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WFP now initiates Covid-19 logistics support deliveries

By Guardian Reporter

HUMANITARIAN assistance in the country is now going to be eased after the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) launched a passenger flight that will be ferrying humanitarian and health workers to Tanzania.

The inaugural flight which is set to touch down at the Julius Nyerere International Airport from Addis Ababa is the first of its kind since commercial air services were suspended in Tanzania in an attempt to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

A statement by WFP in Dar es Salaam said yesterday that the passenger air service scheduled to begin today will be run by the UN agency as part of its global efforts to offer logistics support for the global Covid-19 response.

The service ensures humanitarian organizations can provide the people and cargo needed to sustain assistance operations that millions of vulnerable people depend on across the world.

Michael Dunford, the WFP Representative in Tanzania said that as the leading UN agency for logistics, WFP has a key role to support the government and the whole humanitarian community in ensuring supplies and staff are



WFP said it expects to maintain regular flights to key locations around the world once the service is fully operationa

able to reach where they are needed.

Dunford noted that experience in running logistics operations has allowed WFP to adapt its programmes to provide common logistics services to support the global humanitarian and health response.

The air bridge system is tied to Global Humanitarian Response Hubs with operational centres in Guangzhou (China), Liège (Belgium) and Dubai (UAE) where supplies are being manufactured - and regional hubs in Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, Malaysia, Panama and Dubai.

Flights operate between global and regional hubs, and a fleet of smaller planes move cargo and humanitarian personnel into specific countries such as Tanzania.

WFP said it expects to maintain regular flights to key locations around the world once the service is fully operational.

In Tanzania, flights of humanitarian and health workers are expected to take place every week. Upon arrival, passengers will follow government regulations for mandatory quarantine if they want to stay in the country.

COVID-19 deaths: Experts ironing out guidelines for dignified burial

By Correspondent James Kandoyo



It's quite literally a delicate trip by canoe for Bahi district commissioner Mwanahamisi Mkunda (in headscarf) and a member of the district's defence and security committee as they embarked on a tour of flood-hit paddy field earlier this week. Some 11,000 hectares are said to be under water. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

THE government has said it is finalising guidelines to ensure respect and dignified burial for Covid-19 victims.

Dr Faustine Ndugulile, the Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, has told The Guardian that the guidelines are being prepared by ministerial experts and will ensure that Covid-19 victims' final journeys are handled with compassion and respect before burial.

"Experts are finalising the review of the guidelines to be applied countrywide during burial of people dying from Covid-19," said Dr Ndugulile, noting that the move will reduce complaints from the public.

There have been complaints from the public on how the bodies of their beloved ones who died from Covid-19 are being handled as well as the burial process. People have also been complaining of being involved too little for their comfort in funeral procedures once the deceased are confirmed to have died from the disease.

The deputy minister said new guidelines would, among other things, specify the number of people permitted to attend the burial of a Covid-19 victim and consider safety measures for transporting the bodies to preferred places of burial.

He said restrictions on the number of people attending specific burials are meant to control the spread of the disease.

"We will make sure that the bodies are transported and buried at preferred cemeteries in accordance with family decisions. We only need to make sure the bodies are well covered with disinfected packaging materials to forestall infections."

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PM: Nyerere hydro project must be completed on time

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday directed the contractor of the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power project (JNHPP) to complete the work on time so as to spearhead the country's industrialisation drive.

He issued the directive during an inspection tour of the country's giant power project that will produce 2,115 megawatts.

"You have no excuse as the ongoing rains

haven't affected project implementation," the premier said, asking Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (Tanesco) managing director Dr Tito Mwinuka to supervise the work so that it is completed on time.

He said he was pleased by the progress of the work on one of the biggest strategic projects in the country.

"I have visited the project site and seen the ongoing activities. The work done is

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EALA innovates ways to 2020 Budget session

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

REGARDLESS of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the East African Legislative Assembly will convene its 2020-2021 fiscal year session next month, the only issue being how to go about it.

House Speaker, Martin Ngoga said here yesterday that it was vital that EALA holds its usual annual budget sitting next month, to facilitate the running of East African Community activities.

"But this year we are faced with the coronavirus challenge which calls for a different approach in organizing such meetings," he stated.

"I have thus formed a special committee

which is now working to arrange strategies on how to organize and conduct the forthcoming East African Legislative Assembly's budget sessions, so that every legislator can attend and actively participate safely," he asserted, addressing journalists in a virtual session.

It is still not known how much the East African Community's 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget will entail, but sources close to the Secretariat disclosed that, funds for addressing pandemics in the region may get the lion's share of its estimates.

The now ending EAC Budget for fiscal 2019-2020, tabled in June last year was to the tune of US \$111.4m, which was appropriated with the EAC Secretariat apportioned US \$53.2m.

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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.



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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



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'Illegal fishing controls raise collections of govt revenue'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government's revenue collections from fisheries sectors have increased to 72bn/- from 21bn/- in four years.

The Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Luhaga Mpina made the revelation when tabling his 66.8bn/- ministry's budget estimates for the 2020/2021 financial year.

The minister attributed the increase with a number of measures the government implemented to control illegal fishing which has currently decreased by 80 percent in fresh waters and by a 100 percent in the Ocean.

Mpina said the stern measures to control illegal fishing and disputes between farmers and pastoralists had significantly increased the contribution of the sector to the country's economy.

According to the minister at least 392,933 tonnes of fish worth over 1.85trn/- were fished between July 2019 and March 2020 thus cutting imports of fisheries to 8.18 tonnes worth some 161m/-.

The volume of fisheries imported were 7,760.12 tonnes valued at 15.31bn/- during the financial year 2018/2019.

Illegal fishing activities in Lake Zone that account for 64 percent of the total volume of fisheries exported had seriously affected the sector due to fishing of premature Nile perch which reached a highest record of 96.6 percent.

Minister Mpina told the national assembly that the government's plans to revive the Tanzania Fisheries Corporation -TAFICO was on progress and that it plans to spend 89.28bn/- during the fiscal year 2020/2021 to buy long-liner, purse-seiner and territorial waters fishing vessels.

"The plan also includes building a fish processing plant, an ice-making

plant and cold storage facilities," he said.

"The ministry has also put in place plans for an aquaculture project that includes cage fish farming in the Lake Victoria and Indian Ocean," he said adding that other activities will include pond fish farming, fish hatchery and a fish feed plant.

The minister said the government is working with an Italian firm - M/S Sering Ingegneria to finalise a feasibility study that will help establish a special fishing port. Three areas, Mbegani- Bagamoyo, Kilwa Masoko and Lindi have shortlisted for the project.

However, Members of Parliament were of the view that the government should intensify measures to control importation of dairy products to boost local manufacturers.

The MPs claimed that there were still massive importations of milk products and beef, the thing that affect performance of the livestock sector.

Data by the ministry indicates that local production of beef increased to 701,679.1 tonnes in 2019/2020 from 563,086 tonnes in 2013/2014.

Production of milk and eggs also rose to 3 billion litres and 4.05 billion from 1.99 billion litres and 3.89 billion during the year under review.

The minister said over 243.65 tonnes of beef worth over 4.06bn/- was imported from Kenya, South Africa, Belgium and England. The volume is slightly lower compared to 516.63 tonnes worth 4.9bn/- imported in 2018/2019.

Mpina however maintained that imports of dairy products have decreased by 90 per cent.

A total of 99 dairy products are produced by local manufacturers with factories located in 27 regions. The local factories have capacity to process 865,600 litres of milk per day.



TBL's Mwanza plant manager, Patel Kilovele (L), pictured in Mwanza city yesterday presenting to Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella 500 litres of sanitiser the company has donated to help in the war on Covid-19. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

COVID-19 deaths: Experts ironing out guidelines for dignified burial

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the deputy minister noted.

Commenting on a request by tourist stakeholders that businesses in the tourism sector be re-opened, Dr Ndugulile said the matter would be discussed by ministers now attending the Budget session of the National Assembly, under the leadership of Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

"We want to rescue the tourism

sector, but it's important to also consider the health of Tanzanians," he said.

Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla said recently when responding to queries raised by MPs that the ministry had submitted a proposal to the government requesting the lifting of the 14-day mandatory quarantine for foreign visitors being enforced to prevent importation of new cases of

Covid-19.

Last month, the government announced that all inbound travelers are required to undergo a mandatory quarantine of 14 days in government-designated facilities at their own expense.

Speaking in Arusha on Wednesday after chairing a two-day meeting of stakeholders from tourism, hotels and health sectors, the minister said that tour agents abroad have showed

interest in resuming the promotion of Tanzanian destinations to their clients.

He said most foreign tour agents are ready to bring visitors into the country "as long as a number of precautionary measures are put in place".

Tanzania has been getting an average of 1.4 million tourists a year within the last two or three years and is looking to attracting two million visitors this year. However, Covid-19 has stepped in, disrupting those plans.



Work on the Ubungo Interchange at the junction of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro, Mandela and Sam Nujoma roads well under way under China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation contractors, as witnessed yesterday by Correspondent Miraji Msala

PM: Nyerere hydro project must be completed on time

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commendable and there are high hopes it will be completed much earlier than planned," the premier declared.

The hydro power project on Rufiji River is being built by an Egyptian consortium - Arab Contractors and El Sewedy Electric Co. costing US\$3.6bn

(6.5trn/-), officially inaugurated by President John Magufuli last July, and is to be completed in June 2022.

The giant power project is expected to produce 2,115 MW of power for the national grid, making the country to have ample and reliable electric power supply. The power project would more than double the Tanzania's current

power generation capacity of around 1,600 megawatts.

In addition, the project has softened employment challenges as many youths were employed for the long term and for short term labour requirements.

The completion of the project will enable Tanzania to implement

big strategic projects spurring industrial development and the running of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR).

The project's signing ceremony was held in Dar es Salaam on December 12 2018 witnessed by President John Magufuli and the Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mostafa Madbouly.

EALA innovates ways to 2020 Budget session

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the East African Legislative Assembly US \$18.9m and the East African Court of Justice US \$4.2m.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa was to receive US \$9.5m, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission US \$13.9m, while US \$ 4m was earmarked for the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization.

The East African Science and Technology Commission was to get US \$ 1.9m, the East African Kiswahili Commission slated to obtain US \$ 1.4m and the East African Health Research Commission US \$ 3.9m.

The East African Competition Authority was to benefit from an amount of US \$727,501 in the now folding up 2019/20 fiscal exercise.

The now ending EAC Budget operated under the theme of "Transforming Lives through Industrialization and Job Creation for Shared Prosperity."

The priority interventions for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 chiefly related to the consolidation of the Single Customs Territory and promotion of intra and extra EAC trade and export competitiveness, the development of regional infrastructure, effective implementation of the Common Market Protocol and the enhancement of regional industrial development.

In another development, EALA members representing the six EAC partner states have resumed virtual meetings with each country tabling efforts taken to combat the spread of coronavirus within the country's borders.

In synchrony with EALA sessions, Speaker Ngoga held a brief press meeting with local scribes to explain the ongoing sessions and the regional assembly's efforts in assisting member

states during these pandemic times.

During initial discussions, Kenyan members narrated how they enforced partial lockdown in parts of major cities and a nationwide night curfew. The government reacted to its first confirmed case on 13th March by banning public gatherings, adding school closures and flight bans, imposing a dusk-to-dawn curfew shortly after.

Additional restrictions included partial lockdowns of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale, the four counties with the highest infection rates.

Uganda, on the other hand, went for the high gear of totally locking down the country and clamping public activities. According to its EALA members, the country surged in its fight against the spread of Covid-19 enlisting supports from Uganda's private sector and donations, approval of a Covid-19 response budget and updated measures announced by President Yoweri Museveni.

Through recorded video clips, Tanzania showed how the legislature took steps including social distancing and personal hygiene. The country also substantial quantities of a Covid-19 organic preparation from Madagascar in efforts to come up with an easily accessible and effective alternative to medical applications being tried at present.

Rwanda explained how they used experience learned during the Ebola pandemic in tackling coronavirus infections.

The country's health ministry was quoted as saying techniques employed to prevent the spread of Ebola in 2018 were useful in tackling the spread of Covid-19.

VIP route for 'Kilimanjaro' visitors in the offing - govt

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has allocated about 200m/- during the next Financial Year (2020/2021) for the establishment of a 25-kilometre route for Very Important Persons (VIP) route who will be climbing one of the best tourist destinations—Mount Kilimanjaro.

The ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism told the National Assembly here that the work for the new route was ongoing, adding that another 230m/- had equally been allocated during the next fiscal year for the construction of new offices for receiving and offering services to all visitors as well as construction of a trail for climbing the mountain from Kidia area.

"The launching of a new route will help in hiking government revenue through local and international tourism as well as increasing economic opportunities for residents of Old Moshi East ward especially those providing tour guide services and those doing business with tourists around the area," the ministry stated.

The ministry was issuing its written response in the House when answering a question posed by Special Seats MP, Ester Mmasi (CCM) who said that residents of Old Moshi ward were eagerly awaiting for the VIP route at the popular mountain. "Why the government go ahead and quench that thirsty that has been long overdue," she said.

In the response, the ministry said that in collaboration with the Tanzania National Park Authority (TANAPA) it had decided to open the Kidia route that will be used by VIP visitors wishing to climb mountain Kilimanjaro.

"Because of the importance of that route, TANAPA decided that the VIP route be incorporated into the ten-year plan dubbed General Management Plan (GMP)- 2016-2026," stated the ministry.



Because of the importance of that route, TANAPA decided that the VIP route be incorporated into the ten-year plan dubbed General Management Plan (GMP)- 2016-2026.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) technicians repair a water pipe at Kiluvya Gogoni on the outskirts of the city yesterday in an effort to improve the flow and distribution of the precious liquid. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bonite Bottlers Ltd launches Kilimanjaro drinking water using much bigger bottles

By Guardian Correspondent

BONITE Bottlers yesterday announced that it has started the packaging, distribution and sale of Kilimanjaro Drinking Water in 6-litre, 12-litre and 18.9-litre bottles.

"We have invested in state-of-the-art machinery for the production of bulk water to enable our customers to get the desired packs for their consumption at homes, in offices and in various institutions," Bonite Bottlers' head of sales and marketing, Christopher Loiruk, said in a press statement issued in Dar es Salaam.

He said that the water is available at Bonite Bottlers depots, wholesalers and retail shops across Tanzania.

Kilimanjaro Drinking Water is also available in 0.5-litre, 1.0-litre and 1.5-litre bottles.

Loiruk expressed gratitude to customers throughout Tanzania "for their endless support", declaring: "Kilimanjaro Drinking Water is the water you can trust every day."

"We have invested in state-of-the-art machinery for the production of bulk water to enable our customers to get the desired packs for their consumption at homes, in offices and in various institutions"

ASPIRES Tanzania
(Registration No.00NGO/08615 of 2016)

**Public Notice on NGO Activities and
Financing for Fiscal Year 2020**

Pursuant to amended NGO Act number 24 and regulation 13 (a) requiring NGOs to publish bi annually funds received and their expenditure in a widely circulated newspaper, ASPIRES Tanzania is hereby presenting its January – September 2020 statement as follows:

SERA BORA is a USAID funded project through Michigan State University (MSU) and implemented in collaboration with ASPIRES Tanzania. The 5-year project - January 2020 – December 2024) aims to accelerate adoption of more effective policies and programs, drive broad-based agricultural sector growth, improve household food security and nutrition, and reduce poverty in Tanzania. SERA BORA project has three components, namely: Policy Research and Data; Policy and Regulatory Reforms; and Institutional Capacity for Policy Architecture. In the course of SERA BORA implementation MSU will be providing a sub-grant of \$656,000 annually to ASPIRES Tanzania. The illustrative annual budget for ASPIRES Tanzania sub-grant is as follows:

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES	USD
Policy research and data	54,901
Support policy and regulatory reforms	36,991
Institutional capacity building	134,314
Project management, administration and monitoring	430,433
TOTAL	656,640

Issued by: **SERA BORA Project Coordinator
ASPIRES Tanzania**



In loving Memory of the late Dr. David Bwogi who passed away on 15th May 2019



Time speeds on, One year has passed since death its gloom, its shadow, cast within our family-where all seems bright, and took from us- Dr. David Bwogi.

He was truly the family's shining light. His smiling way and pleasant face are a pleasure to recall. He had a kindly word for each and died beloved by all. We all miss him and ever will.

His vacant place there is none to fill. Some day we hope to meet him, some day we know not when, to clasp his hand in the better land, never to part again.

Roman 8:38:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither Angels nor Demons, Neither the Present Nor the Future, No Any Powers, neither Height nor Depth, Nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

157402



Bonite Bottlers Limited is delighted to introduce **Kilimanjaro Drinking Water in 6 Litres, 12 Litres and 18.9 Litres.** We have invested in state of the art modern machinery for production of water to enable our customers, consumers and stake holders to get the desired packs for their consumption in homes, offices and in various Institutions.

AVAILABILITY:-

- Kilimanjaro Drinking Water in bulk is available at our depots, shops and wholesalers throughout the country.
- For our customers and consumers in Dar es Salaam, you can buy Kilimanjaro drinking water while at home through our online partners for home delivery which are Shoponline Tanzania www.shoponline.co.tz and Piki Deliveries www.piki.co.tz.

We hope you will continue to support us and enjoy the refreshing taste from the home of Africa's highest peak.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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KILIMANJARO DRINKING WATER IS THE WATER YOU CAN TRUST EVERYDAY!

Govt underlines need for HPV vaccinations with eye on teenagers

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has asked parents and guardians with girls aged 14 years to ensure that they take their children who are yet to receive Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), vaccine and those who are yet to complete vaccination to avail them to medical facilities.

The ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, said in the National Assembly that the government was giving assurance to all people that vaccination services were available at all health facilities for free.

"People should continue with these services at any time because vaccination is the right of every child in this country," said the ministry.

The ministry was giving a written response in the House following a question asked by Special Seats MP, Mwantumu Dau Haji (CCM) who had sought to know the progress on HPV vaccine that was recently introduced by the government.

According to the minister, the government introduced HPV vaccine in April 2018 for girls between nine and 14 years and that during that period about 643,383 girls aged 14 who were targeted had received the vaccine on time, adding that during 2019 the targeted girls were 685,580.

"In 2018, we introduced the vaccine and about 383,683 received the service during the first dose and an equivalent of 60 per cent of the set target which was 643,838 and during the second dose about 128,021 were reached out which is equal to 33 per cent of the set target," the ministry said.

Last year, the minister said, about 533,615 girls (78 per cent) received the vaccine during the first dose and that on the second dose about 334,014 equal to 63 per cent were reached.

The government introduced

HPV vaccine as part of the routine immunisation programme targeting girls aged 14 to protect them against cervical cancer.

Statistics show that Tanzania is among the African countries with the highest cases of cervical cancer with about 50,000 women contracting the disease annually.

Statistics from Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) show that cervical cancer accounts for 36 per cent of all cancer patients in the country, followed by breast cancer (12.9 per cent), cancer of the esophagus (9.8 per cent) and Kaposi's Sarcoma (9.3 per cent per cent).

Cervical cancer has multiple risk factors such as early marriage, multiple sexual partners, multi-parity and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS infection, tobacco use, vitamins deficiency and HPV infection.



In 2018, we introduced the vaccine and about 383,683 received the service during the first dose an equivalent of 60 per cent of the set target which was 643,838 and during the second dose about 128,021 were reached out which is equal to 33 per cent of the set target



Venance Mwamoto, legislator for Kilolo in Iringa Region has a word with residents of Ilula on Wednesday as they fetched water from a tank built by the government. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Arumeru DC inaugurates mask-making factory

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

ARUMERU District Commissioner Jerry Muro has inaugurated a small mask making factory at Meru district Hospital in efforts against the spread of Covid-19 infections.

Speaking to reporters during the launch, Muro said the factory has been established by Meru District Council in collaboration with Indian Technical

and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), and added that it will be under the Meru District Medical Officer.

He said the masks will be distributed to the health sector especially to health workers and the remaining will be distributed to the people, state and private institutions.

"For the first time we want the whole world to know that in Arumeru District we have established a factory for

making our own masks," Muro said.

Doctor in charge of Meru District Hospital Fokasi Maneno said they have collaborated with ITEC to establish the factory, and added that the masks will assist the health workers who are in the frontline serving Covid-19 patients.

Speaking on behalf of ITEC staff, Heavenlight Nkya and Okuli Meena said the factory is a step in supporting

government efforts against the pandemic.

They said up to now they have made more than 6,000 masks and the factory itself has cost more than 40m/-.

"We have worked together with the hospital to establish this factory for sewing the masks, paying the tailors, purchase of raw materials and the hospital itself has provided a building for the factory," Meena said.



Sheikh Idd Ramadhan Mchome (R), secretary of the Tanzania Muslim Council in Mwanga District, receives ten sets of hand washing items donated by the Dr Msuya Foundation yesterday. Left is the foundation's director, Dr Ombeni Msuya. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Dr Shein directs govt officials in Pemba to check disaster effects

By Guardian Reporter, Pemba

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has called upon government officers in Pemba to tirelessly deal with disasters in the areas where the people have been severely affected, adding that the task has no specific officials, as all of them should be responsible.

Dr Shein was speaking in Chake Chake in Pemba when he met and held talks with government officers in charge stationed in Pemba during his three-day official visit to the Island.

Dr Shein impressed upon the officials to quickly conduct assessment on the disasters in each district including the villages in order to know who needs assistance.

He also told the officials to be at the frontline in working together with the Zanzibar Disaster Commission including in the fight against Covid-19 infections. He congratulated the officials for the good work done in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic stressing that it is also the responsibility of other government sectors.

On disasters brought by heavy rains, Dr Shein said rains are a grace to the people but when they exceed they bring havoc to the people including collapse of their houses.

He also called on the government officers not to be glued in their office

chairs and instead go out to their areas of jurisdiction for the interest of the citizens and the government.

He said the country is peaceful as both governments, Zanzibar and Union continue to work hard for the maintenance of peace as well as in the protection of our borders.

On the issue of Covid-19 infections Dr Shein appealed to the officials to allay fears from amongst the people as there is no need for instilling panic among the population as the government was working hard in fighting the pandemic, and added that the people should continue praying to God.

He also said that despite the pandemic the government economy is still strong as everything that had been planned is being implemented.

He said despite the loss of about 80 percent revenue in the tourism sector the government is still getting along as normal in serving the people.

He said all infrastructure projects - such as roads, Mpiga Duri Port, port for oil and gas at Mangapwani, Pemba Airport are all still intact as funds thereof have already been allocated in the coming Financial Year.

He also added that plans for this year's General elections are also intact and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission will announce the date at appropriate time.

Minister tasks MSD to procure, distribute locally produced Covid-19 protective gear

By Guardian Reporter

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Innocent Bashungwa has directed the Medical Stores Department (MSD) to procure and distribute Covid-19 protective gear produced by local manufacturers.

He said the move will apart from saving funds; facilitate availability of the protective gears across the country. He said the factories are those which have been granted license by

the Tanzania Medicine and Medical Devices Authority (TDMA).

Bashungwa made the directive on Wednesday during his meeting with local manufacturers of personal protective gears in Dar es Salaam. He was accompanied by Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Umyu Mwalimu.

He commended manufacturers for coming up with innovative ideas and technology on the making of PPE

since they are the mostly needed in combating the spread of the novel Coronavirus.

"Establishment of factories protects and boosts the economy. We are now sure of the availability of the preventive gears that can easily reach our people countrywide", he noted.

Minister Bashungwa promised to visit the Bagamoyo based-Msagala Investment which is expected to start producing raw materials used to make face masks. The raw materials will be

made from cotton to be procured from Tanzanian farmers.

During the meeting, Bashungwa said they have both agreed that the National Development Corporation (NDC) should only concentrate with production of N95 respiratory protective devices and gloves. So far there are no local factories manufacturing N95 masks.

He however urged local manufacturers of protective devices to increase production to meet the

market demand especially during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Meanwhile, Health Minister, Umyu Mwalimu appealed to manufacturers to double production of PPE as it takes many days to import the devices from abroad. She insisted that protective devices were important in the fight against Coronavirus.

TDMA has so far provided licenses to 65 local hand sanitizer manufacturers with the capacity to make 3.7 million litres of hand

sanitizers per month.

However most of hands washing facilities are now produced locally by Tanzania Engineering and Manufacturing Design Organization (TEMDO), Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization (TIRDO) and Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO).

TEMDO has manufactured ventilators which are now tested at TMJ hospital in Dar es Salaam.



Arusha Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority director Justine Mwangijomba (gesturing) briefs Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo (2nd-L) during Wednesday's tour of one of the water tanks built under the Kwa Tom project in Karatu District. Photo: Correspondent Wolinde Shizza

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Health service providers told to plan for under-five children vaccinations

HEALTH services providers in the country are advised to put up a special timetable for vaccination of children under five years of age and girls receiving vaccination for cervix cancer so as to protect them against Covid-19 infections.

This advice was given yesterday by the National Immunisation Planning Officer from the Ministry of Health Lotalis Gadau when speaking to reporters from various media via video conference.

He said vaccination should be conducted in open air abiding by the one metre distancing while girls are this time required to report to vaccination centres as in the past the vaccination was done at their schools that are now closed.

He stressed upon parents and guardians to ensure they accompany

their girls to centres for vaccination against cervix cancer. "We are advising service providers to come up with a special timetable in recognition of Covid-19 infections, and for children who had completed the vaccination, they will only be weighed," Gadau said.

He said even a child who has attained two years of age and is affected by

malnutrition is not prevented from attending clinic for vaccination and other treatment.

He said aside from this procedure health providers are required to plan timetables by observing the child's development especially on the issue of nutrition for those less than two years of age.

Misuse of storm water canals saddens NEMC

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Environment Management Council said yesterday it is gravely distressed by urban residents pouring waste water into big public canals that clear away storm water from streets and urban roads.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam after touring Mabibo residential area and William Mkapa Export Processing Zone in the city, NEMC Director General Samuel Gwamaka said the environment regulatory body was disturbed and saddened to learn that some Mabibo resident channelled their waste water from their homes into a public canal that leads storm water into Msimbazi River on its way to the Indian Ocean.

"We have come here in response to written complaints of some Mabibo residents that one textile factory was pouring untreated seepage into residential area. They also complained about noise and smoke pollution. After visiting the processing zone, we have also visited the residential area only to find that residents have directed pipes of waste water from their homes to the nearby public canal. This is a misuse of the canal; we are gravely upset by this dangerous habit," the expert complained, adding that the habit must stop forthwith.

Several times NEMC has decried the habit and called on urban residents countrywide to stop it.

Dr Gwamaka said a team of experts would study environmental situation in the zone and recommend action. "Factory owners who will be found to have

violated the requirement of the Environmental Management Act 2004 and its Regulations will be punished severely," he warned.

While the MD promised Mabibo residents to work on their complaints, he explained that it was awkward on the part members of the public to accuse and complain about environmental damage by

institutions and factories while they were in the forefront in damaging Tanzania's environment. He appealed to Tanzanians to appreciate that safe environment was central in sustaining people's wellbeing and socio-economic development.

He called on leaders in the local government to make close follow-ups on public infrastructure and

stop residents from doing things that were detrimental to environment and public health. "If all of us will remain firm on this, we shall save people, livestock and other living things found in our environment from terrible harm that might befall them," he said.

The MD did not say when the team would start to work but indicated that it would be quite soon.



SUPPLY, IMPLEMENTATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF AN END TO END LENDING SYSTEM

CRDB Bank Plc, hereinafter referred to as CRDB Bank, is a leading Financial Services Provider in Tanzania with current presence in Tanzania and Burundi, East Africa. Established in 1996 and listed in Dar Es Salaam Stock exchange (DSE) in June 2009, CRDB Bank offers a comprehensive range of Corporate, Retail, Business, Treasury, Premier, and wholesale microfinance services.

Scope of EOI

CRDB Bank intends to implement a robust and End-to-End (E2E) lending system to fully automate its credit management process with a view to improving operational efficiency, increasing revenues, providing a delightful customer experience and achieving strategic objectives.

The bank is inviting bidders to express interest in the supply and implementation of an end to end lending system to support current and future business operations within the lending ecosystem including loan origination, evaluation, portfolio management, reporting, recovery and analytics.

Registration of Interest to participate in EOI

Qualifying bidders are required to register interest in participating by sending an email to tenders@crdbbank.com by 19 May 2020.

Clarifications

Requests for clarifications should be submitted in writing by way of email to tenders@crdbbank.com Deadline for submission of clarification requests is 26 May 2020.

Deadline for submission of EOI

EOI must be submitted to the Secretary Management Tender Committee CRDB Bank Plc via email tenders@crdbbank.com no later than 29 May 2020 at 5pm East Africa Time. For ease of reference, the subject on email should be: Expression of Interest for the Implementation, Testing and Commissioning of an End-to-End Lending System 26 May 2020.

Full EOI Documents

The request for Expression of Interest document can be obtained from CRDB website crdbbank.co.tz/tender/

The Managing Director
CRDB Bank Plc
P. O. Box 268
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

157401

RC lauds community radio in Pemba for scaling up of awareness on coronavirus

By Guardian Reporter, Pemba

MICHEWENI-based community radio in Pemba Island has been commended for playing a key role in educating residents on the outbreak of Covid-19 as well as measures to curb its spread.

Presenting reports to Zanzibar President Dr Mohamed Shein at the state house in Chake Chake, Regional Commissioners from Pemba South, Hemed Suleiman Abdallah and Omar Khamis Othman of Pemba North region commended the radio's awareness creation campaign on the disease.

Pemba North Regional Commissioner, Omar Khamis Othman said the radio has been conducting a number of educational programmes on the importance of wearing face masks and the need to frequently wash hands with soap and running tape water or sanitiser.

The RC informed that more than 7,689 people residing at Fundo, Kokoa, Njau, Kojani, Makangale, Kifundi, Msuka, Micheweni, Shanake, Kiuuyu kwa Manda, Tondooni, Tumbi, Shumba Mjini, Maziwa Ngombe, Michenzani and Kiuuyu Mbuyuni have benefited with the educative radio programmes.

He however said the government in the region has conducted educational campaign to over 60 Shehias whereas the residents have been informed on preventive measures against Covid-19 as well as the importance of sharing information with authorities whenever they notice new faces around their premises.

"We have also reached 2,651 business people at various shopping centres and fish mongers at the popular fish markets at Msuka, Kiuuyu, Shumba Mjini, Wete, Mtambwe, Gando and Tumbi", said the RC noting similar educative programmes have been provided to clerics and local government leaders.

He said they have enhanced security at dumb ports to make sure non-residents do not enter the region

without undergoing temperature screening. There are 172 dumb ports in Pemba North region.

Pemba South Regional Commissioner, Hemed Suleiman Abdallah said they have been using a public address system (PA system) to educate people on the outbreak of Covid-19 and prevention measures. He said the educative programmes were conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Tourism and Heritage.

Abdallah said they are working closely with authorities in Tanga region to control illegal entrance of people from Mombasa, Kenya.

The RC assured residents of stable food supply during the holy month of Ramadhan insisting mostly needed food stuffs such as rice, sugar, maize and wheat flour are available at markets across the region.

"We have enough food, prices have remained stable even during the pandemic outbreak," said the regional commissioner.

He said regional authorities have taken a number of measures to strategically combat the spread of Coronavirus whereas community health officers have been reaching various societal groups with educative programmes.

He said they are working closely with the immigration department, local government leaders and Shehias in controlling illegal importation of goods through dumb ports. He said they have identified all the 253 dumb ports and that officers have been deployed to curb illegal exportation and importation of goods.



We have enough food, prices have remained stable even during the pandemic outbreak



Maintenance and Support of SAGE 300 ERP; including new installations, upgrade, training and development to the FSDT

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Introduction

The Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) was incorporated in Tanzania on 1st July 2004. The FSDT's overall aim is to contribute to All Tanzanians to (derive value) from regular use of financial services which are delivered with dignity and fairness. FSDT's objective are:

- Advocating for an improved policy, institutional, legal and regulatory framework at national and sub-national levels of financial services
- Promoting more relevant market infrastructure and ways to reduce transaction costs between FSPs and potential clients
- Stimulating improved access to financial products and services that respond to the needs of MSMEs
- Stimulating improved access to financial products and services that respond to the needs of households and individual.

2. Background of the Assignment

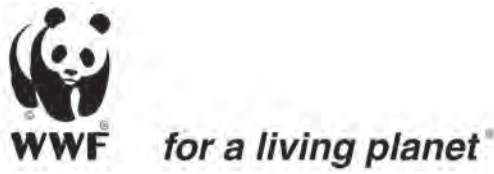
The Financial Sector Deepening Trust seeks to appoint a suitable and accredited Sage software service provider to provide end-to-end software system support and maintenance services for Sage 300 ERP (formerly Sage ERP Accpac) including new installations, upgrades, training and development for a period of one year.

3. SUBMISSION DETAILS

The deadline for submitting proposals is 1600 Tanzanian time on Wednesday, 03rd June 2020. Submissions after this time will not be considered. Bids must be submitted electronically

For specific responsibilities and more details on application requirements visit: www.fsdtr.or.tz/opportunities. We will only consider applications that adhere to proposal requirements.

157404



REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Terms of Reference

Consultancy for Developing National Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework for the United Republic of Tanzania

Introduction

Tanzania is one of the mega-biodiversity rich countries globally hosting six of the 25 globally known biodiversity hotspots. It has an extensive diversity of species with at least 14 500 known and confirmed species with an estimated third of Africa's total plant species being present in Tanzania. It ranks twelfth in terms of the number of bird species and has about 20% of Africa's large mammal's population. Tanzania ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1996. In addition to the CBD Tanzania is also party to a number of international conventions and protocols related to the protection of its natural resources including: Cartagena protocol (2003), Nagoya Kuala-Lumpur, Nagoya protocol (2017), Plant genetic resources, CITES, Plant protection and Migratory birds to mention a few. At a national level Tanzania has put in place a number of legislative and policy measures including: the NEP (1997) and EMA (2004), the Forest policy and Act, the Wildlife policy and act, Agricultural/livestock policy, Coastal and marine, Biotechnology Policy (2010), Biosafety regulations (2009) and the Plant Genetic Resource centre.

One of the objectives of the CBD is the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the utilisation of genetic resources, including appropriate access to genetic resources and appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources. In order to implement this, the Nagoya Protocol was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan and entered into force on 12 October 2014. The Nagoya Protocol is an international agreement which aims at providing a mechanism for regulating the access to genetic resources and associated Traditional Knowledge and the benefits arising from their utilization in a fair and equitable way. The Protocol sets out core obligations for its contracting Parties to take measures in relation to access to genetic resources, benefit-sharing and compliance. Tanzania ratified the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity in June 2017.

The Protocol requires each Party among others, to take appropriate, effective and proportionate legislative, administrative and policy measures to provide that genetic resources utilized within its jurisdiction have been accessed in accordance with prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms have been established, as required by the domestic access and benefit-sharing legislation or regulatory requirements of the other Party. Moreover each Party is required to take appropriate measures to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and related access and benefit-sharing issues. Such measures may include, inter alia: Promotion of this Protocol, including its objective. The Origins of the Nagoya Protocol are found in the Convention on Biological Diversity. In terms of Article 15 of the CBD states that PARTIES should: Create systems that facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound purposes and Ensure that benefits resulting from their use are shared fairly and equitably between users and providers. It is based on this background that Vice President's Office in partnership with WWF Tanzania wish to recruit a consultant to develop ABS framework for the United Republic of Tanzania.

Justification

Although Tanzania only ratified the Nagoya protocol in 2017 it had already drafted ABS legislation in 2013 but this had never been promulgated. This document need revision to be improved based on emerging issues around CBD. However it forms a good starting point for the ABS framework development process in Tanzania.

Overall objective

The overall objective of this assignment is to provide technical support to the Government of Tanzania to assess the ABS potentiality of Tanzania and developing mechanisms to regulate access to biological and genetic resources and for benefit-sharing at the national level. The assignment will include the following but not limited to gathering of information on genetic resources, utilisation, marketing potentials and existing regulatory frameworks related to benefit sharing supporting ABS Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the consultancy include the following:

1. Review of the draft regulations of 2013 and other relevant legislation that have relevance to any potential ABS legislation
2. Assessment of ABS potentials in Tanzania (current state of affairs of genetic resources, challenges and

opportunities) drawing on examples from Tanzania, elsewhere in the region and beyond

3. Undertake a mapping exercise of existing institutions and their roles with relevance to any ABS legislation in the future. This for example, would include an analysis of the roles played by existing institutions with reference to potential ABS implications and assess expanding their scope if needed to ensure a streamlined and efficient implementation of ABS practices in Tanzania. Specifically this would also look into understanding how permits, with potential ABS implications, are currently issued in Tanzania.
4. Undertake a capacity needs assessment for the effective and efficient implementation of ABS regulations in Tanzania.
5. Develop an awareness information package (public outreach campaign) designed to be appropriate to address aspects related to a variety of stakeholder groups in Tanzania.
6. Propose a draft ABS framework as well as immediate and mid-term actions for the United Republic of Tanzania

Required Skills and knowledge

- MSc or PhD on Natural Resources Management, Environmental Law of related discipline
- Demonstrated experience on Conservation on Biological Diversity particularly ABS issues
- Excellent understanding of national policies governing forest genetic resources in Tanzania
- Personal integrity with an honest and open personal style;
- Approachable and an ability to engage partners at all levels;
- Adherence to WWF's social policies

Expected outputs/Deliverables

- A detailed report on the Potentials of ABS in Tanzania (opportunities and challenges),
- Reviewed, draft regulations of 2013 and other relevant legislations and policies that have relevance to any potential ABS legislation;
- Existing institutions and their roles with relevance to any ABS legislation;
- ABS capacity needs assessment;
- Awareness information package and
- The draft ABS framework and its implementation arrangements.

Duration of the assignment

This assignment will last for two months

10. Applications

All applicants must meet the minimum requirements described above. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Each application should include the following:

- Cover letter with the applicant's current contact information including how the candidate's previous experience matches the consultancy objectives as well as their interest for the position (no longer than two pages);
- Technical proposal on how they intend to carry out the assignment;
- Financial proposal/detailed budget of the project;
- CV of consultant and professional references or letter of recommendation;
- Samples of recent similar assignments: online portfolios and links to video work/documentaries;

II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

Interested Consultant/Bidder should submit his/her financial and technical proposal to the email address below;

To:
Secretary Procurement Committee
World Wide Fund- Tanzania Country Office
Off Mwaikibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikocheni
P.O.Box 63117 Dar Es salaam
Tanzania
Email: tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org

All applications will be received not later than 17.00pm, Friday 29ND May, 2020, East African Time.

Applications not including all of the above information will not be reviewed.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

JPM pardoned 17,227 prisoners since assuming office in 2015'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

ABOUT 17,227 prisoners have so far been pardoned during union celebrations, since President John Magufuli took over power in November 2015.

The ministry for Home Affairs told the National Assembly that it has been a culture for the president to grant amnesty to inmates during the commemoration of union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

The ministry was responding to a question posed by Nungwi legislator, Yussuf Haji Khamis (CUF) who sought

to know the number of people serving prison sentences who have so far been pardoned since the Fifth Phase Government under Dr Magufuli assumed office in November 2015.

In a written response, the Home Affairs Ministry said that about 17,227 inmates have so far been pardoned during union celebrations.

According to the ministry, on April 26, 2016, there were 2887 who met the requisite qualifications for the amnesty out of which 557 were pardoned and that during the corresponding period in 2017, there were 2,219 inmates and all of them received the presidential

amnesty.

On April 26, 2018, the ministry stated, there were 3,894 inmates on the list, out of which 3,319 prisoners were given alternative sentence by the Head of State while 585 were pardoned. And, during the corresponding period in 2019 those who qualified for the amnesty were 4,252 out of which 3,530 were given alternative sentence and 722 were pardoned.

This year according to the ministry, the president pardoned about 933 prisoners, 2,786 were given an alternative sentences while 256 others had their death sentences commuted.



Simanjoro district executive director Yefred Myenzi sensitises residents of Magadini village on Wednesday on ways to minimise the risk of contracting Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Correspondent, Bunda

THREE people have died in three incidents including one in Bunda District where one youth vanished in inexplicable circumstances with his body later found in the forest eaten by hyenas.

The police said the first incident occurred on Tuesday at Rwabu village in Bunda District when one Bonophace kaji (18) vanished in mysterious circumstances since May 7 this year, but one week later, on Tuesday May 12 his body was found eaten by hyenas.

Speaking by phone yesterday Rebecca Daniel, Rwabu Village

Youth found eaten by hyena after vanishing for one week

Executive confirmed the incident saying villagers found the body in the area eaten by hyenas and added that the deceased was suffering from epilepsy.

The second incident happened on Tuesday at Nambaza Village in Bunda District when a Std 1 student from Nambaza Primary School Everest Shukurani (9) drowned after falling into a water pond.

The father of the deceased known

as Penati Haikabwi said yesterday that his son, with his colleagues was taking livestock to the pond to drink water but he slipped and fell into a deep area of the pond.

Mara Regional Police Commander Daniel Shilla said the third incident involved one woman - Tabu Rwigi (59), resident of Nyasura village in Bunda District who was hit by a passing car in the night along the main Mwanza-Musoma road.

Standard Chartered donates USD11.8m for COVID-19 relief in Africa, the Middle East

DUBAI

STANDARD Chartered yesterday announced donations totalling USD11.8 million to the Red Cross, UNICEF and local NGOs and government partners providing emergency relief across Africa and the Middle East impacted by Covid-19.

The donations are meant to contribute to programmes providing urgent medical support and the protection and education of vulnerable children, as well as other efforts to ensure the health, safety and protection of communities across Africa and the Middle East.

To ensure that donations are allocated where they can provide rapid and targeted impact, the bank has pledged USD3.55 million of funding to the Red Cross for urgent medical support in nine markets across Africa.

Funding will support activities such as the provision of primary and secondary health care, communication of protection measures, provision of personal protection equipment (PPE) for Red Cross staff and the distribution of food, care and education packages for those impacted by Covid-19.

It has also pledged USD3.25 million of funding to UNICEF for the immediate protection and education of vulnerable children in Pakistan and across eight markets in Africa.

Funding will support activities such as the provision of remote education via TV, radio, online and mobile platforms and child protection measures including.

These include alternative care arrangements and family tracing services for children separated from their families owing to Covid-19; training for social workers to conduct home visits to vulnerable children for mental health support; and alternative care and protection services for

children of parents or caregivers affected by Covid-19.

The donations form part of the bank's USD10 million pledge - USD5 million to Red Cross and USD5 million to UNICEF - to support Covid-19 emergency relief activities across its markets in Asia and Africa.

On top of USD6.8 million donations to the Red Cross and UNICEF in the region, the bank has pledged USD5 million for local NGO and government partners across Africa and the Middle East.

Sunil Kaushal, Regional CEO of Standard Chartered Africa and the Middle East, said: "Ensuring the health, wellbeing and stability of the societies in which we are present, is paramount. We are proud to be able to contribute to Red Cross and UNICEF programmes that reach the most vulnerable people in our communities."

"Standard Chartered's purpose is rooted in our communities as we strive to create sustainable prosperity in the markets where we operate. By working with Red Cross and UNICEF, we can support those affected by this crisis and together overcome the adversities we currently face," noted Kaushal.

Dr Simon Missiri, Regional Director for Africa at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, meanwhile said: "Thanks to Standard Chartered's generous donation, Red Cross Red Crescent Societies can support local communities now facing increasing challenges due to the pandemic."

"Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers are the front-line responders, and these funds will help address some of the most urgent health and socio-economic impacts faced by the most vulnerable people across our country," he noted, adding: "Thanks to the vital donation from Standard Chartered we can continue to support

more people facing the devastating effects of the coronavirus."

Gary Stahl, Director, UNICEF Private Fundraising and Partnerships Division, said: "In any crisis, the young and the most vulnerable suffer disproportionately. This pandemic is no different."

"With the majority of the world's children living with some form of pandemic-related movement restrictions and 1.3 billion children around the globe affected by school closures, UNICEF's work for children has never been more critical than now," he noted, adding: "Thanks to this donation from Standard Chartered, UNICEF will be able to support remote education via TV, radio, online and mobile platforms and child protection measures for vulnerable children across the world."

The bank has also put in place a comprehensive support programme for UNICEF clients, including USD1 billion of financing for companies that provide goods and services to help the fight against Covid-19.

Other financing will go to firms planning the switch into making products that are in high demand to fight the global pandemic; and a comprehensive support scheme for retail and business customers, including loan repayment holidays, fee waivers or cancellations and loan extension facilities.

The eight African markets to receive Red Cross support are Tanzania, Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Zimbabwe, while UNICEF support will go to Tanzania, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, and Zambia.

The Red Cross is an umbrella term for the British Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Livestock institute in Mpwapwa to engage in cattle breeding via artificial insemination

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology has capacitated the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) in Mpwapwa to engage in cattle breeding through fertilisation and artificial insemination (AI).

Data from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations shows that Tanzania is a third African country with a good number of cattle after Ethiopia and Sudan. However, 98 percent of all the cattle in Tanzania consist of traditional breeds which produces limited amount of milk and meat.

Experts' evaluation on the livestock sector indicates that by 2030 there will be a shortage of 1,731,000 tonnes of red meat (33 percent). The shortage will be largely due to challenges including poor quality of cows and population increase.

According to experts, a single bull's semen can be used to impregnate a good number of heifers through AI. Professionally, single semen can impregnate a single cow through fertilisation which includes transplantation of semen.

The head of TALIRI - Mpwapwa, Dr Eliakunda Kimbi said the use of the technologies will enable the country to produce enough hybrid cattle. He said they have been conducting research on the AI and fertilisation process since 2011 in collaboration with COSTECH.

Dr Kimbi added: "We were previously ordering the semen from South Africa; we now have the technology to reproduce them locally and conduct fertilisation at our centre. This will facilitate rich cattle breeding that can be distributed to livestock keepers across the country".

According to him, introduction

of the technology will help the government to attain its target of producing 1m/- quality cattle breeds per year.

He however raised concerns over shortage of researchers on the livestock sector insisting the country requires a good number of researchers to be able to produce quality cattle.

He said TALIRI has 48 workers, among them, 18 are researchers against the needed 150 servants.

TALIRI Mpwapwa researcher, Dr Thomas Kabuni said they are now preparing good heifers for fertilisation and semen transplant. He said the process includes hormone stimulation through injections.

"It takes seven days for a cow to be ready for insemination after the hormone stimulation. A single heifer can be inseminated up to four times," he said.

COSTECH Director General, Dr Amos Nungu was optimistic that the new technologies will improve the country's livestock sub-sector and contribute into government efforts to transform Tanzania into a middle-income sized nation.

Dr Nungu said the institute supported TALIRI technological research through provision of a laboratory which was equipped with all necessary equipment.

According to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries the government produced 1,062 dairy heifers at its Arusha-based National Artificial Insemination Centre (NAIC) between July 2019 and March this year.

It also established artificial insemination camps in Simiyu Region (Bariadi and Meatu), Geita (Bukombe and Chato), Dodoma (Kongwa), Katavi (Mpanda and Tanganyika) and in Kagera Region (Misenyi and Kyerwa).



Juma Rahibu (L), councillor for Bomambuzi in Kilimanjaro Region, addresses journalists earlier this week. He called for the restraining of all traditional healers claiming to have found a cure for Covid-19 while their 'medicines' have not been certified by the relevant authorities. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Uber launches mask verification as part of new safety procedures

By Guardian Reporter

Uber has announced its safety measures to help everyone who uses its app to stay safe and healthy.

"Over the last two months, Uber's tech and safety teams have been hard at work building a new product experience that will help protect everyone, every time they use Uber," it said in a statement issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Uber will use new technology to verify that all drivers are wearing a mask or some other face covering before taking a trip in Tanzania.

From next week, all Uber riders and drivers in Tanzania will be required to wear a mask or face covering when taking a trip. As part of a new in-app safety checklist, before drivers go online they will be asked to take a selfie to confirm

that they are wearing a mask or face covering using new object recognition technology. Any driver not wearing a mask or other face covering will not be able to go online.

Drivers will also be asked to confirm if they've taken additional safety measures such as regularly sanitising their cars and making hand sanitiser available for their riders. "Riders will meanwhile be required to take safety precautions like washing their hands before getting in the car, sitting in the backseat and opening windows for ventilation.

These new safety measures will be introduced on Monday 18 May and stay in effect until the end of June, when they will be reviewed based on the latest official health guidance available then.

Uber is also today allocating \$50 million globally to help provide drivers

with access to the personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and sanitising supplies they need to work more safely on the Uber app.

In Tanzania, Uber is locally working to provide masks to drivers and continues to provide tips on the app on preventing infection with Covid-19 while travelling with passengers.

In addition, Uber will partner with consumer goods company Unilever to provide hygiene kits to drivers and couriers in the UK, with plans to expand to more countries across Europe, the Middle East and Africa soon.

The kits will include Cif (Jif) Antibacterial Multi-Purpose Spray and Lifebuoy alcohol-based hand gel.

Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said: "For months we've been urging people to stay home, for their safety and the safety of drivers who continue to make

essential trips. Now, as cities begin to reopen and people start moving again, we're taking unprecedented measures to help everyone stay safe and healthy, every time they use Uber. This includes working with partners like Unilever to help drivers, couriers and riders access the masks and hygiene kits they need to work and travel more safely."

Unilever CEO Alan Jope meanwhile said: "As some countries around the world look to slowly ease out of lockdown, safe transportation will play a crucial role as we move into a new normal. And as people begin to venture out, we must collectively ensure that health and safety remains the absolute priority. We're pleased that by partnering with Uber, and providing our trusted hygiene products, Unilever is able to help keep drivers, couriers and riders as safe as possible."

MC T LOCAL CHANGE THROUGH INNOVATION		
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019 AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018		
This publication is made in accordance with regulation 13(a) of the Non-Governmental Organization Act (Amendments), Regulation 2018 which require Non-Governmental Organizations to publish bi annually the funds received and its expenditures.		
MC-Tanzania is a locally registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with a mission to contribute towards improving oral health and dental care through existing promotion, prevention, curative and rehabilitation services. The organization aims to see communities throughout Tanzania live free from oral and dental diseases. MC-Tanzania is an affiliate of Miracle Corner of the World (MCW Global), which is a New York based non-for profit organization. Below is the Statement showing Grants support and Income Received and Expenditures incurred for the year ended 31 December 2019 (Audited) and for the year ended 31 December 2018 (Audited).		
	As of 31 December 2019 (Audited) TZS	As of 31 December 2018 (Audited) TZS
SUPPORT GRANTS & INCOMES		
MCW Global	314,813,044	360,628,447
MC Tanzania Local Income	220,250	15,330,000
Total Support Grants & Incomes	315,033,294	375,958,447
EXPENSES		
Salaries & Wages	221,705,173	209,472,950
Centres Administrative costs	2,288,628	2,848,172
Security	15,265,200	6,095,666
Meetings	1,290,770	10,412,899
Project expenditures (Oral Health Care & World Oral Health Day)	22,383,390	30,448,049
Special Events	-	5,886,356
Transportation	20,196,461	42,790,151
Communication	3,902,000	885,204
Internet	-	315,000
Health Insurance	5,349,965	14,240,562
Amnesty fees and Fire inspection fees	16,954,575	11,706,000
Office Supplies	2,631,255	11,805,474
Depreciation Expense	4,991,120	19,606,920
DDS Best Students Award	200,000	200,000
Personal and Professional Development	-	4,869,236
Land rent	-	186,100
Audit fee	6,785,000	5,262,800
Provisional for doubtful debts	-	9,715,623
Legal & Professional fees	2,955,000	-
Terminal benefits	3,469,638	18,651,588
Loss on disposal assets	30,701,200	-
Office Rent	9,333,331	-
Bank charges	1,250,285	1,615,747
Total Expenses	371,652,991	407,014,497
Deficit for the year	(56,619,697)	(31,056,050)
The above extracts are from the Financial Statements of the Organization for the year ended December 31 st 2019 and for the year ended December 31 st 2018 which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. The Financial Statements were audited by Auditax International Certified Public Accountants (T) and received a clean report.		
The Financial Statements for the year 2019 and 2018 were approved by the Board of Directors on 28 March 2020 and 10 June 2019 respectively and signed on their behalf by:		
Dr. Deodatus Mtasiwa Board Chairperson	Dr. Ambege Mwakatobe Director	
NOTE SUPPORT GRANTS & INCOMES: MC-Tanzania received all its support grants for the Financial Years 2018 and 2019 from Miracle Corners of the World (MCW Global). MC-Tanzania also raised income from school fees and rental income.		



ADVERTISEMENT

INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)

TENDER TITLE: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY(SPS) INFORMATION SHARING PLATFORM ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20191125

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional organization mandated by the governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan to spearhead the East African economic, social and political integration agenda. In support of the on-going integration process. In line with its objectives to support the EAC Secretariat, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is seeking a qualified supplier for Supply and Installation of the EAC Sanitary and Phytosanitary(SPS) Information Sharing Platform ICT Infrastructure.

The bidding document for this tender can be obtained from TMEA website via the link <https://www.trademarkea.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above tender title and number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com.

Interested bidders MUST submit separate technical and financial proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarkea.com ONLY quoting the tender title and number. The closing date for submission of bids is 15 June 2020.

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



Growing Prosperity Through Trade

Light-based technologies can provide practical solutions to global challenges

THE International Day of Light is celebrated on 16 May each year, the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman. This day is a call to strengthen scientific cooperation and harness its potential to foster peace and sustainable development.

The International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015 or International Year of Light 2015 (IYL 2015) was a United Nations observance that aimed to raise awareness of the achievements of light science and its applications, and its importance to humankind. Under the leadership of UNESCO, the IYL 2015 brought together hundreds of national and international partners to organise more than 13,000 activities in 147 countries. The audience reached by the IYL 2015 is estimated to be over 100 million.

The IYL 2015 was a yearlong series of events and activities with the aim of highlighting to the citizens of the world the importance of light science and optical technologies in leading to improved quality of life and for the future development of society. A particular objective was to focus on application areas related to sustainable development, and to show how light-based technologies can provide practical solutions to global challenges in areas such as renewable energy, education, agriculture, and healthcare.

Therefore light plays a central role in human activities. People throughout the world and across history have always attached great importance to light. We have seen this in cultural symbolism, universal myths and legends, and in the many ways that studying the science of light and applying it in practical applications has shaped the societies in which we live.

Light is the means by which human beings see themselves, each other, and their place in the Universe. Light is an essential part of culture and art, and is a unifying symbol for the world.

On the most fundamental level through photosynthesis, light is

necessary to the existence of life itself, and the many applications of light have revolutionised society through medicine, communications, entertainment and culture. Industries based on light are major economic drivers, and light-based technologies directly respond to the needs of humankind by providing access to information, promoting sustainable development, and increasing societal health and well-being.

The major goals of the International Year of Light 2015 among others were: improve the public understanding of how light and light-based technologies touch the daily lives of everybody, and are central to the future development of the global society; build worldwide educational capacity through activities targeted on science for young people, addressing issues of gender balance, and focusing especially on developing countries and emerging economies; enhance international cooperation by acting as a central information resource for activities coordinated by learned societies, NGOs, government agencies, educational establishments, industry, and other partners; focus on particular discoveries in the history of science that have shown the fundamental centrality of light in the development of knowledge, and highlight the continuous nature of discovery in different historical and cultural contexts; emphasise the importance of basic research in the fundamental science of light, the need for investment in light-based technology to develop new applications, and the global necessity to promote careers in science and engineering in these fields; promote the importance of lighting technology and the need for access to light and energy infrastructure in sustainable development, and for improving quality of life in the developing world and finally raise awareness that technologies and design can play an important role in the achievement of greater energy efficiency, in particular by limiting energy waste, and in the reduction of light pollution, which is key to the preservation of dark skies.

COVID-19: Technologies, new innovations hold great potential for human progress

EVERY year on May 17, people around the world join the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) family in marking World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.

The current COVID-19 pandemic is testing the telecom/ICT industry in many ways, some of which are only just becoming apparent. Increased traffic demand has led the industry to adopt measures to keep services available to people at the time when they need them most. Operators have increased data allowances and broadband speeds and added capacity to their networks. While streaming platforms have decreased their video quality to leave more bandwidth for essential services.

This year's message from ITU Secretary-General, Houlin Zhao says "I call on all of you to join me in advancing ITU's Connect 2030 Agenda, a shared global vision to bridge the digital divide and use the power of information and communication technology in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

"I invite you to show the world what new technologies like 5G and intelligent transport, the Internet of things, AI and blockchain can do to improve people's lives and facilitate social and economic development. "These technologies and new innovations hold great potential for human progress; they are a powerful tool to achieve each and every one of the Sustainable Development Goals."

"Almost half the world's population is still not using the Internet, and overall growth in ICT connectivity is slowing. Time is pressing."

"We need to coordinate and redouble our efforts to connect everyone to the global digital economy, and that for those connected, more must be done to ensure that connected life is safe and trustworthy."

"On World Telecommunication and Information Society Day and for this new

decade, let's harness information and communication technology to accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and inclusive development for everyone, everywhere.

Every year since 1969, we celebrate the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, which marks the founding of ITU on 17 May 1865 when the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris.

The year 2020 represents a unique opportunity for ITU membership to commemorate ICT's contribution to the advancement of the Information Society, and to present the 'Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development' now linked to the strategic plan of the union for the period 2020-2023, and specifically focusing on how technological advances in the coming 10 years will contribute to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by UNGA Resolution recognises that the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress and to bridge the digital divide.

The theme "Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", will allow ITU membership to reflect on the ICT advances for transition to smart and sustainable development. It will focus on specific ICT-enabled solutions and emerging trends for fostering economic, environmental and social sustainability, contributing to the five strategic goals of the Connect 2030 Agenda: to reaffirm a shared global vision of an information society, empowered by the interconnected world and to adopt and promote the Connect 2030 Agenda as the ICT's contribution to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

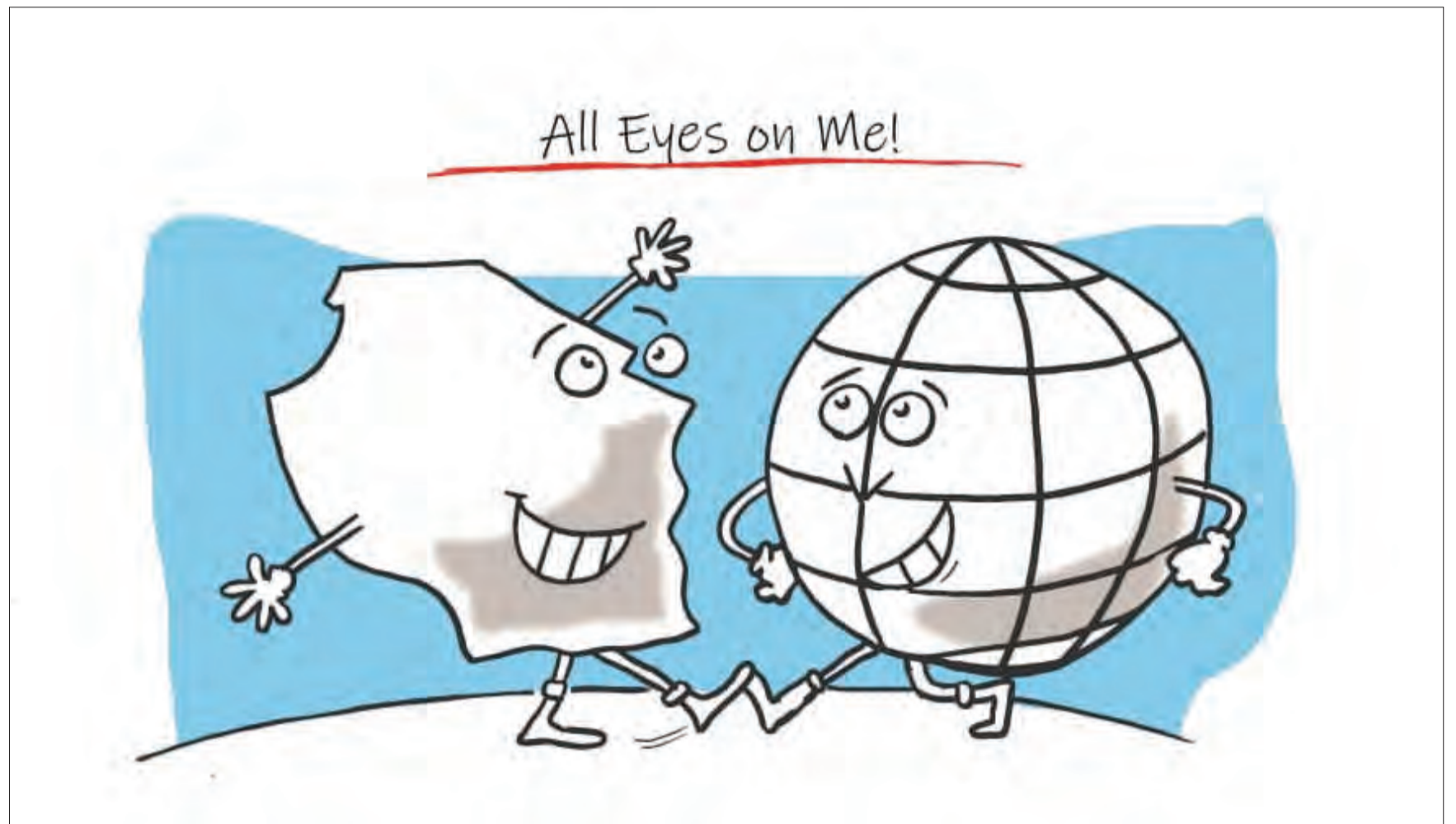
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Fair, equitable use of River Nile waters a must

By Luel Tekola

THE Nile River is one of the world's great rivers almost 6700 kilometers from its farthest sources at the headwaters of the Kagera River in Burundi and Rwanda to its Delta in Egypt. Ten countries share the Nile River: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The Nile Basin serves as home to an estimated 300 million people within the riparian countries, while 140 million people out of them live outside the boundaries of the Nile Basin and use other water resources that include groundwater sources.

The waters of the Nile are generally utilized for irrigation, hydro-electric power generation, water supply, fishing, tourism, flood control, water transportation and the protection of public health. In particular, the economy of the entire Nile Basin almost entirely consists of agricultural activities of the co-riparian of the Nile. In the upper-basin states of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi, settled agriculture is the general economic activity.

The lower-basin states of Sudan and Egypt are also primarily agricultural economies but, in contrast with the upper-basin states, their agriculture is largely irrigation-based.

The economic use of the Nile for purposes of agriculture (particularly irrigation-based agriculture) is, therefore, its most important use. In Egypt, a desert agricultural country, the entire life of the nation is dependent on the river's waters.

The water of the Nile comes from two sources, the Equatorial Plateau and the Ethiopian Highlands, both of which receive large quantities of rain. The Ethiopian Plateau contributes more than 80 percent of the Nile's total water supply, while the remainder comes from the lake Plateau of East Africa. During the season, when the river's water level is low, the white water Nile becomes the most important stream. For some countries, such as DR Congo, the Nile water is only a small part of their total water resource.

Other countries, as Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan and Egypt are completely dependent on the Nile River for their water resource. The major determinant of the Nile Basin water balance remains the agricultural sector involving more than 70 percent of the population. The dependence on agriculture by this large sector of the population in spite of its limited share in the GDP may be the most important

single factor regarding the poverty prevalent in the Nile Basin.

The water of the Nile basin is a scarce resource in more than one sense. First, the Nile is a source of livelihood for the desert states of Egypt and Sudan. A review of the treaties on the utilization of the Nile and Lake Victoria shows how Egypt has strenuously sought to ensure the security of the water flowing down the Nile.

Second, the water is not evenly distributed either over the year or geographically. For instance, Ethiopia contributes approximately 85 percent of the volume of the water which flows annually past Khartoum. Yet most of the Ethiopian heavy rain is confined to a few months of the year and falls only over a part of the country, leaving Ethiopia as a country of perennial droughts and famine.

Similarly, the East African states contribute steadily, but much smaller contributions to the Nile. Historically, the reasons giving rise for such unfair status quo can be attributed to British colonialism which had a deep interest in the control of the Nile for its cotton plantations which were to supply its industries in Europe.

"The colonial treaties and the condominium over Sudan were designed mainly to protect Egypt's interests in the basin, since for many strategic and economic reasons Egypt had become the most important Nile basin riparian state for the British colonizers". After independence, Egypt pursued more or less similar goals in securing the flow of the river to meet its own interests.

The conflict in the Nile Basin mainly emanates from the fact that Egypt is more than 95 percent dependent on water that stems from upstream countries; 85 percent of this water stems from the Ethiopian highlands. At present, Ethiopia uses about three percent of its run-off, but it plans to use more in the future and is concerned that Egypt will hinder water development projects upstream. Depending on how upstream development is done, Egypt is concerned that less water could flow downstream.

Ethiopia has never ever accepted unilateral agreements, both in 1929 and 1959 because of the prejudice to the country's interest. Ethiopia in 1959 asserted, 'Ethiopia has reserved the right to utilize the water resources of the Nile for the benefit of its people, whatever might be the measure of such waters sought by riparian states'. Regardless of the type of regime in Addis Ababa, the position of Ethiopia is one and only one to have a win-win solution and legitimate right to use the Nile water for the socioeconomic

development of the country and the region as a whole. In addition to the historical reference to 'natural and territorial right', Ethiopia has to utilize its water to feed the people.

Since antiquity, Ethiopia's stand for the most part was a win-win situation for both the lower stream countries like (Sudan and Egypt) and itself. Ethiopia as 85 percent contributor to the Nile River still promotes the notions of collective, just and equitable water use among the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) countries. Ethiopia understands the water needs and demands of downstream countries (Sudan and Egypt) which both heavily depend on waters of Nile River for irrigation, transportation, flood-control and power generation.

In its long history Ethiopia did not interfere in other countries affairs nor does it appreciate others making unsolicited interference in its internal affairs. Ethiopia firmly believe in peaceful co-existence with its neighbors including Nile Basin countries advocating for open dialogues, solving regional problems and working towards collective regional peace and development.

For fair and equitable water use of Nile River, Ethiopia needs to develop water use policy frame work to promote the followings for the whole region within Nile Basin countries:

As a founding member of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Ethiopia needs to push harder to develop the river in a cooperative manner, share substantial socioeconomic benefits, and promote regional peace and security.

Since the early 1990s, Ethiopia has successfully countered Egyptian and Sudanese resistance to water development projects in Ethiopia to increase irrigation and hydroelectric potential. S

ince May 2010, Ethiopia and the other upper riparian states have launched the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement in a bid to ensure an equitable utilization between all the riparian states of the Nile.

To complement Egypt's water use projection in the coming few decades, the country needs to investigate and implement alternative water desalination and purification technologies (like reverse osmosis) as the technology becomes matured and gets cheaper.

Egypt needs to assess its governmental and non-governmental institutions, which are involved in maintaining Nile River water use and quality. There are twenty-five agencies under seven ministries, involved in maintaining water use and quality. Unfortunately, their coordination and data sharing is still rudimentary and

under developed which led to poor institutional capacity. In addition, there are "Water user Associations" which are non-governmental associations of farmers who organize an irrigation process of all agricultural land and deal with water management and conflict issues.

Even though these entities have been around since 1988, they lacked structure and inclusion of women (who are considered major polluters along the bank of River Nile).

In addition, Egypt needs to address two of the major issues impacting the upstream course of Nile River: inefficient water use and severe environmental pollutions. These so called Water use Association (WUAs) need to educate farmers on irrigation methods (like drip irrigation that applies water to the root zone which can reduce water use by 30 to 60 percent), practice crop rotation and deploy better soil management. The lack of planning and corruption within governmental departments, the neglecting of concerns and disbursement of low-quality land to the poor, and the improper education of safe handling methods and improper irrigation and crop management, all contribute to poor Nile water use and quality in Egypt.

While most of the river's water quality is within acceptable levels, there are several hot spots mostly found in the irrigation canals and drainages. Sources of pollutants are from agricultural, industrial, and household waste. There are 36 industries that discharge their pollution sources directly into the Nile, and 41 into irrigation canals. These types of industries are: chemical, electrical, engineering, fertilizers, food, metal, mining, oil and soap, pulp and paper, refractory, textile and wood.

There are over ninety agricultural drains that discharge into the Nile River that also include industrial wastewater. The water exceeds the European Community Standards of fecal contamination and there is a high salinization and saline intrusion in the delta.

Even though some political scholars downplay the geopolitical importance of water by arguing that in last century oil fueled more conflicts around the globe, we cannot completely rule out the possibility of hydro politics causing some regional hot spots and conflicts wreaking havoc in the region.

Ed's Note: Luel Tekola, PhD, P.E., is an Ethiopian-American who is a structural engineer and construction manager by profession. Currently, he is based in the US; and the views he expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

TANZANIA is among African countries with very low use of industrial fertilisers,

which contribute to low production of agricultural produces.

Currently, it uses 19kg of fertiliser per hectare while neighbouring countries such as Kenya uses 50kg per hectare, 60 percent of all its fertiliser being used in the southern highlands regions.

For instance in the year ending October 2018, it imported more than 90 percent of its inorganic fertiliser reaching U.S. \$ 155.1 million.

In promoting the use of industrial fertiliser in the country, the government through its Ministry for Agriculture in 2016/2017 introduced the Bulk Procurement System (BPS) of fertiliser which was associated with introduction of Fertiliser Indicative Price Structure (FIPS) with a major objective to make fertilisers affordable and timely accessible to all farmers across the country.

However, due to emerging challenges the Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT)

through the Tanzania Agricultural Partnership (TAP) conducted study to assess it to come up with recommendation on how to improve it.

In the presentation entitled "Policy Brief on Assessment of Fertiliser Bulk Procurement System (BPS) in Tanzania from the Private Sector Perspective", the

Member of Parliament for Babati Rural Constituency, Jitu Soni said the system caused fertiliser scarcity associated with inadequate

Stakeholders: Lack of industrial fertilisers root cause of insufficient agricultural produce in the country



Farmers putting fertiliser in one of the farms in Misungwi District, Mwanza Region

supply.

"The findings show that there was distribution delay from the port of Dar es Salaam to end users. In some areas the fertiliser price was still high compared to the expectation before BPS operate," he says.

The study was conducted in nine regions namely - Tabora, Mbeya, Songwe, Katavi, Ruvuma, Dar es Salaam, Iringa, Njombe, Dodoma and involved government Institutions such as Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA), TRA, TPA, and Tanzania Fertiliser Fund.

Others were Fertiliser com-

panies such as YARA, OCP Group supports Sustainable agriculture, Export Trading Group (ETG), Farmers Organizations (Farmer Groups, Co-operative Leaders, National Network of Small-Scale Farmers (MVIWATA), Tanzania Fertiliser Company (TFC) and transporters.

He made the recommendation at the 6th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC) held recently in Dodoma city with a theme "Public and Private Sector

Investment for Agricultural Transformation in Tanzania".

The findings show that there

was fertiliser scarcity associated with inadequate supply citing importation of UREA and Diammonium phosphate (DAP) through BPS that was less by 72 percent and 15 percent respectively, as compared to local fertiliser demand.

As a result traders attempted to access higher prices markets in other nearby countries hence affecting local fertiliser supply. In some areas the fertiliser price was still high compared to the expectation before BPS operations.

"Promotion of strong farmer apex organisations/unions to participate in BPS as well

as participatory setting and frequency review of FIPS by TFRA", he recommended.

He noted that strengthening of the local fertiliser manufacturing and blending capacities and legal framework that can govern domestic fertiliser distribution is very important.

The long serving Member of Parliament recommends that there is a need to have a clear understanding of business centers since in some places relying only on distances in setting the FIPS is unrealistic.

Moreover, the fertiliser database should be strengthened

targeting all actors to increase the scope of fertilisers given and soils requirements and quantity supplied/imported under BPS.

He called on the authority to encourage strategic partnerships between the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) zonal centers, TFRA, fertiliser manufacturers, farmer co-operatives and importers or dealers of fertilisers, seeds and other inputs.

Expressing the government concerns, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe said most of the farmers are not aware about soil texture as a result they use fertilisers not needed on the soil profile.

"If farmers have enough information, this could reduce poor yields and unnecessary loss to the farmers," he said.

"Currently, the government is finalising the mapping of the soil texture across the country to equip the farmers with right information to make effectively use of fertilisers," he added.

According to him, it is estimated that 20 percent out of 60 percent of fertilisers imported in the country is used irresponsibly hence sometimes contribute to poor yields per acres.

Agriculture is a critical sector for employment and food security in Tanzania but its growth has lagged behind the rest of the economy in recent years.

Low-input and rain-fed subsistence farming

dominates the sector and the use of fertiliser is extremely low.

Primary fertilisers used in the country include urea, and the blends -Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN), and nitrogen-Phosphorous-Potassium fertiliser (NPK).

For instance, in 2010 urea and DAP accounted for half of the fertilisers used in

Tanzania with NPK consisting of about 20 percent and CAN 9 percent.

While the official government recommendation for one acre of maize production is 50 kg of urea and 50 kg of DAP, farmers on average apply fewer than nine kilograms of fertiliser per acre according to Tanzania Fertiliser Assessment 2012.

Nearly all fertilisers in Tanzania are imported. Its quality is only minimally monitored.

The Fertiliser Act of 2009 established the Tanzania

Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TRFA) to enforce policies related to fertiliser manufacturing, importation, and use of

fertiliser but a 2017 report by the African Fertiliser and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP 2017) noted "TFRA remains under-funded with few professional staff...it depends on 100 inspectors who do not provide reliable inspection and testing services to TFRA as they have multiple responsibilities and lack the resources such as

transport, testing equipment and technical skills in taking of samples to do their job properly...What should be an important regulatory body is, therefore, quite weak due to a lack of institutional and human resource capacity."

Rejecting masks is being freedom fighter defending the right to spread Covid-19

By John DeVore

THE Centres for Disease Control and Prevention recommends wearing cloth face coverings in order to slow the spread of Covid-19. It's a simple, proven, strategy: the only way to protect your loved ones - and neighbours - from a highly contagious and potentially fatal infectious disease is to wear a face mask.

I don't like masks although I've learned how to wear them so that my glasses don't fog up. I wear face masks in public because it's the smart thing to do.

I do not believe that the severity or duration of the pandemic can be lessened or shortened with a defiant dismissive teenage attitude. I wish I could visit my family or eat at Red Lobster or just hang out with friends. But I can't and no amount of complaining changes that.

I wish this virus hadn't happened. But it did and it must be dealt with. The reason Americans should self-quarantine, social distance, and wear masks is that these strategies work.

And yet, because we live during an age of vanity and tribalism, there are people who refuse to do what is best for their community. These people are, mostly, men. What's up?

It has come to my attention that there are big strong men who think that wearing cloth masks during a pandemic is a sign of conformity and weakness. They won't be told what to do by fancy scientists and uppity doc-

tors.

These are probably the same geniuses protesting emergency stay-at-home orders. It's just a hunch. You've seen the pictures of these maniacs: well-fed show-offs wearing expensive camouflage and posing with decorative semi-automatic rifles all while standing up to local governments scrambling to save lives.

Why are these self-appointed freedom fighters - many of them masked - really marching on state capitols? Because they're good boys who do what they're told by conservative politicians who want the country to return to a normal that's never coming back, at least not anytime soon.

I know for a fact that submicroscopic infectious agents are not political. There is no such thing as a Democratic or Republican virus. To think otherwise is madness.

I also know that the economy will not recover if people are afraid of another outbreak. Do you know how to guarantee another outbreak? Ignore CDC guidelines. Confuse tyranny with common sense. Go shopping without a mask.

Yesterday, US Republican senators refused to wear masks during a hearing where Dr Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, told them that abandoning the strategies that have slowed the virus prematurely would result in needless "suffering and death".

I wrote that these no-mask fanatics are mostly men, but I'd like to point out that Re-

publican Senator Susan Collins from Maine is a woman. Gender is a construct and all humans can be selfish ding-dongs. These GOP senators knew that they would be on TV and they were just following orders too.

Those orders were coming from the President of the United States, who refuses to wear a mask despite his personal valet testing positive for coronavirus.

Even the Vice President's press secretary and wife of Trump senior advisor Stephen Miller - tested positive. The White House is slowly becoming a fever clinic.

I don't know if the president thinks that refusing to wear a mask is manly. I know some dudes think working while sick is a feat of strength.

I have a friend who once proudly superglued a wound shut because he didn't want to go to the ER. When I told him that it was rational to fear the emergency room he got defensive: he wasn't afraid of the emergency room.

The president's anti-mask strategy could also be grounded in good old-fashioned ignorance. The man may just not know how viruses work.

During a recent meeting with maskless Republicans, the President said of Katie Miller, Mike Pence's press person: "She tested very good for a long period of time. And then all of the sudden today she tested positive." Yes, Mr President. That's how it works. One day you are well, then you get sick.

There are times I wonder

if Donald Trump thinks he's the star of a Twilight Zone episode about a game show host trapped in the game show he hosts... That would require self-awareness.

Instead of asking Americans to make the kinds of sacrifices their parents and grandparents once made, conservatives are deliberately sabotaging scientifically sound recommendations for blunting the national impact of the coronavirus.

They're doing this because they think it gives them an electoral upper-hand. Sell the masses a gambler's hope instead of hard truths. When "trust us" doesn't work they pivot to patriotism. Did you know shaking hands is heroism?

Defence Secretary Mike Esper was justifiably criticised for getting up close and personal with elderly WW2 veterans without a mask. The coronavirus is especially dangerous to seniors.

The White House responded that these veterans were "choosing nation over self". That takes courage to demand war heroes to continue to give their all while the Trump administration insists that everyone else gives next to nothing.

This madness has trickled down from the conservative elite to local political operatives who love to dress up like video game soldiers to regular folk or nutjobs. You see, masks equal cowardice. By that logic, sneezing without covering your mouth is courage.

• **John DeVore is Editor-in-chief of Humungus.**



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

MANGROVE PROJECT EXECUTANT

The WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Tanzania, an international conservation organization, is seeking for a competent and experienced Mangrove Conservation Project Executant, to be based in Dar es Salaam.

I. Major Functions

The Mangrove Project Executant will lead the Tanzania component of the 'Save our Mangroves Now! 2.0' (SOMN phase 2) initiative, which is a joint effort of WWF, IUCN and BMZ for mangrove conservation globally and in the Western Indian Ocean region. S/he will be the key partnership facilitator for WWF Tanzania, who will work closely with other regional project implementing partners - WWF Madagascar, IUCN ESARO and Wetlands International (Global and East Africa office). The candidate should be able to build on the achievements, findings and lessons learnt from the first phase of SOMN initiative and continue to use the individual strengths of the existing implementing partners, technical and regional experience. S/he will be obliged to enhance national advocacy efforts for mangrove conservation and to contribute to increase regional network building through close collaboration with the WIO Mangrove Network and the creation of a WIO Mangrove Partnership Group.

II. Major Duties and Responsibilities

- Promote responsible mangrove conservation, restoration and sustainable utilization for the benefit of present and future generation;
- Participate in building content, coherence and political will to develop strong WIO mangrove regional frameworks to advance progress for mangrove conservation efforts nationally, regionally and globally;
- Provide linkages among regional mangrove conservation achievements and relevant international agreements and processes (mainly 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, UNFCCC and CBD and UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration)
- Work in close collaboration with Project and Focal persons from Tanzania Forest Service (TFS), Vice President's Office (VPO), National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), Districts within and outside the seascape and the WIO Mangrove Network Secretariat to ensure appropriate linkages and coordination at both national and regional level;

• Required Qualifications and skills:

University degree, preferably at Master's level in forestry, and natural resource conservation and management; minimum of 3 years working experience in government, intergovernmental organizations, local and/or international conservation NGOs. Experience in coastal conservation initiatives (programmes or projects), particularly on mangroves in the local Tanzanian context, as well as policy advocacy experience are advantageous; Energetic and strategic individual to ensure match-making partnerships and advocacy at national level are facilitated to generate national commitments and catalyse implementation arrangements;

Additional information: Detailed Terms of Reference can be obtained via http://www.panda.org/who_we_are/jobs/. Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the People & Culture Manager, via email to: hresources@wwftz.org by Friday, 29th May 2020 at 4:30 pm. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted and the interviews will take place in Dar es Salaam. WWF is an equal opportunity organization.

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TODAY FOR
TOMORROW

"EXIM AT WORK TODAY, FOR TOMORROW"

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WORK
TODAY FOR
TOMORROW

EXIM BANK (TANZANIA) AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Issued pursuant of regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014

EXIM BANK (TANZANIA) LIMITED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019 (AMOUNTS IN MILLION SHILLINGS)

	GROUP CURRENT YEAR 31-Dec-19	GROUP PREVIOUS YEAR 31-Dec-18	COMPANY CURRENT YEAR 31-Dec-19	COMPANY PREVIOUS YEAR 31-Dec-18
A. ASSETS				
1 Cash	42,243	35,526	24,393	21,561
2 Balances with Central Banks	136,401	143,709	67,683	79,596
3 Investment in Government Securities	244,827	234,779	241,033	220,110
4 Balances with Other Banks and financial institutions	70,955	31,913	31,796	47,277
5 Cheques and Items for Clearing	3,692	7,365	1,953	1,586
6 Interbranch float items	-	-	-	-
7 Bills Negotiated	-	-	-	-
8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances	-	-	-	-
9 Interbank Loan Receivables	158,631	121,496	111,051	45,575
10 Investments in Other securities	30,583	978	7,797	7,648
11 Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (Net of allowances for Probable losses)	953,374	877,073	708,745	659,870
12 Other Assets	44,348	45,324	38,808	41,074
13 Equity Investments	2,529	1,722	36,253	33,154
14 Underwriting accounts	-	-	-	-
15 Intangibles, Property, Plant and Equipment	81,414	47,682	60,090	36,696
16 Non-current assets held-for-sale	16,907	16,797	15,949	15,728
17 TOTAL ASSETS	1,785,904	1,564,365	1,345,551	1,209,875
B. LIABILITIES				
18 Deposits from other banks and financial institutions	98,993	77,296	273,720	255,814
19 Customer Deposits	1,298,177	1,175,831	721,308	670,049
20 Cash letters of credit	8,486	5,032	6,852	3,774
21 Special Deposits	-	-	-	-
22 Payments orders / transfers payable	282	230	282	230
23 Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	2,843	2,836	1,576	1,541
24 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	4,941	5,271	4,160	4,930
25 Acceptances outstanding	-	-	-	-
26 Interbranch float items	-	-	-	-
27 Unearned income and other deferred charges	9,365	1,307	8,851	1,307
28 Other Liabilities	60,468	29,206	42,498	12,604
29 Borrowings	144,220	100,397	144,220	100,397
30 TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,627,775	1,397,406	1,203,467	1,050,646
31 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)(16 MINUS 29)	158,129	166,959	142,084	159,229
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS				
32 Paid up Share Capital	12,900	12,900	12,900	12,900
33 Capital Reserves	45,574	13,903	37,996	10,877
34 Retained Earnings	103,705	144,967	108,957	149,447
35 Profit (Loss) Account	(14,993)	(15,779)	(17,769)	(13,995)
36 Other Capital Accounts/Capital Advance	-	-	-	-
37 Minority Interest	10,946	10,967	-	-
38 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	158,129	166,959	142,084	159,229
39 Contingent Liabilities	226,753	179,954	192,464	121,314
40 Non-Performing Loans and Advances	199,022	110,007	169,393	91,341
41 Allowances for Probable Losses	78,457	83,537	57,825	71,095
42 Other Non-Performing assets	2,914	8,235	2,914	8,235
D. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
(I) Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	8.85%	10.67%	10.56%	13.16%
(II) Non Performing loans to Total Gross Loans	22.66%	12.52%	22.06%	12.49%
(III) Gross Loans and Advances to Total Deposits	75.56%	75.56%	77.16%	78.18%
(IV) Loans and Advances to Total Assets	53.37%	56.07%	52.67%	54.54%
(V) Earning Assets to Total Assets	81.79%	81.05%	84.47%	83.78%
(VI) Deposits Growth	11.49%	1.58%	7.47%	0.03%
(VII) Assets Growth	14.18%	-2.45%	11.22%	-4.37%

Total Assets

@TZS 1.8 Trillion

Branches

@

48

EXIM BANK TANZANIA LIMITED INCOME STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019 (AMOUNT IN MILLION SHILLINGS)

	GROUP CURRENT YEAR 31-Dec-19	GROUP PREVIOUS YEAR 31-Dec-18	COMPANY CURRENT YEAR 31-Dec-19	COMPANY PREVIOUS YEAR 31-Dec-18
1 Interest Income	130,794	132,770	102,552	108,595
2 Interest Expense	(36,527)	(31,255)	(33,600)	(29,735)
3 Net Interest Income (1 Minus 2)	94,267	101,515	68,952	78,860
4 Bad debts written off	-	-	-	-
5 Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	(39,994)	(20,508)	(29,254)	(16,160)
6 Non-Interest Income	57,201	50,626	34,442	37,249
6.1 Foreign exchange profit/(loss)	13,807	12,257	8,599	6,572
6.2 Fees and Commissions	35,817	34,977	20,384	23,849
6.3 Dividend Income	21	21	21	21
6.4 Other Operating Income	7,556	3,371	5,438	6,807
7 Non-Interest Expense	(119,852)	(126,911)	(88,666)	(94,913)
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(53,058)	(51,997)	(35,578)	(35,339)
7.2 Fees and Commission	(174)	(133)	(161)	(85)
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(66,620)	(74,782)	(52,927)	(59,490)
8 Operating Income/(Loss) before tax	(8,378)	4,721	(14,526)	5,035
9 Income Tax Provision	(6,615)	(20,500)	(3,243)	(19,031)
10 Net income (loss) after income tax	(14,993)	(15,779)	(17,769)	(13,996)
11 Number of Employees	1,000	972	688	704
12 Basic Earning Per Share	(1,162)	(1,223)	(1,377)	(1,085)
13 Diluted Earning Per Share	(1,162)	(1,223)	(1,377)	(1,085)
14 Number of Branches	48	46	33	33
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
(I) Return on average total assets	-1%	-1%	-1%	-1%
(II) Return on Average shareholders' funds	-9%	-6%	-12%	-6%
(III) Non interest expense to gross income	79%	83%	86%	82%
(IV) Net Interest margin to average earning assets	7%	8%	7%	7%

EXIM BANK (TANZANIA) LIMITED CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019 (AMOUNTS IN MILLION SHILLINGS)

	GROUP CURRENT YEAR 31-Dec-19	GROUP PREVIOUS YEAR 31-Dec-18	COMPANY CURRENT YEAR 31-Dec-19	COMPANY PREVIOUS YEAR 31-Dec-18
I Cash flow from operating activities:				
Net income(Loss)	(8,378)	4,721	(14,526)	5,035
Adjustment for:				
Impairment/Amortization	68,264	35,800	49,708	34,004
Net change in loans and advances	(115,092)	(46,216)	(67,322)	(37,250)
Gain/Loss on sale of assets	-	-	-	-
Net change in Deposits	140,533	19,541	66,710	305
Net change in Short term negotiable securities	-	-	-	-
Net change in Other Liabilities	10,712	(2,402)	11,700	(9,002)
Net change in Other Assets	(508)	5,565	(700)	1,126
Net Increase in non-current assets held-for-sale	(110)	1,484	(221)	466
Tax paid	(6,570)	(4,934)	(4,731)	(2,495)
Others (Investment Security -HTM)	(23,776)	36,353	(27,274)	47,601
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	65,075	49,912	13,344	39,790
II Cash flow from investing activities:				
Dividend Received	21	21	21	21
Purchase of fixed assets	(11,208)	(9,441)	(5,351)	(4,476)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-	7	-
Purchase of non-dealing securities	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of non-dealing securities	-	-	-	-
Others - (Equity Investment and purchase of other assets)	(3,300)	(765)	(7,353)	(765)
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	(14,487)	(10,185)	(12,676)	(5,220)
III Cash flow from financing activities:				
Repayment of long-term debt	(26,932)	(30,848)	(26,932)	(30,848)
Proceeds from issuance of long term debt	62,159	23,000	62,159	23,000
Proceeds from issuance of share capital	2,863	-	-	-
Payment of cash dividends	-	-	-	-
Net change in other borrowings	-	-	-	-
Others - Long term financing	-	-	-	-
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	38,090	(7,848)	35,227	(7,848)
IV Cash and Cash Equivalents:				
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	88,678	31,879	35,895	26,722
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	296,452	264,542	198,704	171,953
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	385,130	296,452	234,599	198,704

EXIM BANK TANZANIA LIMITED CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019 (AMOUNTS IN MILLION SHILLINGS)

COMPANY	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Other Reserves	Total
Current Year							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	12,900	-	135,452	4,488	6,402	(13)	159,229
Profit/(Loss) for the year	-	-	(17,769)	-	-	-	(17,769)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	624	624
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	(32,897)	32,897	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	6,402	-	(6,402)	-	-
Other reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the period	12,900	-	91,187	37,385	-	611	142,084
Previous Year							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	12,900	-	158,809	35,486	6,363	54	213,612
Impact of initial application of IFRS 9	-	-	(40,321)	-	-	(119)	(40,440)
Transfer to Regulatory reserve on initial application of IFRS 9	-	-	23,705	(23,705)	-	-	-
Restated Balance at 1 January 2018	12,900	-	142,193	11,781	6,363	(65)	173,172
Profit/(Loss) for the year	-	-	(13,995)	-	-	-	(13,995)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	52	52
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	7,293	(7,293)	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	(39)	-	39	-	-
Other reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the period	12,900	-	135,452	4,488	6,402	(13)	159,229
GROUP							
Current Year							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	12,900	-	129,227	8,865	6,290	9,167	166,449
Profit for the year	-	-	(13,473)	-	-	(1,179)	(14,993)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	3,812	(3)	3,809
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	2,863	2,863
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	(32,897)	32,897	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	6,196	-	(6,290)	95	-
Others - Translation reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the current period	12,900	-	88,712	41,762	3,812	10,943	158,129
Previous Year							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	12,900	-	152,685	46,457	6,447	12,965	231,454
Impact of initial application of IFRS 9	-	-	(47,668)	(119)	-	(828)	(48,615)
Transfer to Regulatory reserve on initial application of IFRS 9	-	-	23,594	(23,437)	(157)	-	-
At 1 January 2018 - Restated	12,900	-	128,611	22,901	6,290	12,137	182,839
Profit for the year	-	-	(12,380)	-	-	(3,399)	(15,779)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	(562)	(562)
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	(49)	(49)
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	12,148	(14,036)	-	1,888	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	848	-	-	(848)	-
Others - Translation reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the current period	12,900	-	129,227	8,865	6,290	9,167	166,449

The above extracts are from the Financial Statements of the bank for the year ended December 31, 2019 which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The Financial Statements were audited by Deloitte CPAs with clean audit report. The financial Statements were approved by the board of directors and signed on its behalf by:

NAME AND TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE
JUMA MWAPACHU ACT. BOARD CHAIRMAN	14 TH MAY 2020

Mining firm steps up interventions to fight Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

THE dramatic spread of Covid-19 has disrupted lives, livelihoods, communities and businesses worldwide.

Organizations around the world, including Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) and its partners, are coming together and innovating to minimize the impact on public health and to limit disruptions to economies and lives of Tanzanians.

GGML has rolled out a series of interventions and campaigns across its site and in the surrounding communities in the effort to stop the spread of Covid-19.

GGML given out a total of 1.6bn/- to support the Government of Tanzania efforts to curtail the spread of the virus and is working to ensure that all measures taken by GGML are aligned with the guidance issued by the government.

Acting Managing Director, Wayne Louw analyses from that fund GGML has already donating 1.1bn/- to national level interventions through the Covid-19 Emergency Fund set up under the Prime Minister's Office.

He said the remaining 500m/- will be used to support regional and community interventions in Geita, including the provision of key medical supplies and equipment such as PPE, ventilators and oxygen masks.

As part of its contribution to the government's effort to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, GGML has donated 10 tanks with the capacity of 1000 liters each for public hand washing in various parts of Geita Town but also providing chlorine which has

replace liquid soap at the facilities.

The project is also supported by Geita Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (GEUWASA) who will provide water on a regular basis to ensure the service is available to the public all the time. The tanks, which form the initial dispatch of the donation are located at bus stand (2), Mwatulole center (1), Shilabela center (1), Nyankumbu center (1), Nyankumbu market (1), Geita hospital (1), Gold Market (2), and Moyo wa Huruma Orphanage center (1).

The second consignment will include 2 tanks for people with disabilities and 2 for small children.

The Geita Town Public Health Officer, Masasa Japheth thanked GGML for the support which, and added that the support will limit excuses of people not washing their hands regularly because one does not need to be home to wash their hands.

"I encourage everyone to not take this opportunity for granted. Obviously, these facilities have come at a cost. We must demonstrate that we appreciate the efforts our partners in development are putting in ensuring that we all remain safe during, and even after this pandemic. Let us all make good use of this service," said Masasa.

He also committed that Geita Town Council would designate one officer to manage the project and ensure that at all times the tanks are replenished with water and also chlorinated.

Dr. Adelbera Mukure, the Director of Moyo wa Huruma Orphanage center was



Sister Adelbera Mukure (R), Director of Moyo wa Huruma Orphanage Centre in Geita Region, guides children last week on how to use a hand washing facility. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

also very happy to receive one of the facilities. She recounted how the orphanage center with 168 children was struggling to ensure that all residents have access to hand washing facilities that suit their demography.

"We have installed a few 20-liter hand washing buckets as you can see, but they are not enough. You know how busy children are, naturally. They need to wash their hands more regularly than adults some times. The 20 liter containers are just too small to cater for them, that is why you would find long queues of children waiting to wash their hands, which also means someone must be on stand by to replenish water every time. A tank with 1000 liters is a relief to us.

"We are grateful to GGML and

their partners for thinking of us as well. This is a time of crisis. A time of need. GGML's support cements the adage that a friend in need is the friend indeed. We pray for the Company's property," she said.

As a responsible corporate citizen GGML has committed to consistently support the government and surrounding communities in the fight against Covid-19 which has devastated lives and economies globally. So far, no single case has been reported in Geita region but the neighboring Kagera and Mwanza have recorded one case each.

The company is in the process of procuring various medical equipment that will be donated to the Geita Regional Commissioner's office for use in various parts of the region

and facilities designated for testing and isolation.

Wayne Louw confirmed that the Company has been given a mandate and a specific threshold of funding to support the government in fighting the pandemic.

This comes as a way of AGA/GGML living one of its business values which commits that the communities and societies around the operation must be better off for the Company having been there.

He said these tanks have been placed at busy centers across Geita town. GGML will also provide chlorine to sanitize the water, which means liquid soap won't necessarily be needed at the facilities. Additional hand washing facilities will be installed for people with disabilities

and children.

The Company has also been working to raise awareness of the virus in the neighboring communities. As part of the Company's ongoing information, communication and education campaign, GGML has distributed posters containing information about the virus both inside the mine and in communities, with giant billboards placed in Geita town to advise the public on how to prevent the spread of the virus

Louw added: "We intend to continue with our business as planned and hope that this pandemic will end soon. To us, business includes both the production operations and implementation of projects to support communities around our operation."

GGML's Senior Manager responsible for occupational health, Dr. Kiva Mvungi says as part of a media awareness campaign to promote public awareness of Covid-19, GGML has formed a partnership with Rubondo fm a local radio station which is owned by Geita District Council.

He said under this arrangement, GGML funds the production of the advert while the radio station makes its contribution in the form of free airtime. The establishment of Rubondo fm was funded by GGML under the Company's Social Responsibility programme.

"We are working in close collaboration with the government. Two of the company's senior staff has been appointed by the Regional Commissioner to be members of the special committee appointed to combat the pandemic in Geita. Our representatives ensure our plans to fight the disease are aligned with government.

"We have been observing the response to this initiative. People understand and are very supportive

"We've created facebook page to share updates with Tanzanians, and to show you some of the people, projects and events that make Anglo Gold Ashanti - Geita Gold Mine unique," said Dr. Mvungi.

He added that as a business, GGM has taken steps to ensure the health and safety of their employees, which is their first priority.

"We are working harder than ever to protect our people, our business and our neighbours from the spread of Coronavirus," he said.

Agro-bank intervention to increase productivity in pyrethrum value chain

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has a potential of being the world largest producer of pyrethrum in the next few years, thanks to the strategic intervention the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) is taking to revive the subsector.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Africa produces 86.8 per cent of all pyrethrum in the world market.

During 2018, Tanzania produced about 3,261.6 tonnes, making the country the second largest producer behind Kenya. Pyrethrum is a natural insecticide of a plant origin; it is predominantly used to create insecticide products for households, animal and the general public use - mosquitoes, flies and lice control and in agriculture as a pesticide.

Mufindi District is one of the area which are popular for growing pyrethrum in southern highlands regions.

The TADB extended a loan facility to three Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) - IKOITU, IPOIG and Chachawakam in Mufindi.

The loan facility aims to boost the AMCOS working capital and increase pyrethrum production and productivity for the 2019/2020 season. The intervention includes collaborating with other stakeholders to provide farming insurance services, training and extension services, as well as link the out-growers with the consumer market.

Simon Kabonge, the chairperson of Chachawakam, shared his excitement and enthusiasm sighting that, "TADB financing pyrethrum-farming activities is intending to increase productivity to 520 acres from currently production ranging between 200 Kilograms per acres to 500 kilograms per acres for the coming harvest season."

This growth is equal to 150 per cent increase in production.

He said: "The loan has touched the lives of 315 members directly in Mufindi districts of Ikogozu, Ihanu and Mdabulo ward which will result in job creation, improving their living standard and reducing the number of dependants in their families."

This intervention is one of TADB's efforts to transform the agricultural sector towards Tanzania's green revolution as part of the country's industrialization drive to achieve Vision 2025.

When contacted Managing Director of TADB, Japhet Justine said that the bank's strategic direction is to assist in strengthening value chains where they exist and help stakeholders build them where they do not exist.

He said that the agro-bank has collaborated with the Iringa local government authority, the Private Agriculture Sector Support (PASS), National Insurance Company (NIC), Lutheran World Relief (LWR), and the Pyrethrum Company Tanzania (PCT) as essential stakeholders in pyrethrum ecosystem.

The collaboration expects to



AMCOS board members and TADB, Pyrethrum Company Tanzania and Lutheran World Relief officials in a group photo soon after inspecting a pyrethrum nursery in Mufindi District.

increase the pyrethrum production to meet the demand on one end, and assure a stable and reliable market to farmers on the other. The twin strategy is geared to attract contract farming to guarantee the 315 out-growers a stable and reliable market through the Pyrethrum Company Tanzania (PCT).

While commenting on TADB intervention, John Power, the Chief Operation Officer of PCT said: "This initiative will increase

pyrethrum productivity, which, will result to a reliable flow of raw materials for the company's processing plant located in Iringa."

He further expressed that, at present, the plant is currently working under capacity and often forced to buy raw materials from other regions.

In transforming the pyrethrum value chain, the TADB Managing Director explained that roles would be distributed according to each partners' competence to

ensure efficiency in production, in the supply of capital, and risk mitigation.

According to him, the company in collaboration with Lutheran World Relief (LWR) will provide capacity building to the AMCOS and offer extension services to farmers for quality assurance of their produce.

The partnership between TADB and PASS will focus on de-risking the value chain by enabling the smallholder farmers

to overcome the barrier to capital through credit guarantee covers. At the same time, the National Insurance Company will provide insured farmers with protection against loss of harvest in the event of excess rainfall.

The office of the District Commissioner (DC) for Mufindi assured TADB with the needed support to oversee the three AMCOS by performing a regular assessment of the farms' condition, by circulating

monthly reports regarding pyrethrum harvesting, and by taking immediate action whenever there is an irregularity in production - this includes assuring AMCOS pay their loans as per the signed agreement. In addition, the office of DC has advised farmers to be committed to increasing productivity while seizing the opportunity provided by the direct market that is available in the region through the PCT.

By Olusegun Obasanjo and Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe

COVID-19 response should target African agriculture, village-based poor population

Africa has so far escaped the worst health consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the continent looks like it could be the worst hit from the economic fallout of the crisis: 80 million Africans could be pushed into extreme poverty if action is not taken.

Additionally, disruptions in food systems raise the prospect of more Africans falling into hunger. Rural people, many of whom work on small-scale farms, are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of the crisis. It is therefore vital that the Covid-19 response address food security and target the rural poor.

At this time, the international development agenda is prioritising health, economies and infrastructure. But there must also be a focus on food security, agribusiness and rural development. This is especially important on the African continent.

Agriculture contributes 65 per cent of Africa's employment and 75 per cent of its domestic trade. However, the rich potential of agriculture as a tool for promoting food security and fight poverty is at risk from the effects of Covid-19.

In March, the UN Economic Commission for Africa predicted that growth in Africa would drop from 3.2 per cent to 1.8 per cent this year. Within the continent, lockdowns are disrupting inter-regional trade.

The effect of restrictive



measures on food trade is especially worrying, in particular for food-importing countries, but also because of shrinking export markets for the continent's farmers.

Across the European Union (the largest export market for Africa's fresh fruits and vegetables), demand for popular produce such as Kenyan avocados, South African citrus and Moroccan vegetables has dropped. Kenya has also recorded an 8.5 per cent decline in tea exports to destinations like Iran, Pakistan and UAE.

Within countries, we are already seeing that interruptions to transport and distribution systems are impeding small-scale farmers from accessing essential inputs - like seeds and fertiliser - and from getting their food to markets.

African governments have defined stimulus measures to mitigate national and regional economic impacts of Covid-19. As they do, they must remember that investments in agriculture can be up to five times more poverty-reducing than investments in other sectors.

Investments in rural, small-scale agriculture are particularly important for the region's food security - for safeguarding the livelihoods of some of its most vulnerable people and for sustaining the gains in poverty alleviation and wealth creation.

Small farms everywhere traditionally make a huge contribution to global food security. Around the world, systems dominated by small farms produce 50 per cent of all food calories on 30 per cent of the world's agricultural land.

In sub-Saharan Africa, however, the role of small-scale farms is even more significant: 80 per cent of farms are small in most of these countries.

Even before the current crisis, more than 820 million people were going hungry daily globally. And the majority of the world's poor and hungry people live in the rural areas of developing countries.

In Africa, reliance on food imports as well as lack of services and infrastructure to enable small-scale farmers to produce and market food, along with the shocks of climate change, have all increased the fragility of food access.

Last month, the World Bank projected that the pandemic would hit Africa the hardest of any region, pushing 23 million

people into poverty. This raises the question of how small producers on the continent can get access to inputs and finance to grow and sell the food needed to ensure food security and support livelihoods. African leaders must be in the vanguard of finding and funding solutions.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) launched a multi-donor fund Covid-19 Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) to address the immediate fallout of Covid-19 for rural people in Africa and elsewhere.

IFAD specialises in investing in poor rural people, targeting the poorest and most marginalised. Among other goals, the new facility will provide small-scale farmers and fishers with basic inputs, and help them access markets and maintain cash flow.

IFAD committed US\$40 million to the new fund, but is determined to raise at least \$200 million more from UN Member States, foundations and the private sector.

The Facility will complement and scale up the work that IFAD has already been doing to repurpose existing project activities. In Malawi, for example, a programme is providing social cash transfers to ultra-poor farmers and delivering messages about financial literacy and Covid-19 prevention. In Eritrea, vulnerable households are receiving small ruminants and seeds to strengthen and maintain production, access markets and safeguard household food security during the crisis.

These immediate actions are essential in mitigating the worst risks of the crisis. They are also important in safeguarding IFAD's past and ongoing investments to build the long-term resilience of rural livelihoods.

Ultimately, we need to ensure that rural people and their businesses are the foundation of resilient rural economies and food systems across Africa. Then, when the next crisis strikes, the vulnerable people of today will be better able to protect their livelihoods and avoid the risk of falling

into poverty and hunger.

So while it's urgent to feed people today, we also must look to the days, months and years ahead. This is one reason IFAD prioritises long-term rural and agricultural development and building resilience to future shocks.

It is also why we urge policy makers to adapt any relevant lessons from how previous outbreaks like the Ebola virus affected agriculture and food systems.

In the long term, the Covid-19 pandemic underscores the need for Africa to transform agriculture and agribusiness as the surest path to inclusive economic growth, wealth generation and greater resilience.

As Special Envoys, we believe in IFAD's exceptional mandate and will continue to work closely with the Fund in mobilising resources to support the most vulnerable on the African continent.

The pandemic will expose the livelihoods of rural marginalised groups to unprecedented challenges. To restore hope to those affected, we commit strongly to the idea that no one will be left behind, especially in Africa.

An International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) dispatch filed from Rome. Olusegun Obasanjo is former President of Nigeria and Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe is former Prime Minister of Ethiopia. Both are IFAD Special Envoys engaged to mobilise support and advocate greater investment in rural areas.

Tamwa Zanzibar helps women's groups adapt economic activities to the Covid-19 environment

By Gaudensia Mngumi

SAY the word Zanzibar and most people will start to think that it is all about sea water, fish belching beaches and streets covered with aromatic cloves all over.

But the fact is Zanzibar is more than an island, as the beautiful archipelago has since a long time ago become a modern touristic hub in East Africa and busy place where everybody is omnivorous, looking for money.

During a recent trip in Zanzibar, The Guardian noticed that go to Pemba, Unguja, Kizimkazi or Makunduchi you will always see messages of various businesses ranging from food vending, selling curious, soap making, hawking touristic items, all aiming at local and foreign customers.

Women are everywhere. Indeed most of small businesses are done by women; they are at every corner doing curio selling, food vending in schools, colleges and on the streets. But because of corona these active women have been beaten hard. However, despite that the killer corona has pinned down many people in business like food vendors, particulars those who were doing their businesses on the streets, in restaurants, in public areas like bus stops, in schools and colleges, other things have cropped up.

For instance, women are now full engaged in making soaps and are making money and saving cash that they would have otherwise use it on buying detergents.

Despite that corona has disturbed various production activities, women are focusing on liquid soap production.



In a bid to protect journalists from COVID-19, Tamwa Zanzibar board member Aziza Juma Ali (left) is handing over to Khatib Suleiman, representing a club of Isies journalists, some corona protective gears to be used by the journalists in various endeavors. The ceremony took place in the associations' premises in Tunguu, Zanzibar city, recently. The gears were produced by Tamwa supported women entrepreneurs. PHOTO: TAMWA ZANZIBAR.

They are dedicated in making it and hawking it anywhere provided there is a buyer.

Zeyana Seif Salum from Msawiko Business Women Group from Bambi district based in Unguja, is among the dedicated soap makers who believed that soap is a COVID-19 great enemy. So for them this is an opportunity to battle the virus.

"For some of us corona has brought new things or new economic ventures. Imagine before corona attacks we didn't have any markets for our soaps, but currently the trend has changed. Liquid soaps are like hot cakes," brags Zeyana, asserting that making and selling soap has changed the life of many women in their business group, since corona started to wreak havoc in early March.

Soap maker Sada Muhamed based in Mtende Village in Zanzibar South region, asserts that before corona attacks nobody was interested on buying and using liquid soaps. This made their business harder when it comes to marketing and selling, but now both low income and middle income people use their soaps for general cleaning of their hands to prevent corona infections.

Apart from that they use it for washing clothes, toilet but the big motif is still cleaning hands.

In those 'bad old days' their large markets were public and private offices despite the fact that some imports were made.

"We learnt how to make the soap from training offered by Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa) Zanzibar Office, in collaboration with Milele Foundation. We received

skills and production equipment and since then we have used the skills to generate income for ourselves," observes Sada.

Mwanamrsho Taratibu, an aspirant for the forthcoming elections, is caught up between the deep blue sea and the hanging cliff when it comes to fulfilling her dreams of becoming a legislator after the polls in October.

She observed that during a phone interview with The Guardian that corona has challenged many women small traders who were doing their businesses in the popular Darajani area, in primary schools and colleges before they were closed down to prevent a corona outbreak.

"For we politicians are

not speared as well. I don't know... call it a catastrophe, economic, social and political collapse... we all suffer because not only small traders are now sitting down at home but also the politicians," says Mwanamrsho, the Chadema Women's Wing Chairperson for North Zanzibar region.

Mwanamrsho who aspires to become Chambi lawmaker expresses her worries that for politicians there are no campaigns, meetings and free travels to meet voters in various places. She feels that the eventuality of the 2020 elections is unknown.

The coronavirus pandemic has disturbed social networking programs like weddings, banquets, bridal showers, send offs and many more social gatherings which were happening daily in our communities.

Unlike Mwanamrsho, Zana Aziz, a small young business woman, sees the coronavirus pandemic as a challenge but also an opportunity for her. In the beginning she was a dress maker. She was also producing purses and handbags which she sold to local and foreign customers.

"With serious corona challenges I have changed my business. I am no longer making dresses. I am working on cloth face masks as they are now on high demand because of taking precautions against Covid-19," she says.

Zana is supported by Tamwa in Zanzibar. She notably says she has received more than 1,000 orders from different buyers and she feels that more will follow. She expects to deliver several cloth mask types, to aid the 'global' strategy to fight coronavirus infections.

All the women appeal to the government that most of them borrowed cash from

various financial outlets -banks, Saccos and some from 'merry go rounds savings.'

"They ask the government to intervene because most of them cannot payback while there is no business particularly for those who were selling their produce in open markets like Darajani and in schools.

Muhidini Ramadhan, Tamwa Zanzibar official responsible for women empowerment activities, says the economic and social impact of the coronavirus among the women small entrepreneurs community in Zanzibar is enormous.

Muhidini indicates that the visible aspect is the major decrease in demand in their products since most of them completely lack markets.

Tamwa Zanzibar has to come up with a new business plan to support women entrepreneurs in the production of products which are of considerable need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are supporting them in liquid soap production and cloth face masks, things which are used by the general public in Zanzibar owing to the pandemic," he said.

"Liquid soap making business is booming. Women traders have received orders from public and private offices to produce big amounts, and that has been a positive means of economic uplifting particularly on the outskirts," he further noted.

The empowerment docket official noted that quality management of the upcoming soap making industry is maintained and assured by the Zanzibar Bureau of Standards (ZBS), noting that their products are made according to standards and are safe.

Salma Lusangi, Tamwa

Zanzibar Policy Analyst and Advocacy Manager, noted that women remain close to Tamwa, and their activities are so important in everyone's life.

"They are the key agents of all developmental aspects since they play a pivotal role in the family and in social, political and economic development."

The manager asks women to observe and practice all precautions to stop the coronavirus pandemic. They should avoid unnecessary travels, avoiding contacts with people. Furthermore they should practice social distancing of more than two metres.

They should wash their hands regularly as well as seeking that their family members to do the same, plus using sanitizers to clean their hands.

On the other hand, the micro, small and medium firms Industrial Development Agency (SMIDA) Acting Director Shadida Ali Salum, assured women small entrepreneurs that they have full government support.

After COVID 19 has reported in Zanzibar, the government quickly realized its economic impact among the small business community, in particular the vulnerable portions such as women.

Salum says they were brought together and the government announced new measures to safeguard their jobs and support self-employment activities.

Entrepreneurs had their skills sharpened as to how to manage their incomes and engage in short-term production activities like making soap and sanitizers.

The Acting Director invited the small business community to seek loans from SMID to boost production as well as purchasing packaging stuffs as they are said to be on high demand.

TMRC BLAMES INTEREST RATES, SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR LOW MORTGAGE GROWTH

By Property Watch Reporter

DESPITE high demand for housing loans in the country, borrowers are afraid to seek mortgage because of high interest rates and lack of affordable houses in the market.

In its latest report, Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company said since its inception in 2010, interest rates charged by banks on housing loans have reduced from between 22 and 24 percent then to between 15 and 19 percent currently.

"Most lenders offer loans for home purchase and equity release while a few offer loans for self-construction which for the most part continue to be expensive beyond the reach of the average Tanzanians," the TMRC said in its 2019 report released recently.

The mortgage refinancing company further noted that despite of increased number of its member banks and mortgage loan amounts disbursed over the period, borrowers are reluctant to get loans. "Additionally, while some improvements have been noted, bureaucratic processes around issuance of titles (especially unit titles) continue to pose a challenge by affecting borrowers' eligibility to access mortgage loans," the report added.

In a bid to address concerns of the micro-housing loan borrowers, TMRC has started an initiative under Housing Finance Project (HFP) called Housing Microfinance Fund (HMFF) which is geared towards providing long-term loans for lower income earners who currently lack access to housing finance either for construction of a home or for home improvements.

"The fund officially began its operations in 2015 and on 31 July 2015, the first



Watumishi Housing Company's Kisasa housing project in Dodoma is a beneficiary of Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company.

disbursement of 1bn/- was made under the fund to DCB Commercial Bank Plc with the total credit line to the bank being 3bn/-," said the report.

The TMRC report further noted that establishment of the HMFF marked the first step towards significant progress of the microfinance sector which to date, a total of 29.9bn/- has been disbursed under the fund to various banking institutions to facilitate

issuance of housing microfinance loans to final borrowers.

Official records show that the country's housing demand, which is estimated to grow by 200,000 houses annually, is three million housing units mostly those demanded by low income earners. TMRC however is optimistic because of the number of mortgage lenders in the market increasing from three in 2009 to 34 by 31 December 2019.

"As at end of the year 2019, 34 different banking institutions were offering mortgage loans. The mortgage market was dominated by five top lenders, who amongst themselves command 68 percent of the mortgage market, three percent decline of market share from the previous quarter," the report stated.

Mortgage loan market leaders include CRDB Bank Plc which commands 40.03 percent of the

mortgage market share, followed by Stanbic Bank at 13.24 percent, Azania Bank at 6.31 percent, NMB Bank Plc at 4.46 percent and KCB Bank at 4.24 percent. "More positive developments are expected in the market as more banks continue to launch their mortgage loan products as competition in the traditional banking products continues to intensify," the TMRC report added while noting that the mortgage market registered

2Africa: New mega subsea cable to connect the continent

CAIRO

A massive new submarine broadband cable is to be built around Africa and the Middle East and is being backed by the likes of Facebook, China Mobile, MTN Group, Vodafone Group and Orange.

Called 2Africa, the backers – which also include WIOCC, Saudi Arabia's stc and Telecom Egypt – say it will be the "most comprehensive subsea cable to serve the African continent and Middle East region."

The parties have appointed Alcatel Submarine Networks to build the cable in a fully funded project. The cable will be 37 000km in length, making it one of the longest in the world. It will interconnect Europe (eastward via Egypt), the Middle East (via Saudi Arabia) and 21 landings in 16 countries in Africa.

The system is expected to go live in 2023 or 2024, delivering more than the total combined capacity of all subsea cables serving Africa today, with a design capacity of up to 180Tbit/s on key parts of the system, the backers said in a statement.

"In countries where the 2Africa cable will land, service providers will obtain capacity in carrier-neutral data centres or open-access cable landing stations on a fair and equitable basis. This will support healthy Internet ecosystem development by facilitating greatly improved accessibility for businesses and consumers alike," the statement said.

The 2Africa cable has been designed to improve resilience and maximise performance, including the option of a seamless optical crossing between East Africa and Europe. The 2Africa parties and Airtel have signed an agreement with Telecom Egypt to provide a completely new crossing linking the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, the first in over a decade, it said.

Diverse routes

This includes new cable landing stations and deployment of next-generation fibre on two new, diverse terrestrial routes parallel to the Suez Canal from Ras Ghareb to Port Said, and a new subsea link that will provide a third path between Ras Ghareb and Suez.

The 2Africa cable will implement a new technology, SDM from Alcatel Submarine Networks, allowing deployment of up to 16 fibre pairs instead of the eight fibre pairs supported by older technologies, bringing much greater and more cost-effective capacity.

"The cable will incorporate optical switching technology to enable flexible management of bandwidth. Cable burial depth has also been increased by 50% compared to older systems, and cable routing will avoid locations of known subsea disturbance, all helping to ensure the highest levels of availability."



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An aerial view of Dar es Salaam Port which incorporates an electrical workshop.

CAG censures TPA on cancellation of hydraulic scissors 2018 tender

By Property Watch Reporter

A tender seeking supplier of a hydraulic scissor elevator lift for Dar es Salaam Port's electrical workshop which was cancelled in 2018 and is yet to be concluded has been censured by Controller and Auditor General.

In his audit report for 2019, CAG Charles Kichere said Tanzania Ports Authority's tender board in minutes dated January 31st, 2019 rejected the award the tender because the port landlord's policy is to buy directly from manufacturers.

"This was contrary to Section 59(2) of Public Procurement Act No.7 of 2011, because the stated reason was not among

the reasons for rejection of all the tenders. Review of documents indicated that tenderers were notified about the cancellation of the tender the reason being changes in the scope of the tender as per clause 16(2c) of Public Procurement Regulation 2013," the CAG report stated.

The report noted however that review of all three tender documents dated November 2018, March 2019 and July 2019, revealed that there were no changes of scope in the tender.

"As a result of improper cancellation of tender, the procurement proceedings took a long time to be completed, proceedings for tender no.AE/016/2018-19/CTB/CG/04 started 26 October 2018 but up to the time of audit January 2020,

tendering process was not completed," the CAG queried.

The CAG further noted that the unjustifiable cancellation of the tender was contrary to Section 59(2) of Public Procurement Act of 2011 which requires rejection of all tenders to be justified where: there is lack of effective competition; tenders or proposals are not substantially responsive to the tender documents or to the request for proposals; and the economic or technical data of the project have been altered.

The tender can also be cancelled if proposals involve costs substantially higher than the original budget or estimates; exceptional circumstances render normal performance of the contract

impossible; tenders received contain serious irregularities resulting in interference with the normal play of market forces; and funds voted or earmarked for the procurement have not been withheld, suspended or have otherwise not been made available.

Meanwhile the CAG report also censured interference of procurement functions by TPA directors contrary to Section 41 of PPA No.7 of 2011 which requires PMU, user department, accounting officer, tender board and evaluation committee to act independently in relation to their respective functions and powers.

"Review of TPA's internal memorandum dated 6th December 2018

prepared by Director of Engineering Services to Director of Procurement and Contract indicated that, the user department provide a list of potential manufacturers and suppliers who can participate in restricted tendering for supply of ports equipment," the CAG revealed while questioning Public Procurement Regulatory Authority for laxity in enforcing and supervising the port landlord's procurement processes.

"In addition to that, review of a letter dated 19th June 2017 from Director of Engineering Services to acting Director General, noted that DES as a user department requested approval from accounting officer to invite two contractors namely M/S Skol contractors Lim-

ited and M/S Bharya Engineering & Contracting Company Limited to tender for construction of rigid pavement at check point No.3, by so doing user department interfered the functions of Procurement Management Unit," the CAG stated in his 2019 audit report.

The CAG concluded by stating that PPR report on compliance and value for money audit at Tanzania Port Authority for financial year 2018/19, also identified the same problem of the user department interfering the functions of the Procurement Management Unit by providing a list of potential manufacturers or suppliers who can participate in restricted tendering.

SIX STEPS TO REGAIN RESOURCE SOVEREIGNTY, CURB TAX EVASION IN TANZANIA

By Amani Mhinda and Daniel Oberko

Initiatives to curb tax evasion and gain sovereignty over natural resources are quite significant for domestic resource mobilization and economic self-reliance.

For a developing country like Tanzania where a significant amount of revenue is derived from corporate taxation, appropriate tax reforms backed by strong and independent institutions are essential. Tanzania's journey of hope in the mining sector started in November 2015 when Dr. John Pombe Magufuli was sworn-in as President of the United Republic after winning elections.

The 2015 general elections constituted a key step towards the fight against corruption and aspiration for economic self-reliance. As promised during the campaign, President Magufuli's government launched sweeping and profound reforms commencing with an anti-corruption campaign across key economic sectors including mining and petroleum. Such reforms aimed at increasing domestic resources which could be used to invest in education, health care, water, electricity and infrastructure development, among others.

The newly appointed government encountered a mining sector known for low remittances of royalties and corporation taxes. This was due to poor sector policies and institutional weaknesses, tax evasion, trade mis-invoicing and transfer pricing by multinational companies. A special committee appointed by President Magufuli indicated that Acacia Gold Mining PLC owned by Barrick Gold Corporation from Canada, under-reported the gold and copper levels in its concentrate exports by more than 10 times.

Tanzania Tax Tribunal also accused Acacia that it posted huge profits and paid dividends to shareholders based in London from 2010 to 2013 up to about \$412.5 million, yet for the same period, it declared losses in local subsidiary. The dispute culminated into a \$190 billion tax charge and an industry-wide ban on the export of raw minerals. The case has since been settled through a mutual agreement between the government and Barrick Gold Corp (which took over



Buzwagi Gold Mine at night.

Acacia through a buy-out deal of \$1.2 billion).

The agreement includes the payment of \$300 million to settle outstanding tax and other disputes, the lifting of a concentrate export ban, and the sharing of future economic benefits from mines on a 50/50 basis. A joint venture between the government and Barrick Gold named Twiga Minerals Corporation, was formed to manage Bulyanhulu, North Mara and Buzwagi Mines.

The government acquired a free carried shareholding of 16 percent in each of the mines and will receive half of the economic benefits in form taxes, royalties, clearing fees and participation in all cash distributions made by the mines and Twiga Minerals. An annual true-up mechanism will ensure the maintenance of the 50/50 split.

These bold steps have been said to have reduced investor confidence in the Tanzania mining sector and generally created an unstable business environment. Such arguments however lose sight of the fact that these reforms also serve the interest of mining companies. For example, the local content bill which required that 51 percent stake of a mining company's share be owned by Tanzanians has been reduced to 20 percent, easing registration and expansion initiatives by mining companies.

The mining sector policies and laws were earlier skewed towards

multi-national corporations leaving very little benefits (if any) to Tanzanians. Already, tax cuts and tax breaks are handed to mining corporations at enormous cost in foregone government revenues. These revenues could have been spent in infrastructure, public schools, support for maternal health care, girl child education, thereby propelling the country towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The onus clearly lies on the government to halt tax exemptions and illicit financial flows through appropriate tax policy reforms and empowerment of revenue collection institutions. The initial steps are appropriate.

The following recommendations should further be taken by the government to safeguard the wins and ensure a more regional approach to make multinational companies pay fair taxes. Governments should hence: Strengthen anti-money laundering responsibility requirements and penalties on accountable persons including corporations, banks and other related parties. This should be accompanied with forming multi-agency teams to address customs fraud, tax evasion and other financial crimes.

Adopt and enforce legislation barring trade mis-invoicing which require companies to confirm compliance with this law by signing a specific declaration of compliance

on annual reports or tax filings.

Protect and safeguard workers' interest in the mining sector. Workers need permanent contracts covered by a collective bargaining agreement. Despite the major developments in the sector, a significant proportion of the workers do not have permanent work contracts. Their health and safety at work should be secured by ensuring that they work with appropriate protective clothing and equipment.

Workers who encounter accidents in their line of duty should be duly and adequately compensated. Protecting workers in the mining sector also includes protecting revenue collectors by ensuring that they are adequately resourced, well remunerated and protected by a whistle-blowing convention to share critical information with relevant authorities.

To prevent other countries reducing their corporate tax rates in their quest to attract investors, leading to a race to the bottom, Tanzania should work with countries within the East African Community bloc to agree on a minimum effective tax rate of at least 25 percent. With such a minimum effective tax rate, a multinational company cannot plan to push its profits into a country which may have a very low corporate tax rate. Without a minimum effective tax rate, the idea of Unitary Taxation through a Formulary Apportionment would

be defeated.

The formulary apportionment idea is to tax a multinational company and its subsidiary as a unified global firm. This means that the multinational's profits would be divided up for taxing purposes between the different countries where it does business, based on a formula which considers where the company has its sales, where its employees are and what physical assets and resources it uses.

Discourage multinational companies pushing their profits into tax havens as such places become part of the global financial architecture. The various leaks of the last five years—Panama Papers, Paradise Leaks, West Africa Leaks, Luxemburg Leaks, Luanda Leaks, are clear manifestations that multinational companies use and continue to use tax havens to hoard their profits.

It has been reported that as of 2019, \$420 billion of corporate profit from about 79 countries was shifted into tax havens. Tanzania can discourage corporations stashing their profits in tax havens by instituting higher withholding taxes, denying tax deductions for payments related parties in tax havens, and for companies which use tax havens, bar from bidding public contracts.

At this juncture, the work of the Task Force on Tax Reform under the Ministry of Finance and Planning should be commended. It has provided opportunity for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Trade Unions (TU) to participate in its proceedings.

The activists have shared with government their experiences based on more than a decade of campaigns for tax justice and an end to illicit financial flows in the mining sector in Tanzania. The process should ensure that these stakeholders are informed about reforms that have been initiated and provided with relevant information so that they can monitor and evaluate government tax reform initiatives.

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Moody's downgrades Acorn Sh5bn hostels

NAIROBI

Global ratings agency Moody's has changed the outlook of local student hostel developer Acorn Group's Sh5 billion green bond facility to negative from stable, citing the recent downgrade of Kenya's sovereign outlook and potential hit on demand due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Moody's said in an update the negative outlook also reflects the challenging financial and economic conditions in Kenya, where the Covid-19 has seen businesses slow down and workers lose jobs or suffer pay cuts.

When the bond was issued, Moody's gave it a local currency rating of B1 Stable, which was a rung higher than Kenya's sovereign rating of B2 Stable due to a partial guarantee to investors through British firm GuarantCo—assuring recovery of up to 50 percent of principal and interest in case of a default.

The sovereign and Acorn's bond ratings will now be denoted as B2 negative and B1 negative respectively. "The change in outlook to negative from stable reflects the more challenging economic and financial conditions in Kenya, generally, following the coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak and as reflected in the negative outlook on the Government of Kenya sovereign bond rating," said Moody's.

"Moody's considers the Issuer's standalone credit profile before incorporating the credit enhancement provided by the GuarantCo guarantee to be constrained by the sovereign rating, given the multiple channels of exposure and contagion that exist between the sovereign and local issuers."

Last week, the ratings agency changed its outlook for Kenya to negative, reflecting the rising financing risks posed by large gross borrowing requirements. Moody's said the negative outlook on Acorn's bond reflects the challenges posed to the construction and marketing of its assets because of the Covid-19 lockdown measures and potential longer term impact on demand.

The bond sale in October 2019 achieved an 85 percent subscription, raising Sh4.3 billion of the targeted Sh5 billion. Acorn CEO Edward Kirathe at the time said it had set a modest target of Sh2 billion for the first tranche of the medium-term note, due to the difficulties of raising investor appetite for a corporate paper issue in Kenya.



Moody's considers the Issuer's standalone credit profile before incorporating the credit enhancement provided by the GuarantCo guarantee to be constrained by the sovereign rating

Zambian leader orders reopening of premier tourist attraction scene

LUSAKA

Zambian President Edgar Lungu has ordered the re-opening of the Victoria Falls and local hotels to tourists in a move aimed at injecting life into a tourism sector crippled by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The order was announced following a tour of the Victoria Falls on the border with Zimbabwe on Tuesday during which it was noted that water levels in the tourist attraction had significantly during the past few months and that the economy of Livingstone border town had almost collapsed due to the closure of the spectacle to members of the public. "The falls are at their peak this year after several years of low water levels, but there are no tourists here," Lungu said.

He said the falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world, should be opened to tourists in order "to save jobs" and resuscitate the comatose economy of Livingstone town that relies on tourism revenue from the spectacle. He however directed that the tourism operators and their clients should adhere to strict social distancing and other health protocols necessary to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

The Zambian leader noted that the closure of the Victoria Falls was suffocating the tourism sector, which contributed US\$1.8 billion to the economy or six percent of the country's gross domestic product. More than 300,000 people rely on the tourism sector in Zambia.

Mbeya's local leaders applaud paralegals' role in helping women to acquire property

By Property Watch Reporter

LOCAL authority leaders have commended Legal Services Facility's sponsored paralegals for supporting women acquire property through inheritance or from their own economic activities.

Mbeya District's Community Development Officer, Zena Kapama said in the city last week that paralegals are doing a good job especially by helping marginalised women who are denied their rights to inherit or own property by communities.

"Paralegals play an important role in the society particularly in creating awareness on using legal instruments to address various challenges encountered by women such as being denied the right to own property," Kapama said.

She singled out a Mbalizi suburb based paralegal, Abel Kibona for handling an issue involving a widow identified as Matrinda Masoko, who was denied the right to inherit property amassed with her deceased husband.

After getting detailed information that Masoko was denied her right to inherit family property, Kibona advised the woman to file a case at the primary court and list all the property acquired with her late husband.



Huyandola Women's Group members in Mbeya attending a meeting. Photo courtesy of LSF.

After a lengthy legal battle, the court ruled in favour of Masoko after establishing that she was the legitimate owner of her husband's estate following his death. Kibona is also credited with assisting Huyandola Women's group to which Masoko is one of its members become legally equipped to deal with any similar issues in future. The group engages in the manufacture of chalk as main income generating activity.

"The paralegal also advised the group of 25 women to request funding from the dis-

trict council that was granted and used to procure a chalk making machine and raw materials which have boosted our project to the next level," said Huyandola's Chairperson, Pili Jacob.

Jacob said as a result of the increased revenue, their group has added soap making and poultry keeping all of which have contributed greatly in boosting the living standard of its members. The chalk sticks are supplied to schools throughout Mbeya region.

Paralegals work countrywide has yielded many results in fostering social economic development among marginalised groups such as women in the society. Supported by Legal Services Facility (LSF), the paralegal have reach out to more than 4.5million people with legal education and over 75 thousands with legal aid annually. One of their key roles is to provide free legal aid services to vulnerable groups including women in the community.

CONSTRUCTION

HOTEL GROUP TO OFFLOAD 1,300 WORKERS, RESTRUCTURE ROLES WITH GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE CRISIS BITING

CHICAGO

Hyatt Hotels Corporation will lay off 1,300 employees and restructure roles as it tries to cope with the fallout from the coronavirus outbreak that has hammered demand across the world.

"Due to the historic drop in travel demand and the expected slow pace of recovery, Hyatt has made the extremely difficult decision to implement layoffs and restructure roles across its global corporate functions, beginning June 1, 2020," the company said on its website.

Hyatt, with headquarters in Chicago, operates more than 900 hotels in 65 countries, including the Middle East. "Covid-19 has thrown our industry into unknown territory," said Mark Hoptlaman, president and chief executive of Hyatt. "While parting ways with our colleagues is excruciating, we must be sensitive to commercial realities so we can continue to fulfil our purpose of care over the long term - through this pandemic and for what lies beyond."

The coronavirus outbreak, which had infected more than four million worldwide and killed over 287,000 people as of Tuesday, according to Johns Hopkins University, has disrupted hotel operations worldwide as business and leisure travel came to a halt during March and April.

Hyatt reported a net loss of \$103 million in the first quarter of 2020, compared to a net income of \$63m, during the same period last year as revenue per available room (RevPar) declined 28 per cent amid the coronavirus crisis. The largest hotel group in the US has also closed some of its properties and furloughed staff to cut costs.

Hyatt's move came as hoteliers around the world take tough measures to ride out the temporary fall in travel demand. French hospitality group Accor said last month it was closing more than 3,000 of the group's 5,000 hotels and is making more than 200,000 staff temporarily redundant during the outbreak. The company is also cancelling its €280m dividend payout against 2019 earnings, it said in April.

The World Travel & Tourism Council in March said up to 75 million jobs were at risk in travel and tourism sector because of travel restrictions and other measures put in place to stop the spread of the pandemic. It also forecast a \$2.1 trillion hit to global gross domestic product in terms of lost tourism revenue in 2020.

But policymakers have pledged concrete action to help the industry recover. Last month, tourism ministers of the world's 20 largest industrialised nations said they will support the tourism sector by undertaking capacity building programmes to revive the industry.



The Grand Hyatt hotel in Washington, D.C.

Dubai among five best global cities to find a job in 2020

ABU DHABI

Dubai is among the five best cities in the world to find a job in 2020, according to a new index which measures the best locations for professional talent to relocate in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The city, which came fifth in the ranking by on-line distance learning platform FutureLearn, scored highly for metrics such as healthcare spending, levels of disposable income, the number of women in leadership positions and opportunities for young people.

Singapore led the ranking of 100 global cities because its economy is expected to suffer only a minimal impact from Covid-19. The Asian city also offers good opportunities for young people and women, has an efficient government and high levels of disposable income. The north European destinations of Copenhagen in Denmark, Helsinki in Finland and Oslo in Norway were ranked in second, third and fourth positions respectively.

"While we can assume that, fundamentally, cities will remain the same,

some will be more impacted than others by Covid-19, especially those which rely heavily on tourism," said Simon Nelson, chief executive at FutureLearn.

"Many industries previously believed working remotely to be impossible, but we are now entering a new era of digitalisation and it seems likely that the pandemic has changed this view entirely. This opens the door for those looking to start a career in a new city right now, as many companies are continuing hiring, interviewing and onboarding remotely."

The pandemic has led to \$17 trillion (Dh62.4tn) being wiped off stock markets worldwide, while movement restrictions and business closures have resulted in millions of job losses and a steep recession that reminds many of the Great Depression during the 1930s.

An average of 50 per cent of people living in France, Italy, and the US, for example, have either lost their jobs entirely or had their earning capacity reduced in some way since the beginning of the pandemic, the FutureLearn study found.



Dubai skyline.

The index analysed pre- and post-Covid-19 economic figures, examining changes in unemployment rates between now and this time last year, how lockdown policies may have affected the economy, as well as statistics on government policy, quality of life and gender equality to determine the best cities for career opportunities.

Dubai had the highest level of healthcare spending in the ranking with a score of 100 out of 100. It also scored well for the number of women in leadership roles with a score of 96.52; for disposable income with a score of 95.62 and for youth opportunities with a score of 93.8 out of 100.

The city also received a high Covid-19 impact on the economy score, which indicates it will be less severely affected than other cities around the world. Michael Kortbawi, partner at Dubai law

firm BSA Ahmad Bin Hezeem & Associates, said that it has recently seen a surge in the number of high net-worth individuals (HNWI) looking to relocate their place of residence to Dubai. "This came as a direct result of the manner in which Dubai addressed the impact of Covid-19 in respect of the continuity of businesses and safety of individuals," he said.

"Due to Dubai's visionary approach on e-government and a state-of-the-art infrastructure, Dubai was able to implement strict precautionary measures in response to the risks associated with the spread of Covid-19 in a way that did not affect the living conditions of the people and the nature of services they are used to receive."

With many government services continuing normally throughout the lockdown and businesses adopting remote

working systems that ensured business continuity, Mr Kortbawi said it meant that services provided to individuals, from healthcare to standard day-to-day living requirements, were not affected, something HNWIs are concerned about when relocating their businesses and residences.

Meanwhile, Seoul was the city estimated to experience the least economic disruption from the pandemic, with Hong Kong and Tokyo taking second and third position in that measure. "With global travel essentially ground to a halt currently, it might seem strange and daunting to consider moving city or country for a job. However, as borders open and travel resumes, career opportunities will open up for those looking to experience working and living in a new culture," said FutureLearn's Mr Nelson.

Platinum giant say lockdown in SA at risk of killing mines

JOHANNESBURG

President Cyril Ramaphosa must allow South Africa's mines to run at full capacity as a national coronavirus lockdown risks crippling the industry, according to Sibanye Stillwater. The government last month permitted miners to restart operations with half their normal workers amid concerns the shutdowns could damage the viability of the nation's deep-level mines. That isn't sufficient, Sibanye Chief Executive Officer Neal Froneman said in an interview on Tuesday.

"Labour intensive mines cannot continuously operate at these levels, so they will either have to restructure or shut down," said Froneman, whose company runs gold and platinum operations. "You can't keep on producing at a loss." While Ramaphosa has been praised for his rapid response to the pandemic, the central bank expects the South African economy to shrink 6.1% this year. The government must balance the threat to 450,000 mining jobs against the risks of the virus spreading in cramped shafts that reach more than two miles underground.

"We are causing more harm by constraining the economy than we are impacting positively on Covid-19," said Froneman. "We have gone too far now, we now need to get the economy to start up." South Africa's mining industry contributed 8% of gross domestic product last year. Each employee in the sector supports at least 10 dependents, according to Minerals Council South Africa, an industry lobby group.

As the country's mining companies follow strict health protocols, including screening and testing for Covid-19, they can draw on their experience in working with employees with tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, the CEO said. South Africa has the largest number of people with HIV in the world and widespread tuberculosis.

Sibanye, the biggest platinum miner, and Harmony have suspended guidance, while Anglo American Platinum and Impala Platinum have cut their output forecasts. South Africa produces 75% of the world's platinum and about 40% of palladium. South Africa's labour-intensive mines need to be at a minimum of 75% to 80% of capacity to be viable, Froneman said.

While a weaker rand, which lowers costs for the country's producers, and a rally in precious metals prices has provided a buffer, the mining environment threatens to deteriorate over the coming months. "We have to increase output to get back to profitability because it's going to get even tougher," Froneman said. "It's going to get harder to survive over the next two quarters if we are stuck at 50%."

Beyond Covid, Vietnam set for sustained building boom, predicts Fitch

HO CHI MINH

The Covid-19 pandemic will give the country trouble this year, particularly in its growing tourism sector, but macroeconomic and demographic trends spell longer term good news, the company said in a note to GCR.

Fitch said the US-China trade war in 2019 prompted low-end electronics and textile manufacturers to move operations from China to Vietnam. It believes the coronavirus pandemic will also lead to further shifting of production lines away from China, with Vietnam likely to benefit.

South Korea's Samsung has begun building an R&D centre in Hanoi, joining electronics companies such as Denmark's Sonion and Japan's Sharp in setting up bases in the country. Other big companies are planning to set up production lines there, including Microsoft, Nintendo, Ricoh and Dell. That means that, at 7.2% year-on-year growth, the construction of buildings will outpace annual growth in infrastructure construction, itself a healthy 5.7%, Fitch predicts.

Getting better for business While would-be investors can get snarled up in foreign ownership limits and a tangle of laws

and decrees covering investments, Fitch notes that the country is improving. Of 190 economies ranked in the World Bank's ease of doing business index, Vietnam has moved from 99th in 2013 to 70th in 2020.

Piecemeal though they have been, reforms of the country's investment laws over the past decade have had a positive effect on investment inflows, Fitch said. The firm drew further encouragement from a new, comprehensive law governing public-private partnerships (PPPs), which the government hopes to get through the country's parliament this month.

It would replace multiple laws and decrees affecting PPPs.

Ahead of its neighbours Vietnam's ambitious investment in infrastructure will keep sharpening its competitive edge over regional peers like Bangladesh, India, and Cambodia, spurring construction activity in the coming years, says Fitch.

A number of industrial parks established across the country have attracted foreign investors with a mixture of tax incentives, lower operating costs and access to nearby roads and ports. Major projects like the North-South Expressway linking Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh

City, as well as various port improvement schemes, will ease the flow of goods around the country.

Strong economic growth has led to rising income levels, which in turn has resulted in an increase in demand for higher-end residential real estate, especially in dense urban areas such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

The influx of foreign developers, mostly involved in developments catering to the high-end segment, has resulted in the relative shortage of affordable housing, a situation exacerbated by strong rural-urban migration trends in the country.

WORLD

This virus may never go away, WHO says

GENEVA

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) officials said on Wednesday that it was hard to predict when the pandemic would be over, but countries should stay positive and collaborate closely.

"We have a new virus entering the human population for the first time, and therefore it is very hard to predict when we will prevail over it," Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, said on Wednesday at a press conference in Geneva.

"I think it's important to put this on the table: this virus may become just another endemic virus in our communities and this virus may never go away," said Ryan. "It is important that we be realistic and I don't think anyone can predict when or if this disease will disappear."

"We may have a shot at eliminating

this virus" with the help of a vaccine, he said, adding that the vaccine must then be "highly effective" and "made available to everyone" and that "we will have to use it." He believed that there was a "massive opportunity for the world" to turn "a tragic pandemic into a beacon of hope for the future," urging the world to "work together to solve our problems through solidarity, through trust, through working together and through a multilateral system that can actually benefit mankind."

"In some senses, we have control over that future, but it's going to take a massive effort to do it," he said, noting that "it's going to need the political, the financial, the operational, the technical and the community support to be a success."

Maria Van Kerkhove, COVID-19 technical lead at WHO, added that while people might be "in a state of feeling quite some despair," we should re-



From left, World Health Organization (WHO) Health Emergencies Programme Director Michael Ryan, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and WHO Technical Lead Maria Van Kerkhove attend a daily press briefing on COVID-19 at the WHO headquarters in Geneva on March 11, 2020. (AFP)

main positive and hopeful. "We have seen countries bring this virus under control, we have seen countries use public health measures, the fundamentals of public health and epidemiology and clinical care, to bring the virus under control and to suppress transmission to a low enough level where communities can get back to work and communities can open up again, so we can't forget that," she said.

"It will take some time before we have the information on these medical interventions and it's coming and people are working very hard on that. But this is in our hand and we are seeing hope in a number of countries and I really don't want people to forget that," she added.

Meanwhile, a new report released by WHO on Wednesday shone a light on inequality, which the WHO chief described as being one of the key drivers of the current COVID-19 pandemic. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that based on the information in the report, the world has not done enough to deliver on the promise of health for all.

Tedros cited the report as saying that globally in 2020, approximately one billion people spend at least 10 percent of their household budgets on health care; over 55 percent of countries have fewer than 40 nursing and midwifery personnel per 10,000 people, and the world now risks back-

sliding on child immunization.

"The report reflects that the rate of progress is too slow to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and will be further thrown off track by COVID-19," Tedros said.

However, the WHO chief also cited the new report as saying that there was good news too.

"The biggest gains were reported in low-income countries, which saw life expectancy rise by more than a fifth since the turn of the millennium," he said, adding that better maternal and child health-care has led to the halving of child mortality since 2000.

The WHO on Wednesday released "2020 World Health Statistics", an annual check-up on the world's health. According to the new report, life expectancy and healthy life expectancy have increased in the world, albeit unequally.

At the same time, however, only between one third and half of the world's population were able to access essential health services in 2017. Health service coverage in low and middle-income countries remained well below that in wealthier ones.

In 2017, two in five households globally lacked basic handwashing facilities (soap and water), according to the report.

According to Tedros, the major issues covered in the report will be discussed in detail during the World Health Assembly next week. **Xinhua**

Burundi expels national WHO head during election campaign

NAIROBI



BURUNDI is expelling the national head of the World Health Organization (WHO) during a presidential election campaign where politicians have pressed ahead with large rallies despite the risk from the coronavirus pandemic.

The government confirmed yesterday that a May 12 letter from the foreign ministry was sent to WHO country head Walter Kazadi Mulombo (pictured) and three aides ordering them out by today.

The vote for a successor to President Pierre Nkurunziza, whose government has been repeatedly accused of rights abuses and has previously expelled other representatives of international bodies, is due on May 20.

Bernard Ntahiraja, the foreign affairs assistant minister, confirmed the WHO officials had been declared "persona non grata" but did not give reasons. There was no immediate comment from the WHO, which is an agency of the United Nations.

Burundi has so far reported a relatively low caseload of the COVID-19 disease, with 27 infections and one death.

In 2018, it expelled UN investigators looking into allegations of rights abuses. The United Nations has previously accused security personnel and a ruling party militia of orchestrating gang rapes, torture and killings.

Agencies

US refusal to ensure transparency of lab activities raises questions – Lavrov

MOSCOW



WASHINGTON'S unwillingness to support the idea of a protocol to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons in order to create a verification mechanism makes one wonder what goals the US seeks to achieve through its overseas biolabs, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters on Wednesday.

"For almost 20 years, Russia and most other countries, including China, have been calling for a protocol to the convention that would establish a mechanism to verify and check states parties' compliance with their commitment not to create biological weapons.

The United States stands almost alone against this initiative. Tensions around the issue have escalated and Washington's unwillingness to ensure the transparency of its military biological activities in various parts of the world raises questions about what is really going on there and what the actual goals are," Lavrov (pictured) pointed out.

The Russian top diplomat emphasized that Moscow maintained dialogue on the matter with its partners within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). "We have some positive examples.

We have reached an intergovernmental memorandum with Tajikistan, are working on a similar document with our colleagues from Uzbekistan and are in consultations with other post-Soviet countries, including Kazakhstan, Armenia and other neighbors. I believe that these efforts are very useful to allay any concerns that arise when infectious diseases emerge," Lavrov added.

He stressed that all countries needed to adopt a universal approach to the issue. "The best option for international community members would be to make an agreement on the establishment of a verification mechanism under the convention banning biological and toxic weapons.

"We will continue efforts to this end," the Russian foreign minister noted.

Politicization of process of search for source of coronavirus The process of search for the source of the coronavirus pandemic must not be politicized, Sergey Lavrov said Wednesday following the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Foreign Ministers' Council meeting Wednesday.

"When we say that reasons behind emergence of the coronavirus infection must be determined, I believe that it is an absolutely justified wording.

However, this must be approached from the standpoint of sense, of substance," he said. "And the substance is that we must save as many lives as possible and understand how this pandemic could be controlled in the future, considering medical estimations, estimations of the scientists that say that [the disease] is here to stay for a long time, if not forever, similar to other infectious diseases, such as the flu."

"We are against politicizing this scientific, humanistic approach in dirty competition," the minister underscored.

Agencies

NAIROBI

SCALING up agriculture through agri-technology offers Africa its best hope to stand on its feet during and post the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a journal published by Cellulant, Africa's leading financial technology company that builds payment and agri-tech solutions.

This is their prescription given that the strict measures being put in place by governments to curb the spread of the outbreak will impact the continent's agricultural sector due to restrictions on commercial and social activities.

As of Wednesday, there were 69,578 confirmed cases across Africa, including 2,403 deaths, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, or the Africa CDC.

South Africa, the most affected country in Africa, on Tuesday reported 698 confirmed COVID-19 cases, the highest surge in a 24-hour cycle since the country reported its first case in early March,

taking the total number of confirmed cases to 11,350, South Africa's Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said in a daily update.

Meanwhile, Algeria will extend measures aimed at restricting movement by 15 days until May 29, to cope with rising infections, Prime Minister Abdelaziz Djerrad said on Tuesday.

The government last month decided to extend until May 14 restrictions on movement including a nationwide night curfew and closures of universities, schools and mosques. Public transport and air travel are still suspended.

Separately, the Economic Commission for Africa has also identified the impact of the coronavirus on food security as one of the most sensitive issues facing policymakers.

"With an unenviable track record at current levels of technological infrastructure, the scaling up of food production on the African

Agri-tech lets Africa deal with pandemic



A worker inspects a temperature chart for tobacco leaves loaded for curing in a barn at Tilisa farm in Bromley on April 15, 2020, ahead of the start of the tobacco selling season scheduled to begin on April 22, 2020, but now likely to be disrupted due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. (AFP)

continent is attainable only by harnessing food production to cutting edge technology," the Cellulant's journal said.

Internet age

The publication said that the internet age has brought in smart agricultural models, deploying

technological advancements such as the Internet of Things, geolocation systems, big data, unmanned aerial vehicles, drones, remote sensing and robotics.

It further said that smart farming - the practical application of the technologies - can enable weather prediction to better man-

age harvesting of produce, while soil sensors can help to monitor and manage crop growth in real time. The use of data is also critical for smart farming infrastructure as it helps to predict crop yield, it added.

Some African nations have already begun to embrace smart farming and are reaping the benefits.

Ghana has over 15 million hectares of agricultural land, and monitoring and managing soil and crop conditions without the help of technology was next to impossible, leading to massive use of pesticides. This in turn rendered crops like maize and cassava potentially hazardous to Ghanaians and unfit for foreign markets.

This problem was solved by Acquahmeyer, a company that uses unmanned aerial vehicles to provide insights to farmers that allowed them to reduce pesticide use, increase crop yield, and boost profits.

Agencies

Washington, biggest stumbling block for a better world order

BEIJING

AMID the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic, about 300,000 people have lost their lives, countless businesses and factories have shut doors, cross-border personnel exchanges have almost ground to a halt, and the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s is looming large.

This unprecedented tumultuous situation has exposed the shortcomings in the current world order.

While a more effective global governance system is needed more than ever in this age of growing multipolarity, economic globalization and rising non-conventional security

challenges, the United States, the world's sole superpower, has become the biggest stumbling block for a better world order.

Since coming to power, the incumbent U.S. administration has repeatedly undermined the UN system and turned increasingly hostile towards multilateralism.

It has exited the Paris climate accord, quitted the Iran nuclear deal, and left the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization paralyzed.

Most recently, this White House decided to defund the World Health Organization (WHO), the only global health coordinator the international community can count on for guid-



ance in the global pandemic fight.

The United Nations and its family agencies, an important pillar of the existing world order the United States has helped build in the post-war years, have played a critical role

over the decades in mitigating conflicts, facilitating humanitarian relief, reducing poverty and hunger, and championing free trade and sustainable development. The UN system is not perfect, but it is still irreplaceable in building up global consensus and coordinating global efforts to fix global problems.

Washington should abandon its unilateral foreign policy approach, and give more, not less, support to the United Nations so that the world body can better fulfill its role. The most immediate thing the United States should do is to reinstate its funding for the WHO.

Meanwhile, this White House has

tried to shrug off its due global responsibilities in terms of providing its fair share of global public goods.

Harvard professor and long-time world politics expert Joseph Nye coined the term "The Kindleberger Trap" to warn that an under-provision of global public goods from the world's major countries could bring disastrous consequences for the world.

In the current pandemic fight, the United States has not only failed to inspire a collective global drive to bear down the deadly pathogen, but become the world's epicenter in the pandemic.

Xinhua

Wuhan lockdown prevents 12-42 million people from catching COVID-19 - study

THE "decisive" lockdown imposed in Wuhan, capital of Central China's Hubei Province largely cut off the COVID-19 infections, preventing 500,000 to 3 million more infections in China and 12 to 42 million more infections in the globe, according to a Chinese expert at Peking Union Medical College.

Liu Yuanli, head of the school of public health in Peking Union Medical College revealed the data during a live-streaming seminar at Tsinghua University on Saturday, April 25.

The Wuhan lockdown effectively cut off the spread of COVID-19, Liu said. The lockdown helped reduce 500,000 to 3 million infections in

China and 12 to 42 million infections globally, he said.

Wuhan imposed the citywide lockdown on January 23, a day before the annual Chinese Lunar New Year's eve.

If the lockdown wasn't imposed on that day, then the next day would have seen the peak of population flow for Chinese family reunions at Spring Festival, Liu said.

The Wuhan lockdown sent a "very clear signal" about the upcoming epidemic and won "much time" for the world, Yang Zhanqiu, deputy director of the pathogen biology department at Wuhan University, told the Global Times on Sunday, April 26.

China's stringent measures significantly slowed the global spread of the virus and earned a window period for the world.

Rather than thanking China for reporting the virus and taking such decisive measures to contain the virus spread, some outside China are surprisingly trying to blame China for concealing the epidemic and hyping Wuhan is the virus origin, which is absurd and unreasonable, Yang said.

Wuhan sacrificed itself by locking the city and asking millions of residents to stay at home in a timely manner when facing the COVID-19 epidemic, which is a common enemy

of the mankind. How come people are still trying to take China as a scapegoat for the pandemic, experts said.

The study offered strong evidence of how much Wuhan lockdown is essential for the worldwide pandemic, however, miscommunication and underestimation were repeated not only in Europe but also in the US, where governments and officials failed to prevent infections from exploding in their countries, Chinese experts noted.

"Closure of a city in the fight against epidemics has never happened not only in China, but such a large-scale city lockdown has never happened

in the history of the world epidemic prevention," said Liu, of Peking Union Medical College at the live-streaming event on Saturday.

Wuhan was locked at just the right time. "The lockdown sent a signal to the whole country that the overall battle against the epidemic was starting," Liu said.

There were more than 400 confirmed cases on January 22 in Wuhan and on the next day on January 23, Wuhan adopted strict measures to restrict people from leaving the city.

It later proved that the week after January 23 was a crucial week, Liu noted.

If the city was closed one day or one week later, the impact of the epidemic would be "huge," Liu said.

"Facts also proved," Liu said, that 63 percent of that more than 80,000 cases diagnosed nationwide were in Wuhan.

The Wuhan lockdown was not simply a restriction on traffic but an overall anti-epidemic policy for a city: medical treatment for patients, community closed-loop management, mass screening and quarantine of residents, Liu noted.

Global Times



Employees sort apples at an e-commerce center in Lixian county, Longnan in northwest China's Gansu province, where local e-commerce enterprises have contributed to efforts to alleviate stagnant sales of about 30,000 tons of apples. (People's Daily)

China's e-commerce sees huge potential for growth

CHINA'S e-commerce sector has huge scope for growth thanks to its vital role in unleashing consumption potential and countering the impact of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

With people trapped at home to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the demand for online shopping has soared, and online sales have surged as brick-and-mortar stores have turned to online channels to increase their sales, said Lin Tao, an official with the National Bureau of Statistics.

In the first quarter, China's online retail sales of physical goods increased 5.9 percent year-on-year, accounting for 23.6 percent of total retail sales of consumer goods, Lin added.

Lin's remarks were echoed by Cai Yudong, an official with the Ministry of Commerce, who added that e-commerce has played a major role in maintaining healthy economic and social development during the epidemic.

Major e-commerce giants have launched telecommuting tools to help companies resume work and production, and worked together with large shopping malls, supermarkets and chain stores to boost their sales, Cai noted.

The ministry has attached great importance to promoting the growth of both online and offline consumption, launching measures to accelerate digital and intelligent transformation of

the business sector, the official said.

Due to e-commerce's significant role, the ministry will launch an online shopping festival to boost consumption from April 28 to May 10, which will see the participation of over 109 e-commerce platforms selling a large variety of quality goods.

Improved logistical services will also push forward the development of China's e-commerce. 96.6 percent of towns and villages in the country have established express delivery service stations, according to Bian Zuodong, an official with the State Post Bureau.

Bian said the bureau has launched a program to bring express delivery service coverage to all villages in the country within three years.

China has also built 406,000 intelligent express boxes in recent years, Bian noted, adding that the bureau will set up more intelligent boxes across the country.

Furthermore, industrial internet and 5G provide important support for China's booming e-commerce, said Li Ying, an official with the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

During the epidemic period, consumer demand for online medical and education services, as well as food delivery and new retail services, saw explosive growth, Li added.

People's Daily Online

Male COVID-19 patients twice as likely to become seriously ill than females - study

SYDNEY

MEN admitted to hospital for suspected COVID-19 symptoms were twice as likely to need treatment in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) than women, an Australian study showed yesterday.

The Monash University led research analyzed data from 76 ICUs across the country treating 149 suspected COVID-19 patients since March 14.

Preliminary data from this ongoing research showed men were twice as likely to be admitted (67 percent of cases) to ICU than women (31 percent), while people over 60 years old made up 69 percent of ICU patients. Co-leader of the research, Professor Andrew Udy from Monash University, told Xinhua the initial results matched up with reports from other countries that a greater number of men had been admitted to ICU with confirmed COVID-19 than women.

"This is the first time we have data outlining the number of COVID-19 patients requiring ICU, the duration of their care, the type of treatments they're receiving, and the number that are surviving," Udy said.

He added the data also provided important insights on how the medical resources could be prioritized for the sickest COVID-19 patients.

"From a broad national perspective, this data gives us important insights into the type of therapy, care, and medical intervention our sickest COVID-19 patients need," Udy said.

"It means we can inform clinicians and improve the therapies provided, as well as appraise resourcing, particularly if we experience a sudden spike in cases over the coming months."

"The ability of our health system to cope with a pandemic may be measured in part by the ability of ICU to respond to the sickest patients," he added. As of yesterday, Australia reported 6,975 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 98 deaths.

Xinhua

Putin: Coronavirus situation changes, time to focus on long-term issues

NOVO-OGARYOVO

THE domestic coronavirus situation is changing, allowing the country to again focus on other issues of the current and long-term agenda of its development, Russian President Vladimir Putin told a meeting devoted to genetic technologies yesterday.

The Russian leader stressed that over the past weeks the authorities had focused all efforts mainly on combating the coronavirus pandemic and preparing urgent measures in order to support citizens and national economy.

"We will maintain this effort in the



future. But <...> the situation is changing and this gives us a chance to again

focus on the issues of our current and long-term agenda," Putin emphasized.

Genetic research

The president has set the task of carrying out genetic research that will help prevent and treat serious illnesses before Russian scientists.

"Russia must have a whole range of developments that will help to prevent and treat serious illnesses, to prolong life expectancy, to improve the environment, to clear the water, land and air from pollution and to use ecologically clean biological fuel," the Russian leader stated.

Agencies

Europe relaxes control measures, urges int'l cooperation in fighting COVID-19

BELGRADE

AFTER weeks of social isolation, many European countries, which believed the coronavirus curve has flattened, are now relaxing control measures.

On Wednesday, Italian Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora announced gyms and fitness centers may reopen on May 25.

The announcement came amid the country's improving epidemic situation, with the number of active infections down by 2,809 to 78,457 on Wednesday. According to the Civil Protection Department, recoveries have now made up over 50 percent of all cases.

On May 4, the country partially lifted a nationwide lockdown imposed on March 10, allowing manufacturing, construction and wholesale sectors to resume business. Retail shops, museums, galleries and libraries will reopen from May 18, and bars, restaurants, hairdressers and beauty salons from June 1.

France registered on Wednesday a total of 21,071 patients hospitalized for COVID-19 infections, down by 524, with 2,428 in need of life support, down by 114. The country on Monday started gradually lifting its lockdown.

With the positive development in containing COVID-19, Switzerland announced on Wednesday its plans to reopen its borders with France, Germany and Austria on June 15.

Also on Wednesday, the European Commission offered a tourism and transport package, providing guidance for European Union (EU) member states to gradually lift the internal travel restrictions and reopen tourism.

The package included an overall strategy towards future recovery, a common approach to restoring free movement within the EU, a framework



People enjoy their leisure by the Canal Saint-Martin in Paris, France, on Wednesday. France on Wednesday registered 83 additional COVID-19 deaths, taking the total tally to 27,074, according to the country's Health Ministry. Since the start of the pandemic, 140,734 people have tested positive for the coronavirus, including 507 additional in the last 24 hours. Altogether, 58,673 people were cured and left the hospital. From Monday, France started gradually lifting the two-month lockdown thanks to decelerating positive cases and the improved situation in hospitals. (Xinhua)

to support the gradual reestablishment of safe transport, a recommendation aiming to help protect consumers' rights concerning canceled trips due to the pandemic, and criteria for restoring tourism activities while ensuring health safety.

While tentatively easing restrictions to bring life back to normal, many European countries are also calling for deeper cooperation in the global anti-epidemic fight, especially on researches for effective treatments and vaccines.

On Wednesday, Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa stressed the current situation requires "a real start in the European soul" and an EU with "de facto solidarity" to fulfill the dream of its founders.

Echoing the president, Prime Minister Antonio Costa said "the EU's response cannot be tailored to each country, (and) it must be the same response for all countries."

Also on Wednesday, Andrei Baciu,

state secretary of the Romanian Health Ministry, said "the fight against this virus requires a coordinated international response, solidarity and commitment to reinforce our public health sectors and to mitigate the social-economic impact."

"Sharing experiences and lessons learned is an essential part of future updates of our national strategic plans to contain the COVID-19 pandemic," Baciu said.

On May 4, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen hosted an online coronavirus global response pledging event, which secured 7.4 billion euros (8.07 billion U.S. dollars) in pledges from donors worldwide, including a pledge of 1.4 billion euros by the EU's executive arm.

Noticing that the United States was absent from the event, European countries have criticized Washington's absence in the international efforts against the disease.

Xinhua

Evidence shows coronavirus not from lab, says Croatian scientist

ZAGREB

SCIENTIFIC evidence has shown that the coronavirus is naturally derived and not engineered in a lab, a Croatian scientist has said.

Our analysis has showed that the coronavirus cases in Croatia were imported from neighboring countries, Oliver Vugrek, head of the Laboratory for Advanced Genomics at Rudjer Boskovic Institute, told Xinhua in a phone interview.

Vugrek dismissed the theory that the coronavirus was genetically engineered in a lab, emphasizing that such viruses can be found in nature.

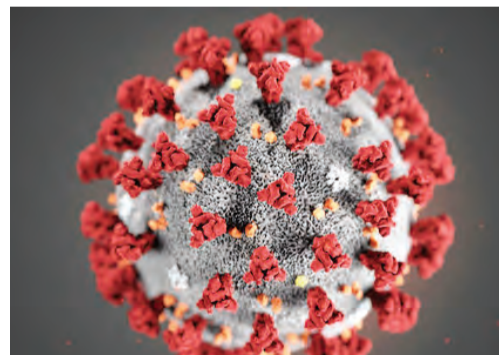
He said that the mutations of the virus and its high infectivity can possibly explain the virus is the result of natural selection rather than genetic engineering.

"It is very likely that the virus was transmitted from animals to people but we don't know the mediator yet," Vugrek said.

Vugrek led an interdisciplinary team of Croatian scientists to determine the genetic sequence of the coronavirus in April.

Croatia has seen a significant decline in new coronavirus cases since late April and the government has begun to ease restrictions following the advice of epidemiologists.

Vugrek warned that warm



weather will not destroy the virus, but only slow down its outbreak, because the aerosols that carry the virus evaporate much faster at higher temperatures.

Croatia reported its first case of coronavirus on Feb. 25. As of Wednesday, 2,213 cases were recorded with 94 deaths.

Xinhua

Community-based group buying rises in China in midst of quarantine restrictions

GROCERY shopping is currently undergoing profound changes in China as online group buying platforms and mini apps, and even chat groups on WeChat weigh in with great strengths in the commerce sector, especially after the novel coronavirus pandemic.

These platforms are driving an enticing trend for entrepreneurship in both the internet and offline sectors, attracting a large number of enterprises and entrepreneurs into the community-based group buying business. They received huge popularity, and the monthly turnovers of many have exceeded 100 million yuan (\$14.1 million).

The rise of the business also came from the grocery shopping difficulties faced by the people when strict containment measures were taken across China to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus. Online group buying, which brings cost-effective products and interactive experiences, naturally became a new choice for many residents.

According to statistics released by a leading industry research and consulting services supplier, China had over 300 million users of online group buying in 2018, and this year the figure is expected to approach 500 million, as the

COVID-19 pandemic spurred rapid growth of the business.

Chen Geng, a 36-year-old man living in Shanghai's Pudong New Area, is the "head" of a grocery shopping group in his residential complex who helps fellow residents find quality products and place orders.

Every time he enters the WeChat group of his residential community, the man receives a huge number of messages from the residents asking him to place new commodities "on the shelves."

Chen would recommend several quality merchandises every week in the chat group after brows-

ing through a sea of commodities, and release in the group relevant information of the merchandises, such as name, weight and price, through a group buying mini app. All the other residents have to do is to open the links shared by Chen and pay.

Based on the information submitted by the residents, Chen would later place orders and distribute the commodities upon delivery.

As a matter of fact, Chen is not in the group buying industry, but a plain resident in the complex. He is trusted by his neighbors because he's enthusiastic and often joins so-

cial activities held by the residential complex.

At first, only a few people randomly group-shopped groceries in the WeChat group, but the frequency was later increased from once to twice a week as the demand expanded and more people joined the group.

Such a mode is able to avoid middlemen along the distribution chain and reduce the operational and delivery cost of the suppliers, given the large quantity of commodities needed by residential communities. Therefore, the commodities are often cheaper than retail price.

"For instance, the northern snakehead fillet that we always buy is priced at over 20 yuan per bag on some e-commerce platforms, but the price we get is only less than 20," Chen said, adding that group buying brings tangible benefit and convenience to customers.

He introduced that at the beginning, he had to record group buying information manually, which sometimes led to mistakes. But thanks to the mini app developed by group purchase platform Pinduoduo, Chen is now able to record the information in the app and reduce mistakes to the maximum. He told People's Daily that the mini app

has better facilitated the group buying of his residential complex.

"Our average transaction per week reached 80,000 yuan during the epidemic, and the least number recorded was around 50,000 to 60,000 yuan," the man said.

Jing Linbo, president of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Evaluation Studies noted that online group buying enjoys popularity as it features price advantage. Besides, the innovation of business mode is bringing a new reform, and the online group buying has fully discovered the potential demand of the consumers.

People's Daily



South Korea cooperation against COVID-19 effective, exemplary - Xi

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said Wednesday that cooperation between China and South Korea against the COVID-19 pandemic is effective and has contributed useful experience to and set a good example of cooperation for the global fight against the coronavirus disease.

Xi (pictured) made the remarks in a telephone conversation in the night with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

Xi noted that with arduous efforts, China and South Korea have both effectively contained the epidemic, and that in the joint fight against COVID-19, the two countries have always been helping and supporting each other.

China and South Korea, he said, took the lead in establishing a cooperation mechanism on joint prevention and control of the epidemic, and have each registered not a single case imported from the other.

While maintaining effective COVID-19 prevention and control, the two sides also took the lead in opening a "fast-track lane" for essential personnel on urgent visits to ensure the smooth operation of industrial chains, supply chains and logistics chains in the region, he added.

Their effective cooperation, Xi pointed out, has contributed to both countries' combat against the contagious illness, and also illustrated the principle that "a good neighbor is not to be traded for gold."

China is willing to work with South Korea to continuously push forward bilateral and international cooperation on fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic, Xi said, suggesting that the two sides continue to strengthen cooperation in joint epidemic prevention and control as well as in research and development of medicines and vaccines.

He also called for concerted efforts to support the World Health Organization in playing its due role, and cement communication and coordination within such multilateral frameworks as the United Nations, the Group of 20, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus China, Japan and South Korea.

Describing China and South Korea as friendly neighbors that cannot be moved away, he pointed out that the two countries have increasing common interests in promoting common development and prosperity, maintaining regional peace and stability, and safeguarding multilateralism and free trade.

The space is also expanding for the two sides to broaden bilateral practical cooperation in various fields and bring more benefits for their people, Xi said.

Xi said he attaches great importance to the development of China-South Korea relations, and is willing to strengthen strategic communication with Moon to lead bilateral ties to higher levels.

Moon, for his part, said that he highly appreciates the notable results China has achieved in its combat against COVID-19 under Xi's strong leadership, and wishes China's upcoming 20 Sessions -- an important annual political event -- a great success.

Xinhua



Naomi Osaka

Japan's Naomi Osaka using lockdown to conquer inner demons

TOKYO

TWO-TIMES Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka is using the novel coronavirus shutdown as one of self reflection to try and overcome her crippling shyness.

The tennis season was suspended in early March due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and the hiatus will continue until at least mid-July with many countries in lockdown to contain the virus.

Japan's Osaka, who trains in the United States, the country worst affected by the flu-like virus with over 1.4 million infections and more than 83,000 deaths, is taking advantage of the extended break to do some soul searching.

"I think people know me as being really shy... I want to take the quarantine time to just think about everything, and for me, I have a lot of regrets before I go to sleep," Osaka told CNN Sport.

Petra Kvitová said last year Osaka would have to get used to having a target on her back after the Japanese said she struggled to deal with increased scrutiny in the wake of her rise to the top of the world rankings.

"Most of the regrets are because I don't speak out about what I'm thinking. I feel like if I asserted myself, I would have

gotten the opportunity to see what would have happened," Osaka said.

Osaka, who became the first Japanese player to attain the world number one ranking following her 2019 Australian Open victory, believes tennis is not a top priority at the moment.

"I want to take this time to learn something new because I'm pretty sure I won't have this much free time ever again. It's not like I'll forget how to play tennis," the world number 10 added.

With no access to gyms and tennis courts, the 22-year-old found a training partner in former world number one Venus Williams, with the two sharing a workout session on social media.

"I don't want to train five hours a day right now because I think that's how you get burned out and you never know when tournaments will start again," Osaka said.

Advertisement
"I did an Instagram live with Venus just now. It was kind of more intense than I thought it was going to be.

"For some reason I thought we were going to be stretching, but yeah, we were doing a bit of movement drills and then lunges and stuff."

REUTERS

Tour plans constant testing, limited access for golf return

BY DOUG FERGUSON

PLAYERS, caddies and key staff around them will be tested once a week for the new coronavirus, and everyone at the golf course will have their temperatures taken every day when the PGA Tour returns next month and tries to show it can resume its season with minimal risks.

Testing was a big part of the process outlined Wednesday that revealed significant changes to how tournaments are conducted.

No pro-ams. No spectators for at least a month, perhaps longer. No family members. No dry cleaning. And social distancing everywhere from the clubhouse to the practice range.

"Our goal is to minimize risk as much as possible, with the full understanding that there is no way to eliminate all of the risk," said Andy Levinson, senior vice president of tournament administration for the tour. "But one of the best ways we can do that, to reduce the likelihood of exposure, is by limiting the number of people we have on site and limiting access to certain areas, keeping groups separated."

It starts June 8-14 at Colonial with the Charles Schwab Challenge in Fort Worth, Texas.

Testing and social distancing was the backbone of the 37-page presentation titled "Return to Golf Events." The idea is to keep players and essential staff in a bubble, and those estimated 400 people would be tested for COVID-19. Players would have a designated hotel unless they had other options the tour approved. Charter flights were made available for \$600 a seat



COVID-19 signs at the clubhouse during round one at the Scottsdale AZ Open at Talking Stick Golf Club's Oodham course in Arizona, USA on May 12, 2020. This is the first semi-significant sports event to take place in the Valley since the sports shutdown in March due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. (Agencies)

(\$300 for caddies), and another test would be required before they fly and when they land in a new city for the next tournament.

Everyone on site will have thermal readings and a health questionnaire daily.

"We're not going to play if we can't do it in a safe and healthy environmental for all our constituents," said Tyler Dennis, the tour's chief of operations.

And the tournament won't shut down if someone tests positive. Such a player would have to withdraw immediately and self-isolate for at least 10 days, provided there are no subsequent symptoms and he gets two negative test results 24 hours part.

"That was the No. 1 concern," said Russell Knox, who serves on the Player Advisory Council. "Nobody wants to go through that in a hotel. You're going to be away from your family and someone

will knock on the door every few hours with food."

He also said that was a key message from Commissioner Jay Monahan: Risks remain and everyone has to sacrifice something from what had been a comfort-driven lifestyle.

The tour said it would provide a stipend to pay for costs associated with anyone having to self-isolate. The tour also is providing masks for whoever wants them and will cover the costs of all testing each week, whether it's the RT-PCR nasal swab test or thermal screening. Each tournament picks up the tab for hand sanitizer stations and a hygiene plan on site.

Results from the nasal swab typically take a couple of days, and the tour is hopeful of using local labs when available for a quicker turnaround. Players can practice on the course but do not have access to facilities on site until the

test results are back.

On the golf course, players are to handle their own clubs and let their caddies rake bunkers and remove the pins, wiping down both after they're done with them.

Another change: No shaking hands after the round.

Players can still travel and stay in RVs – Knox plans to drive his from Jacksonville, Florida, to Fort Worth, and then to Hilton Head, South Carolina – or rental homes if the tour approves. Those who live in town can stay at home.

The tour said about 25 players remain overseas and recommended they arrive at least two weeks ahead of the tournament to meet the federal 14-day quarantine requirement.

Media will be limited in a press center with social distancing. Two or three reporters will conduct interviews for a pool report.

Levinson said the tour felt one COVID-19 test was ample with other measures in place, such as the daily questionnaire and thermal reading. Anyone who registers a temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius) will go into a testing protocol.

"A test is a point in time. We understand that," Levinson said. "But we also know that the precautions that we're taking ... our medical advisers are telling us that maintaining social distancing, asking people questions, going through thermal screens are going to significantly minimize risk of exposure, not to mention all the disinfecting procedures that we're going to be implementing."

"We feel that – as our medical advisers do – that one test per week is a significant amount of viral testing, on top of everything else in our plan."

AP



Rihanna

Rihanna debuts on Sunday Times Rich List of musicians at no. 3

LONDON

SINGER Rihanna has stormed into the Sunday Times Rich List of musicians at number three, with an estimated wealth of 468 million pounds (\$576 million), thanks partly to the success of her fashion and cosmetics brands with Louis Vuitton-owner LVMH.

Barbados-born Rihanna, 32, now based in London, leapfrogged some of Britain's most famous musicians such as Mick Jagger and Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones, Elton John and Rod Stewart into the list of the country's most wealthy.

Hit musical composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and former Beatle Paul McCartney jointly top the list with some £800 million each.

Known for her daring, colourful looks on the red carpet, Rihanna has become an increasingly influential

force in the fashion world as well as having eight hit albums.

"Rihanna typifies the seismic change we've seen in the Rich List in recent years. Once dominated by inherited wealth, the bulk of our 1,000 entries are now self-made people with modest and even troubled starts in life who are driven to work exceptionally hard," said Robert Watts, compiler of the list.

Ed Sheeran tops the ranks of Britain's richest young musicians (aged 30 or under) with a fortune of £200 million.

"Touring remains the big earner for many of the stadium-filling acts on our musicians' list," Watts said. "But the Covid outbreak has wrecked concert plans and so we expect the wealth of many of these musicians will flatline over the coming year."

REUTERS

Sainz and Ricciardo make their moves for 2021

LONDON

SPANIARD Carlos Sainz will make a dream move to Ferrari next year, with Australian Daniel Ricciardo replacing him at McLaren, as Formula One's driver carousel took another big swirl on Thursday with the 2020 season yet to start.

Ferrari said 25-year-old Sainz, who replaces four times world champion Sebastian Vettel alongside young Monegasque Charles Leclerc at the sport's most glamorous team, had signed for 2021 and 2022.

Vettel's departure at the end of a season so far stalled by the COVID-19 pandemic was announced on Tuesday, with the German's next move uncertain.

"With five seasons already behind him, Carlos has proved to be very talented and has shown that he has the technical ability and the right attributes to make him an ideal fit

with our family," said Ferrari principal Mattia Binotto.

The move also ends speculation about Lewis Hamilton's future, with the 35-year-old Briton now sure to stay at Mercedes as he chases a seventh title to equal Michael Schumacher's record.

Ricciardo will depart Renault after opting for McLaren, the former world champions he rejected in 2018 when leaving Red Bull.

"Signing Daniel is another step forward in our long-term plan and will bring an exciting new dimension to the team, alongside Lando," said McLaren Racing CEO Zak Brown, announcing a multi-year arrangement.

The Australian, a seven times race winner with Red Bull, will be the experienced man alongside 20-year-old Briton Lando Norris, with McLaren also switching from Renault to Mercedes engines in 2021.

"Adios amigo! It's only been a year, but it's been a pleasure," Norris told Sainz in a Twitter post. "We've had some good laughs and made a few memories. Give it your all mate and let's give this year the send off it deserves."

Ferrari will be Sainz's fourth employers after a 2015 debut with Italy-based Toro Rosso, followed by stints at Renault and McLaren.

Remarkably, he was not the first choice for any of his first three teams until landing one of the most coveted seats on the grid.

He will now follow in the footsteps of boyhood hero, friend, compatriot and double world champion Fernando Alonso, who also went from Minardi (Toro Rosso's predecessors), to Renault, McLaren and Ferrari.

The 38-year-old Spaniard, who left Formula One at the end of 2018, is now being linked in media speculation to a return to Renault.

Renault said they were in no hurry to name a replacement after issuing a terse statement confirming Ricciardo's departure, with team principal Cyril Abiteboul indicating his displeasure.

"In our sport, and particularly within the current extraordinary situation, reciprocated confidence, unity and commitment are, more than ever, critical values for a works team," he said.

"I am confident that the 2020 season will allow us to accomplish even more together."

Leclerc won two races in his Ferrari debut season last year, and will play a leading role, but the pairing will be the youngest in half a century for the sport's oldest and most successful team.

Sainz has just one career podium finish, a third place in Brazil last season that was McLaren's first since 2014 and helped them

finish the year fourth overall.

Slideshow (2 Images)

"We've embarked on a new cycle with the aim of getting back to the top in Formula One," said Binotto, whose team will be subject to a budget cap in 2021.

"It will be a long journey, not without its difficulties, especially given the current financial and regulatory situation, which is undergoing a sudden change and will require this challenge to be tackled in a different way to the recent past.

"We believe that a driver pairing with the talent and personality of Charles and Carlos, the youngest in the past 50 years of the Scuderia, will be the best possible combination to help us reach the goals we have set ourselves."

REUTERS

Ronaldinho closing in on 70 days detention in Paraguay

ASUNCION

BRAZILIAN great Ronaldinho's lawyers are hoping the former world player of the year will be allowed to go home after more than two months of detention in Paraguay over a forged passport.

"We're hoping to convince the prosecution to allow Ronaldinho and his brother to return to their country. We can do nothing but wait for the investigation to end," a defense source told AFP.

Former Barcelona, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain star Ronaldinho and his brother, Robert de Assis Moreira, are facing up to five years in jail if convicted.

The brothers spent more than a month behind bars after they were accused of entering Paraguay in possession of false passports.

The 2005 Ballon d'Or winner and his brother posted bail of \$1.6 million and have been under house arrest at the plush Palmaroga Hotel in the historic centre of the Paraguayan capital Asuncion since April 7.

The public prosecutor has six months to investigate the case, and has ordered the arrest of 18 in connection with it.

"There is not one single serious proof that incriminates him," Rogelio Delgado, president of Paraguay's footballers union told AFP.

"Although he has a luxury pris-

on, it's very unfair that he's still being detained," added Delgado, a former Paraguay international.

The 40-year-old Ronaldinho has been keeping a low profile since being released from behind bars, not least because of coronavirus lockdown measures.

"I was completely caught off guard when I found out that these passports were not valid," Ronaldinho told Paraguayan newspaper ABC last month in his only public statement since his release.

Ronaldinho, considered one of the greatest footballers of all time, was crucial in Brazil's 2002 World Cup win.

He and sibling Robert -- who is also his business manager -- initially encountered no problems after arriving in Asuncion from neighboring Brazil on March 4.

However, shortly after their arrival, the pair were taken into police custody when investigators raided their hotel following discovery that their passports were fake.

Ronaldinho, given a rock star's welcome to Asuncion by around 2,000 children and teenagers, said the documents had been given to him by sponsors of a charity working with disadvantaged children.

The investigation has since expanded into a case of possible money laundering.

AFP

EFL's economic crisis will not be spared behind closed doors

LONDON

THE English Football League (EFL) warned the economic crisis facing its clubs will not be spared by a resumption of matches behind closed doors as it delayed any return to training until May 25 on Wednesday.

Unlike the top-tier Premier League, which is pressing ahead with plans to finish the season in a bid to satisfy lucrative television contracts, many of the 71 clubs in the three divisions of the EFL are far more reliant on gate receipts.

The UK government earlier this week paved the way for elite sport to return behind closed doors from June 1.

However, it is likely to be many months before supporters are allowed back into stadiums due to social distancing guidelines to help slow the spread of coronavirus.

"Solutions are still required to fill the financial hole left by the crisis," the EFL said in a statement after a meeting with clubs.

"The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic will not be rectified simply by a return to play behind closed doors."

Government guidelines were issued on Wednesday to advise how elite sport can return safely to training.

AFP

FA, FIFA go to court over Chelsea transfer case

LONDON

THE Football Association (FA) will battle FIFA in court next month over its punishment in relation to Chelsea's transfer ban.

The FA are challenging the disciplinary process and the accusation that there was mismanagement in the registration of minors.

The case will be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on June 26.

"The FA has cooperated fully with FIFA's investigation. As this is an ongoing legal process it would not be appropriate to comment further at this time," an FA spokesperson told ESPN.

In February 2019, Chelsea were sanctioned for breaching 150 regulations regarding the transfer and registration of 69 players under the age of 18 over several seasons.

The FA were also found guilty of breaking rules regarding the registration of those players and at the time, was "given a period of six months to address the situation

concerning the international transfer and first registration of minors in football."

Both parties were also fined with Chelsea banned for signing players in the subsequent two transfer windows.

The Blues had that sanction reduced to one window on appeal in December, when their original £460,000 fine was halved to £230,000.

The FA also had their fine reduced to from £421,000 to £290,000 on an initial appeal and which they are now seeking to appeal further.

At the time, the FA said it would "continue to work with FIFA and Chelsea in a constructive manner to address the issues which were raised by this case."

Sources have told ESPN that Chelsea and the FA have argued a lack of clarity in FIFA's guidelines contributed to inadvertent rule breaches.

(Agencies)

Socially-distanced buses and elbow bumps: German football's new world

BERLIN

PLAYERS arriving in several sparsely-populated team buses, substitutes wearing masks and goal celebrations limited to elbow bumps -- when German football returns to the pitch this weekend, it will have to follow a draconian set of guidelines.

The German Football League (DFL) presented political leaders with a 51-page document of guidelines to earn the right for the Bundesliga to become the first of Europe's big five leagues to resume action.

The matches will be surrounded by extraordinary measures to protect players and officials from infection by coronavirus.

And the weighty text underlines that "all of the measures are conditional on the fact that they do not divert indispensable resources from the fight against COVID-19 for the rest of the population".

- Testing and quarantine -

The central pillar of the DFL's plan is the mass testing of players, coaches and backroom staff. They are tested at least twice a week and once on the eve of matches. Any that test positive for the virus are separated from the rest of the team.

The decision to quarantine teams rests with the authorities in each of Germany's federal states, which explains why the entire team of second-division Dynamo Dresden was placed in quarantine after two players were found to have coronavirus but Borussia Moenchengladbach, in a different state, continued to train after cases were found among their squad.

- Empty stadiums -

Only around 300 people will be allowed into the stadium on matchdays. They are divided into three



Borussia Dortmund's Signal Iduna Park would normally be packed with 81,000 people for the visit of Schalke 04 on Saturday. This time it will be empty. (AFP Photo)

zones to avoid any contact between each group.

Only players, match officials, first aid personnel and a small group of photographers are allowed on the pitch.

In the otherwise empty stands there will be just a handful of reporters and TV camera operators.

Outside the stadium itself is the third category of personnel including security guards. It is the police's job to prevent supporters gathering outside the stadiums.

- Team arrivals -

The teams will arrive in several coaches to ensure each occupant is sitting 1.5 metres (five feet) apart. Everyone in the vehicles must wear masks.

The social distancing rules must also be respected in the changing rooms. When the players come onto the pitch, handshakes are banned, there will be no team photos or hand-

shakes and no team pennants will be exchanged.

- On the pitch -

Players and the match officials do not need to wear masks, but everyone else on the pitchside does, including substitutes on the bench. The match balls will be disinfected regularly during the action.

Players have been told that physical contact should only be made as a result of play during the match and embracing or high-fives to celebrate goals is to be strictly avoided. "Contact with elbows or feet is preferred," the document states.

The DFL urges players to show "exemplary behaviour".

- Media coverage -

Eight pages of the health document detail the measures that the TV teams must take to avoid contact, including erecting plastic screens between interviewer and interviewee.

Just 10 journalists will be admitted

to each match. There will be no press conferences and the mixed zone where reporters can normally ask players questions, will be closed.

- Holed up in hotels -

Wherever possible, visiting teams must book an entire hotel or, at the very least, an entire floor. The hotel has to be disinfected before the players arrive.

Players are banned from the hotel's weights room and must respect the required distance from their teammates even at mealtimes.

- Private lives -

At home, players must live in near-quarantine conditions, without seeing their neighbours or friends. The same rules apply to all of a player's family members. The players are not even permitted to do the family's shopping.

AFP

Police chief fears 'legislation' only way to stop fans gathering

LONDON

GREATER Manchester's Police (GMP) chief has warned legislation could be the only way to stop fans gathering outside stadiums if the Premier League restarts amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Premier League organisers want to resume the postponed season behind closed doors in June and are thrashing out the controversial issue of where to play the remaining 92 fixtures.

The league has reportedly lobbied the government to allow them to play at each team's stadium rather than neutral venues.

The neutral ground plan, which was originally mooted in talks between Premier League stakeholders, has been criticised by several clubs, prompting the attempt to switch back to home and away games.

But GMP chief Ian Hopkins is not convinced matches should be staged in major football cities like Manchester during the pandemic.

"What we're fearful of is that people will turn up either at neutral grounds or at home grounds, and some of that could be particularly problematic," Hopkins said on Wednesday.

"We've all got to get to a position where we feel it can be done safely without jeopardising people's health and that has to be the starting point for people.

"The next point then is what provisions can the clubs put in place to prevent people coming, and obviously we can use legislation where it's applicable to stop that as well."

Hopkins said controlling crowds is not impossible but stopping them gathering in the first place should be the priority to protect people's health.

"I'm not saying from a policing perspective it would be impossible to police because clearly it wouldn't," he said.

"We police hundreds of thousands of people in normal circumstances at events right across Greater Manchester.

"But we are in very special and difficult times, and it remains a health issue so the thought of large groups



Greater Manchester's Police chief fears fans will gather outside stadiums (AFP Photo)

of people coming together and not practising social distancing is a difficult one." Hopkins pin-pointed Manchester City's home game against Premier

League leaders Liverpool at the Etihad Stadium as a potential flashpoint in the bid to keep fans from gathering in large groups. That match could even

see Liverpool end a 30-year wait to win a league title.

"Liverpool coming to Manchester City I have no doubt would attract

crowds whether they're allowed in the ground or not," Hopkins added.

"It needs very, very careful thinking through."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Vanessa Bryant files claim over crash-site photos

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18

Morogoro seeks to field more clubs in Premier League



Morogoro's Mawenzi Market FC players pose for picture prior to a kick of their game in this season's First Division League (FDL) at Jamhuri Stadium recently. Mtibwa Sugar are lately the region's only team which is taking part in the Mainland Premier League. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

By Correspondent Frank

Kaundula, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Football Association

(MRFA) leadership has said it is seeking to see to it more clubs from the region feature in the Mainland Premier League in the next few years.

Mtibwa Sugar, based in Mvomero District, is lately the only club from the region, which is featuring in the domestic top flight.

The MRFA Chairman, Paschal Kihanga, has, thus, disclosed the association is not happy with the development.

Kihanga, who is as well Morogoro Municipal Mayor, said Morogoro is a big region and one of popular parts of the

country.

He disclosed fielding only one club in the top flight thus does not reflect the region's standard.

"We are not happy with fielding only one club in the domestic flight, therefore, we will come up with a project which will see to it we have more than one club in the tournament," he stated.

Kihanga revealed Mtibwa Sugar are based in Manungu in Mvomero District but Morogoro Municipal has no club in the Premier League.

The situation, he pointed out, makes most of the area's soccer followers and the remaining

sports enthusiasts unhappy.

He stated Morogoro is among famous regions in variety of sectors in Tanzania, which include sports.

The MRFA leadership, he disclosed, needs to do all it can to see the region field many more outfits in the top tier of domestic soccer.

"Morogoro had several years back fielded many teams in the Premier League and they won fame, the soccer administrators in Morogoro therefore think there is no reason for us to field one side in the Premier League," he said.

Kihanga disclosed apart from Mseto turning out to be the club from outside Dar es Salaam to clinch the Premier League title, there were other clubs which include Nyota Africa and Reli, which were competent.

MRFA Competition Committee member, Hussein Ngulungu, stated proper supervision of the region's soccer centers is one of strategies for seeing to it the region reclaims its lost glory.

Ngulungu pointed out the regional soccer body is as well seeking to closely cooperate with people that are supervising junior sides to facilitate better

administration of the teams.

Ngulungu, the former Mseto, Pan Africa and senior national soccer team midfielder, disclosed the MRFA is determined to see to it all of Morogoro's municipals fields sides in the top tier of domestic soccer.

He stated the project will commence after the Coronavirus spread has been contained.

Ngulungu disclosed the Morogoro regional soccer leadership is optimistic the region will from the next season start fielding many clubs in the top tier of domestic soccer.

FRIDAY
EATV
FRIDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest Djs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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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 Friday Night Live

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Simba SC, Yanga foreign professionals should prove their worth, says Mayai

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

FORMER Yanga and senior national soccer team midfielder, Ally Mayai, has disclosed his former outfit and rivals, Simba, hardly tolerate foreign professionals, who can not live up to the sides' expectations.

Mayai, lately a famous soccer pundit domestically, said so when assessing Yanga's foreign professional, Ivorian Yikpe Ginamian, that has yet to prove his worth at the club.

The forward was recruited from Kenya's Gor Mahia in mini transfer period to replace DR Congo's Heritier Makambo who left Yanga for Guinea's AC Horoya.

Yikpe has not lived up to Yanga's expectations, as opposed to the side's Ghanaian midfielder, Bernard Morrison, who is one of Yanga's influential players.

Mayai pointed out the domestic football big guns can somehow give domestic players time to raise their standard.

"Simba and Yanga are largely results oriented sides, they normally want to win trophies and not promote players. Yikpe will therefore have difficulties nailing place in Yanga's lineup," he noted.

Mayai added impressive displays shown by Yanga's former foreign professionals, among others, Burundian Amissi Tambwe, give the squad's followers chance to ceaselessly criticize Yikpe and feel the forward hardly deserves to play for the club.

Some of Yanga members and supporters have for some time been showcasing their disapproval of Yikpe and they have called on the side's leadership to terminate the player's contract after the completion of this season's Vodacom Premier League.

Yikpe has registered only one goal in this season's Vodacom Premier League, netting a third in Yanga's 3-1 win over Singida United in Singida on January 22.

DR Congo's David Molinga and Rwandan Haruna Niyonzima drilled in the other two goals for Yanga in the duel.

Forward Six Mwasekaga scored Singida United's only goal, heading in an inviting cross whipped in by Athuman Iddi.

ZFF executive committee members in pursuit of president dismissal

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

SIX members of Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF) executive committee including the federation's vice president have written letter to registrar of sports associations in the Isles to express their vote of no confidence in the federation's president Seif Kombo Pandu.

The letter has stated the members' disapproval of a number of issues Pandu has put in place and the way the federation operates.

The members have, in the letter, revealed they are surprised the ZFF president had announced to hold a meeting which was attended by people that are not the committee's valid members.

One of the members that wrote the letter, who chose to be anonymous, noted Pandu has been breaching the federation's regulations.

"There are plenty of issues our top leader is putting in place without the approval of the executive committee. We have written



Zanzibar's Mlandege's forward (L) dribbles past Mafunzo defender in the Isles's recent Premier League clash that took place at Aman Stadium.

the letter to express our lack of confidence in

him," the member noted. He also stated they have

submitted copies of the letter to registrar of the Isles'

sports clubs and the ZFF president.

An officer from Zanzibar sports clubs' registrar's office, Mohamed Said Mwinyi, confirmed to have been presented with the letter.

Mwinyi noted they are working on the letter and they will thereafter issue final say.

He stated much as the office has received the letter, they maintain there must be peaceful discussion involving both parties before meeting the office.

"It is true we have got the complaints letter, we are working on it, but we must say these issues should not be presented to the media," he disclosed.

"ZFF has a constitution which stipulates how they can sort their conflicts out," Mwinyi noted.

He insisted Zanzibar sports clubs' registrar's office will work on the ZFF executive committee members' complaints and issue final say soon.

"I nevertheless must insist the sports issues, including conflicts, are brought to an end via discussions, they should not be brought to the media," he disclosed.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHAT A WOMAN WANTS IS NOT YOUR MONEY BUT YOUR SECURITY, AFFECTION, LOVE, ATTENTION, RESPECT AND YOU

WHICH MEANS MY S.A.L.A.R.Y?