind of industry, enterprise, company, ministry or organization he or she serves. But on the whole, it is to collect, analyze and interpret data being received. It is also to identify trends and relationships in data. It is also to deal with the designing of processes for data collection. Then the officer must be able to diligently communicate findings to stakeholders; managements and boards. Must also, be able to advise the chief executive officer of the organization and business strategy that the company should take and assist in decision making and alter for any crisis or consequences.

**Q: When a student graduates with the relevant qualifications, what will be her/his expectations?**

**A:** Our students are the best product compared even to those who studied in other parts of the world. We have hundreds of testimonies to prove this. First of all, they benefit the usage of data to solve problems in a wide variety of fields. Secondly, they use their mathematical and statistical knowledge to solve social, economic, political, ecological and even health and energy problems surrounding them. Thirdly; they are confident when consulting with other professionals in advancement of this specified field.

**Q: In your opinion, is this profes-**

sion on higher demand?

**A:** Frankly speaking, this field is picking up tremendously. There has been a spike in demand for statisticians in businesses due to the proliferation of data generation and collection across industries and because businesses are now realizing the value of data-driven decision making. At a higher level; statisticians are professionals who apply statistical methods and models to real world problems. They gather, analyze and interpret data to aid many businesses in their decision making processes.

**Q: Are there any other activities apart from teaching that the centre is involved with?**

**A:** Yes, the Centre is focused on three core activities which are teaching, research and consultancy around the industry of statistics. We also train and research in collaboration with different organizations in the area of official statistics in the eastern Africa Region. We've also developed Statistical frameworks for electronic population register for Regional Administration and Local Government (RALG), Disability Statistical Database, Labor Force Database, Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Statistical System, VICOBA-FETA Management System, Crime Statistics Management Information System and Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs management system just to mention a few.

**Q: Covid-19 has brought in a number of challenges. What is your advice to statisticians?**

**A:** There has been no other time in the world history that the use of statisticians has been deeply felt like this period when we are facing Covid-19. They are the ones who have been keeping figures globally; regionally, nationally and locally of total cases; recoveries and even death toll in collaboration with medical and health experts. Alongside the economists; statisticians have assisted in keeping figures of the economies including people who are pushed out of employment; those in prolonged starvation and hunger and other impacts on the various sectors during the pandemic. Perhaps we should find another session to discuss our role as related to Covid-19.



# Open letter to Liberian joint legislative chambers

By Alphonsus Kamahnoon

LEADERS among equals of the prestigious Liberian Legislative Body, and all members of the legislative order of the Joint Chambers, I greet you. In my honest quest to relate with your leadership viability on the current trends that affect the world as a whole, and Liberia in particular, I address this letter to you in the interest of our motherland.

Liberia has suffered trans-generational woes. Most times it is due to internal insobriety in the corridor of decision making. Other times it is due to intimidation by the intrusion of external elements. Where we are perplexed with inferiority complex in the rise of foreign interests, we become inconsistent to defending our dignity, while keeping posterity in mind. But worse is it, when we are bent to the quest of private luxuries at the expense of national coffers. To state, the resolutions that destroy nations are either intended or unintended. But where national teetering or retrogression persists for nearly two hundred years, the question of integrity and competence on the part of past and present leaders (the influencers of a society of achievers) stands tall.

In the background, what warrants this letter is the spirit of nationalism which assesses the pale faces of the poor masses, on which all signs of stress and malnourishment are simultaneously glaring. Yet the headlines conveyed by local news outlets seem to unfavour the future, per the resolutions reached by the hierarchies in governance. Where government's signed agreements are unreconcilable to the plights of citizens, insensitivity may degenerate such conditions. And with time, menaces may evolve into what may get the government uncomfortable.

## Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) to Print \$4b in \$500 Notes?

I was recently astonished to read CBL's plan to print \$4b in strictly \$500 banknotes. This reminds me of my grief and prediction in Nigeria in 2016, when I first read from Liberian online newspapers that the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's regime had intended to include \$500 notes on the list of existing denominations. I was sad because I understood the implications. And with a bitter heart, I announced to fellow patriots with me in Jos, Nigeria, that if this was achieved, the value of the Liberian dollar would suffer massive fall. Sadly that same year, I learned that the \$500 single bills were infused in the economy by CBL. I still have one or two traces of my written disappointment I extended to friends at home, foretelling rapid inflation. And now before going into the argument, let me tearfully alarm that Liberia is on the brink of another avoidable economic deprecation that will impose lasting negative impacts on the present government and Liberia hereafter, if the population of the \$500 is increased in the economy.

## The Merits and Demerits of Big Monetary Denominations

In the hunt to expand the basis of my view, I consulted a number of materials I referenced in the letter to prop my assertions where necessary. As a way of beginning, what went wrong with \$100 denominations being the highest single notes of legal tender in the country? Why replace it with \$500 notes? What was the logic put forth by CBL to you, our noble legislature, that justified the approval to legalize and infuse \$500 denominations in the Liberian economy? What were the advantages and disadvantages explained? And on your part, how did the committee(s) on Banking and Finance peruse through the pages of the document requesting your approval to print the said banknotes, to dutifully critique claimed justifications and decide? Where little needful protocols are breached, or are liberally run through for formality, the true intent of dark motives are easily achieved. Thus I humbly petition you to see the skull and crossbones on the placard to avoid the reiteration of past faults as honorable members of the joint Chambers.

I want to observe that the demerits of high banknotes in the economy outlist their merits. Henry Boyo agrees that to him, the sole usefulness of high currency denominations is the ease of moving and traveling with huge

amounts of money at a time, and hiding the same for safety in a place of convenience outside the bank. He justifies that this is commendable in situations where bank customers may worry over the security of their deposits as relative to concerns whether the banks will comply to facilitate withdrawals at the timely requests of depositors. Meanwhile, I want to stand with common view, that high note currencies may be encouraged in countries where inflation, gravely intensifies as government's efforts to control such are repelled by market forces. In this category of circumstances, usually the first two or three smallest single unit banknotes, eg. \$5, \$10 and \$20, may be rendered incompetent to afford prices in the market due to intensive inflation. This would put forth a clarion call to subscribe to high banknotes to proffer a relatively parallel relief instead of moving with money bags to buy trifles.

However, big note currencies are obviously the incentives of inflation. They erode the status of government's struggle to sustain or regain control over market prices. Their weaknesses are hideous and undermining. Henry Boyo still aligns with this in the Nigerian context, that high banknotes attract inflation and the soaring of prices in the economy. He asserts that "You could buy four new car tyres, for example, with the N20 note and feed a small size family for a week! The exchange rate of naira against the dollars at that time was about N1 = \$1. The introduction of higher denominations of N50, N100, N200 and N500 has closely followed the history of naira depreciation against the dollars". Boyo's article was written in September, 2005. By that time, the rate was about N100 = \$1. He wrote to challenge Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) push to print N1,000 bank notes. Despite the outcry of several well meaning Nigerians and civil society groups, CBN was shielded by legislative approval to print the N1,000 notes. And presently, naira is exchanged to dollars at the rate of N390 = \$1. That is about 290% inflation in fifteen years. This rate is even lower, since the federal authorities have a monetary policy in place that suppresses the super activeness of foreign currencies in Nigeria, unlike in Liberia where the opposite is the case.

It is very important to reveal this further, to the Joint Chambers, that following the ascension of president Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria to power in 2014, a Whistle Blower Policy was introduced. This policy treats that anyone aiding government with tip-off of stolen money will receive at least 5% of whatever amount of money recovered by the government based on the intelligence shared. Shortly after the policy was established, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) started making stagnant discovery of physical lucre - millions and billions of naira in hiding places such as private residences, uncompleted buildings, large holes, etc. Dubious characters mainly from public parastatals could not bank the money in order to conceal their financial records. And it is not surprising to note that the amounts uncovered were dominantly camouflaged in N500 and N1,000 banknotes.

According to Boyo, some of the trends that unite aggressions to war against national economy on the platform of high banknotes are paraphrase as follows:

Cash Dependency. Progressive nations are far implementing cashless policies which help to decimate financial improprieties as state's agents may monitor citizen's financial activities with ease. In such societies, banks and other private organizations which provide financial services to citizens are supervised by Central Banks. On the contrary, in our country, with the \$500 notes, we become independent of the banking sector as we can afford to comfortably harbor fortunes in our private savings. By so doing, we lose the culture of proper saving which hampers the 'climate of investment in the country'.

Criminal Facilitation. Inflated banknotes like \$500 is an aggravator of fiscal corruption in its ramifications of fiscal forgery, figure inflation, underreported income, money laundering, goods smuggling, human trafficking, illegal mining, physical robbery and tax invasion.



This is because culprits may gain millions of dollars at a sole strive to purloin. In a paper titled "Making it Harder for the Bad Guys: The Case for Eliminating High Denomination Notes", Peter Sands and others present that "Our proposal is to eliminate high denomination, high value currency notes, such as the €500 notes, the \$100 bill, the CHF1,000 note and the £50 note". They speak on, "Such notes are the preferred payment mechanism of those pursuing illicit activities, given the anonymity and lack of transaction record they offer, and relative ease with which they can be transported and moved". They finally reveal that tax invasion and terrorist financing are all associated with high denomination notes. I would include illegal hard drugs dealings on the lists.

Lucrative for Forgery Syndicates. With the advancement of technology, impossibility is becoming obsolete. Forgery machines have advanced. And forgers beating the system will relentlessly target duplicating the highest single banknotes as their primary interests. And such criminal breakthrough will forcefully deteriorate the inflation situation the more. It will barely take them stress and resources before they generate millions of dollars to infiltrate the market - creating persistent surmise, and doubt while killing businesses and undermining the economy as a result of losses.

Unreconcilable Difference in the Economy. The use of \$500 notes is not inclusive in the Liberian economy. For instance, sellers of petty goods may hardly accept to change \$500 for an item of \$10 bought. This is because they may not be able to sell \$500 on daily basis.

And besides, even if they have \$490 for change, they are usually unwilling to let it out as they expect more customers who may also demand change in return. Having \$500 bill and boarding a taxi for a \$20 distance and anticipating \$480 change from the driver is a practical challenge we also experience daily. Intending to offer a friend out of a \$500 single note is equally worrisome. Often time marketers are unwilling to breakdown \$500 notes without tangible patronage.

The weight is certainly graver on remote communities. However, in all these instances, \$100 note is far preferable. It is closer to the grassroots' economic strength and encourages an inclusive economy. Thus \$500 denominations in a country which inflation rate, like ours, is not that bad, has placed stress and constraints in certain sectors of economy.

## Historical Analysis of the Liberian Dollar's Stages of Inflation: Why \$500 Note is a Bad News for the Liberian Economy

The history of the Liberian dollar struggles started as far back as 1847 when the nation was birthed. According to finding from Wikipedia, Liberia has issued and modified its currency recurrently between 1847 and 1906. "In 1847 and 1862, copper 1 and 2 cents coins were issued and were the only coins until 1896, when a full coinage consisting of 1, 2, 10, 25 and 50 cents coins were introduced.

The last issues were made in 1906". Meanwhile, the same source has indicated that "The Treasury Department issued notes between 1857 and 1880 in denominations of 10, 50 cents, 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 dollars. There seems to be an economic lesson was learned after the printing of various dollar notes (higher banknotes) between 1857 - 1880. Thus about 16 years later in 1906, the Treasury Department recanted its mistake by refraining from the reissuance of dollar notes. Also during the coin minting of 1960 and 1961, the dollar notes did not resurface. The Liberian currency was pegged to the US dollars at one time, and to the British West African pound at another time. Within a period of 21 years, according to my findings, Liberia did not mint or print

new money until 1982, when \$5 coins - usually referred to as Seven Corners, were minted during the Samuel K. Doe military administration. This followed the bloody coup in April 1980. Though with great advantages, Seven Corners had its own weak imprint on the Liberian economy. It is the mother of modern Liberia's high denomination legal tenders regime with its associated swift inflation history. The \$5 coins were replaced by \$5 JJ bank notes seven years later in 1989. With the infusion of JJ in the economy, the nation was fully set enter a distinct financial era. All the same, former President Charles Taylor replaced the JJ on March 29, 2000, adding 10, 20, 50 and \$100 denominations to the traditional \$5 JJ note. Still, on October 6, 2016, former president Johnson Sirleaf modified the 2000 currency and introduced \$500 notes.

By the extinction of coins and their replacement by bigger paper denominations, Liberia entered the avenue of gross inflation. With 25 and 50 cent banknotes forming the circle of our currency in early Liberia, the local money had equal value with the US dollar. For at least hundred and thirty five years, 1847 - 1982, recorded inflation rate did not reach 100%. This means, for example, before 1982, Liberian dollars were never changed \$2 - \$1 US. The decline of the local currency in value was ideally sluggish through the first one and the half centuries of our independence. But following the relative political instability through the 1980s, coupled with the minting of Seven Corners, and replacing it with JJ, by the end of the decade, the new exchange rate became \$2 - 1 US.

This began a big problem in a small way. The value depletion grew faster through the next decade - the 1990s (the full flexed war era). Nevertheless, in 2001, an online CIA World Factbook had indicated that "From 1940 until December 1997, rates were based on a fixed relationship with the US dollar, beginning in January 1998, rates are market determined by market forces. To emphasize, if this insertion is factual, for 57 years, 1940 - 1997, let me put it this way, rates were negotiated until barely four months after former president Charles Taylor resumed power on August 22, 1997. Thereafter, market forces replaced the role of conscience to determine exchange rates.

Moreover, Mr. Taylor administration's replacement of JJ in 2000 with the introduction of higher denominations did not leverage the situation of inflation. By the year 2000, the local currency was exchange to US dollars at the rate of \$41 - \$1 US. At the time he Mr. Taylor sought asylum in Calaba, Cross River state, Federal Republic of Nigeria, on August 11, 2003, the Liberian dollar value stood at about \$56.75 - \$1 US, which later regained strength the same year at \$50 - \$1 US according to CBL 2003 reported. By December, 2006, during the first year of Madam Johnson Sirleaf's presidency, the rate climbed to \$59 - \$1 US as recorded in CBL's 2006 annual report.

It is yet uncovered that after the emergence of the \$500 banknote in the economy on October 6, 2016, the Liberian dollar's value fall intensified to \$210.79 - \$1 US in October, 2019. Meanwhile, outside the banks, money exchangers round the country bought the US dollar \$220 - \$1 US. The acceleration escaped daily. Nevertheless, 2019 folded with the appreciation of the Liberian dollar's value at \$186.93 - \$1 US as CBL announced a debatable shortage of Liberian dollars in the market. That means two years (2017 - 2018), after the infusion of \$500 notes in the economy, the Liberian dollar's weight loss was at its worst since since the first civil war ended.

Due to the heat of the civil war through the 90s, from the rate of \$2 - \$1 US in the late 80s, inflation increased to \$41 - \$1 US by the year 2000. This was about 1,950% inflation in some ten years. 2001 - 2005, the new

rate mounted to \$56.50 - \$1 US. The five years period under review recorded 15.5% inflation. 2006 - 2016, the growing rate arrived at about \$91 - \$1 US. That period of ten years saw the total inflation of 61.06%. Still perusing through our inflation history, the time following the printing and infusion of the \$500 banknote, October 2016 - October 2019, the new rate entered three digits for the first time. Inflation walloped at \$210.79 - \$1 US, which was about 131.06% inflation. Let me simplify this as follows:

1990 - 2000 -- 10 years = 1,950% inflation (war, relative fall of government).

2001 - 2005 --- 5 years = 15.5% inflation.

2006 - 2016 -- 10 years = 61.06% inflation.

2017 - 2019 --- 2 years = 131.66% inflation.

To correct hasty political assumptions that may blame the present government for the Liberian dollar's fall, the drastic decline began in 2017 after the said currency notes gained its legacy for the economy. Meeting the rate of \$90 - \$1USD, the infusion occurred October 6, 2016. By December, 2017, the depreciation mounted to \$125.16 - \$1 US, equating the Liberian dollar inflation rate to about 39.06% against the US dollar in a single year. This was more than half of the 61.06% inflation recorded over the ten years period before the \$500 came about. It was also the worst single year inflation since 1997.

Thus the \$500 notes had already started manifesting aggressively in the final year of former president Sirleaf's administration. This is not exonerating today's regime from anything. It is only focusing on the weight of the \$500 banknotes on the economy.

Honorable members of the Joint Chambers, I refused to include or dwell on the present exchange rate since the close of 2019, because I do not trust the legality of the methods used by the Weah government to quench the 2019 sporadic growing inflation of the Liberian dollar. And I see the gesture as a time bomb if nothing is done.

**Alphonsus Tayee Kamahnoon, BA, BTh, BRel, MATDS is a Liberian citizen. He is a seasoned scholar in Theology and Development Studies. He is a university lecturer with vast expertise in Biblical Languages, research and academic writing. As a critical thinker, he assesses the Liberian way of life and closely monitors developing news in Liberia, to analyze and see the future of the country through the telescope of reasoning, then thinks to proffer solutions where need be.**



## INVESTMENT

# NMB approves 40bn/- loans to finance small-scale farmers

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to build capacity of small-holder farmers to graduate into commercial farmers, NMB Bank Plc has set aside 40bn/- to finance their activities this year.

The bank's Chief Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi, said in Handeni district of Tanga region while handover of 3bn/- cheque to provide loans to cassava farmers that there is big potential in the commodity hence the support. Mponzi said NMB has teamed up with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank to back efforts being made by Handeni District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe in championing modern farming in the district.

"We plan to lend over 40bn/- to small scale farmers countrywide this year to enhance food security through increased production, job creation and economic diversification,"

Mponzi said adding that Agriculture is crucial to long-term economic growth and diversification in the country. Currently, over 600 small and medium scale farmers' have opened accounts with NMB.

He said the 3bn/- in Handeni will be disbursed to 43 groups with a total of 421 farmers benefiting individually adding that it was meant to address recurring issues of low productivity, limited farmers' participation to agribusiness supply chains and institutional realignment.

"We are committed to supporting smallholder farmers who in most cases are excluded from formal banking services," the NMB CRB added. He explained that the move is meant to encourage investment in cassava value chain production to enable farmers increase their income while targeting Chinese market demand for the tuber. According to him, agri-business will



Handeni DC Godwin Gondwe

be among their top priorities, adding that as the bank...they want to be seen as an agricultural bank in this country. "As NMB, we are here to help individuals from all walks of life to play a role in the country's prosperity," he noted.

Handeni District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe thanked the bank for the loan package to cassava farmers saying cultivation of the tuber has increased by 87 percent pupils' performance and income of farmers this year.

"The district has been in contact with various development partners and stakeholders to support with availability of hybrid seeds for our farmers in the district," Gondwe said

while explaining that Handeni district's move to promote cassava is based on its potential.

Chairperson of Tanzania Cassava Producers and Processors Association, Mwantumu Mahiza said the 3bn/- loan is historic for the country and will assist growth of cassava cultivation with training and provision

of hybrid planting materials given to farmers.

"Currently, cassava is big business in Handeni district with many tons being shipped to Dar es Salaam daily," Mahiza said. Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank has given 50 percent guarantee of the 3bn/- loan.

## CENSURE

## Takealot yanks 'fake' N95 masks that promise protection against viruses

JOHANNESBURG

TAKEALOT has yanked "fake" masks that claim to offer guaranteed protection from infection. Business Insider South Africa received a complaint from a reader who ordered ten supposedly N95-rated face masks via Takealot for a whopping R450.

"On opening the package and trying one on, I realised that something is wrong as I could breathe easier through this mask than through the homemade sewn mask I had purchased from a local seamstress," said the reader.

The listing on Takealot has since been removed, and the company has suspended the seller until an

investigation has been completed. By the time it was removed, the listing had a four star rating on the platform.

N95 masks provide better protection against infection than normal cloth face masks. In addition, the masks were allegedly certified by the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

(Niosh).

However, counterfeit masks that don't actually provide an improved level of protection can put lives in danger. The masks in question are listed as counterfeit on the website of Niosh and the US Center for Disease Control.

In response to question from Business Insider SA, Takealot said

when the matter was brought to their attention "we immediately delisted the product, pending investigation. This gives our compliance team the time to establish whether this product is properly certified without impacting any other potential customers."

As Takealot is still investigating the matter, they can't confirm

whether the masks are counterfeit or not. In this particular instance, we have reached out to the marketplace seller asking for the necessary source documentation and have contacted the relevant certification authorities in order to be able to make an informed decision on the certification status," the company said.

The company says it performs due diligence when new vendors want to sell via their marketplace. "Thereafter, we have a dedicated compliance team that actively monitors the products being sold by these marketplace sellers to ensure, amongst other things, that products are what they purport to be."

## RECORD-HOLDER

## Vodacom invests 1.6trn/-, paying close to 2trn/- in taxes since 2012

By Guardian Reporter

THE country's only listed telecommunication company, Vodacom Tanzania Plc has invested a colossal 1.6trn/- and paid over 1.9trn/- in various taxes since 2012.

In a report, the company said according to Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority, the telco has as of March this had 15 million subscribers accounting for 32 percent of the market share. The local market has over 48 million subscribers.

"M-Pesa, Vodacom's mobile money product is also a leading brand with mobile money customer market share of 39.3 percent," the report stated adding that Vodacom is the only mobile operator to comply with the Tanzania's Electronic and Postal Communications Act of 2010 which requires telcos to list 25 percent of their shares on Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange.

The listing in 2017 allowed more than 40,000 Tanzanians to own shares in the telco and share its profits. The listing also provides the much-needed transparency, both

in terms of business and taxes. Vodacom is a major investor, taxpayer, employer, and purchaser of local goods and services contributing to real value creation in Tanzania," the report added.

During the past eight years, the Dar es Salaam based telco has been growing at an impressive average of eight per cent with annual tax contribution reaching 435bn/- this year.

Among the taxes and fees which Vodacom pays Tanzania Revenue Authority, local government authorities, regulators, social security funds and telecom fund.

"The most familiar ones are value added tax, corporate income tax, excise duty, import duty, service levy, property tax, advertisement tax, stamp duty, skills development levy, gaming tax, withholding tax and pay as you earn. These are payable to TRA," the report added.

The telco also contributes both to Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) and National Social Security Fund (NSSF); business license fee and service levy are payable to the LGAs

and several regulatory fees and taxes.

"The universal service levy is paid to the Universal Communications Services Access Fund; regulatory fee (royalty), numbering fee, license fee and frequency fees are paid to TCRA. In addition, license fees such as the e-payment system and the e-money issuer to Bank of Tanzania and different business license fees to LGAs," the report noted.

In a breakdown, the telco said it paid 221bn/- in corporate income tax; 525bn/- in VAT; 614bn/- in excise duty; 96.8bn/- in payroll taxes in the past five years. "VAT is a broad-based consumption tax that is payable monthly. Hence all mobile services are essentially subject to VAT at a standard rate of 18 percent. If the value of airtime is 100 shillings, VAT of 21 shillings will be payable," the report explained.

"Unlike VAT, excise duty is a narrow-based consumption tax. Also payable monthly. Mobile money services are subject to 10 percent excise duty. All other mobile services to final consumers are subject to 17 percent excise duty, making telecommunication in Tan-



Vodacom Tanzania Plc's managing director, Hisham Hendi.

zania one of the highly taxed industry in Africa," the report pointed out.

"Pay-As-You-Earn is deducted from employees' salaries and paid to TRA by the em-

ployer. Various rates, from 0 to 30 percent apply progressively. SDL at 4.5 per cent of the cost of employment is payable by the employer. The employer is also obliged to contribute

1 percent of the employment cost to WCF. The employer is also obliged to contribute 20 percent of employees' salaries to the social security fund, i.e. NSSF for the private sector,"

## RACISM

## Johnson & Johnson to stop selling skin-lightening creams in the Middle East

ABU DHABI

AMID the backdrop of ongoing anti-racism protests in the US and beyond, one beauty brand has announced it will discontinue two skincare lines that seemingly promote fairer skin.

Johnson & Johnson confirmed it

will stop selling its Clean & Clear Fairness line of products, as well as its Neutrogena Fine Fairness range, both of which are marketed as helping to reduce dark spots. The ranges were not available in the US, but sold in Asia and the Middle East.

"Conversations over the past

few weeks highlighted that some product names or claims on our Neutrogena and Clean & Clear dark-spot reducer products represented fairness or white as better than your own unique skin tone," the company said in a statement. "This was never our intention - healthy skin is beautiful skin."

The multinational confirmed it would update its websites to remove the lines, though clarified products may be available in stores "for a short while." "We will no longer produce or ship the product line," Johnson & Johnson said.

As of Saturday, June 20, a listing for Clean & Clear's Fairness Moisturiser was still present on the brand's Johnson & Johnson Middle East website. The product, which contains SPF15, is marketed for "those who want fair, healthy, hydrated skin." "This moisturising cream

helps to lighten the skin and protects the skin from sunlight, improving overall fairness in four weeks," the product description states. On Neutrogena's Middle East site, there is still a product listing for the Fairness Boost Hy-dro-gel Recovery Mask, a sheet mask designed to "leave your

skin looking luminous, evenly toned and radiant."

Johnson & Johnson conformed to Ad Age that while it promotes products that use retinol and other ingredients to fade dark spots cause by age and sun exposure, the company does not sell products that bleach the skin.



## NEW-DAWN

# NIC Bank, CBA to merge into NCBA effective from July

By Guardian Reporter

A bank formed after the merge of NIC bank Tanzania Limited and Commercial Bank of Africa will be known as NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited. It will become operational early next month.

Bank of Tanzania and Fair Competitions Commission have already approved the new bank formed after NIC acquired majority of assets and liabilities of CBA. The new bank will also inherit existing CBA customers.

Both CBA and NIC Bank are in the process of concluding other regulatory conditions, however. The BoT approved the merger through a letter dated on 14 February 2020 signed by Deputy Governor, Dr Bernard Kibesse. Once completed NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited will become Tier 2 capital bank.

"The name NCBA Bank symbolises the coming together of two great banks. This is the beginning of a new journey, bringing the best of both banks to build a bigger, stronger institution to support Tanzania's economy," CBA Tanzania Limited's CEO, Gift Shoko.

NIC Bank's CEO, Margaret Karume backed Shoko's observa-



NIC and CBA's logos stand side by side.

tion saying, "As part of the merger journey, we will spend the next month finalising the process of harmonising our systems so that our customers can enjoy seamless services across our channels in Tanzania." "Our roll-out plans will also include the unveiling of the new NCBA group identity," Karume added.

As part of the regional integration of the NCBA group's businesses in East Africa, Rwanda's completed regulatory changes this year while a similar process is due to be completed in Uganda by the end of this quarter.

NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited will be part of the NCBA Group PLC, which was formed in October last year following approval by Central Bank of Kenya and Kenya National Treasury to endorse NIC Group Plc and CBA.

**The name NCBA Bank symbolises the coming together of two great banks. This is the beginning of a new journey, bringing the best of both banks to build a bigger, stronger institution to support**

## EXPANSION

## Dutch-African Tunga widens talent search

KAMPALA

DUTCH-AFRICAN tech firm Tunga, with a current network of 400 African software developers, has received a Dutch Good Growth Fund (DGGF) loan to build further capacity.

According to a statement, the investment will be used to expand its African operations and launch growth plans in Europe. The intention is to expand the local organisation and infrastructure in Africa so that local developers get the opportunity to become part of Tunga's talent programme.

Tunga said it is working to source new talent in Egypt, Nigeria and Uganda. "A proactive community outreach, automated testing and online and offline training are used to expand and increase the quality of the current talent pool. This requires additional expenditures in Africa: a total net investment of €218,500, €120K of which is provided by DGGF, the rest by Tunga itself."

Ernesto Spruyt, founder of Tunga said:

"Without ever receiving any equity investments and running on a very limited budget, we've managed to realise triple digit growth each year since our inception. To keep up this growth rate, we need to make further investments in our talent pool of African developers. In 2020 and 2021 we will identify, train and test new talents, in order to increase the number of our software developers to 1000+."

This means we have to hire at least three more talent managers as an addition to the three we have on the ground now. By the end of 2021, a large and freshly trained group of developers will be ready to get to work. That is why we are also launching our European growth plan. This month we've started sales operations in the UK and the Nordics and the first results are promising. Needless to say, we are nothing but positive about the future!"

Tunga added that in terms of growth opportunities in Europe, the company will focus on the UK, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. "Good English proficiency, a positive attitude towards fair trade practices



Ernesto Spruyt, founder of Tunga.

and relatively close cultural relations to the Netherlands, as well as having an overall solid economy, are the main reasons for starting sales operations in these four countries," Tunga stated.

In late May 2020 the company announced its eligibility for the loan, to be paid back in two years, as one of the Dutch businesses that 'link aid to trade'

because of its mission to combat youth unemployment in parts of Africa.

ITWeb Africa reported that the business has offices in Amsterdam, Lagos and Kampala and its model adds another layer to the Gig economy boost in parts of Africa where interests in freelance offerings seems to be rising, with the likes of Mobijobs and AnyTask adding a block-

chain technology context to it.

With the recent rise in intra-Africa trade promotion, many Africans - especially those who are without work but have requisite skills - may be seeking ways to participate outside of their immediate economies with an equal chance of international exposure and experience.

## CHANGE

## KRA to forgo monopoly on fixing of beer and fuel price

NAIROBI

THE Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) is likely to lose its power to unilaterally impose a new inflation tax on a wide range of goods including fuel, bottled water, juice and beer from July 1.

This follows amendments to the Finance Bill by the National Assembly's Finance Committee, which requires the taxman to seek parliamentary approval for the new tax. Under the current law, the KRA Commissioner-General only needs to issue a legal notice stating the adjustment for it to become effective.

This was the case last year when excise duty on at least 31 goods rose by 5.15 percent and was this year expected to increase by another 5.5 percent, setting the stage for higher retail prices beginning next month.

Now, KRA will be required to seek the approval of the Treasury Cabinet Secretary before making the specific excise rate adjustment, and thereafter the legal notice will be taken to Parliament within seven days of publication for consideration. Parliament will, within 28 sitting days of receiving the notice, decide whether to approve or reject the inflation adjustment.

MPs will next week vote on the recommendations of the House committee before the President signs the new Finance Bill into law. "The amendment is to provide that the commissioner should seek approval of the Cabinet Secretary before making the inflation adjustment. Further, it is to require that the Gazette notice be laid before the National Assembly," said the committee in its report.

"The National Assembly should have power to check the powers it has donated to the commissioner to make inflation adjustments, and, may or may not approve the adjustment." The adjustment has been in line with the law that demands excise duty to be revised upwards in tandem with the cost of living measure or the average rate of inflation in the 12 months through June.

The tax increase will hit consumers hard as households and traders reel from the impact of the Coronavirus disease, which has reduced shoppers' purchasing power on job cuts and movement restrictions, forcing businesses to cut down their activities.

Inflation adjustment tax was introduced in 2018 and is seen as a means of protecting the government's spending power from erosion by rising cost of living and avoid seeking MPs' nod for higher retail prices.

Super petrol was expected to increase by Sh1.16 at the pump as dealers' inflation adjusted excise duty rises to Sh22.07 a litre from the current Sh20.91. Kerosene and diesel prices were set to increase by Sh0.60 a litre.

Fuel prices have a big effect on inflation because Kenya's economy depends heavily on diesel and petrol for transport, power generation and agriculture, while kerosene is used in many households for cooking and lighting. The average inflation for the 11 months to May stood at 5.51 percent.

## CHARITY

## Kioo donates 25m/- worth of sanitisers to fight Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

GLASS manufacturers, Kioo Limited has donated sanitizers worth 25m/- in a move to complement government's efforts to stop the spreading of the coronavirus and help improve the health care system in the country.

Speaking during a handover ceremony held at Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, Chief Medical Officer, Professor Abel Makubi commended Kioo Limited for the support.

Prof Makubi said private sector partners who are complementing government's efforts by contributing material and financing of health facilities are important because the public sector alone cannot fight the virus.

He said the Fifth Phase Government has invested heavily in the health sector through construction of hospitals and health centers so as to ensure that many Tanzanians have access to medical services when sick.

"We thank you very much because as the private sector, your decision to help government's efforts is welcomed. We are happy to see that you are motivated to donate such kind of items which are of great importance to us because this will help us save lives of children and their mothers," he said.

Briefing the CMO on the donation, a Health Adviser with Kioo Limited, Richard Msumule said the company felt it necessary to support government's efforts in improving health care delivery to the public especially those living in remote areas.

"We have more than 600 workers and believe that it is important to invest in health care because without healthy people, we can't have competent labour force to engage in production," Msumule said while commending the government for improving the health sector in the country.

He stated that as part of its corporate social responsibility, Kioo Limited has been donating to the community regularly especially in Mkuranga district of Coast region and Temeke municipality of Dar es Salaam with focus on health and education sectors.

"These sanitizers are of very high quality and are produced by one of our sister companies in Uganda," Msumule added saying that the chemical is an important liquid needed by medics at health centres in remote areas.



Chief Medical Officer, Professor Abel Makubi.

## PARTNERSHIP

## Mama Money to become Western Union's partner

CAPE TOWN

CAPE Town-based remittance start-up Mama Money, launched in January 2015, has announced a partnership with Western Union which will enable it to expand its reach by leveraging Western Union network.

It claims that over 500,000 customers in South Africa will be able to send money via the Mama Money app for collection at Western Union sites across 200 countries. Customers can pay for transactions within the Mama Money app via direct transfers from their bank accounts or "through a vast cash-in network at all major retailers in South Africa."

Nicolas Vontron, Chief Operating Officer, Mama Money, said: "Western Union's robust and reliable network coupled with Mama Money's easy-to-use and reliable digital service is a highly strategic partnership with massive potential for



tapping into a broader remittance market especially for the unbanked population."

"Innovative collaborations such as these will continue to shape global business models while enhancing customer experience and retaining their loyalty," said Mohamed Touhami El Ouazzani, Regional Vice President, Africa, Western Union.

Marketing manager at Mama Money Thomas Maree added: "Traditional players in the remittance market charged hefty fees of up to 20% or more.

## OPEN-UP

## Cyprus to start random COVID-19 tests at airports as it eases entry restrictions

NICOSIA

RANDOM coronavirus tests will be carried out on a proportion of travellers arriving at Cyprus' airports as an added layer of protection against the virus' spread.

The measure was announced by government officials on Friday, June 19, a day before the expiration of a requirement that foreign nationals permitted to travel to Cyprus obtain a health certificate declaring them coronavirus-free.

According to the Health Minis-

try, 22 countries are now considered low-risk, including Greece, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, South Korea and Australia, while another 12, including France, Italy, Belgium, Spain and Lebanon, are in a higher-risk category.

Cyprus's two biggest tourist markets, the UK and Russia, have yet to be included in either category.

Cyprus' deputy government spokesman Panayiotis Sentonas said the testing measure was taken on the recommendation of an advisory body of medical ex-

perts "so as not to risk the positive epidemiological picture" the country has built over the last few months.

Cyprus has managed a low coronavirus infection rate thanks to a nearly three-month lockdown imposed in mid-March that included a commercial flight ban and a stay-at-home order. The country is keen to restart its vital tourism sector that directly accounts for 13 per cent of its economy, but wants to avoid imported virus flare-ups that could tarnish its image.







## WORLD

## Trump returns to rally stage amid coronavirus concerns, national reckoning over racism

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump held his first rally in more than three months in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Saturday evening, amid coronavirus concerns and a national reckoning over racism.

Speaking to a crowd of supporters inside the BOK Center, Trump touted his policies and judicial nominees, tore into Democrats and media, and touched upon a series of national issues, including the coronavirus pandemic, which has infected more than 2.2 million people and taken nearly 120,000 lives in the United States.

The president blamed the numbers on testing, a claim that has been widely disputed. "When you do testing to that extent, you are gonna find more people, you're gonna find more cases. So I said to my people slow the testing down please," he said.

"They test and they test. We have tests that people don't know what's

going on."

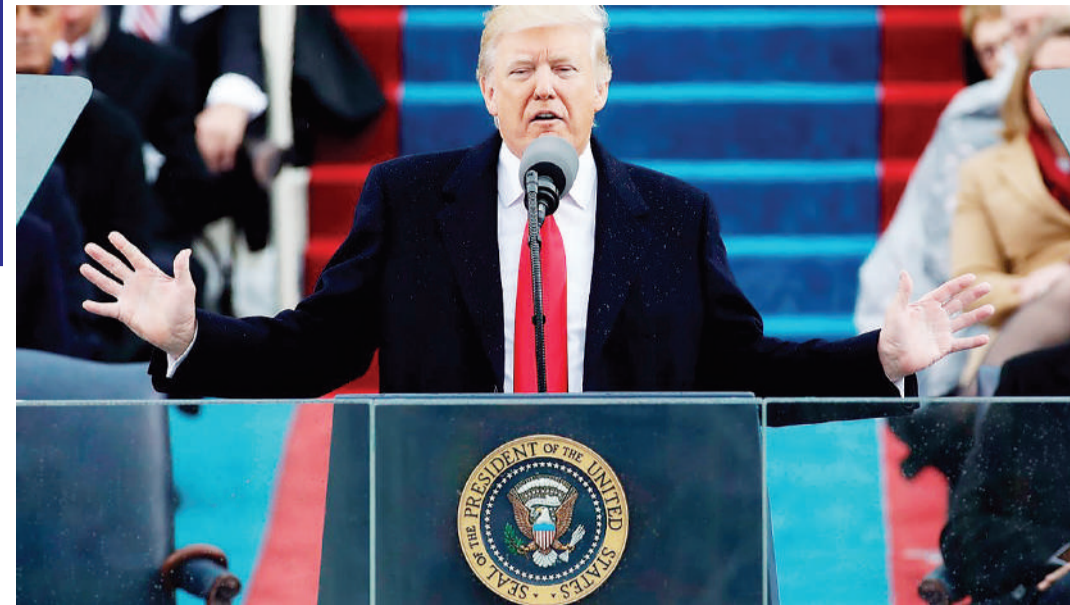
Trump made the remarks only hours after his campaign spokesman revealed that six staffers helping organizing the Tulsa rally have tested positive for the coronavirus.

A White House official told reporters later that Trump was joking about slowing down testing.

Attendees of the rally, who have been asked to sign a waiver releasing the Trump campaign from responsibility for possible exposure to the coronavirus, received a mask from organizers before entering the event, but most of them didn't wear it inside the arena, which can hold 19,000 people.

Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and a key member of the White House coronavirus task force, has said that he wouldn't personally attend rallies. "I'm in a high risk category. Personally, I would not.

Of course not," Fauci told an interview with Daily Beast earlier this week,



US President Donald Trump

adding that when it came to Trump's rallies "outside is better than inside, no crowd is better than crowd" and "crowd is better than big crowd."

"The Saturday rally also came as U.S. states and cities have begun removing statues of Confederate figures amid a national reckoning over police brutality and racism sparked by the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man, who died on May 25 after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Floyd's death has triggered weeks-long demonstrations across the country, as well as calls from lawmakers and activists for the removal of monuments in memory of figures believed to be symbols of racism, while some Confederate statues have already been toppled by protesters.

During his nearly two-hour remarks on Saturday, Trump slammed the movement. "The unhinged left-wing mob is trying to vandalize our history, desecrate our monuments, our beautiful monuments, tear down our statues, and punish, cancel and persecute anyone who does not conform to their demands for absolute and

total control. We're not conforming," he said.

Trump also spoke at length complaining about media coverage of his slow walk down a ramp after giving the commencement address at the U.S. Military Academy, also known as West Point, last week, which has fueled questions about his health.

He explained that he was wearing "leather-bottom shoes" and that the ramp "was like an ice-skating rink," stressing that "I can't fall with the fake news watching."

There were multiple groups of demonstrators with varying viewpoints in the area adjacent to the rally, but the Tulsa Police Department tweeted Saturday night, "Overwhelmingly these encounters have been peaceful."

The rally was previously scheduled on Friday, the Juneteenth, a day that memorializes the end of slavery in the United States, but Trump rescheduled it for Saturday after strong pushback, as Tulsa was home to one of the worst incidents of racial violence in the nation's history, where dozens of African Americans were massacred 99 years ago. Trump's last rally was held in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 2. **Xinhua**

READING

THREE people were killed and another three seriously injured when a man went on a stabbing spree in a park in the southern English town of Reading on Saturday, though police said they were not currently treating the incident as terrorism.

Witnesses said a man went on the rampage at around 1800 GMT in Forbury Gardens, stabbing people at random who had gathered in the park on a sunny summer evening in Reading, which is about 65 km west of London.

## Three people dead after UK park stabbings

A 25-year-old man from Reading was arrested on suspicion of murder, police said, adding that they were not searching for any more suspects.

"There is no intelligence to suggest that there is any further danger to the public, however we urge people to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious by calling police," Detective Chief Superintendent Ian Hunter said.

"This is not currently being treated as a terrorism incident, however officers are keeping an open mind

as to the motivation for the incident and are being supported by colleagues from Counter Terrorism Policing South East."

A witness who spoke to the BBC, Lawrence Wort, said the attack began when a man suddenly veered toward a group of about eight to 10 friends and began stabbing them, "so the first three he got so completely out of the blue, he got very badly".

Wort said the assailant locked eyes with him and the person he was with and started coming to-

ward them, but they ran to safety, at which point the man turned back to attack another group. When everyone started running from the scene, the attacker ran from the park, Wort said.

"My thoughts are with all of those affected by the appalling incident in Reading and my thanks to the emergency services on the scene," Prime Minister Boris Johnson said.

**'DEEPLY SHOCKING'**

Video footage posted on Twitter showed paramedics rushing to

help at least three people who were bleeding on the ground. Reuters was unable to verify the footage independently.

Matt Rodda, a lawmaker who represents Reading in Britain's parliament, said the park, located in an historic area of the town, was typically busy on a Saturday evening.

"It's used by people to sit and meet with friends and obviously at the moment people have been meeting there, observing social distancing, and just chatting to friends peacefully in a park," Rodda told Sky News.

Agencies

## China's top legislature reviews draft law on safeguarding national security in HKSAR

BEIJING

CHINA'S top legislature reviewed a draft law on safeguarding national security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China.

The draft law was submitted for deliberation at the 19th session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) from Thursday to Saturday.

Entrusted by the Council of Chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee, an official with the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee explained the draft law to the session Thursday.

With 66 articles, the draft law has six chapters, namely the general principles; the HKSAR's duties and institutions of safeguarding national security; crimes and penalties; jurisdiction over national security cases, application of laws and procedures; institutions of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR for safeguarding national security; and supplementary provisions.

Establishing and improving at the national level the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security is a major measure to uphold and improve the system of "one country, two systems," said Li Zhan-shu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, at the closing meeting of the session.

It is also a fundamental solution to maintain long-term prosperity and stability in Hong Kong and ensure the steady and sustained development of the cause of "one country, two systems," Li said.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, HKSAR**

The Central People's Government shoulders the fundamental responsibility for national security affairs related to the HKSAR, while the HKSAR bears the constitutional responsibility of safeguarding national security and shall fulfill its obligations, according to the draft.

The executive organs, legislature and judiciary of the HKSAR shall, in accordance with relevant laws, ef-



Li Zhan-shu, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, presides over the closing meeting of the 19th session of the 13th NPC Standing Committee in Beijing June 20, 2020. (Xinhua)

fectively prevent, stop and punish acts and activities that endanger national security, says the draft.

Safeguarding China's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity is the common obligation of all Chinese people, including Hong Kong compatriots, it says.

Any institution, organization, or

individual in the HKSAR shall abide by this law and other HKSAR laws on safeguarding national security, and shall not engage in any activity that jeopardizes national security, the draft reads.

Any HKSAR resident standing for election or taking up any position of public office shall sign documents

to confirm or swear to uphold the HKSAR Basic Law and pledge allegiance to the HKSAR, it says.

The HKSAR is required to step up efforts to safeguard national security and prevent terrorist activities.

In safeguarding national security, the HKSAR shall uphold the principle of the rule of law, according to which the HKSAR shall respect and protect human rights, and anyone shall be presumed innocent until convicted by the judicial organs, according to the draft law.

**HKSAR TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION**

The draft requires the HKSAR to establish a commission of safeguarding national security which shall be supervised by and accountable to the Central People's Government.

The HKSAR commission of safeguarding national security shall be chaired by the Chief Executive and establish the post of the national security adviser, who shall be appointed by the Central People's Government, it says. **Xinhua**

## US continues to play Xinjiang card with Uygur bill despite high-level talks

US President Donald Trump signed the Uygur bill on Wednesday, claiming to protect human rights in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region thousands of miles away from the White House. Wednesday is the last day before the legislation takes effect automatically. On the same day, China's State Council or Yang Jiechi and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met in Hawaii as tensions escalated between the two countries.

The bill will add difficulty to the strained China-US ties. Trump purposely picked the date for the bilateral talk, initially

hoping to impose pressure and trade for more bargaining chips. The move also showed that the US would not change its tough policies toward China, experts said.

The Uygur bill, which was first put forward by Senator Marco Rubio, was passed by the US Senate and House of Representatives on May 14 and 27, respectively. According to information from the website of the US Congress, the legislation was presented to Trump on June 8.

The legislation requires the US government to impose more pressure on China over Xinjiang

issues and offer a report to Congress within 180 days of its enactment to list Chinese officials to be sanctioned by the US.

Trump signed the bill the last day before it automatically becomes law and wanted to use the slow action of the Uygur bill as a bargaining chip against China along with other anti-China cards, including the Phase I trade deal to contain China, Zhu Ying, deputy director of the Human Rights Institute at the Southwest University of Political Science and Law, told the Global Times.

Trump signed the Uygur bill without any ceremony, issuing

a statement in which he said a sanctions provision intruded on executive authority and he would regard it as non-binding, US media reported.

Zhu said that these details showed that Trump is trying to find a balance with the US Congress - he had to sign the bipartisan bill, but also wants to cool tensions with China.

Jia Chunyang, an expert from the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, told the Global Times that there should be no dirty tricks when one side is sincere in seeking to alleviate tensions and hold bilat-

eral talks, while Americans think another way - they fight while seeking cooperation when it fits their interests.

Signing the bill on the same day the bilateral talks take place shows that the US wants to send a signal to China that it will continue putting pressure on China on issues of human rights and religious freedom. It also reveals the US malicious attempt to play Xinjiang topics to contain China.

"These sinister tricks make us doubt its sincerity in seeking to improve China-US ties and will also affect cooperation in other fields," Jia said.

Amid the US' latest race-centered conflicts and massive campaign that renewed the centuries-old racial problems in the country, different institutes, experts and people living in Xinjiang say US finger pointing at China for so-called human rights issues is particularly ironic.

China urged the US to immediately correct its mistake and stop using the Xinjiang-related act to harm China's interests and interfere in its internal affairs. Otherwise, China will take countermeasures and the US must bear all the consequences, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in

a statement on Thursday.

The Xinjiang regional People's Congress said in a statement the same day that the law is a piece of waste paper and will be thrown in the garbage. The US has stood on the opposite side of the 1.4 million Chinese people and the justice and conscientiousness of human beings.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of China's top legislature, the National People's Congress, released a statement on Thursday condemning US violations of China's domestic affairs and international laws.

Global Times

## Improving COVID-19 situation allows Russia to hold Victory Day parade on June 24 - Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE decision to hold a Victory Day parade in Russia on June 24 has been made taking into account the improving epidemiological situation in the country, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Russia's Channel One.

"There is a stable trend towards a decrease in daily documented cases [of the virus], more and more people recover.

The pressure on hospitals is decreasing. This has allowed the president [of Russia Vladimir Putin] to make such a decision regarding the 24th," he said. "And the situation develops in such a positive way that we all are expecting the 24th, when the parade will take place."

Peskov stressed that a deep analysis of the epidemiological situation in Russia had preceded this decision. "Of course, he (Putin - TASS) always says that the health and safety of our citizens remains an absolute priority," Peskov added.

"The parade is important to all Russians. The parade that symbolizes the 75th anniversary of victory over fascism should be important not only to Russians, but to the entire world," he concluded.

On May 26, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced during a session with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu that the Victory Day parade would take place in Russia on June 24. The president ordered the defense chief to avoid any health risks for the participants of the parade.

## Former South African president De Klerk withdraws from US rights talk

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's last apartheid president, F.W. de Klerk, has withdrawn from a U.S. seminar about minority rights because he did not want to embarrass himself or his hosts in the current charged racial climate, his foundation said yesterday.

De Klerk (pictured), who was the head of South Africa's white minority government until 1994, was scheduled to speak on July 1 at an American Bar Association (ABA) virtual event on issues such as minority rights, racism and the rule of law.

But his participation unleashed a barrage of criticism from South African opposition parties and activists who called on ABA to cancel De Klerk's attendance given his role in the apartheid-era security apparatus.

"The allegation that De Klerk was involved in gross violations of human rights is baseless," the F.W. de Klerk foundation said in a statement.

"However, it appears unacceptable in the current superheated racial climate that any leader from South Africa's troubled past should be permitted to retain the slightest vestige of honour," it said.

ABA confirmed De Klerk would no longer speak at the event. The death of Black man George Floyd under the knee of a U.S. police officer last month has triggered a wave of anti-racism protests around the world.

"At a time like this where the whole world is crying out for recognition and demanding that value be placed on our lives, on Black lives, we think that ABA erred in inviting someone like De Klerk," said Lukhanyo Calata.

He is the son of Fort Calata, who was killed along with three other anti-apartheid activists by South African police in 1985 in an incident known as "The Cradock Four".

De Klerk's foundation defended his legacy of helping South Africa's transition from white minority rule to non-racial constitutional democracy and for being the only world leader to dismantle an existing nuclear arsenal.

But, almost thirty years after apartheid's demise, De Klerk's role remains highly contested in South Africa, one of the world's most unequal societies where class and race issues constantly bubble under the surface.

Earlier this year De Klerk, an octogenarian who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with South Africa's first democratically elected president Nelson Mandela, also faced a backlash when he told the national broadcaster he did not believe apartheid was a crime against humanity, as declared by the United Nations.

Agencies





# South Korea limits entry for foreigners as virus cases jump

JERUSALEM / ANKARA / JERUSALEM / BAGHDAD / MELBOURNE

SOUTH Korea's health authorities will limit the entry of foreigners from some countries where COVID-19 infections are surging through a temporary restriction on flights and visa issuances.

With the exception of important business trips or visits by government officials, Korean authorities will restrict issuance of visas "as much as possible," and put a temporary ban on non-scheduled flights from countries where the virus is widely spreading, the Ministry of Health and Welfare said in a statement yesterday.

The measures will "immediately take effect" for visitors from Pakistan and Bangladesh, which account for some of the recent cases in South Korea, it said. New cases surged by 67 on Saturday in South Korea, the highest net increase since May 27, amid concern over second waves. Twenty-three out of the 67 cases were visitors from Pakistan or Bangladesh.

The nation reported 48 more cases on Sunday, bringing the total to 12,421. There were no additional deaths.

## Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia will resume all commercial activities and lift restrictions on movement even as coronavirus cases show no signs of easing.

The curfew will be lifted across the nation from 6am on Sunday but international travel and the Muslim pilgrimage known as Umrah will continue to be banned, state-run Saudi Press Agency reported Saturday. Social distancing remains in place and wearing of masks is mandatory. Gatherings can't exceed 50 people.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry announced on Saturday the registration of 3,941 new coronavirus cases in Saudi Arabia, increasing the total to 154,233.

The fatalities reached 1,230 cases after 46 more people died from COVID-19 in the kingdom. The recoveries rose to 98,917 with the reporting of 3,153 new recovered



Medical staff wait for passengers at Incheon International Airport in South Korea in April. (PHOTO: BLOOMBERG)

cases.

## Australia

Australia's second most populous state, Victoria, on Sunday extended its state of emergency for four more weeks to July 19, as it battles a spike in coronavirus infections

with a pick-up in community transmission.

The move came a day after the state announced it would reimpose restrictions capping visitors to households to five people and outdoor gatherings to 10, starting Monday. The limits had been relaxed to allow 20 people in households and public

gatherings on June 1.

Victoria reported 19 new infections on Sunday, the fifth day of double digit-rises. The state has now had 1,836 total confirmed cases, or a quarter of the cases in Australia, since the COVID-19 pandemic erupted.

State health minister Jenny Mikakos said 210 of the state's cases are believed tied to community transmission, partly blaming families who have had big parties, lunches and dinners attended by people with mild symptoms since restrictions were eased on June 1.

## Israel

The number of coronavirus patients in Israel rose to 20,633, with 294 new cases, the Ministry of Health said on Saturday.

According to the ministry, the number of death cases rose from 304 to 305, while the number of patients in serious condition increased from 39 to 40, out of 192 patients currently hospitalized.

Agencies

# South Africa approves use of dexamethasone to treat COVID-19 as cases top 100,000

CAPE TOWN

THE cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa stood at 92,681 as of Saturday, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said.

Up to 4,966 cases were reported in the past 24 hours, the highest daily surge since the outbreak in early March, Mkhize said. "Regrettably, we report a further 46 COVID-19 related deaths - 11 from Eastern Cape, three from KwaZulu-Natal and 32 from Western Cape. This brings the total deaths to 1,877," the minister said.

The mortality and recovery rates stood at 2 percent and 54.3 percent respectively with a total of 50,326 recoveries reported, he added. The Western Cape Province remained the epicenter of the pandemic, with 50,173 confirmed cases and 1,392 related deaths, followed by the province of Gauteng with 18,978 cases and 114 deaths, the Eastern Cape with 14,721 cases and 268 deaths, and KwaZulu-Natal with 4,806 cases and 83 deaths.

The country has completed almost 1.3 million tests with 33,174 done in the past 24 hours, Mkhize said.

The Health Ministry is ready to immediately roll out steroid drug dexamethasone to seriously ill COVID-19 patients, he said, adding that there are three major suppliers of intravenous dexamethasone in the country.

Medical trials conducted by British researchers showed that the drug cuts death rates by around a third among the most severe cases admitted to hospital. But the benefit of dexamethasone was not observed in patients with mild symptoms.

Dexamethasone, a well-known and widely-used steroid approved for medical treatment in the 1960s, has potent anti-inflammatory properties and is used in allergic reactions, asthma and other conditions where the inflammatory component of the disease needs to be controlled for better outcomes.

However, some doctors were cautious, citing possible side effects and asking to waiting for more data.

Xinhua

# China-foreign mutual assistance highlighted in Zhanjiang's COVID-19 response

A close Chinese-foreign bond has been forged in Zhanjiang, South China's Guangdong Province as the city tried every way possible to protect its foreign communities in the COVID-19 pandemic and helped its sister cities overseas tide over the public health crisis.

Sam is a Nigerian who served as a volunteer in a Zhanjiang community. The major service he provided was to communicate with African residents in the community so as to keep them informed of relevant notices and epidemic development.

"I convey confidence and kindness to them, in different languages," said Sam, who speaks good Nigerian and English.

For the man who has worked in the city for over 10 years, Zhanjiang is his second hometown.

Sam joined the volunteer service after seeing a recruitment notice of Zhanjiang Bureau of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs. His wife, who's a local in the city, helped him fill the application form. Both of them submitted the applications, which were both ap-

proved later.

Through online and offline training, the two learned necessary knowledge about COVID-19 prevention and control, as well as relevant policies.

"I've long taken Zhanjiang as my home, and I'm glad to help more people here," he told the People's Daily, adding that he has always wanted to do something for the city.

A total of 46 volunteers offered services for foreigners in the city during COVID-19, in languages of English, Japanese, Korean, French, and Spanish.

Another 15 will be sent to communities recently under the guidance of the Zhanjiang Bureau of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs to get the picture of the life of foreigners after quarantine, ensure their living quality and keep them updated with the epidemic development and the latest control measures.

Apart from the volunteering services, Zhanjiang has also made active efforts to share experiences with its sister city Brovary in Ukraine to jointly fight the epidemic.

After suspected cases of COVID-19 were spotted in Brovary, the



Sam (L) poses for a photo with volunteers and staff members. (File photo)

city's mayor Igor Sapozhko sent a letter to Zhanjiang for help, as Brovary was inexperienced in handling with the disease.

Upon receiving the letter, the Zhanjiang Bureau of Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs immediately organized a video conference, in which experts from

the Affiliated Hospital of Guangdong Medical University shared response and treatment experiences with their counterparts in Brovary. Apart from Zhanjiang's efforts, massive mutual assistance activities have been held by Guangdong and its foreign sister provinces and cities dur-

ing the COVID-19 epidemic.

Esparza, Costa Rica is a sister city of Guangdong's Zhuhai, and the overseas Chinese in the South American city this February made generous donations under the call of an octogenarian overseas Chinese named Gu Genhe and the president of the

Zhuhai association of overseas Chinese in Costa Rica Gu Zhihong after they learnt that Zhuhai was in short supply of medical materials. On Feb. 2, they raised 126,000 pieces of masks and sourced supply channels of other materials.

However, international flights were grounded due to the epidemic. After rounds of negotiation with the international liaison office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Zhuhai municipal committee to make a feasible shipment plan, Gu Genhe finalized a logistics route at 6:30 a.m. on Feb. 10 - sending the supplies from Costa Rica to Hong Kong via Mexico.

Nine days later, the anti-epidemic supplies which embodied the good wishes of numerous overseas Chinese in Costa Rica arrived in Zhuhai, thanks to the efforts of multiple groups including Heung Cheer International Development (Hong Kong) Co., Limited affiliated to Zhuhai Duty Free Enterprises Group Co., Ltd., Zhuhai Tongyu Logistics Co., Ltd., and CKS Container Terminal (Zhuhai Doumen) Co., Ltd.

Peoples Daily

# 'Trump fires prosecutor who refused to quit'

WASHINGTON

US Attorney General William Barr said on Saturday that President Donald Trump has fired Attorney for the Southern District of New York Geoffrey Berman, who refused to step down over unfinished investigations.

In a letter to Berman, Barr (pictured) accused of him choosing "public spectacle over public service."

"Because you have declared that you have no intention of resigning, I have asked the President to remove you as of today, and he has done so," Barr wrote.

Trump announced late Friday night his intention to nominate Jay Clayton, chairman of the US Securities and Exchange Commission, to replace Berman.

In a stunning response, Berman, who ran the probe that sent Trump's former personal lawyer Michael Cohen to prison and is reportedly investigating his current



personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, said that he has not resigned and that he has "no intention of resigning."

"I learned in a press release from the Attorney General tonight

I was 'stepping down' as United States Attorney," Berman said on Fright night. "I will step down when a presidentially appointed nominee is confirmed by the Senate. Until then, our investigations

will move forward without delay or interruption."

Besides Cohen and Giuliani, Berman's office also subpoenaed Trump's inaugural committee over an investigation into potential illegal contributions from foreigners and charged former Congressman Chris Collins, a Trump ally, with insider trading.

Barr said Saturday that he was "surprised and quite disappointed" by Berman's statement and that he was "hoping for your cooperation to facilitate a smooth transition."

"Your statement also wrongly implies that your continued tenure in the office is necessary to ensure that cases now pending in the Southern District of New York are handled appropriately," the attorney general wrote in the letter.

"I fully expect that the office will continue to handle all cases in the normal course and pursuant to the Department's applicable standards, policies, and guidance."

# Putin: Protecting national interests includes searching for solutions with partners

MOSCOW

PROTECTION of Russia's national interests implies searching for mutually acceptable solutions with partners, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview for a film "Russia. Kremlin. Putin" broadcast by Rossiya-1 television.

"You know, there was a period when Russia, sadly enough, did not dare declare its national interests. The fact that we started doing this in the early 2000s, I'm sure there is nothing unusual, extraordinary or beyond international practice here.

It's just that not all countries have such a privilege - to fight for their interests. There is a huge distance between egoism and protecting one's own national interests.

Because egoism is focusing only on oneself, and protection of national interests also



implies searching for mutually acceptable solutions with our partners," the Russian leader said.

"We started speaking about our national interests and by the way, this is part of my work - to protect the interests of the country and our citizens.

And the protection of national interests also implies searching for a compromise, which is acceptable for our partners," Putin said.

"I have always proceeded from this and I keep doing so," he stressed.

Agencies

# Chinese, African people stick together in collaboration amid epidemic

ON the evening of June 17, Chinese President Xi Jinping chaired the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit On Solidarity Against COVID-19 in Beijing, where he gave a keynote speech entitled "Defeating COVID-19 with Solidarity and Cooperation."

In his speech, Xi highlighted that in the face of COVID-19, China and Africa have offered mutual support and fought shoulder to shoulder with each other and enhanced solidarity and strengthened friendship and mutual trust.

Meanwhile, he put forth a series of important initiatives and

proposals to promote anti-epidemic and pragmatic cooperation between China and Africa, and announced that China will continue to do whatever it can to support Africa's response to COVID-19.

At the special summit held by Chinese and African leaders in the global fight against COVID-19, parties involved had in-depth exchange of views and reached extensive consensus on supporting Africa's COVID-19 response and strengthening China-Africa and international cooperation against the virus.

The summit issued a joint

statement, which reflected the common position of China and Africa on a series of major issues and sent to the international community a strong message of China-Africa solidarity and cooperation.

At such a critical moment in the global fight against COVID-19, the summit came at the right time, and its important influence and far-reaching significance will be long-lasting.

China and Africa are good friends, good partners and good brothers with shared destiny and vision. In the face of COVID-19, the worst global public health

emergency since the end of World War II, China and Africa have withstood the test of a severe challenge.

China shall always remember the invaluable support Africa gave it at the height of its battle with the coronavirus. In return, when Africa was struck by the virus, China was the first to rush in with assistance and has since stood firm with the African people. China has provided medical assistance for African countries and the African Union (AU) in batches, sent medical expert teams to Africa, and organized video conferences for exchanges

between Chinese and African experts.

It also called on the international community to give stronger support to African countries and actively participate in G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI). The solidarity and cooperation between China and Africa mirror the China-Africa community with a shared future and provide a new benchmark for international anti-epidemic cooperation.

COVID-19 is still affecting many parts of the world. Both China and Africa face the formidable task of combating the virus while

stabilizing the economy and protecting people's livelihoods. Closer cooperation between China and Africa is needed.

Xi stressed that China and Africa must always put the people and their lives front and center and do whatever it takes to protect people's lives and health.

He also proposed that China and Africa should stay committed to fighting COVID-19 together, enhancing China-Africa cooperation, upholding multilateralism and taking China-Africa friendship forward.

Together, China and Africa will jointly build a China-Africa com-

munity of health for all and an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future.

The proposition of Xi demonstrates the firm determination of the two sides to defeat COVID-19 with solidarity and cooperation, points the way forward for epidemic response and practical cooperation between China and Africa, charts the course for the future of China-Africa relations, and unleashes strong, positive energy for the international community to secure an early victory against COVID-19 through solidarity and cooperation.

People's Daily



The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT



Brooks Koepka looks at his putt on the ninth green, during the second round of the RBC Heritage golf tournament, Friday, June 19, 2020, in Hilton Head Island, S.C. (AP Photo)

## An absolute zoo': Positive test, busy island rattle golf

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C.

CARLOS Ortiz headed for dinner near the Harbour Town lighthouse and it felt like old times, which didn't necessarily mean good times. This idyllic island is a summer destination, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's a 30-minute wait, and once you get in there, there's no social distancing, packed tables right next to each other, kids running around," Ortiz said Saturday at the RBC Heritage. "We were impressed how nobody was wearing a mask. We talked about it on Tuesday when we saw it. We were like, 'Oh, somebody's going to get corona here.' It's crazy how busy it is in here inside the island."

Three days later, Nick Watney became the first PGA Tour player to test positive for the coronavirus.

The tour put in motion part of its plan to handle such a result, starting with 11 additional tests for anyone who might have come in close contact with Watney. The initial tests all came back negative - including Tony Navarro, his caddie, and Vaughn Taylor, who played with Watney on Thursday.

Results from a second test were expected late Saturday or Sunday.

Golf made it through 11 days of its return before getting a positive test. The question now becomes who's next, or how many more, before the show can't go on.

Rory McIlroy, who chatted with Watney on the putting green shortly before the test result was returned, says sheer numbers made it virtually impossible to think no one in golf would test positive. He was not part of the contact tracing because "we kept our distance" on the putting green.

"We're still in the middle of a pandemic," McIlroy said. "I think we've done really well to start golf again and get back up and play golf tournaments. I don't think anyone was blind to the fact that someone could catch the virus, and it's a shame Nick did. But as I said, it's one case. And as long as it's contained to that and we move forward, we can keep playing."

More stories emerged of a South Carolina resort that was busy as ever, even though fans aren't allowed on the golf course.

The tournament is typically played in April, the week after the Masters, when school is still in session. With the pandemic shutting down golf for three months, the RBC Heritage originally was canceled, and then moved to June after the Canadian Open was canceled and the U.S. Open was moved to September.

"Even if you wanted to go somewhere, there's no place to go," Joel Dahmen said. "We tried to rent bikes this week, and they're sold out."

Watney missed the cut last week at Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas, and drove home to Austin before flying to South Carolina with Sergio Garcia, who also lives in Austin.

He tested negative when they arrived, and according to McIlroy and Garcia, what led Watney to report symptoms was data on his Whoop strap that measures such metrics as heart rate, sleep and recovery.

"So it was his Whoop that told him his

respiratory rate went up, and that's why he thought, 'Maybe I could have it,'" McIlroy said.

Garcia also was tested again Friday and said he was nervous waiting four-plus hours for the result. He said Watney apologized to him "probably 25 times" and that in his text exchanges, Watney said he is feeling fine.

Watney must self-isolate for at least 10 days. It ends provided he has no subsequent symptoms or has two negative test results at least 24 hours apart.

Under the tour's 37-page "Return to Golf" protocols, players have a designated hotel that is not mandatory. They are urged not to eat out at restaurants, also a recommendation for caddies and the essential personnel who must be tested when they arrive at every tournament.

It's up to them what they do after hours. Justin Thomas is staying in a villa with Jordan Spieth and Rickie Fowler, and they brought a chef. Thomas was among those who noted how busy it was on the island.

"No offense to Hilton Head, but they're seeming to not take it very seriously," Thomas said. "It's an absolute zoo around here. There's people everywhere. The beaches are absolutely packed. Every restaurant, from what I've seen when I've been driving by, is absolutely crowded."

Navarro said in a text he tested negative. He is self-isolating in Hilton Head, able to go to the store provided he wears a mask. He said he was staying to help Watney with anything he needs, and then planned to drive him home to Texas.

The tour administered 954 tests over the opening two weeks of its return - 487 at Colonial last week in Fort Worth, Texas, 98 for those who took the charter flight to South Carolina and 369 at Hilton Head. All were negative until Watney's positive test on Friday.

Did that allow for a false sense of confidence?

Taylor's test Friday also came back negative, and he spent the evening watching television reports about the various sports coping with positive tests, whether it was Clemson's football team or Major League Baseball training sites.

"It's eye-opening to see how much the virus is out there and how careful we have to be," Taylor said. "I felt like coming in the last week everyone was super careful, and then we got here, and the vibe on the island is a little more relaxed. I feel like we might have gotten a little more relaxed, too. Everyone has kind of ratcheted it up a little bit. Not hanging out with too many people, hanging with too many guys, stay out of restaurants and bars and those things."

"I think if we do that, we should be safe," he said. "We've all got to keep that in the back of our mind and just be smart."

The PGA Tour heads to Cromwell, Connecticut, next week, followed by Detroit and then back-to-back tournaments in Ohio.

"We've got to see what happens," Koepka said. "It's unfortunate Nick got it, but at the same time, hopefully, it stays with just him and doesn't spread. Because I think we'll have a big issue on our hands if it keeps going as the weeks continue."

AP

## How Saturday's action impacted VPL standing

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

ANOTHER busy weekend of Vodacom Premier League action kicked off last Saturday with Simba SC closing in on a third consecutive title with a decisive 3-0 victory over Mwadui FC.

The win means Simba SC needs only three more points to be confirmed champions.

High flying top flight debutants Namungo FC kept themselves in the race for the runners-up spot.

The Lindi-based club's 2-0 victory over Kagera Sugar closed the gap with third place Young Africans (Yanga) to one point.

With Coastal Union settling for a barren draw with Mtibwa Sugar, Namungo FC have now opened up a six-point gap with the Tanga-based side who are chasing the fourth position.

It is on the other side of the table as fans would expect, the relegation scrap race grabbing most of the headlines during the stretch run of the campaign.

With each passing round of games, the margin for error becomes even more thin.

It should make for a highly entertaining closing stretch to the season with eight teams still involved in the relegation battle.

Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC deserves a lot of credit for the side's performance under Burundian coach Haruna Harerimana.

With five wins in their last five league matches, they are taking control of their own destiny in the relegation battle.

On Saturday, KMC FC continued to roll, with another crucial 2-1 win over Ruvu Shooting lifting them two points above the danger zone.

Lipuli FC earned a hard-fought 1-1 draw at home to Police Tanzania, the hosts scoring early through Baraka Majogoro before Rashid Hassan levelled for the visitors.



JKT Tanzania midfielder, Jabbar Aziz (C), challenges Singida United player when the two outfits locked horns in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place at Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on Saturday. JKT Tanzania won 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

The one point was just enough to keep Lipuli FC out of the relegation spots courtesy of a better goal difference over Ndanda FC, Mtibwa Sugar and Mwadui FC with all teams tied at 34 points.

In Mtwara, Ndanda FC helped out their relegation cause as well with a late win over Biashara United.

In the remaining eight games, Ndanda will count on their home support and form against JKT Tanzania, Simba SC, Prisons and Mbeya City FC.

Tough away trips against Yanga,

Mbao FC, Ruvu Shooting awaits them.

Another key winner on Saturday was Alliance FC. They faced a very difficult task of going out on the road against a Mbeya City side deeply caught in the relegation fight.

Alliance FC put together one of their most complete efforts of the season to earn all three points.

Alliance have remained in the direct relegation spots but the three points against Mbeya City FC kept the former within touching distance of five teams, Lipuli FC, Ndanda, Mtibwa Sugar and Mwadui FC who are just

two points ahead.

After that, Alliance FC schedule gets more favorable with six home games over the final month.

For Mbeya City FC, their run-in looks hideous between now and the end of the season.

Six matches out of eight are against top 10 sides. They need a tremendous late charge to avoid relegation.

At the bottom, Singida United's troubles deepened with a 2-0 away loss to JKT Tanzania who played behind closed doors for the first time.

## Beyoncé drops surprise single 'Black Parade' on Juneteenth

LOS ANGELES

BEYONCÉ did not let Juneteenth pass without dropping one of her signature surprises - a new single called "Black Parade."

"I'm going back to the South, I'm going back where my roots ain't watered down," Beyoncé sings, opening the track. At several points on Friday's release, the singer tells listeners to "Follow my parade."

Proceeds from the song will benefit Black-owned small businesses, a message entitled "Black Parade Route" on the singer's website said. The post included links to dozens of Black-owned businesses.

"Happy Juneteenth. Being Black is your activism. Black excellence is a form of protest. Black joy is your right," the message said.

Juneteenth commemorates when the last enslaved African Americans learned they were free. While the 1862 Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in the South beginning Jan. 1, 1863, it wasn't enforced in many places until after the end of the Civil War two years later. Confederate soldiers surrendered in April 1865, but word didn't reach the last enslaved Black people until June 19, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to Galveston, Texas.

"We got rhythm, we got pride, we birth kings, we birth tribes," Beyoncé sings toward the end of the nearly five-minute song.

Juneteenth - typically a day of both joy and pain - was marked with new urgency this year, amid weeklong protests over police brutality and racism sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd, a Black man, at the hands of Minneapolis police.

Beyoncé spoke out on social media in the wake of Floyd's death.

"We're broken and we're disgusted. We cannot normalize this pain," she said in an Instagram video that called for people to sign a petition demanding justice for Floyd.

The singer also joined the call for charges against the officers involved in the killing of Breonna Taylor, who was gunned down in March by officers who burst into her Kentucky home. Beyoncé wrote in a letter Sunday to Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron that the



Beyoncé

three Louisville police officers "must be held accountable for their actions." Cameron has asked for patience amid a probe, but Louisville's mayor announced Friday that one of the officers would be fired.

The release of "Black Parade" is the singer's latest philanthropic effort. In April she announced her BeyGOOD charity would partner

with Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey's Start Small campaign to provide \$6 million in relief funds to a variety of groups working to provide basic necessities in cities like Detroit, Houston, New York and New Orleans.

It's also the latest surprise release from the singer, who along with husband Jay-Z released the nine-track album "Everything Is Love" in 2018

with no notice. In 2013, Beyoncé released the self-titled album "Beyoncé," also without any notice.

"I hope we continue to share joy and celebrate each other, even in the midst of struggle," she wrote in an Instagram post announcing the release of "Black Parade." "Please continue to remember our beauty, strength and power."

AP



## Zidane refutes Pique hint refs favour Real Madrid

MADRID

ZINEDINE Zidane has denied referees could help Real Madrid win La Liga after Gerard Pique hinted it would be "difficult" for Barcelona to beat their rivals to the title.

Pique made the comments after Barcelona were held to a 0-0 draw with Sevilla on Friday, apparently referring to VAR ruling out a Valencia goal against Madrid a day earlier.

"No, I am very direct. I don't think so," Zidane said in a news conference when asked if his team had been favoured by officials. "People can say one thing or another. What I am interested in is the game tomorrow. I have my opinion, but I won't tell you what I think about Pique or anyone."

That result means Zidane's team can go level on points with Barca at the top of the table – and ahead of them, thanks to a superior head-to-head record – if they win against Real Sociedad on Sunday.

"[Barca's draw] doesn't change anything," Zidane said. "This is our third game, we have talked about playing 11 finals, and we will prepare thinking about giving everything on the pitch

and nothing else."

After beating Eibar and Valencia at home, the trip to San Sebastian to face an exciting Real Sociedad team is Madrid's first away fixture since La Liga returned.

They were knocked out of the Copa del Rey in a 4-3 home defeat in February, with on-loan Martin Odegaard getting on the scoresheet against his parent club.

"He is a player of the present and the future, he is young and he is doing really well for Real Sociedad," Zidane said. "I won't say what we're going to do with Martin. He is ours but this year he's playing for another club. In the future we will see what we're going to do with Martin."

The French coach is expected to rotate the side for their third game in seven days, with Marco Asensio making a case for a start with a goal and assist against Valencia, after returning from a long-term injury layoff.

"We have to go step-by-step [with Asensio]," Zidane said. "We must stay calm. We are ambitious, but we can't forget he has been out for 10 months and that's a long time."

(Agencies)

## Mancini tells Balotelli to 'wake up' before his career sinks

MILAN

ITALY coach Roberto Mancini on Saturday urged Mario Balotelli to "wake up" before he throws his career away.

Balotelli's ill-fated stint at hometown club Brescia appears to be coming to an end, with reports his contract will be terminated after repeated absences from training.

"I've told him a thousand times that he's wasting a huge talent," Mancini told Italian television.

"I have loved Mario very much since he was a boy and he has done extraordinary things. He has a crazy physique, speed, technique, and at 30 he is in the middle of his career."

"I hope that one day he will wake up and change."

AFP



## Football returns to South America, under protest

RIO DE JANEIRO

AFTER a three-month hiatus for the coronavirus pandemic, football returned to South America Thursday in Brazil, with a Rio de Janeiro state tournament match, though some clubs and fans insist it is too soon.

Copa Libertadores holders Flamengo beat minnows Bangu 3-0 in Rio's iconic Maracana stadium, in a match with no fans played just metres (yards) from a field hospital set up to treat COVID-19 patients.

Rio Mayor Marcelo Crivella, who authorized the tournament to resume, had said President Jair Bolsonaro, a fierce critic of coronavirus quarantine measures, would attend the match. But in the event the far-right leader did not make the trip.

The Rio championship is the first professional football competition to resume in South America, where the new coronavirus is still spreading rampantly.

With nearly 48,000 people killed by the virus so far, Brazil has the second-highest death

toll in the world, after the United States, and the number of cases continues rising steeply.

Top Brazilian clubs, including Botafogo and Fluminense, have come out against the restart, arguing it is too soon.

Supporters of those two clubs, as well as Flamengo, Bangu and others, protested outside the stadium before the match, saying the authorities were putting lives at risk.

Players had their temperatures checked on arrival at the stadium, while reporters and photographers covering the match had to pass through a disinfection tunnel.

The match opened with a minute of silence for victims of COVID-19, including Flamengo's own massage therapist, Jorginho, who died last month.

Brazil's national championship was due to begin in May but has been indefinitely suspended.

The first national league to restart in South America will be Paraguay's on July 17.

AFP

## Another loss, another injury: Arsenal struggles on PL return

LONDON

ANOTHER loss. Another big injury. Things are going from bad to worse for Arsenal in the early days of the Premier League's resumption.

A 2-1 defeat at Brighton on Saturday came only three days after a 3-0 beating by Manchester City, with the demoralizing results robbing Arsenal of the momentum it had before the suspension of the league three months ago because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Qualification for the Champions League looks a long shot now – Arsenal is in ninth place, six points off Manchester United in fifth – and manager Mikel Arteta also has a growing injury list to deal with in this congested period of matches.

Bernd Leno, one of Arsenal's best players this season, joined that list after landing awkwardly on his right knee after being given a nudge by Brighton striker Neal Maupay in an aerial challenge. Leno's howls of pain were audible in the empty Amex Stadium and the goalkeeper remonstrated angrily with Maupay while being carried off on a stretcher.

Sure enough, it was the French striker who scored the winning goal in the fifth minute of stoppage time. Arsenal's players took out their frustrations on Maupay as he celebrated a huge win for Brighton after the final whistle, with fellow Frenchman Matteo Guendouzi grabbing him by the throat in an action that sent Maupay to the ground.

"Some of their players need to learn what is humility, especially one of them," Maupay said, without mentioning Guendouzi by name. "He was talking all game, he was saying bad things."

"I don't want to say because I could be in trouble. I just said that this is what happens when you talk too much on the pitch."

Arsenal's most likely route into European competition next season might now be through winning the FA Cup, which resumes at the quarterfinal stage next weekend.

Yet Arteta is thinking much longer term after inheriting in December a team that has lost its



Arsenal's goalkeeper Bernd Leno gestures at Brighton's Neal Maupay as he leaves the pitch on a stretcher after getting injured during the English Premier League soccer match between Brighton & Hove Albion and Arsenal at the AMEX Stadium in Brighton, England, Saturday, June 20, 2020. (AP)

place among English soccer's elite in recent years.

"This is the challenge we all have at the football club, to rebuild to something that is worth the club we are representing," Arteta said.

Leno has a suspected twisted knee, potentially ruling him out of the rest of this pandemic-extended campaign. Arteta lost midfielder Granit Xhaka and defender Pablo Mari to injury against City, with Mari unlikely to return before next season.

Three injuries, two losses, one goal and no points.

### KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

It was the third day of games in Project Restart, and it seems the league's players have already forgotten some of the guidelines put in place to allow soccer to return in England, one of the hardest-hit countries in the outbreak and still a nation reporting dozens if

not hundreds of deaths per day.

It must be hard to stick to the advised socially distanced celebrations when your team has scored an important late goal. Brighton's players swarmed over Maupay after his winner, and the same happened with Watford and Leicester players after their goals in a 1-1 draw at Vicarage Road.

Ben Chilwell was mobbed by his Leicester teammates after smashing home a rising, angled shot off the inside of the post in the 90th minute for what looked like the winning goal.

However, there was more late drama as Watford center back Craig Dawson executed a bicycle kick for a brilliant equalizer in the third minute of stoppage time for his relegation-threatened team. Dawson was also hugged by teammates after a goal that moved Watford a point above the relegation zone.

## Fifty years ago, Brazil taught the world to play, in colour

PARIS

FIFTY years ago, modern football was born at the World Cup in Mexico, kicking and yelling, and live in vibrant colour for a global audience.

Sunday marks the anniversary of the final of that 1970 tournament which was won by Brazil's technical team.

Mexico in 1970 was not the first World Cup broadcast live.

Four years earlier 400 million watched England beat West Germany in the final. But that tournament was shown in black and white.

Battered Brazil, the reigning champions, limped out playing, as far as viewers could tell, in two shades of grey.

In Mexico, their yellow, blue and green glowed in the sunshine.

Most viewers still watched in black and white. But the games were shot in colour and when the many iconic moments are replayed, that is how they are seen. And that is how the competition is remembered, even by its greatest star.

"I watch it because there are a lot of videos available and TV programmes," Pele told FIFA's website. "If I'm not careful, I always start crying."

The tournament gave Pele his third winner's medal but the images also cemented his reputation as the world's greatest player, partly because of three spectacular near misses: a shot from his own half against Czechoslovakia, a header saved by England's Gordon Banks and the dummy that almost turned a Tostao pass into a goal against Uruguay.

"I was at my peak," Pele said. "We had a fantastic side and everyone expected us to win, which gave me the shakes."

His strike partner Tostao wrote in his column in Brazilian newspaper Folha recently that Pele "wanted to end his international career with a great triumph, both individually and collectively, so no one would have any doubts that he was the best of all time."

The quarter-finals all kicked off at noon on June 14. Gigi Riva scored twice and Gianni Rivera once as Italy beat hosts Mexico 4-1.

Rivellino, Tostao and Jairzinho, but not Pele, scored as Brazil beat Peru 4-2.

"There were four 10 shirts in that team," Teofilo Cubillas, one of Peru's scorers, told the Brazil football federation web site. "If you scored four goals, they would go there and score eight."

Reigning champions England, with many of the stars of 1966 but not an ailing Banks and, by the end, Bobby Charlton, substituted with his team two goals up to protect him from the heat, lost 3-2 in extra time to West Germany. Franz Beckenbauer and Gerd Mueller were among the German scorers.

In the semi-finals, in Guadalajara, Brazil gave Uruguay a one-goal start but won 3-1. Again Pele didn't score, but Clodoaldo, Jairzinho and Rivellino did.

In Mexico City, the other semi-final was heading for a 1-0 Italian win until Karl-Heinz Schnellinger scored a 90th-minute equaliser for West Germany.

Extra time was 30 minutes of mayhem. Mueller gave West Germany the lead. Tarcisio Burgnich levelled and Riva put Italy ahead. Mueller replied, but a minute later Rivera gave Italy victory.

The abiding image is of Beckenbauer playing much of the game extravagantly strapped after dislocating a



Pele leapt to celebrate with teammates Tostao, Carlos Alberto and Jairzinho (AFP Photo)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Leicester restored its eight-point advantage over Man United, which is occupying fifth place – potentially the last Champions League qualification spot this season because of second-place Manchester City's two-year European ban that is currently under appeal.

### BACK OF THE NET-O

Wolverhampton's goals in a 2-0 win at West Ham weren't quite so late, but did come in the second half.

After Raul Jimenez headed home the opening goal in the 73rd, substitute Pedro Neto met a deep cross with a thunderous volley high into the net in the 84th.

Wolves moved tied for points with Man United, with both just two behind fourth-place Chelsea.

West Ham is only out of the relegation zone on goal difference.

### BREWSTER BACKS BLM

Support for the Black Lives Matter movement continued Saturday, with all players from the Premier League teams in action taking a knee after the first whistle of the match. All player names on the back of shirts were again replaced by "Black Lives Matter."

In the second-tier Championship, which was playing its first games since the restart, Swansea striker Rhian Brewster celebrated the first of his goals in a 3-0 win at Middlesbrough by holding up a shirt with the words "Our Colour Is Not A Crime" written on it.

The shirt was handed to Brewster, a Black striker on loan from Liverpool, by a member of Swansea's backroom staff after he ran to the dug-out.

West Bromwich Albion drew 0-0 at home to Birmingham and leads the division on goal difference from Leeds, whose game in hand is on Sunday.

AP

shoulder when West Germany had already used both substitutes.

"Everybody is still talking about it"

The best was yet to come.

Italy were a good team, with the extravagantly gifted Sandro Mazzola. The defence was built on the great Inter Milan side, pioneers of 'catenaccio', with Giacinto Facchetti at its heart. Brazil tore them apart.

At an altitude of 2,200 metres (7,200 feet) in dazzling sunshine in the Azteca, Brazil produced a display of attacking football that touched Olympian heights.

Mario Zagallo, Brazil's coach, later said he thought the 1-0 victory over England "was the best game of the tournament...a high-class game of chess."

Yet Brazil's attacking display in the first colour World Cup final set a benchmark against which every one of the tens of thousands of matches broadcast since is measured.

Pele gave Brazil the lead with his fourth goal of the competition.

"I told myself before the game, he's made of skin and bones just like everyone else – but I was wrong," Burgnich said later.

Roberto Boninsegna levelled, but in the second half Gerson and Jairzinho put the match beyond reach.

It was as if Brazil were inventing football. They finished with a flourish, scoring one of the great team goals with four minutes left as full-back Carlos Alberto finished a mesmerising eight-man move by lashing home Pele's deft pass.

"I realise how beautiful and how important that goal was, because everybody is still talking about it," Carlos Alberto told the BBC years later.

"Nobody talks about Pele's goal, the first goal, the second goal. It is always about the fourth goal. I think it was the best goal ever scored in a World Cup."

It was a fitting exclamation mark at the end of what might have been the best World Cup.

AFP



# SPORT

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Mwadui FC defender, Agustino Samson (R), challenges Simba SC midfielder, Hassan Dilunga, when the teams met in a Vodacom Premier League clash at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Simba SC won 3-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Gwambina FC closes in on promotion to Premier League

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

GWAMBINA FC now needs two points to make certain of the side's promotion to next season's Mainland Premier League after the squad managed 1-1 draw with Transit Camp FC in a First Division League (FDL) clash which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Victory in the Saturday match was all Gwambina FC, based in Misungwi, Mwanza, needed to land a place in the domestic top flight next season.

They were, though, pegged back by Transit Camp FC's early goal netted by Prosper Pius, the Mwanza club players then deployed all skills at their disposal to notch an equalizer netted by Steven Jimmyson.

"We are okay with the results and we are going to prepare for three matches we are left with. Our outfit now needs two points to win promotion to the next season's Mainland Premier League," the outfit's official website said.

The Mwanza club is positioned first in Group B of the FDL, having won 12 games, managed draw in five and suffered defeat in two to collect 41 points.

They have netted 30 goals and shipped in 14 to post a good goal difference of 16.

The Saturday draw has seen Dar es Salaam-based Transit Camp FC move to the fourth spot in the group, having recorded 26 points in 19 games.

Gwambina FC has three games left, in which the squad will confront fellow Mwanza outfit, Pamba, Tabora's Rhino FC and Kigoma's Mashujaa.

Should Gwambina FC notch the needed three points in any of the coming assignments, the squads will collect 44 points, which none of the rest of the group's sides will have managed to post.

Geita's Geita Gold FC holds second spot in the group, having collected 33 points.

The squad has placed itself in a good position to feature in play offs for promotion to the top flight.

The play offs will also bring together sides, which will hold the 15th and 16th spots in this season's Mainland Premier League.

Geita Gold FC had booked a place in the 2016/17 Mainland Premier League, but the side was ordered to once again take part in the FDL as it was found to have been involved in match fixing.

Other FDL sides, Kigoma's JKT Kanembwa, Tabora's Polisi and Arusha's JKT Oljoro were as well found guilty of the offense and were duly punished.

The incident, in the process, saw Mwanza's Mbao FC, which was placed third in the FDL group in the season, get chance to feature in the Mainland Premier League.

## Mashrafe, Nazmul, Nafees test positive for COVID-19

DHAKA

MASHRAFE Mortaza, left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam and opener Nafees Iqbal have tested positive for Covid-19 in Bangladesh.

Mortaza, 36, is currently in the capital Dhaka after undergoing the test earlier this week.

Mortaza, a member of parliament, had been quite active with humanitarian efforts during the pandemic, especially in his hometown and constituency Narail.

Islam was also heavily involved in distributing food and other supplies in his hometown Narayanganj, one of the worst-hit areas in Bangladesh.

Mortaza posted about testing positive on his Facebook page on Saturday evening local time saying: "Today my Covid-19 results came as positive. Everyone please pray for my quick recovery. The number of infected has now crossed one lakh. We all have to become more careful. Let's all stay at home, and not get out unless it is necessary. I am abiding by the protocol at home. Rather than panic, we need to raise awareness about corona."

Mortaza only plays ODIs at international level and had stepped down from captaincy earlier this year.

Islam, 28 and the youngest of the three, has played one Test, five ODIs and 13 T20Is since his international debut in 2018 and Iqbal, 34, has played 11 Tests and 16 ODIs.

Covid-19 cases have crossed 100,000 in Bangladesh with over 1400 deaths, and the government now planning area-wise lockdown. **AGENCIES**

## Dar basketball coaches set to conduct course

By Guardian Correspondent

DAR ES SALAAM's basketball coaches, William Mziray and Phineas Kahabi, are expected to conduct the sport's course for youths below 19 years at Spiders Club court in the city later this month.

Mziray said the course, slated for June 23-27, will involve over 80 boys from across the city.

The coach, who also trains domestic basketball giants Oilers Club, disclosed the course, dubbed '25/8 boys camp', targets to identify and nurture youngsters that will in future play in, among other events, the region's basketball league, known as RBA.

"We will be the first to conduct a basketball course from the time sporting activities were given green light to resume in Tanzania," he said.

"I believe many youths will turn up for the course, given they have been yearning for the training for sometime."

According to Mziray, youngsters, who will participate in the weeklong course, will be served food and drinking water.

He disclosed the participating youths will, later, form two teams, known as 'All-Stars squads', which will lock horns in a match, which will culminate the course on June 27.

He said they are as well looking to conduct a basketball course for girls later this year.

He nevertheless stopped short of mentioning the dates for the girls' course, claiming it is too early for them to do so.

Mziray moreover stated once the All-Stars squads for both boys and girls are formed, they will head to Morogoro to take part in friendly matches against their counterparts in the region.



JKT netball team's players take part in training session at the National Indoor Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Arusha netball players now stuck in Kampala as league beckons in Tanga

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

JUST as Tanzania is preparing for the First Division Netball League, Arusha is worried, because the region's netball team is short of its four dependable players currently stuck in Kampala, Uganda.

So far the Arusha city authorities have tried to write to the Uganda's High Commission to Tanzania's office asking assistance, but the latter advised them to contact the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Kampala instead.

Arusha City Council's Sports Officer, Benson Maneno, admitted that they even wrote to the Ugandan ministry, asking them to allow the four sports personalities to travel back to Tanzania.

"Well the process to that effect has started and is ongoing.

It wasn't easy because Uganda is still in COVID-19 lockdown," Maneno said.

Arusha' netball team, known as 'Arusha Queens', comprising nine players, has thus set camp at the Institute of Accountancy Arusha, in Njiro but yearns for the additional three fielders.

The team's coach has also taken vacation in the neighbouring country of Uganda during the recent COVID-19 driven hiatus.

Still in Kampala are three players, Stella Nyadoi, Sarah Nakiyunga and Dorothy Vega Slando, that together with their coach, Nourdene Hassan Kato, are yet to return to Arusha to join fellow netballers for the preparatory drills.

Speaking from Kampala, coach

Kato said the three players stuck in Uganda were not idle, continuing with their practising sessions there.

He insisted it, therefore, does not matter when they will be allowed to travel to Arusha.

"We are always ready and well equipped for the Tanga league," the coach assured.

But the assurance from Kampala doesn't sound strong enough to cool anxiety here, because the city officials here are still really worried that July 5, a day set for the league's start, is just around the corner.

The three players, plus the coach may, therefore, not make it in time for the Tanga event.

The First Division Netball League, to be played in Tanga, will run from July 5-11, 2020.

The showpiece was initially supposed to involve a total of 17 netball teams from various regions in Tanzania.

However when contacted by phone, Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta) Secretary General, Judith Ilunda, said she had just received reports that one of the teams has decided to opt out of the league.

"The Railways team of Morogoro is the one which has pulled out of the league, otherwise all preparations and precautions have been observed for the rest of the teams," she said.

According to Ilunda, the top three winners from the First Division Netball League are expected to take part in the forthcoming East African Netball Championships.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV Sports**

**TONIGHT @ 9:30**

**MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)  
16:00 Akili & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 S5ELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE  
22:30 Bongo Hits

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06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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