



National Pg 3

Dogs 'great' for security purposes



National Pg 6

DIT students manufacture ventilator



National Pg 6

Hai combats unscrupulous traders



Covid-19: Kenya waives a breadth of restrictions

NAIROBI

KENYA'S President Uhuru Kenyatta (pictured) yesterday announced phased reopening of the country as the government moved to relax Covid-19 restrictions.

The president said cessation of movement into and out of the capital Nairobi, and Mombasa and Mandera counties would lapse on Tuesday 4am, allowing people to travel into and out of these counties. He, however, extended the nationwide 9pm-4am curfew for 30 days.

"By reopening Nairobi, Mombasa and Mandera, we are more at risk than we were when the restrictions were in place. We must, therefore, exercise cautious optimism, and avoid reckless abandon," said Kenyatta, who promised to have the orders reviewed should the virus spread widely.

"Should the situation deteriorate and pose a challenge to our health infrastructure, it shall be 'clawed back'."

In the next 21 days, the country will study patterns of interactions and the

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JPM confirms anti-drugs chief, dumps Meru OCD



Some of the people President John Magufuli recently appointed to various positions in the public service take the Ethics Oath at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. It was shortly after the president swore them in. Photo: State House

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday confirmed the Acting Commissioner General for the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA), James Kaji, to the position citing his exemplary performance.

The president made the remark in a swearing-in ceremony at the Chamwino State House for the recently appointed Tabora and Kigoma regional commissioners and the Simiyu Regional Administrative Secretary.

The president remarked on Kaji's stellar performance in the fight against illicit drugs, having recently conducted an operation in Meru District where people engaging in cannabis growing were arrested and their farms destroyed.

The president ordered the suspension and demotion of senior police officers in Meru District, Arusha Region, over failure to control marijuana cultivation.

Those to be reallocated include the Officer Commanding District (OCD), District Security Officer (DSO) and Officer Commanding Criminal Investigation (OCCID).

"The police officials do not deserve to be in office. They waited for the Commissioner General to go and destroy marijuana farms at their working area. I congratulate you and the

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



03/20/2020

FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

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

Police holding 32 over 2.8bn/- NMB cash run

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE in Dar es Salaam are holding 32 suspects including five guards with SGA Security in connection with the theft of 2.8bn/- belonging to NMB Bank.

Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander Lazaro Mambosasa told reporters in the city yesterday that the individuals are believed to have conspired and carried out the heist on the 8th of last month.

The cash in transit disappeared while being moved from NMB's Mbezi branch to the lender's headquarters in the central business district. The security guards

are suspected to have physically committed the offence while the others are believed to have taken part in the planning of it.

Narrating the incident, Mambosasa said on the fateful day, the guards were handed the cash at NMB Mbezi branch around 3pm with instruction to take the same to NMB House cash centre. With the said cash stuffed in an armored vehicle, the suspects left Mbezi but instead of going to the city centre, they disappeared into thin air, Mambosasa said.

"At 6pm, police learnt that the vehicle

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NCAA wants changes in village control laws

By Guardian Reporter, Ngorongoro

THE Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) has submitted a request to the Law Reform Commission seeking it relax tough rules to allow surrounding villagers undertake agricultural and

livestock-keeping activities within its precincts.

"We have put in place stringent laws to protect the Ngorongoro area. These laws should be reviewed since they are outdated and derail people's development," said NCAA Conservation Commissioner, Dr Freddy Manongi in a recent interview with this paper.

Dr Manongi said the aim is to create an environment that would also allow villagers to continue with their agricultural and livestock keeping activities.

"The laws prohibit villagers from cultivating in the area, but we all know that agriculture is the key to

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Magufuli confirms anti-drugs chief, dumps Meru OCD

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team for a job well done," the president intoned.

The suspended police officials failed to discharge their duties, he said, expressing dismay over the officers' laziness as it wasn't proper for them to wait for DCEA officials from the capital to conduct such operations.

"This is a clear indication that some of my appointees are not fulfilling their obligations. There must be a syndicate in the business because even the district and regional commissioners were not aware of the presence of cannabis farms," he stated.

He however commended some of his appointees including Tanga Regional Commissioner Martin Shigela saying they are doing a wonderful job.

The president said that he has carefully gone through all the curriculum vitae (CV) of the recently appointed leaders as well as tracking their performance reports.

"Simiyu Regional Administrative Secretary, Mariam Mbaga was working at PO-RALG (the Ministry of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government). She did well during the identification of ghost workers and those with forged academic certificates. It is for these reasons I have appointed you to help us in Simiyu Region," he said.

He similarly remarked that he had appointed two district executive directors in Mbeya Region due to their good performance in revenue collection. They surpassed the target by reaching 103 percent, so the president appointed one of them as Mbeya regional planning officer and the other as treasurer.

"The country faces a number of challenges. Let us work on them to improve the welfare of Tanzanians who have now reached 60 million. I am often annoyed when I find people complaining over issues that could

be solved by district or regional commissioners," said Dr Magufuli, citing Kigoma Region as facing various challenges including poor road networks.

The government has started to construct a 310 kilometer road from Kigoma to Nyakanazi, which will facilitate transport services between Tabora and Katavi regions.

He directed the newly appointed Kigoma RC Thobias Andengeny to work on the challenges facing Kigoma residents as well as supervising ongoing development projects.

Andengeny was formerly Commissioner General of the Fire and Rescue Force.

In January, he was fired alongside other government officials over a 1trn/- irregular firefighting equipment tender. He was recently pardoned.



This is a clear indication that some of my appointees are not fulfilling their obligations. There must be a syndicate in the business because even the district and regional commissioners were not aware of the presence of cannabis farms



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses a rally at Kibaoni in Mlele District, Rukwa Region, on Monday. Photo: PMO

NCAA wants changes in village control laws

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development," he said, noting that villagers are even required to seek permission from the conservation commissioner to build houses.

"These laws are anti-human development. We must change them to facilitate development as they also restrict villagers from building water wells."

He said currently there are many conflicts between NCAA and the villagers due to increased population

as well as lack of grazing land. He said the area had 8,000 people in 1959 but the number increased to 93,000 in 2017.

At that time NCAA covered an area measuring 8,992 hectares, now reduced to 8,100 hectares due to encroachment.

"There were 5,000 rhinos in 1972, but we remain with 100 rhinos. Previously, the large animals were scattered all over the conserved area, but they are now camping at some few areas," the

conservator elaborated.

Increased population size, limited grazing land and stringent laws cause conflicts between the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and surrounding villagers, he declared.

Dr Manongi recalled that in 2018 the Tourism and Natural Resources Minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangala formed a special committee tasked with proposing a better land use plan permitting villagers to continue with farming activities.

"The committee has completed its job. The report has been handed over to the minister before it is taken to the president," he stated.

However, traditional leaders at the area have complained of being sidelined by the committee.

Medukenya Nepukol said: "We were not given a chance to present our opinions on the matter. The prepared report which will later be presented to the president does not include residents' opinions."



Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police commander Lazaro Mambosasa (L) shows journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday 2.8bn/- he said was stolen from NMB Bank Plc by 32 people, some linked to a private security company. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Police holding 32 over 2.8bn/- NMB cash run

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that was used in cash transit had been abandoned at Mbagala Rangi Tatu area in Temeke District," he said.

Upon reaching the area, Mambosasa said, law enforcers realized that the guards had disappeared with 780m/- that was in one of the four safe boxes. Some 1.3bn/- were found intact in the

remaining three boxes.

The officers also found two shotguns and 17 rounds of ammunitions abandoned in the vehicle along with uniforms of the private security firm that the security guards were wearing.

"The guards have been arrested in Mbeya and Kigoma regions. They had already bought a power tiller tractor, a

motor cycle, a flat screen television and other houses hold items such as gas cooker, sofa sets, beds and mattresses with part of the money," he said.

After the arrest and interrogation of the guards, the web of conspirators widened, leading to the nabbing of a total of 32 suspects who are currently being questioned by law enforcers, he stated.

Mambosasa warned those that commit criminal acts in Dar es Salaam and hide upcountry thinking that they would be safe, saying the long arm of the law shall finally catch up with them be it in Tanzania or outside the country.

"There is no such thing as a perfect crime or safe hideout for criminals," he added.

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spread of the disease.

"With any trends that signal a worsening of the pandemic, we will have no choice but to return to the lockdown," the president said.

He cautioned that the country had not met minimum requirements to reopen the economy.

"According to experts and stakeholders, we have not met the irreducible minimum 100 per cent. However, consensus amongst them is that we have reached a reasonable level of preparedness across the country to allow us to reopen," the president asserted.

He also allowed reopening of places of worship, restricting them to one-hour services and no more than 100 people at a time. Places of worship will be required to strictly adhere to safety protocols in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Sunday Schools and Madrassas will, however, remain closed.

No congregants under 13 years or over 58 years should be allowed in places of worship, the president intoned. Those with underlying health conditions have also been cautioned against congregating to worship.

He asked Kenyans to continue adhering to Covid-19 safety measures to avoid spreading the disease.

"It is your duty and goodwill to defend and protect yourself and family and environment...Minimise unnecessary movements, delay upcountry travel, adhere to protocols," he specified.

He also urged citizens to minimise unnecessary contact with the elderly, children and those vulnerable to the virus.

The president further said that the Ministry of Education shall jointly with all stakeholders notify the public on the resumption of the 2020 Academic Calendar for basic education and

tertiary institutions, by Tuesday.

He also announced changes in transportation protocols, saying that public service vehicles moving in and out of areas which were previously under cessation of movement will require mandatory certification from the Ministry of Health in consultation with the Ministry of Transport.

Local flights will resume on July 15 in strict conformity with guidelines and protocols issued by the Health ministry.

"International air travel into and out of the territory of the Republic of Kenya shall resume effective 1st August, in strict conformity with all protocols from the Ministry of Health, local and international civil aviation authorities, and any additional requirements applicable at the ports of departure, arrival or transit," he declared.

However, politicians keen to carry out campaigns for 2022 were not so lucky. Restrictions on political gatherings and any other gathering were extended by another 30 days.

Further, the president extended the restriction on the reopening of bars as well as wedding and funeral attendance.

The ministries of Health and Trade are to establish protocols before the resumption of importation of second-hand clothes and shoes, he added.



It is your duty and goodwill to defend and protect yourself and family and environment... Minimise unnecessary movements, delay upcountry travel, adhere to protocols



Vodacom Tanzania Plc retail shops manager Vanessa Mlawi briefs journalists at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday on a major price discount offer the company has extended to customers on 'Smart Kitochi' handsets and various other items available at the firm's pavilion. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Pinda urges CCM aspirants in Manyara to avoid squabbling

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjoro



FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has called on Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) cadres in Manyara Region who announced their intentions to be nominated to contest as Members of Parliament to avoid fighting among themselves or create factions that may invite voters' wrath.

Pinda (pictured) issued the caution yesterday at a meeting of CCM leaders from grass roots to regional level in his capacity as the party's patron for Manyara Region.

In Simanjoro District Pinda succeeded to heal political wounds that cost the party for 18 years due to some leaders placing their personal interests foremost.

He said after the leaders had accused each other it would be better for them to do some soul searching and abandon

their personal interests, and instead work towards their people's interests who are the ultimate decision makers.

He called on all aspirants to enter the race knowing that whoever will be elected a counselor or MP will only be one among them, we should respect party's decision, they should support whoever will be nominated for the interest of the party and the people they swore to serve.

"In 2015 we saw a disorderly situation that were childish, we saw the voters of our presidential candidate

plummeting in Manyara Region, others believed Edward Lowassa would be president, now he has come back home to CCM hence I believe this time our presidential candidate will get 100 per cent of the votes," he said.

According to Pinda the problem of political chaos in Simanjoro is not within the people, but the party leaders, and if they will not bury their differences the top leadership will intervene to rescue the party.

"This year whoever will pass around to corrupt people will be doing so on his or her own peril but be certain you will be arrested for corruption; I hear that in this District (Simanjoro) there are already 10 aspirants for the parliamentary seat and they will go through the nomination process which will look into the relations with the people for each one of them," Pinda stressed.

Too many govt institutions collecting tax on farming inputs - stakeholders

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

AGRICULTURAL stakeholders in southern highlands regions have complained over multiple taxes on pesticides and other farm inputs, saying those levies thwarts development of the sector.

Speaking at a special one-week training seminar on the sustainable control of crops pests held in Mbeya city, the stakeholders, mostly farmers, pesticides dealers, extension officers and other stakeholders said there are so many institutions that collect taxes on pesticides and other agricultural inputs.

Kostalia Kiduko, one of the stakeholders said the levies charged by

various institutions of the government also enhance the prices of the inputs and become a burden to farmers.

He said among these tax collectors are the Tanzania Pesticide Research Institute (TPRI), (Occupation Safety and Health Authority (OSHA), Fire Brigade and rescue Services, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and every one of them needs money, hence inputs prices have to go up," he said.

Kiduko advised the government to join the institutions to remain with only one that will be tasked to collect government taxes without inconveniencing to dealers and creating a burden to farmers.

Another fertilizers dealer Julius Mwakitalu said the existence of so

many money collecting institutions create avenues for corruption.

TPRI director general Dr Margareth Mollel admitted having received the complaints over so many money collecting institutions but said the issue is beyond her authority.

He said the issue is a policy issue as all the institutions belong to the government established by law she therefore cannot do anything, but added that she will take up the issue to the minister responsible for action.

Speaking about the special training seminar TPRI officials called upon the stakeholders to abide by the directives they received to avoid any adverse effects from the pesticides.

By Guardian Reporter

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption (PCCB) in Mwanza Region is holding a Chinese man for allegedly bribing a local government leader.

Deputy head of PCCB in Mwanza Region, Daudi Ndyamukama said in a statement yesterday that Sheng Bing Lin (40) who runs a betting business is in custody after allegedly being caught giving 100,000/- to a Ward Executive Officer (WEO).

Ndyamukama said the Chinese nabbed while handing over the money to WEO of California in Nyegezi area whose name is withheld. He said the Chinese offered the money to the local government official as an inducement so that his betting machine that was being held by authorities could be released.

"The suspect's machine was impounded early last month for operating without a licence, operating

Mwanza-based businessman arrested for alleged bribery

outside the official time and allowing children below the age of 18 to bet," he said.

The PCCB official said instead of following legal means to regain possession of his machine, the foreigner resorted to shortcut by offering the WEO cash inducement contrary to section 15 (1) (b) Act number 11 of 2007.

The officer added that after being impounded by authorities at California area, the machine was kept at Nyegezi police station and the suspect received several invitations to avail himself and record a statement which he did not honour. Instead, he reached out to the WEO with a request to help him retrieve the machine promising to give him 100,000/-.

"We set the trap on June 2, 2020 and the suspect was arrested while handing over 100,000/- to the government official at a hotel located in Kurumba area within Mwanza city," the PCCB official said.

Ndyamukama added that Sheng is well known for running betting businesses within Mwanza city and even in towns and villages in the region.

He said the investigation was complete and the suspect was scheduled to appear in court yesterday.

Ndyamukama commended the WEO for reaching out to PCCB instead of pocketing the money as other corrupt officials would have done. He said for corruption busters and other law enforcers to succeed, cooperation from law-abiding citizens is crucial.

Well-trained dogs make a significant, rapid improvement in security - IGP

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro has advised Tanzanians to invest in trained dogs because they are better and safer than a gun or alarm system; they're trained to alert you of trouble and to discourage criminal activity; they are trained to disable the culprit if a stranger ventures onto your property (on their own as well as on command) and keep them there until law enforcement arrives; they are specifically trained to deal with break-ins and they are effective as stopping or discouraging crime; they give undulate affection; act as a wonderful family companion; they can go almost anywhere with you - banks, shopping centers and parking lots; they can do thorough property searches during a home invasion scare; they make your home, office or family feel much more safe and secure; they are professionally trained to calmly handle and assess the situation; and they can remain calm AND go into protection mode on command.

Speaking here at the weekend during the inauguration of a dog wash station at the Tanzania Police School, IGP Sirro said that use of trained security dogs has proved to be more helpful since the animals can pull off tasks that human can only dream of.

For instance, he said can detect intrusion better, run faster and easily reach areas than humans cannot.

"Trained security dogs are the real deal since they don't bargain or take bribes as humans do. They just do what they are trained to do - to provide security," he said, adding: "So my appeal to the Tanzanians is to use special trained dogs to curb crimes and criminals."

The top cop recommended that the government, private entities and individual citizens and residents consider this type of security and enjoy the benefits of non-compromising guard.

He added that apart from securing homes, offices and sensitive installations, trained dogs are very useful in identifying criminals' path, various types of concealed narcotics, government trophies, bombs and hand grenades among many others.

According to IGP Sirro, if such dogs are used effectively in the country, rates of crime at homes, storage facilities, farms as well as offices will definitely fall sharply and trigger faster development of our country.

The IGP advised people from Kilimanjaro and neighbouring regions such as Arusha and Manyara to use services provided by the new facility including washing and training of dogs.

He hailed TPS-Moshi for such innovative initiative that will help the school and communities surrounding it through its services but most importantly, improved security of people and property.

Commandant of the TPS-Moshi, SACP

Ramadhani Mungi said that the school will establish some other projects in collaboration with the community to enhance security and other areas of development.

He appealed to the government to continue providing the school more funds for the implementation of its various training programmes and development projects..

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY - LOSS REPORT 6 JULY 2020

MS SEA SALT LTD with the office at UBUNGO BUSINESS PARK wishes to inform the General Public LOSS of its

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY NO. 17346.

Whoever shall find or know about it should report to the nearest Police station or call on **022 2401454.**

Loss Report Number: **DAR/MSI/RB/501965/2020**

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ZANZIBAR

JOB VACANCIES

SOS Children's Villages Zanzibar is Local Non- Government Organization (NGO) affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International, a worldwide child care organization that work to protect and care for children who have lost parental care, or who stand at risk of losing it. Established 64 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International currently has Children's Villages and other projects in 135 countries around the world. Globally, it runs two major programmes i.e. Family Based Care based at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Programmes supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991, and runs Children's Villages and other projects in Tanzania, the organisation runs four Children's Villages in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Zanzibar and other programmes in Pemba, Iringa and Mufindi.

Job title	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
Duty station	SOS Children's Village Zanzibar
Reporting to	Program Director - Zanzibar

Position summary
The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer leads the design and implementation of a monitoring and evaluation framework in accordance with the organisation's policies, strategies, and available resources. He/She is responsible for data collection, analysis, and learning activities to help ensure accountability and efficiency from start to finish for all programs and projects. He/She will provide technical field support to the programs department. He/she will work closely with Programs teams to assess field conditions, support capacity building initiatives, and facilitate the collection of quality data. S/he may be assigned to focus on supporting one or more specific grants or projects within a program. Additionally, s/he will work with other members of the team, as need be, on grants writing and set up, follow up of program expenses and indicators, implementation of processes, standard operating procedures and any other tasks assigned by management.

COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING:

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will;

- Report directly to Program Director SOS CV Zanzibar
- Receive additional guidance and support from the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator - National Office.
- Work in close cooperation with other key support co-workers, including relevant financial and administrative, as well as program development staff.
- Represent the program, as well as the organisation, at internal and external fora.
- Support the program locations in the implementation of the program database (PDB) and also make sure that the quality of the information in the system is credible & reliable
- Support Fund Development and Communication Advisor, IPD Coordinator, and Programme Director in reviewing donor reports to ensure high quality reports are submitted on time for grant/program.
- Support Fund Development and Communication Advisor, IPD Coordinator, and Programme Director in establishing log frames, M&E work plans, and targets during the drafting of donor project proposals as well as throughout project implementation
- Review and analyse quarterly reports with the Fund Development and Communication Advisor, IPD Coordinator and Programme Director to identify the causes of potential bottlenecks in project implementation and to enhance quality of reporting.

TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Program Management Support
Support all M&E initiatives for assigned Program(s)/project(s) including monitoring data quality, tracking the progress of activities, and contributing to staff capacity building initiatives as necessary

System Development

- Creating a framework and procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of program activities.
- Support the programmes in defining and implementing the key project performance indicators (KPI) as well as monitoring them throughout the duration of the programmes/projects.
- Proposing strategies to increase data use and demand amongst program staff.
- Support program staff on ways to properly document, organize and capture program progress.
- Draft tools and their revisions as well as data collection procedures (eg. logical framework, project performance tracking, indicators, data flow chart, M&E manuals)
- Reviewing the performance of existing management information systems to help identify potential modifications or resources.

Data Management and Analysis

- Keep abreast of developments in programme changes and progress in order to advise and recommend tools and strategies to increase program performances and results.
- Suggest ways to facilitate data collection and the flow of data

within Programme field teams.

- Identify strengths and weaknesses in existing data collection and management systems and propose solutions.
- Perform regular field visits to ensure the quality of data collected by Programmes and to verify the accuracy of reported data.
- Analyze changes and patterns in KPI data and performance reports in order to support Programme staff.
- Support the programme to ensure that donor, partner, and Senior Management data queries are addressed in an accurate and timely manner.
- Support and participate in programme evaluations

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

Minimum Education
Bachelor degree in either Project Management, Statistics, Economics and/or Development studies;

Experience

- 3 years solid experience in M & E with a Non-Governmental Organization
- Experience in Strategic Planning with good background of reporting writing shared to donors, sponsors and other key stakeholders.

Competencies

- Strong communication skills (Fluent in written and spoken in English)
- Ability to present information in logical and convincing manner, ability to engage and negotiate, etc).
- Computer literacy especially competence in MS Excel and Statistical packages of database

Kazi	Mama Msaidizi wa SOS (5)
Kituo cha Kazi	SOS Children's Village Zanzibar
Anaripoti	Mratibu wa Malezi Mbadala

Majukumu ya kazi ya Mama Msaidizi.

- Kuhakikisha ustawi wa mtoto kupitia malezi
- Usimamizi stadi na nyumba yake na shughuli muhimu ndani ya nyumba
- Kuwajengea fursa watoto kuwa huru zaidi na kuwajibika.
- Kuwalinda watoto dhidi ya unyanyasaji wa aina yoyote
- Kuendeleza familia kwa upendo, ulinzi, uaminifu na usalama kwa watoto atakaokabidhiwa kwa muda wote.
- Kumjenga mtoto katika familia na kumsaidia kiafya, kimwili, kiajili, kijamii kiutamaduni na ustawi wa kiroho wa kila mtoto.
- Kuwajengea uwezo wa kujitegemea na watoto wanaowajibika kwa jamii husika

Sifa za Muombaji

- Awe na umri kati ya miaka 33 na 40.
- Awe na elimu si chini ya Sekondari
- Asiwe na majukumu makubwa ya kifamilia na asiwe na watoto wenye umri chini ya miaka 12
- Awe yuko tayari kuishi katika Kijiji cha SOS kama mama wa watoto wanaohitaji malezi.
- Uwezo wa kuongea kwa lugha ya Kiingereza ni sifa ya ziada.
- Kama hana cheti cha sekondari awe na cheti chochote cha malezi ya watoto au barua yoyote ambayo inamthibitisha kuwa amekuwa akijihusisha na malezi ya watoto wanaoafanana na hawa.
- Mama aliyemaliza kidato cha nne atapatiwa kipaumbele.

How to apply
If you are interested to be part of this dynamic team and become a change agent then send your CV and letter of motivation to

The Human Resources Department
SOS Children's Villages Zanzibar
P. O. Box 1923
Unguja, Zanzibar

All application should reach us on or before 16th July 2020.

SOS Children's Villages Zanzibar is an equal opportunity employer. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Dar International Trade Fair proves its worth as nerve-centre of business



Azienda Group Limited business consultant Hekala Sigalla (L) briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on the company's activities when the PM visited the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) pavilion at the ongoing 44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF). Looking on are NBC Bank managing director Theobald Sabi (2nd-R) and business director Elvis Ndunguru (3rd-R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Jumbe Ismail, a second year Information Technology student at Dar es Salaam's Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, demonstrates his innovation prowess at the DITF yesterday. Photo: Romana Mallya



Mwasu Sware (R), Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy's head of public relations, makes a briefing on the institution's historical publications to visitors at the DITF yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siame



Care about modern poultry keeping that could earn you a fortune? Visit the ongoing DITF, and these Livestock and Fisheries ministry officials will surely show you how to go about it. Correspondent Jumanne Juma caught up with them at the fair grounds yesterday.



Participants including Education, Science and Technology ministry permanent secretary Dr Leonard Akwilapo follow a Science, Technology and Innovation anniversary presentation at the DITF grounds yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Visitors buy clothes at the DITF yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



NMB Bank Plc's chief of wholesale banking, Alfred Shao (R), briefs visitors at the bank's DITF pavilion yesterday.



Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (2nd-L) checks an assortment of wines at the Industries and Trade pavilion at DITF. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Morogoro District in need of modern toilet facilities for students' comfort

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

PRIMARY and secondary schools in Morogoro District are facing a dire need of modern toilets to enable girl students to have privacy and to reduce absenteeism from classes.

This was availed yesterday by the Morogoro District Commissioner Bakari Msulwa at a function to launch a modern toilet facility built by Morogoro Municipal Council at Tubuyu Secondary School in Boma Ward specifically for girl students.

Speaking soon after receiving the facility the DC appealed to development stakeholders to continue supporting government's efforts in construction of modern toilets in the schools.

He said the development stakeholders have been the main pillar for the government after being satisfied with good financial management of funds on the projects being implemented.

He congratulated the just ended council members and the municipal director by coming up with the project and the supervision thereof saying the project should extend to other schools as well.

He called upon the Morogoro Municipal Council to continue allocating funds for the construction of modern toilets in schools.

He said the toilet problem is big one as there are too many students with few pit latrines hence more efforts are needed in collaboration with development stakeholders to support the government to alleviate the situation.

He also called on Tubuyu Secondary

School students to work hard in their lessons to attain success in examinations and in life.

The Morogoro Municipal Director Sheila Lukuba said various researches conducted showed that poor girl students' attendance in classes is attributed to use of poor toilet facilities.

The headmaster of Tubuyu Secondary School John Mniko said the school has a total of 409 students, 190 boys and 219 girls and the toilet built for girl students has 12 pits including one for those with disabilities at a cost of 35m/- from the municipal's internal funds.



He said the development stakeholders have been the main pillar for the government after being satisfied with good financial management of funds on the projects being implemented



Livestock and Fisheries ministry (Livestock) permanent secretary Prof Elisante ole Gabriel (R) exchanges greetings with his Fisheries counterpart, Dr Rashid Tamatama, at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday.

Rice farming in Z'bar doubles in five years

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

RICE production in Zanzibar has gone up from 581 tonnes in 2015 to 1,436 tonnes this year, according to Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) official, Grace Matima.

Matima revealed this at the weekend when speaking to farmers at Kibondemzungu and Mtwango rice

growing valleys in Zanzibar, adding that the achievement has been contributed by farmers' own efforts.

She said since the establishment, ASA has increased seeds production and added that it is pleased to achieve the set target.

She said both governments - Union and Zanzibar have been working together to ensure farmers get better

quality seeds that are beneficial to farmers to enhance their incomes.

"Production of quality seeds has increased, and rice imports has decreased by 19 percent, hence it is to our satisfaction that we have reached our target," Matima said.

She further said in regard to Zanzibar there has been a significant increase in the use of seeds - from

75 to 248 tonnes within three years beginning 2017.

The manager of Kilangali Seed Farm in Kilosa Aneth Molela said they are satisfied with the use of seeds in Zanzibar and added that they will continue erecting infrastructures with World Bank assistance that is hoped to further increase rice production and reduce imports thereof.



Daima Muhamed Mkalimoto, Director of Planning, Policy, and Research in the Constitutional and Legal Affairs ministry, speaks at a seminar for paralegal officers held in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

TAMWA trains parents and children affected by GBV on poultry keeping

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) has conducted training on poultry farming to parents and children affected by various forms of gender-based violence.

The training was meant to empower them economically whereas they were also provided with chicks.

Speaking during the training in ChakeChake, Fat-hiya Mussa Said, TAMWA Coordinator in Pemba, urged the beneficiaries to wisely use the opportunity to generate more income. She said the association will hand over the chicks to them after they complete construction of poultry houses.

"This endeavour is likely to improve your welfare, we will give you the chicks as soon as you complete construction of poultry houses," said the coordinator noting that the training will enable the women to generate income after going through various forms of GBV including female genital mutilation (FGM).

She said that TAMWA arrived to the decision after realising that most of the GBV cases were caused by conflicts at family level and poor parental care hence the need to empower women to properly take care of the children.

"These poultry projects will not

only keep them busy but they will also raise monies to meet their daily family demands," she said.

Fat-hiya said that most of the beneficiaries are from Wete District in Pemba Island.

The training facilitator, Omar Hamad Mjaka said the women have been equipped with modern chicken rearing skills.

"They will now conduct poultry activities in a modern way, most of the women were rearing chicken traditionally hence not reaping enough profit. With the acquired skills they will produce quality chickens that can fetch better prices in the market," said Mjaka.

Meanwhile, the project beneficiaries thanked TAMWA for the assistance promising to grow their businesses and to produce quality chickens.

They said the training received will change their life because most of them were previously not getting enough profit because they were rearing chicken traditionally. They said the monies generated will also be used to pay school fees.

The trainings are part of TAMWA's strategies to end GBV in the Isles. The project is sponsored by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

PWDs called upon to contest political posts

THE chairman of Tanzania Society for the Blind in Tabora Region Mariam Mathias has called upon women and other vulnerable groups to come up in big numbers to contest for elective positions as councillors and Members of Parliament in the coming General Elections.

The move is aimed at ensuring an appropriate representation ration of the special groups in the country's

political landscape.

She issued the appeal recently at the opening of a two-day seminar for people with disabilities during which she urged them to fully participate in social and political activities. She said that people with disabilities have every chance of doing well in elections.

She said many people think that

people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups may fail when given political posts, the thing that she said was not true.

"The problem stems from prejudicial thinking that has taken roots in the society that fails to acknowledge that all human beings are equal," she said.

She said Act No 9 of 2010 calls for

"the government and its institutions to accord equal treatment and justice to all citizens, males and females without discrimination based on colour, religion or whether one has disability or not."

She said the aim of the seminar was to build up a foundation for the participation of people with disabilities

and other vulnerable groups in the country's political activities.

The seminar coordinator, Bahati Sanga said the motive of the training was to enhance the understanding among political leaders, the government and the community in general on how to assist people with disabilities to implement

their constitutional rights in the participation of political activities.

He said the 1977 Tanzania Constitution stresses on equal rights whereas Article 13 forbids any form of discrimination including colour, race, gender and other situations including people with disabilities.

The seminar was sponsored by the Foundation for Civil Society and aimed to mobilise people in the vulnerable groups in Tabora Region to participate in political activities.

Government vows to ensure strict public expenditure to spur nation's development

By Guardian Reporter

THE government will continue imposing strict control of public expenditure to enable it implement its strategic projects including ports to spur the development of its citizens.

The vow was given by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the weekend when speaking to residents of Kasanga port after laying the cornerstone for the 4.7bn/- expansion of the Kasanga Port on Lake Tanganyika, in Kalambo District, Rukwa Region.

He said the challenge facing the transport of goods and passengers between Tanzania and Congo DRC will be past history after the construction of ports infrastructures on Lake Tanganyika including expansion work of Kasanga Port.

He said the expansion of the port will enable goods from Tanzania to neighbouring Congo DRC to arrive in time as they will be transported direct without passing through other countries as it is now.

"When this project is completed it will increase individual incomes as well as that of the nation. President John Magufuli has vowed to improve people's development nationwide including Kalambo District. The construction of these projects also provides employment opportunities to the people," said the Prime Minister.

He further said the fight against corruption still continues nationwide hence anyone found to be involved in corruption must be sought and arrested and stern steps taken against him/her.

He also reminded government officials to ensure when citizens go to them, they should be well received, listen to them and solve their problems without discrimination.

The Minister for Works, Transport and Communications Eng Isack Kamwelwe said Tanzania and Congo DRC are connected by Lake Tanganyika, the former main means

of transport for passengers and goods was road transport that had to pass via a third country.

Earlier, giving report on the project's development, the Ministry's Acting Permanent Secretary (Transport) Eng Thomas Ngulima said the project was mooted to spur competition in ports business on the southern shores of Lake Tanganyika.

He said it involves expansion to the present 20 metre berth to 120 metres that will enable up to six vessels to berth at one time, and added that other works include a passengers' lounge, restaurant and staff quarters.

He said the project is being constructed by Inter-Consult Limited and is 70 percent complete and is expected to be completed in September this year.

He also said the construction of the 107 km Sumbawanga-Kasanga road at tarmac level will increase transport of goods including cement, coal, limestone and soap.



When this project is completed it will increase individual incomes as well as that of the nation. President John Magufuli has vowed to improve people's development nationwide including Kalambo District. The construction of these projects also provides employment opportunities to the people



A resident of Kinondoni District in Dar es Salaam boils cassava, as found yesterday. Even modest support would likely have enabled her to conduct her activities in much better and safer hygienic conditions. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Hai authorities send away 'unscrupulous' traders

By Guardian Reporter, Hai

AUTHORITIES in Mkalama village in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region have chased away onion traders who buy the crop in over packed sacks known as Lumbesa from farmers.

The village chairman, Joseph Nzoma yesterday said they discovered that the traders, especially from a neighbouring country were buying onions in bags of 110 to 120 kg capacity instead of the normal 100 kg bags.

"It is true, from what we saw our farmers in Mkalama were being conned, we persuaded them not to sell the crop in over-packed bags. However, we have imposed a hefty 5,000/- fine per bag to anyone who will violate the procedure," Nzoma said.

Through such fraud, some farmers who talked to this paper at different times explained that there was a need for the government to direct Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) to speak to manufacturers and distributors of crops bags to come

up with only one type of bag for all crops.

Athumani Chacharika, an onion farmer said the correct bag capacity that does not defraud farmers is the one of 100 kg bags.

"If we had one type of bag of equal weight capacity, I believe the 'lumbesa' bags for onions would disappear," he said.

Angelah Mzava, a trader said: "We ask the government, if possible to come up with bags of equal weight capacity and the bags should indicate

the names of the manufacturers thereof. There are some traders who go to factories to order bags according to their own specifications, which defraud not only farmers, but also the government through the levy it collects."

Responding to farmers' complaints from local traders and farmers, Masama Divisional Secretary Nsajigwa Ndagile said he will convey their complaints to the Hai district Commissioner Ole Sabaya for further action.



Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology student Innocent Douglas (L) shows a ventilator he said he had innovated jointly with a colleague student, Aiche Rodgers (R, standing). This was at the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Henry Mwangonde

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

LEGAL aid institutions have been called upon to make sure they do not involve themselves in politics including campaigning for candidates in the coming general elections.

The caution was given yesterday in Tabora Region by the deputy

Legal aid providers banned from engaging in poll campaigns

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Amon Anastizi Mpanju when launching Tabora Regional Legal Aid Coordinating Committee.

He said legal aid providers and other legal aid practitioners who were duly registered are not supposed to use the service door for political campaigns.

"We are in the period towards

political campaigns, the 11 registered legal aid institutions should not engage in political campaigning," he said.

He called upon leaders of Tabora

Regional Legal Aid Coordinating Committee to ensure it takes steps against all those who will go against this requirement including revocation of their registration.

He also called upon committee members to ensure that gay issues should not find their way into the region as it is against the law as well as Tanzania's customs.

DIT students manufacture ventilator to help save lives

By Henry Mwangonde

STUDENTS at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) have manufactured a ventilator to be used in hospitals to help save lives of people with breathing complications especially those affected with Coronavirus.

The machine which is now being showcased at the ongoing 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) has taken the students two months to complete.

One of the students at the centre of the innovation initiative, Innocent Douglas who is a first year Medical Engineering student told 'The Guardian' that the idea to manufacture such a machine came following the outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic as well as supporting efforts to control it.

"This is mainly meant for rural hospitals and health centres, so we expect that through this kind of marketing most of hospitals will see the importance of having this machine, lucky enough it is at their disposal," he said.

He added that the aim of the idea was also to design and develop an affordable mechanical ventilator suitable for local environments and power limitations.

The machine has a list of specifications including a tidal volume, filters, monitors and alarms, expiratory valve and pressure sensor among others.

Speaking on the matter, the Principal Public Relations Officer for the institute Amani Kakana said the education provided by DIT was aimed at solving

societal problems.

"Since the outbreak of Coronavirus we saw this as an opportunity for the institute to weigh in and here we go," he said.

He said the institute has already started consultations with various health facilities for the possible use of the ventilators saying most of them have shown interest.

Data shows the country has few ventilators which are not sufficient to cater for all the hospitals nationwide.

The government has announced Covid-19 cases has decreased in the country, but has urged citizens to continue taking precautionary measures.



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Over 3,000 smallholder farmers benefiting from training aimed to ensure they earn higher income

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

OVER 30,000 small-scale farmers in southern highlands regions have benefited from modern farming and marketing skills, thanks to the initiatives made by the Tanzania Association of Professional Business Development Services (TAPBDS).

TAPBDS director, Joseph Migunda told reporters here that the association was founded 10 years ago with more than six young men studying at various universities in the country.

"Our goal is to partner with the government, local and various stakeholders to increase the knowledge and skills of farmers and traders in southern highlands to increase crop production," he said.

Migunda said that through their business advisory service to those entrepreneurial groups, they are offering practical training that helps grow and protect their capital and profits.

He mentioned other services that they provide including market information for them to produce so that they can produce products based on market demand.

"Many entrepreneurs lack information; have been producing or importing products without having actual market information. Many have found themselves producing less or more than demand and sometimes with poor quality," he said.

Migunda said their association also provides services that enable farmers and businesses to meet with various lending institutions to promote their

capital in their operations including exploration and access to markets and to facilitate their business.

He said they have decided to open an office in Iringa to serve farmers and traders in the southern highland regions of Iringa, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Njombe, Rukwa and Katavi after demand for these services increased.

"We are aware of how agricultural and business activities are expanding in those regions. Instead of these stakeholders pursuing us in Dar es Salaam, we have decided to move our services closer and have decided to open our branch in Iringa to make it easier to reach them," he said.

He said over the past 10 years of the life of their organisation, they have reached more than 30,000 farmers and traders in the regions and there are testimonies showing how many of them are growing in their operations.

"Counseling costs are provided through a variety of funding, projects and programme partners and farmers. We also work with the individual farmers or traders and their associations on a pleasant-sounding agreement," he said.

"We are aware of how agricultural and business activities are expanding in those regions. Instead of these stakeholders pursuing us in Dar es Salaam, we have decided to move our services closer and have decided to open our branch in Iringa to make it easier to reach them"



Margaret Mussai, acting vocational training director in the Education, Science and Technology ministry, addresses participants of a seminar on distance teaching methodology in folk development colleges held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is Karibu Tanzania Organisation director Maggid Mjengwa. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Fish project to kick-start in October - PS

By Guardian Reporter

THE Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Rashid Tamatamah has revealed during the weekend that fish fingerlings project will start in October, this year.

He said the project is to be managed by South-West Indian Ocean Fisheries (SWIOFish), which is aimed at satisfying the domestic fish market to

spur industrial development.

Tamatamah said this in Dar es Salaam when he visited the ongoing 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) at Mwalimu Nyerere Fair Grounds.

"The project will assist to strengthen the industrial and fishing sectors and provide education to students who will have the opportunity in practical training," Tamatamah said.

He said the process for the

construction of the laboratory for the SWIOFish Project at Kunduchi Dar es Salaam has begun in collaboration with the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and after three months the work will start incorporating modern technology.

He also said in this year's DITF they will provide a challenge to fishermen to provide training in fishing for food.

SWIOFish is a regional project

implemented in three countries - Tanzania, Mozambique and Comoros and in its first six-year phase it begun on June 22 2015 under sponsorship of the World Bank at a cost of USD 36 million.

The project's main players are the ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Tanzania Mainland), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (Zanzibar) and the Deep Water Fisheries Authority.



Chamwino district commissioner Vumilia Nyamoga (3rd-R) receives personal protection equipment worth 7.4m/- from a representative of Tanzanians living in US, Captain Amos Lwiza (L), at a ceremony held at a Chamwino health centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TOSCI to develop seed certification standards for sugarcane in Tanzania

THE Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) is working to develop seed certification standards for sugarcane with an eye to enable the vital economic crop to be regulated in the country.

Statistics depicts that Tanzania is annually using billions of money to import planting materials (seeds) for key cash crops, including sugar cane, maize, wheat, and crude oil.

TOSCI Director General, Patrick Ngweddiagi, expressed that the institute was continuing providing advisory and regulatory services to ensure seeds are properly regulated through a certification process as per the Seed Act No. 18 of 2003 and its Regulations of 2007 with their amendments of 2014 and 2017 respectively.

He briefed that local seed production for sugarcane now stands at 7 percent, a situation which calls for major improvements.

Sugarcane is one of the important food and commercial crops of Tanzania

with its production concentrated mainly in three regions of Morogoro, Kagera and Kilimanjaro.

As of 2019, Tanzania's sugar demand had increased by over 16 percent from 610,000 tonnes from 2018 to 710,000, an increase which among others has been attributed by exponential growth in the number of new industries that use the sweetener.

Among the operating sugar manufacturers in Tanzania include Kilombero Sugar Company Limited, Tanganyika Planting Company Limited, Kagera Sugar Limited, Mtibwa Sugar Estates Limited, Mkulazi Holding Company Limited and Bakhresa Sugar Limited.

In 2019, Tanzania's sugar production was 359,219.25, whereby as part of efforts to fuel performance of the vital sector, the government had decided to

adopt a strategy to establish new sugar industries including Bagamoyo Sugar Limited that will start producing at least 35,000 tonnes by 2022.

Moreover, in a similar effort to elevate the sectors' performance the government, through the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), is researching on the best sugarcane seeds that will be able to sustain different climatic conditions.

The move aims at helping sugarcane farmers, who for years have been facing challenges in planting sugarcane seeds that are able to survive difficult climatic conditions.

According to Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga TARI is doing everything in its capacity to resolve the challenge.

Minister Hasunga said the demand for the sugar was high in the country

compared to production capacity among local industries.

"My office will continue to pair-up with various stakeholders to ensure significant improvements in the sector," he said.

TARI Director General, Dr Godfrey Mkamillo, said that over the past five years, the government, through his institute, produced five new varieties of sugarcane- N30, N41, R 570, R 575 and R 579 that have been certified for irrigation.

He stated that the said varieties give more yields compared to traditional seeds, detailed that the new varieties produce up to 160 tonnes of sugarcane per hectare.

He added that the institution was also producing four drought-tolerant varieties such as TZ93-KA-120, TZ93-KA-122, N47 and R570.

Three African firms back IITA's cassava programme

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has pledged support to the newly launched Building an Economically Sustainable and Integrated Cassava Seed System, phase 2, (BASICS-II) project of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

Speaking at the project's launch over the weekend, the Director, Department of Agriculture and Agro-Industry of the AfDB, Dr Martin Fregene, stated that the development bank, through its flagship project, Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), was excited to be part of BASICS-II "to ensure the best varieties are put in the hands of farmers as soon as possible".

The project which was launched at the IITA headquarters in Ibadan, with key participants, including Dr Fregene attending virtually via Zoom, is aimed at creating "a more efficient dissemination of cassava stems that would trigger the adoption of new varieties to improve productivity; raise incomes of cassava growers and seed entrepreneurs; enhance gender equity, and contribute to inclusive agricultural transformation in Nigeria and Tanzania."

Implementing partners include (Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA); Catholic Relief Services; IITA GoSeed; Umudike Seed; Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI); SAHEL Consulting; Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), and the National Root Crops Research Institute in Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria.

BASICS-II will also work with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND Foundation). While PIND pledged to be the project's sustainability platform in the Niger Delta of Nigeria; AGRA will help the project's replication in other states in Nigeria as well as other African countries.

In Dr Fregene's words, BASICS-II "will not only raise the productivity of African and Nigerian and Tanzanian farmers, but it will improve productivity along the value chain and make cassava to be a good business for anyone to invest in".

He urged the project managers to maximise public private partnerships to achieve maximum success and impact.

In his own remarks, the Executive Director of PIND, Dr Dara Akala, stressed that the foundation would help BASICS-II outlive its duration in the Niger Delta.

His words: "Everything we do in PIND is centered around partnerships and partnerships is at the core of what we have achieved in the Niger Delta. Our collaboration with NRCRI Umudike towards the end of BASICS-I led to the pool of Village Seed Entrepreneurs in the Niger Delta.

"So, we are committed to partnering with BASICS-II to consolidate and scale up the results of those initial efforts made in BASICS-I."

He maintained that PIND's partnership with BASICS-II would broker an economically sustainable and commercially viable seed system in the Niger Delta.

"PIND being an institution and not a programme that will end in five years' time, we are here in the Niger Delta region to sustain the results of BASICS-II as we served as the exit strategy for BASICS," he added.

The first phase of the project, BASICS-I, which lasted between 2015 and 2020, facilitated the development of more than 160 commercial seed entrepreneurs in Nigeria. These seed entrepreneurs are now growing cassava with the primary aim of producing and selling stems—an activity that is generating income and creating wealth in cassava growing communities.

PIND being an institution and not a programme that will end in five years' time, we are here in the Niger Delta region to sustain the results of BASICS-II as we served as the exit strategy for BASICS

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

Replacing 33-year land leases with 99-year titles will boost investment

ALL sorts of land occupants around the country need to visit newly established regional lands offices to have their title deeds enhanced to 99 year leases. This is the position expressed by the minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development at the weekend when opening the Mara regional lands office. The ministry has so far put up 12 such offices and will in a few months complete the exercise countrywide.

The title or leasehold improvement exercise refers to land occupancy rights for approved, surveyed plots in which case they don't fall under the customary law ambit. In the latter case one has inherited land which hasn't been mapped. In many cases surveyed plots are close to expanding urban areas where municipal or town authorities compensate original owners for them to leave. In that case the customary land holding regime withers on its own, and land bought by migrants in the traditional format is soon surveyed, given titles; now the lease span on government land (the rightful owner of land) is being prolonged for everyone, not just those with investor permits whose land occupancy was accorded privileges.

Moving from title deeds reflecting 33-year occupancy rights is not just a matter of amending such titles but is potentially a completely new situation. There is all the same a margin of difference between the 99 year lease and private ownership of land. It is going to be felt by some categories of foreign investors in particular, while largely facilitating local investments, as here this expression of occupancy right largely suffices.

Initial reports said that about 50,000 land occupants in Mara Region had not followed up their title deeds, those tied to original 33 years entitlement. Memory has it that the idea of

prolonging the title deed period was mooted to apply for the new capital as shifting government offices there was hotting up in 2018 in particular. But the doing business 'blueprint' that the government is committed to implement envisages that local people find it easier to obtain bank loans with land as collateral.

Banks can't issue large loan amounts and later collect collateral whose periodicity is minimal as investors for instance putting up buildings don't expect return too soon save in exceptionally profitable areas like central business districts. Even then a change occurred with the ratio of government expenditure given to bureaucratic socializing was cut down significantly, in which case lots of goods and services they were routinely using lost plenty of their value, including the land on which real estate is based, like hotel, apartment blocks, undeveloped plots etc.

While this shift shall ease access to loans by those holding land, lending will not reach optimal levels without business being reasonably brisk, and thus the potential for repaying the loan. Banks seek collateral only as last resort, unlike street money lenders who trade in real estate or can acquire such properties for years to trade for instance when land prices are higher, unlike at present.

Still it must be said that the Ministry of Lands has done the part of business environment uplifting that falls to it, as other matters belong elsewhere. Only when these reforms are coordinated and synergetic can they be expected to bring about the desired outcome, of boosting local and foreign investments. Those who hold significant chunks of land can invite foreign partners now that their lease shifts to 99 years without having to apply for renewal, as that would prejudice foreign partnerships.

Economic growth most powerful instrument for reducing poverty

A partnership is an arrangement where parties, known as business partners, agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests. The partners in a partnership may be individuals, businesses, interest-based organisations, schools, governments or combinations. Organisations may partner to increase the likelihood of each achieving their mission and to amplify their reach. A partnership may result in issuing and holding equity or may be only governed by a contract.

Partnerships have a long history; they were already in use in Medieval times in Europe and in the Middle East. According to a 2006 article, the first partnership was implemented in 1383 by Francesco di Marco Datini, a merchant of Prato and Florence. The Covoni company (1336-40) and the Del Buono-Bencivenni company (1336-40) have also been referred to as early partnerships, but they were not formal partnerships.

In Europe, the partnerships contributed to the Commercial Revolution which started in the 13th century. In the 15th century the cities of the Hanseatic League, would mutually strengthen each other; a ship from Hamburg to Danzig would not only carry its own cargo but was also commissioned to transport freight for other members of the league. This practice not only saved time and money, but also constituted a first step toward partnership. This capacity to join forces in reciprocal services became a distinctive feature, and a long lasting success factor, of the Hanseatic team spirit.

Tanzania has been shortlisted in the 2020 installment of the prestigious 'World Trade Promotion Organisation Award.' Official statement from the International Trade Centre (ITC) revealed here that 18 national trade promotion organisations have been

shortlisted for the 2020 World Trade Promotion Organisation (WTPO) Awards with Tanzania listed among the seven countries that stood up in the 'Best Use of Partnership,' category.

The shortlisted organisations are competing in three categories, including the 'Best use of a partnership,' in which Colombia, Egypt, Sweden, the Netherlands, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe and the United Republic of Tanzania have been slotted.

There is also the 'Best use of information technology,' where Brazil, China, Georgia, Malaysia, Portugal and the United Arab Emirates topped the bill, while for the 'Best initiative for inclusive and sustainable trade,' it was Austria, Costa Rica, Lithuania, Saint Lucia and Spain that got listed up.

The winners will be announced at the 13th WTPO Conference in to be held in Accra, Ghana, on the 14th of October, this year.

The WTPO Awards 2020 received 60 applications, the highest number since the awards were created in 2004. A jury of peers selected the shortlist. The jury is comprised of the 2018 award winners, and is chaired by ITC Executive Director Dorothy Tembo.

The competition, open to all national trade promotion organizations, recognizes excellence in trade support services. They celebrate organizations that excel in innovative, effective export development initiatives. The organizations must show that they help micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to become competitive in international markets.

Entrants were asked to demonstrate innovation and boldness for each of the three categories. The first category demonstrates strong service delivery through key partnerships; the second focuses on efficiency through new technologies; and the third showcases solutions that contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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We condemn all police brutality except our own!



By Ayodeji Rotinwa

MY Fellow Africans, It is my greatest privilege to announce to you that against all odds, and even while a pandemic threatened to distract us, we, the African Union, have achieved a great milestone. We have successfully eradicated police brutality on the African continent. In the spirit of solidarity, we are exporting this achievement to the rest of the world. It is why we released a statement condemning police brutality on peoples of African descent and the murder of George Floyd in the USA. Police Brutality somewhere is Police Brutality everywhere.

We are deathly serious about our campaign. We, the African Union leadership, have tabled the matter before the United Nations Human Rights Council. We are insistent that the USA, allegedly the greatest country in the world, a statistic though unproven by academic examination, must live up to its title.

When we are done with our North American campaign, we will extend our campaign to other contentious countries in Europe, South America,

Oceania, Asia. We will not be including China because not only is it rude to criticise your benefactors, it has been proven beyond reasonable doubt that there is no state-sanctioned brutality against Africans there.

Of course, for such a radical cause, we expected critics. They say we have not equally condemned police brutality and other examples of state approved violence meted out on African citizens. This is a smear counter-campaign. We have not been silent. We have been preoccupied! Sending electoral observers to oversee elections that eventually have dubious outcomes or maintaining the bug cables in the African Union building to ensure clear transmission back to China is really tedious work.

Yet the critics are relentless, attacking us on every side.

In Nigeria, they say the police there is being increasingly weaponised for violence on women or against victims of sexual assault. They cite a recent case when D'banj, a Nigerian celebrity, is alleged to have used the police to intimidate and silence the woman that accused him of rape. She was taken from her home, under false pretences, locked in a cell. In another instance,

a CCTV camera captured a legislator assaulting a female shop attendant in full view of a policeman. But critics should understand: a man's reputation is a constitutionally protected, culturally and socially enforced, rights-holding phenomenon. We Africans have always had this understanding. Imagine the police arresting the men. It would incite riots, crises, breakdown of law and order. We cannot have that.

These are not cases of #PoliceBrutality.

In Ghana, critics tell us police officers violently dispersed a protest in support of #BlackLivesMatter and arrested the leader of the movement. It would seem at first that the protest actually is in line with the official government stance which, echoing our campaign, condemned the murder of #GeorgeFloyd and asked African-Americans in a not-so-veiled, expertly worked tourism-promoting move to "come home". But the protesters overstepped.

Resistance should always be conducted in collaboration with the government. They should have, for instance, worn Kente like American Democrats, attended the President's address, nodding and clapping politely,

instead of chanting and disturbing the peace.

This was not a case of #PoliceBrutality.

In South Africa, there have been reports of generous police presence in low-income areas ensuring COVID-19 lockdown protocol is observed. As of June 1, 230,000 people have been jailed and ten South Africans have unfortunately been killed. Critics are claiming police are targeting the poor and being excessive and abusive. This is an unfair characterisation. The loss of life is deeply regrettable but in the painstaking work of protecting the elite, white fragility, gated estates, golf courses, country clubs, no effort can be spared by the government.

Upon deep reflection and investigation, it is clear to us that the critics are wrong and we are right. We have eradicated Police Brutality on the continent and we will continue in our mission to extinguish it elsewhere. For those who have sprung to our defence, saying the African Union has a right to condemn police violence elsewhere, even while police violence (allegedly) exists on the continent, we appreciate the effort, thanks but no thanks.

As we have said, there are no (longer) cases of police brutality.

Milk sub-sector in processor utilisation, under-consumption vicious cycle

By Correspondent James Kandoya

RHEMA Mmali, a milk processor at Shambani Milk Ltd in Morogoro region says that increased investment in milk processing is essential to adding value to the product, as 90 percent of the product that goes unprocessed. This causes losses of billions of shillings in farmers' income and uncollected government revenues.

She says low investment in the sub sector anchors its low productivity and poor distribution, hence minimal consumption of milk countrywide.

Tanzania is now ranked second in Africa in cattle numbers after Ethiopia with 32.5m cattle but consumption of milk stands at 49 litres per person, lower than the 200 litres recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The government needs to create a propitious environment where most of the produce shall be processed and properly distributed, she says.

Without investing fully in the milk value chain like importing good breeds it will not be easy for livestock keepers and processors to increase productivity.

"We call on the government to set good infrastructure that among others enables processors to enhance the value of their products at reasonable costs," she says.

Opportunities in the dairy sector are still underutilized, thus its productivity remains a major challenge, limiting potential growth particularly for smallholders.

The sector only contributes 30 per cent of domestic consump-

tion in the livestock sector and stands at about 76 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

With only 2.7 percent of raw milk being processed, sufficient demand could be created through the substitution of raw milk for processed milk alone, stakeholders assert.

Doreen Maro, the Tanzania Milk Producers Association (TAMPRODA) chairperson states that milk productivity needs good feeds, management and good breeds. Without good breeds it is not possible to increase milk production using indigenous cattle yield, she emphasises.

"The government must import good breeds and distribute them in all regions based on livestock keeping, to transform the subsector so as to contribute more to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In her view, unprocessed milk and unregulated consumption is dangerous to people's health and fuels tax evasion.

Victor Masueto, a livestock keeper residing in Chanika on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam, also believes that the government must come up with measures to ensure produced milk is collected in appointed centres.

Health and nutrition officers advise that produced milk should not be sold directly to the consumers without being collected and processed in such centres.

"Milk processors must improve utilization and uplift profitability, which in turn can improve producer beneficiation," she suggests.

A study titled "Sector Analysis: Price, Cost, Revenue, Profitability and Human Capital chains in Tanzania's Dairy Sector" maps out probable beneficiation for unprocessed and processed milk – identifying costs, revenues and



margins along the value chain.

The study supported by the Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF) in collaboration with TrustAfrica, and funded by Darberg further aimed at sharing findings and provide an opportunity for stakeholders to critically appraise the policy environment and investment situation in the livestock sector.

Steven Michael, the private sector desk coordinator at the Min-

istry of Livestock and Fisheries, said the study seeks to understand beneficiation across the dairy value chain and identify opportunities to strengthen the sector.

While Tanzania has competitive advantage of a large livestock sector, opportunities within the dairy sector are vastly underutilized, he stated.

"Productivity remains the biggest challenge in the sector limiting potential growth, particularly for smallholders. As a result the value chain faces pressures of producer productivity and also consumption as it is insufficient, pressuring processors and enabling informal sector predominance," he pointed out.

Tanzania's dairy sector comprises primarily small-scale producers producing low volumes of milk for domestic consumption.

The dairy value chain is semi-structured, with most milk sold in Tanzania marketed informally in villages, with few aggregators and processors.

Also, weak consumption plus insufficient raw milk input supply leads to poor

processor utilization, driving down profitability.

"Despite low prices, unprocessed milk retailers have higher margins due to limited transport and storage cost," the coordinator noted.

Policy and programmatic interventions can drive sector growth and improve beneficiation, he says.

"It is necessary to invest in addressing value chain inefficiencies - incentivizing processors to invest back into the value chain, while promoting ancillary service investments," he explained.

"Strong demand should be viable, but to strengthen the sector and drive processor utilization interventions are needed to unlock demand potential," he specified.

Currently, milk consumption is below WHO recommendation of 200 litres per capita and regional average of 74 litres per capita.

Even if domestic demand was saturated, improved efficiency could unlock export markets, like in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malawi and Mozambique, to further grow processor utilization.

However, driving sufficient demand in Tanzania will require intervention to address today's low levels of consumption and prevalence of unprocessed milk sales. However, national consumption of milk is low relative to neighbors and WHO guidelines, while informal sales capture a significant share of the demand.

Unlike neighboring East African countries, Tanzania does not have a milk-drinking culture. Current consumption is 49 litres per capita while Uganda has 53 litres and Kenya 120 litres, all below the WHO recommendation of 200 litres per annum.

Processors have been taking steps to drive demand including promoting school milk-drinking programs, but utilization is still low. Changes in the seasonal supply of milk drives variation in demand for milk, experts affirm.

Besides that, low demand is a significant binding constraint across the value chain - uncertainty about demand for additional product disincentives processors from improving utilization.

Increasing productivity of milk products is also constrained by a number of challenges such as quality inputs, as breeds and feeds are expensive for most small-scale dairy farmers. Quality input providers are spaced out, far between one another, which drives up costs for farmers.

Most small-scale farmers mix their own feeds which often results in poor compound feeds due to a lack of understanding of ratios. Even when improved breeds and feeds are available, animal husbandry practices are not sufficient, he points out. Nearly 20 percent of ingredients into inputs are currently imported, which drives up costs, adding to logistic costs and cost of finance, that is, trade finance between orders being paid for and goods being delivered.

There is nothing contrived about the coronavirus disease death toll

By Robert Roy Britt

PEOPLE who believe that Covid-19 is not a big deal and is something we should just live with, like the flu, argue that the death toll is inflated because many of those who have died were old or had underlying medical conditions and would have died soon anyway.

Experts say the argument is not only morally reprehensible but also scientifically flawed. If a person has a medical condition that puts him or her at greater risk of complications from Covid-19, and they catch the disease and die, epidemiologists say that person's death certificate should list Covid-19 as the cause of death.

"People with underlying conditions such as diabetes & high blood pressure who died with Covid also died of Covid because they wouldn't have died at that point in time without Covid," Nisreen Alwan, associate professor in public health at the University of Southampton in England, said on Twitter.

One way Alwan and other epidemiologists measure the causes, trends and outcomes of a disease is to consider a "counterfactual" scenario. In this case: would these people have died if Covid-19 didn't exist?

Researchers at the University of Glasgow in Scotland answered that question with a resounding "not yet". In a study that has yet to be peer-reviewed, the researchers compared the ages of Covid-19 victims to standard measures of life expectancy, while also accounting for their underlying health conditions. The average Covid-19 death subtracted 13 years of life from women and 11 from men.

"If somebody has been living with heart disease and diabetes and they have Covid-19 in their system... I would suggest that, yes, they died of SARS-CoV-2, of Covid-19 disease," says Michael Mina, assistant professor of epidemiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, adding: "However, it was probably exacerbated by underlying conditions."

'Reprehensible' thinking

While Covid-19 has killed people in all age groups, it is indeed more dangerous for people over age 65 and for anyone with heart disease, diabetes or obesity. But the idea that people in any of these



groups "would have died anyway" is morally offensive to the people dealing with the pandemic daily.

"Frankly, that says that there is an acceptable number of people to lose, which I don't agree with," says Saskia Popescu, an adjunct professor of public health at the University of Arizona and an epidemiologist.

She says that she was exhausted after spending "an overwhelming amount of time reporting new Covid-19 cases to the local health department and reviewing them for employee exposures/contact tracing."

Incidentally, Arizona is one of several states where new cases are spiking and hospitals are filling up, in advance of what health experts say will be an inevitable resurgence in deaths.

"People live a long time now, so saying that it's no big deal that somebody died because they were 70 or 75 is reprehensible, because they might have lived until 95 and helped raise grandchildren and contributed a lot to society," says Sharona Hoffman,

a professor of law and bioethics at Case Western Reserve University.

The "would have died anyway" argument is often espoused by the same people who think that Covid-19 is not as serious as health officials say it is or that it's an outright hoax.

Those myths have been fed by claims from US President Donald Trump that the coronavirus originated in a lab in China and by efforts to downplay the disease by Trump, some state governors, and conservative media. Social media outlets have only amplified the false claims.

What's more, an individual's belief that Covid-19 is "not that bad" can be compounded by a lack of firsthand experience. "People who don't know anyone who got it or who don't know that anyone who suffered severely because of it are not going to take it as seriously as people who have personal experience with severe cases of the disease," Hoffman says.

"It's easy to pick and choose and believe what

you want," she says, referring to confirmation bias, a well-known phenomenon in which people - all of us, in fact - readily take in new information that confirms our preconceived notions and ignore anything that goes against our views.

Politically charged counting complexities

Some people, including President Trump and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, have meanwhile questioned the death toll from the coronavirus - and there had been concerns over doctors improperly categorising too many deaths as Covid-19, owing to either lack of concrete information in a case or outright fraud in order to get additional Medicare payments.

To be sure, the volume of deaths has strained states' reporting systems, and different states use different methods. Doctors and hospitals have been overloaded.

Testing for the coronavirus has been incomplete, so sometimes hospitals don't have all the details

they need on a case. Some people die of Covid-19 without ever even going to a hospital.

But any miscounts involve "a tiny percentage of cases," Hoffman says, adding: "Even though hospitals are paid more by Medicare for Covid-19 cases, there's no evidence of fraud."

There are strong disincentives to inflating case counts. "The punishment for fraud is very severe," Hoffman notes. Plus, states don't want to see Covid-19 case counts rise, given the negative effect on economic rebooting efforts, and the federal government doesn't want to make unwarranted payouts.

"Everything is so politically charged that people are looking for excuses to question the data," Robert Anderson, who oversees the mortality statistics branch of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention's National Centre for Health Statistics, told the New York Times.

If anything, an undercount

The medical community has settled on Covid-19 being a cause of death for more than 120,000 Americans and more than 470,000 people worldwide - not for the sake of money or politics, but simply because it's killing people whose time had otherwise not yet come.

"I don't think cases are being inflated at all. If anything, the true numbers of infections are underreported," says Mina, the Harvard epidemiologist.

Experts say that some people have died in private residences and nursing homes without ever being tested for Covid-19. They add that before the coronavirus was fully recognised and better understood, some Covid-19 deaths likely got blamed on the flu.

Nobody knows the real death toll, but it is "almost certainly" higher than the official count, Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said last month in a Senate hearing.

Just look at the math in New York City: total deaths from March 11 to May 2 were 32,107. Of those cases, 13,831 involved positive tests for Covid-19, according to the CDC. Another 5,048 were called probable Covid-19 cases.

However, average deaths for that period in the past six years totalled just 7,935. That means that beyond the confirmed and probable Covid-19 deaths, 5,293 additional deaths are unexplained, likely either a direct or indirect result of the pandemic.

"This is a real virus. It's affecting people in every country," Mina says, noting that there's "nothing contrived" about the death toll - and adding: "Anyone who thinks otherwise, I think they need to get out of their social media bubble."

A piece published in Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Robert Roy Britt is a science & health journalist and author.

US coronavirus testing could fail again, as rise in demand creates new backlogs

By Alexis C. Madrigal and Robinson Meyer

THE United States is once again at risk of outstripping its Covid-19 testing capacity, an ominous development that would deny the country a crucial tool to understand its pandemic in real time.

Epidemiologists and testing-company executives say the American testing supply chain is stretched to the limit, and the ongoing outbreak in the South and West could overwhelm it. While the country's laboratories have added tremendous capacity in the past few months - the US now tests about 550,000 people each day, a fivefold increase from early April - demand for viral tests is again outpacing supply.

If demand continues to accelerate and shortages are not resolved, then turnaround times for test results will rise, tests will effectively be rationed, and the number of infections that are never counted in official statistics will grow.

Any plan to contain the virus will depend on fast and accurate testing, which can identify newly infectious people before they set off new outbreaks. Without it, the US is in the dark.

The delays have already started. Quest Diagnostics, one of the country's largest medical-testing companies, has just reported that its systems were overwhelmed and that it would not be able to deliver Covid-19 test results in one day only for hospitalised patients, patients facing emergency surgery, and symptomatic health-care workers. Everyone else now must wait three to five days for a test result.

"Despite the rapid expansion of our testing capacity, demand for testing has been growing faster," Quest said in a statement last week warning of such a possibility. The company then said that orders for Covid-19 testing had grown by 50 per

cent in three weeks.

"This is very bad," Michael Mina, an epidemiology professor at Harvard, said. He added that rapid test-turnaround times are the only way to control the coronavirus without forcing every potentially contagious person - that is, everyone who's had contact with Covid-19 - into quarantine.

"Our modelling efforts more or less show that if you don't get results back in a day or so, outbreaks really can't be stopped without isolating and quarantining all contacts preemptively," Mina explained.

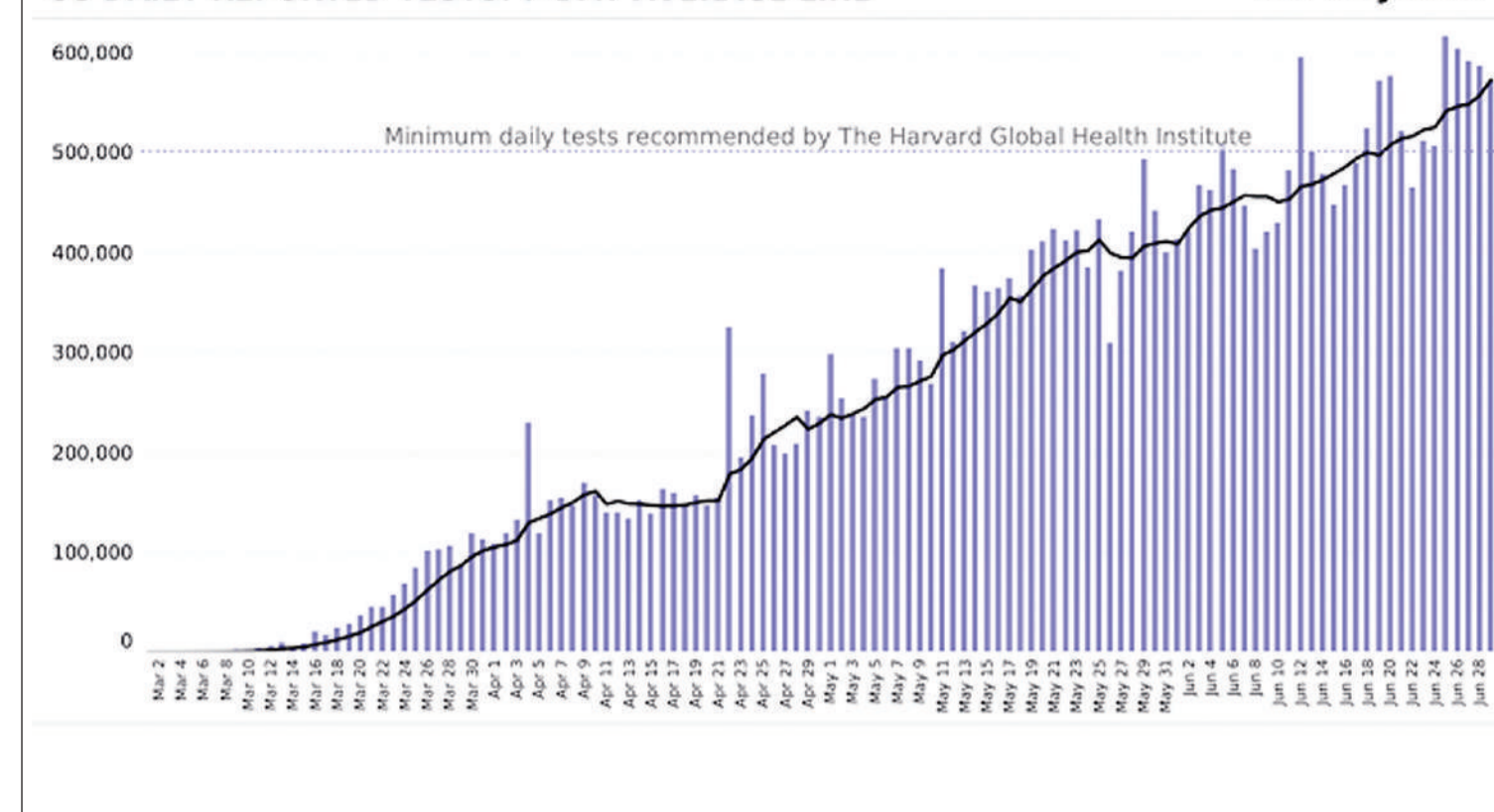
Quest is not the only firm to report growing problems. "We hit the wall three weeks ago," Jon Cohen, the executive chairman of BioReference Laboratories, a lab-services company that is testing patients for the virus in New York, New Jersey and Florida, said, adding: "At that point, most laboratories were already running at capacity, as far as I can tell."

Cohen said four changes hit all at once in mid-June - large companies began to test their employees en masse, hospitals started to test every patient who needed an elective procedure, and nursing homes started regularly testing their employees and some residents. The American public also seemed to seek out voluntary tests in greater numbers this month.

The surge in testing overwhelmed both his testing company's capacity and its equipment suppliers, he said, adding: "We not only hit capacity, but any ability to increase our capacity became limited by the supply side. The vendors, the suppliers can't keep up."

LabCorp, another major testing company, also noticed the recent surge in demand for tests in a statement - and reported: "We are doing everything we can to continue delivering results in a timely manner while continually in-

US DAILY REPORTED TESTS. 7-DAY AVERAGE LINE Mar 1 - Jun 29



creasing testing capacity."

Unlike in the first days of the pandemic, when Covid-19 testing kits themselves were in short supply, now the problem lies with the equipment needed to get test results.

The hardest-hit new areas do not have enough machines to process samples, leading to a growing backlog of tests, according to lab directors. Some are also running out of the chemical reagent that must react with a testing specimen.

Lauren Sauer, an emergency-medicine professor at Johns Hopkins, says labs in the US use several different types of viral-testing machines to diagnose Covid-19, and each type has its own supply-chain issues and processing challenges.

She says that with "so many platforms" in use, resolving bottlenecks and shortages nationwide is especially hard and that what is currently happening on testing is "so pocketed and disconnected".

The American Clinical Labo-

ratory Association, a trade group that represents testing labs, has also warned of shortages. "While our members are collectively performing hundreds of thousands of tests each day, the anticipated demand for Covid-19 testing over the coming weeks will likely exceed members' testing capacities," said Julie Khani, its president, in a statement.

The group's members conduct about half of the country's daily coronavirus tests, according to information in her statement.

The problems have not been felt everywhere, though. Dina Greene, the director of laboratory services for the healthcare group Kaiser Permanente in Washington State, says that supply-chain problems have not yet disrupted the group's ability to work. But she confirmed that demand for tests was increasing and she "wouldn't be surprised" if shortages hit her team soon.

Testing has hobbled the American response since the earliest days of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Surveys have revealed that the US had tested fewer than 3,000 people for the coronavirus by March 5, even though community spread of the virus had been detected more than a week earlier.

In the following weeks, states and hospitals rationed access to tests, granting them only to health-care workers and the sickest patients. This meant that many people who may have had the virus, especially in the Northeast, were never tested for it.

Even after the initial crunch in March, the country's testing apparatus continued to be beset by

problems. For much of April, as the virus killed tens of thousands of Americans, testing plateaued at roughly 150,000 tests a day.

Since then, the number of daily tests has increased, but not as fast as experts once hoped. Only in the past two weeks has the US succeeded in testing more than 500,000 people a day, which the Harvard Global Health Institute once said would be a good goal for mid-May.

The institute now says that the US must test at least 1.2 million people a day to control the outbreak and at least 4.3 million people a day to eliminate it.

In all that time, the federal government never solved the testing problem. In early April, for instance, researchers at Duke University and the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think-tank, called for the government to take charge of the crisis by establishing a task force that would consolidate information about testing and help states and companies understand what was possible.

Such a task force could manage emerging shortages, and it could help the country understand how much testing capacity might be attainable by July, August or September.

But such an effort never took shape. "If this work has been done, I have not seen it, and I fear that nor have the governors and other state and local leaders who are having to make decisions about how and when to reopen," Caitlin Rivers, an author of the report and a professor at Johns Hopkins Univer-

sity, told Congress last month.

Since then, the Trump administration's grip on testing has slackened. Brett Giroir, the White House's testing czar, has just returned to his day job at the Department of Health and Human Services.

And at a rally on June 20, President Donald Trump said he told members of his staff to "slow down the testing, please", because he did not like the growing number of confirmed coronavirus infections. Of course, the president's staff said afterwards that he was joking.

After denying for several days that he meant the comment in jest, Trump said last week that he'd been speaking "sarcastically". Deborah Birx, who is coordinating the White House response to the coronavirus, has said that Trump never asked her to slow down testing.

"We basically need a Manhattan Project for testing," Sauer said, adding: "A nationwide, systematic strategy with a clear agency lead is desperately needed. But that is not happening - and I think that we all fear significant access issues and supply-chain disruptions in the near future."

The US is seeing a new surge in the number of cases in the South and West that threatens to overwhelm the country's health system anew. The country reported more new confirmed Covid-19 cases last week than in any other week of the pandemic so far.

While the administration's focus has drifted elsewhere, demand for tests is only growing. Alex Greninger, a laboratory-medicine professor at the University of Washington, said that it was little wonder that the testing companies were overwhelmed.

"The testing supply chain wasn't meant for this kind of onslaught of volume across the world at the same time," he said.

A syndicated story by The Atlantic.

Do Americans understand how badly they are doing with Covid-19 crisis?

By Thomas Chatterton Williams

I RETURNED to Paris with my family three months after French President Emmanuel Macron had ordered one of the world's most aggressive national quarantines, and one month after France had begun to ease itself out of it.

When we exited the Gare Montparnasse (one of the six large Paris railway termini) into the late-spring glare, after a season tucked away in a rural village with more cows than people as neighbours, it was jarring to be thrust back into the world as we'd previously known it - to see those café terraces overflowing again with smiling faces.

My first reaction was one of confused frustration as we drove north across the river to our apartment. The city had been culled of its tourists, though it was bustling with inhabitants basking in their reclaimed freedom.

Half at most wore masks; the other half evinced indifference. We were in the midst of a crisis, I complained to my wife. Why were so many people unable to maintain even minimal discipline?

Glued as I am to the news from the US - where I was born and grew up and travel frequently - I couldn't shake the feeling that France was also opening up recklessly early. But I was wrong to worry. As Donald Trump's America continues to shatter records for daily infections, France, like most other developed nations and even some undeveloped ones, seems to have beat back the virus.

The numbers are not ambiguous. From a peak of 7,581 new cases across the country on March 31, and with a death toll now just below 30,000 - at one point the world's fourth highest - there were just 526 new cases on June 13, the day we masked ourselves and took the train back to Paris. The caseload continues to be small and manageable.



America, however, is an utter disaster. Texas, Florida and Arizona are the newest hubs of contagion, having apparently learned nothing from the other countries and states that previously experienced surges in cases. I stared at my phone in disbelief when the musician Rosanne Cash wrote on Twitter that her daughter had been called a "liberal pussy!" in Nashville for wearing a mask to buy groceries.

That insult succinctly conveys the crux of the

problem. American leadership has politicised the pandemic instead of trying to fight it.

I see no preparedness, no coordinated top-down leadership of the sort we've enjoyed in Europe. I see only empty posturing, the sad spectacle of the president refusing to wear a mask, just to own the libs. What an astonishing self-inflicted wound.

On June 26, a day when the US notched some 45,000 new cases - how's that for "American car-

nage"? - the European Union announced that it would loosen some travel restrictions but extend its ban on visitors from the United States and other hot-spot nations.

On Tuesday, it confirmed that remarkable and deeply humiliating decision, a clear message that in pandemic management, the EU believes that the US is no better than Russia and Brazil - autocrat-run public-health disasters - and that American tourists would pose a dire threat to the hard-

won stability our lockdown has earned us. So much for the myth that the American political system and way of life are a model for the world.

We didn't stay long in the city. Although the chance of contagion in Paris is minimal, the thought of unnecessary risk unnerved me, and so we left again for another round of self-imposed confinement. But this was a choice.

I think of my mother and father trapped in New Jersey, in their 70s and 80s, respectively, and at the mercy of a society that is failing extravagantly to protect them. And it is failing to protect them not from some omnipotent enemy - as we believed in March and perhaps even as late as April - but from a tough and dangerous foe that many other societies have wrestled into submission.

I think of my father, whom I realise I may not see this calendar year or possibly even the next, and I picture him housebound indefinitely, unable to experience a pleasure so anodyne as bookstore browsing.

I think of my mother, who is missing her grandchildren's birthdays and watching them grow tall through FaceTime, and I imagine her leaving the house at dawn to arrive at the grocery store during its early hours for seniors.

I am infuriated. I am also reminded once again of the degree to which so many other countries deliver what is, in real terms, a palpably higher quality of life by any number of self-evident measures.

America is my home, and I have not emigrated. I have always found the truest expression of my situation in James Baldwin's label of "transatlantic commuter". I have lived in France off and on since the early 2000s, and it has been instructive over the decades to glimpse America's stature reflected back to me through the eyes of a quasi-foreigner.

If the country sparked off fear and intense resentment under George W. Bush and mild resentment mixed with vicarious pride under Barack Obama, what it provokes under Trump has been something entirely new: pity and indifference. Americans are the pariah state now, but do we even see it?

The Atlantic syndicated stories.

AU, AfroChampions co-launch Boma of Africa virtual festival

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

THE African Union (AU) and AfroChampions have launched the Boma of Africa virtual festival to highlight and celebrate the integration of Africa.

The month-long festival climaxes the Africa Integration Week, which is a few days between the original AfCFTA launch date on July 1, and Africa Integration Day on July 7, 2020.

Reflecting the rich mosaic of forces, trends, ideas, beliefs, histories, arts, sciences, innovations and passions charting the path to Africa's inevitable destiny of unity and prosperity, the Partners have lined up an eclectic array of convenings and activities to capture as much of the spirit of Pan-Africanism as possible.

The festival, which has Afreximbank, OCP Group, and BADEA; the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa as partners, is aimed at beginning relevant conversations and intentional actions that will chart the path to Africa's inevitable destiny of unity and prosperity.

Various activities lined up to as part of the festival include:

The Grand Debates: On July 3rd, some of Africa's topmost intellectuals shall cross swords in a virtual debate on alternative visions of Africa's present and future. Some of these globally renowned intellectuals include Prof. Emmanuel Akyeampong, a professor of history and African and African American Studies at Harvard University, Prof. P.L.O Lumumba of the Kenyan School of Law, Dr Frannie Leautier, CEO of Southbridge Group and Prof. Manal Al-Sayed, Professor of Pediatrics at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt.

Special guests include Ellen Sirleaf-Johnson, the former President of Liberia, Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria, and Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, former President of Mauritius.

The debate will be moderated by the globally respected journalist and former CNN anchor, Isha Sesay.

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Africa Futures Scenarios: On July 4th, two of Africa's most intellectually vibrant and innovative universities - Strathmore Ashesi University and African Leadership University - shall provide alternative simulations of how Africa will look like in 2063 (the AU's grand timeline for continental transformation) based on four different assumptions of what happens between then and now.

The debate will be graced by eminent personalities such as Dr Ameenah Gurib-Fakim - 6th President of Mauritius, Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang - Commissioner of Science, Technology and HR; AUC, Prof. Felix Dakora - President, Africa Academy of Sciences and Tei Konzi - Commissioner for Trade, Customs and Free Movement.

Showcases: On July 5th, the AU and its private sector collaborators shall launch PanaBios, a technology plat-

form created to assist African governments in their efforts to reopen African countries without risking a surge of infections.

On the same day, the Essential Innovation and Design Accelerator (EIDA), designed to take Africa's emerging fashion designers global by partnering with global merchandising brands and e-commerce platforms shall make its grand debut.

The showcase will also include the Reinventing African Storytelling Agenda which will be joined by the founder of the world's largest advertising and PR group, accomplished athletes, entrepreneurs and other African celebrities such as Didier Drogba, Deborah Ahenkorah, Dikembe Mutombo, Esther Dyson, Luol Deng, etc.

The last session on the much-anticipated Showcase day is a feasibility study into an initiative that pairs children's literature with physical toys and digital animation to water the content desert of authentic African stories for children and teens.

Friends of Africa need not wait for Integration Day to join the celebration. Since June 12th, the Boma has been accepting entries at https://africaboma.com/creative_art_challenge for the Creative Arts Challenge, an effort to identify Africa's most powerful, undiscovered, creatives and artists to plug them into regional development agencies and multinationals so that they can help these African Champions communicate more authentically to a youthful African audience discovering or rediscovering their spiritual connection to Africa's ancient culture.

One Grand Prize in the form of a \$50,000 grant investment is also up for grabs, alongside three other generous cash prizes, for those bold artistic minds that will outshine the rest in any of the Challenge's ten categories of creative arts and sciences.

NAIROBI

African locust plague called 'apocalyptic'

THE crunch of young locusts comes with nearly every step. The worst outbreak of the voracious insects in Kenya in 70 years is far from over, and their newest generation is now finding its wings for proper flight.

The livelihoods of millions of already vulnerable people in East Africa are at stake, and people like Boris Polo are working to limit the damage. The logisti-

cian with a helicopter firm is on contract with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation, helping to find and mark locust swarms for the targeted pesticide spraying that has been called the only effective control.

"It sounds grim because there's no way you're gonna kill all of them because the areas are so vast," he told The Associated

Press from the field in north-western Kenya on Thursday. "But the key of the project is to minimize" the damage, and the work is definitely having an effect, he said.

For months, a large part of East Africa has been caught in a cycle with no end in sight as millions of locusts became billions, nibbling away the leaves of both

crops and the brush that sustains the livestock so important to many families.

"The risk of significant impact to both crops and rangelands is very high," the regional IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications centre said Wednesday in a statement.

For now, the young yellow locusts cover the ground and tree

trunks like a twitching carpet, sometimes drifting over the dust like giant grains of sand.

In the past week and a half, Polo said, the locusts have transformed from hoppers to more mature flying swarms that in the next couple of weeks will take to long-distance flight, creating the vast swarms that can largely blot out the horizon. A single swarm

can be the size of a large city.

Once airborne, the locusts will be harder to contain, flying up to 200 kilometers (124 miles) a day.

"They follow prevailing winds," Polo said. "So they'll start entering Sudan, Ethiopia and eventually come around toward Somalia." By then, the winds will have shifted and whatever swarms are left will

come back into Kenya.

"By February, March of next year they'll be laying eggs in Kenya again," he said. The next generation could be up to 20 times the size of the previous one. The trouble is, only Kenya and Ethiopia are doing the pesticide control work. "In places like Sudan, South Sudan, especially Somalia, there's no way, people can't go there because of the issues those countries are having," Polo said.

Vodacom now allows people to dispatch money to Tanzania from anywhere around the world

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 200 countries can send and receive money via Vodacom's Tanzania M-Pesa; The mobile money services continues to drive economic growth and financial inclusion in Africa.

Vodacom M-Pesa - has announced the expansion of its international money transfer service portfolio. Vodacom customers will now have the option and ability to easily transfer and receive funds from individuals across more than 200 countries worldwide.

This was said recently at an international day of family remittances event held in Dar es Salaam where stakeholders met to deliberate on the future of International Remittance post COVID 19.

Speaking during a panel discussion on the same, assistant manager, oversight and policy at directorate of national payment systems from Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Albert Cezari said the national bank has increased limits on digital transactions and reviewed balances of mobile wallets in a bid to provide relief and ensure continuity of services as part of measures taken amidst COVID-19.

On his part, Vodacom Tanzania PLC managing director Hisham Hendi, said that international remittances make possible people and small businesses to stay connected irrespective of geography. He further pointed out that international remittances continue to transform the lives of thousands of Tanzanians through facilitating payments in education, health, and various business segments which is why Vodacom M-Pesa has aimed to continue providing a platform for Tanzanian diaspora to effectively participate in socio-economic activities which will contribute to the overall development of the country.

We thank our customers for their patronage and we remain committed to deliver on our vision to lead Tanzania into the digital age and change lives through technology

"We pride ourselves for being enablers in the payment system by facilitating cross border trade within the region for the efficient and seamless sending and receiving of funds, from anywhere around the globe through M-Pesa International Money Transfer Service." He said.

Vodacom M-Pesa has broadened its portfolio of partnerships and countries over the past few months to widen its Money transfer service worldwide. At the global stage, partners include MoneyGram, WorldRemit, Remitly and Juba-Express, all of whom enable customers to receive money from over 200 countries across the World directly into their M-Pesa wallet.

Pan African partnerships include Safaricom, MTN, Eco-Cash and Mama Money, which enable customers to send or receive money from Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Burundi and South Africa.

"With such a huge portfolio of international Money transfer partners, the world is a village with M-Pesa. We thank our customers for their patronage and we remain committed to deliver on our vision to lead Tanzania into the digital age and change lives through technology" He concluded.

Peter De Caluwe, CEO- Thunes praised the move saying such partnerships and innovations support the true African spirit because African countries have always been connected through daily movement of people, goods and services. International Money Transfer services are critical to the African economies as they facilitate inflow of foreign currency into these countries which has a direct bearing on the social and economic welfare of Africans".

"Whilst the importance of mobile payments to financial inclusion in developing markets cannot be overstressed, the M-Pesa IMT service goes an extra mile by allowing previously excluded to send and receive money across borders affordably. Thus our partnership with Vodacom M-Pesa aims at increasing the reach of international money transfers".



Songas Ltd socio-economic development manager Nwademus Chipakapaka (4th-R) pictured at Kibiti in Coast Region yesterday presenting to Mangwi village chairman Tahiru Ndombogo (in cap) office and medical equipment worth 17m/- donated by the company to a village dispensary in Kibiti District. Looking on (L, in glasses) is Kibiti district executive director Mohamed Mavura. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent

Self-made designer turns sisal into furniture, decor

LEANDRA Lyimo from Tanzania gave up a two-year career in architecture to pursue her passion for design.

She especially enjoys using sisal to make eco-friendly, creative products for homes.

Leandra graduated in 2015 from Ardhi University in Dar es Salaam with a Bachelor of Architecture. She founded Refixit, a start-up social enterprise that is combining modern design

and traditional skills with a focus on sustainable resources.

"Sisal is a versatile material that can make twines, shipping ropes, to decor. The workshop is located at Masaki, in Dar es Salaam," she said.

Refixit has a team of four people and all of them have been trained on how to make our products. They work alongside other service providers like

carpenters, welders and wood carvers.

Her uncle who is part of the team, trained her and other two team members on how to create the patterns and products. They first learnt how to make four products, but later began experimenting with the patterns to create more products.

"So far we make more than 50 products and all items are

handmade from our workshop by the team," Leandra said.

Refixit seeks to make natural products that can compete in the international arena in a quest to merge traditional skills and creativity with a modern touch.

Leandra said the process involves purchasing sisal from a factory and sourcing other materials like metal or wood from

local suppliers depending on the item being made.

"The creation process begins with sketches of what is being made. If it's a lamp for example the metal part is sent to a welder. We always make the frames in bulk to save on costs," she said.

"During my architectural studies, I learnt about building materials and I was fortu-

nate enough to attend several workshops such as the Climate Generates Space and Structure, which was conducted in Tanzania and had students from Ardhi University, Lucerne University (Switzerland) and SLU University (Singapore). We researched on local materials that can be used in a tropical climate like Tanzania's," she said.

Leandra said they make wall

hangings, rugs, plant hangers, lighting fixtures, and up-cycle furniture, table runners, partitions from sisal and there is so much more than can be made.

Their products can be used in homes, restaurants, hotels, lodges cafes, schools and offices. The cost depends on materials, labour and time used.

Leandra said customers find them through their online platforms and they also get direct clients who walk in to their shop.

What's false and what's true on China-related human rights matters

Prologue

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

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

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

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

1. False: The legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong will undermine the human rights and basic freedoms of Hong Kong residents, and violates the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

True:

The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region clearly stipulates that human rights shall be respected and protected in safeguarding national security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The rights and freedoms, including the freedoms of speech, of the press, of publication, of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration, which the residents of the Region enjoy under the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as applied to Hong Kong, shall be protected in accordance with the law.

The legislation only targets four types of offences, namely, secession, subversion, terrorist activities and collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security. It is designed to deter and sanction a small minority in Hong Kong who are involved in offences seriously jeopardizing national security. It aims to protect the great majority of law-abiding Hong Kong residents, and safeguard their safety and lawful rights and freedoms.

It is spelt out in the constitutions of over 100 countries that the exercise of basic rights and freedoms shall not endanger national security. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights makes it clear that freedoms of religious belief, expression and peaceful assembly, the right to public trial and other rights may be subject to restrictions that are necessary to protect national security, public order and so on. There are similar provisions in the European Convention on Human Rights.

2. False: The legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong may include vaguely defined offences, and be abused by China's na-



Organizers of United Front Supporting National Security Legislation and guests attended a press conference in south China's Hong Kong on June 1, 2020. (Xinhua/Lui Siu Wai)

tional security authorities to oppress the people.

True:

The legislation only targets four types of offences that seriously jeopardize national security, much less than the dozens of crimes involving national security listed in countries such as the US and the UK. The legislation sets clear limits on related law enforcement activities. It requires that all law enforcement efforts be conducted in strict accordance with legal provisions and statutory mandates and procedures, without prejudice to the lawful rights and interests of any individual or organization. It also provides that the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region shall perform its mandate in strict compliance with the law and be subject to supervision in accordance with the law. The staff of the Office shall abide by the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region as well as national laws.

Countries such as the US, the UK, Canada, and Australia have all established rigorous legal frameworks for safeguarding national security, which shows no mercy in combating offences endangering national security.

3. False: The legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong will make it difficult for foreign businesses in Hong Kong to fulfill their responsibility to respect human rights under the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights of the UN.

True:

The legislation only targets four types of offences, namely, secession, subversion, terrorist activities and collusion with a foreign country or with external elements to endanger national security. Clearly, these offences are

not what law-abiding businesses and residents in Hong Kong would ever engage in. Law-abiding trans-national businesses all want to see a Hong Kong back to stability and order. The implementation of this Law will help them better fulfill their responsibility to respect human rights.

4. False: The Hong Kong police have gotten away with the excessive use of force (such as using chemicals against protesters, committing sexual harassment and assault on female protesters at police stations, and harassing medical workers).

True:

During the turbulence over the amendment bill, the Hong Kong police dealt with hundreds of violent incidents in accordance with the law and police guidelines for months. Yet the radical protesters kept upgrading their equipment, from stones and iron bars to steel-ball slingshots, knife-attached umbrellas and dangerous chemicals. Even so, the police all along demonstrated the maximum level of calm, rationality, and restraint, and refrained from the first use of force. They only used force correspondingly to stop violent attacks or other illegal acts threatening the life and safety of other people on site, which is totally in line with international practice. They acted in a restrained, civil and highly professional manner even when their own lives and safety were threatened by dangerous weapons and violent and illegal activities. In fact, not a single protester in Hong Kong had died because of the law enforcement activity of the police. Yet over 590 police officers had been injured on duty by the end of May.

In sharp contrast to the restrained and professional performance of duty by the Hong Kong police, there are many reports about the US police kill-

ing people with violence and guns in the course of law enforcement. The year 2019 alone saw 1,004 such cases. By mid-June, at least 13 people had lost their lives in demonstrations over the death of George Floyd, in addition to hundreds of injuries and over 13.5 thousand arrests. For example, Linda Tirado, a 37-year-old freelance writer and journalist, has been left permanently blind in one eye after being shot with rubber bullets by the police during her coverage of protests in Minneapolis.

5. False: The Chinese government has suppressed the protests and the promotion of democracy in Hong Kong.

True:

What has happened since the return of Hong Kong proves that the freedoms of speech, of the press, of publication, of association, of assembly, of procession and of demonstration enjoyed by Hong Kong residents in accordance with the law have been fully protected.

Since the turbulence over the amendment bill in June last year, some radical protesters have deliberately stirred up violent incidents. Their actions have gone far beyond the scope of peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression, and turned into extremist, violent and illegal acts. Such violent acts have blatantly violated laws, posed serious threats to the safety of Hong Kong citizens and openly challenged the sovereignty and dignity of the State. The malicious nature of their acts has been laid bare by clear facts and solid evidence.

Peaceful and reasonable expression of demand is a basic requirement and an intrinsic part of a culturally advanced society based on the rule of law. Having said that, rights must be exercised within the framework of the rule of law, and no demand should be expressed by illegal means, let alone resorting to violence. The rule of law is the core value of Hong Kong and the cornerstone for its long-term stability and prosperity. Ensuring observance of laws and prosecution of lawbreakers is a manifestation of the spirit of the rule of law. Only by taking zero tolerance toward violence and rioters, can Hong Kong's law and order be protected and the rule of law upheld. Supporting and conniving at violence and rioters represents a flagrant infringement of democracy, freedom and the rule of law.

6. False: The legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong violates China's commitments and obligations under the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

True:

The legal basis for the Chinese government to govern Hong Kong is the Chinese Constitution and the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR. The Sino-British Joint Declaration is not relevant in this regard. As China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997, all provisions concerning the UK under the Joint Declaration had been fulfilled. The UK has no sovereignty, jurisdiction or "right of supervision" over Hong Kong after its return.

The basic policies regarding Hong Kong stated by China in the Joint Declaration are not commitments to the UK, but China's declaration of its policies, which have since been fully embodied in the Basic Law enacted by the National People's Congress (NPC). These policies have not changed; they will continue to be upheld by China.

7. False: The legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong has been unilaterally imposed on Hong Kong by the Central Government of China.

True:

National security legislation has always been a matter concerning the sovereignty of the State and within the purview of the Central Authorities. The Central Government of China assumes the primary and ultimate responsibility for safeguarding national security in Hong Kong. This is vital for plugging the legal loopholes relating to national security in Hong Kong and effectively protecting national security. It is also a fundamental measure for ensuring the steady and sustained implementation of the policy of One Country, Two Systems.

Article 23 of the Basic Law stipulates that the Hong Kong SAR shall enact laws on its own to safeguard national security. Nearly 23 years after Hong Kong's return to China, however, the relevant legislative process is still not materialized due to the sabotage and obstruction by anti-China, destabilizing elements in Hong Kong as well as hostile forces from the outside. Faced with the grave situation in safeguarding national security in Hong Kong, the Central Government has both the power and the responsibility to promptly plug the loopholes and strengthen the weak links.

The Macao SAR passed in early 2009 its Law on Safeguarding National Security, and has conducted, in a well-ordered manner, relevant law enforcement work and study of supportive legislation for safeguarding national security. In 2018, the Macao SAR Government set up a committee for safeguarding national security to coordinate and enforce local initiatives relating to national security. It has continued to improve its legal system, institutions and enforcement mechanisms for safeguarding national security.

The UK applied the Treason Act to Hong Kong with specialized enforcement agencies during its colonial rule. But now it is making groundless accusations against the legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong enacted by China's central authorities. This is pure double standards.

8. False: No meaningful consultation over the legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong was held with the people in Hong Kong. Therefore, the legislation lacks public support.

True:

The legislative process fully demonstrates the shared will of all Chinese people, including the Hong Kong compatriots. In drafting the Law, the Central Authorities and relevant departments had solicited through various means and channels opinions and suggestions from the Chief Executive and other principal officials of the Hong Kong SAR Government, the President of the Legislative Council, representatives from the legal community of Hong Kong, members of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Basic Law Committee, NPC deputies, members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), etc. In the revision and refinement of the draft, the views and suggestions from the Hong Kong SAR Government were carefully studied and accepted as much as possible, and Hong Kong's actual conditions were fully considered. Thanks to these efforts, the legislative process was carried out in a well-conceived and democratic way and in accordance with law.

Relevant departments of the Central Authorities held 120 symposiums in Hong Kong, at which 120 representatives from, among others, the political, legal, business, financial, educational, scientific, cultural, religious, youth and labor sectors as well as social and local organizations in Hong Kong candidly

expressed their opinions. The Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR received more than 200 written opinions from 36 Hong Kong deputies to the NPC and 190 Hong Kong members of the CPPCC National Committee in a short period of time. People from all walks of life in Hong Kong were also able to express their opinions via email, letters or the official NPC website.

The relevant Decision of the NPC received support from representatives of all sectors in Hong Kong immediately after its release. Nearly three million people in Hong Kong have signed a petition in support of the enactment of the Law, and more than 1.28 million have signed an online petition opposing the interference by the US and other external forces.

9. False: The legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong marks the end of One country, Two systems and deprives Hong Kong of its high degree of autonomy.

True:

The NPC decision makes it clear, from the very beginning, that the State resolutely, fully and faithfully implements the policy of One Country, Two Systems under which Hong Kong people administer Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy. This commitment was reaffirmed in Article 1 of the legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong. The goal of this legislation is to close the critical loophole in national security in Hong Kong, cement the foundation of One Country, and provide maximum safeguard for Hong Kong to harness the strengths of Two Systems on the basis of upholding One Country.

The enacted legislation will not affect the rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong residents under the law. It will not affect the HKSAR's independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication. There will be no change to the policy of One Country, Two Systems, the capitalist system, the high degree of autonomy, or the legal system of the Hong Kong SAR.

10. False: The legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong will jeopardize Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

True:

Quite the contrary, the legislation on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong will contribute to Hong Kong's prosperity and stability. Since the turbulence over proposed legislative amendments last June, the "Hong Kong independence" groups and violent terrorist acts have dealt a heavy blow to Hong Kong's rule of law, economy and livelihood. The city's business environment and international image has also been severely damaged. The legislation is designed precisely to reverse that situation. It will help Hong Kong sustain a favorable business environment, consolidate and elevate its status as a financial, trade and shipping center, and bolster the confidence of foreign investors. After its adoption, the NPC decision received explicit support from many Hong Kong-based foreign-invested corporations, including HSBC, Standard Chartered, Swire and Jardines. They are all convinced that the legislation will contribute to the lasting stability of Hong Kong, and serve as the very foundation and prerequisite for all development.

Around the globe, be it New York or London, no international financial center will see its business environment undermined by the enforcement of a national security legislation. A recent survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong shows that more than 70 percent of companies don't have plans to move capital, assets, or business operations from Hong Kong, and more than 60 percent of the respondents personally don't consider leaving the city. No businesses will turn against opportunities and profits.

The Macao SAR passed its national security legislation in 2009 in accordance with Article 23 of its Basic Law. From 2009 to 2019, Macao's GDP soared by 153 percent, its number of tourists up by 81 percent, and its overall unemployment rate down to a ten-year low.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
The People's Republic of China**

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 102 00--

WORD-FIT

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

3 letters LOP, KEY, ADE
4 letters LOUT, DOOM, OOPS, MAID, STOP
5 letters EYES, KAKA, HARE, GRADE, FLOOD, OPRAH, DREAD, OTAKU
6 letters STRIPE, YIELDS, SPRINT, INDIAN, EDITOR
7 letters TUESDAY, ENDURED, EMIRATE, ENAMOUR
8 letters ALLOTTED
9 letters TUG OF LOVE

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across
1 recent times
6 used to express good wishes in meeting
7 Qatar's Capital
8 famous for majorelle Garden
9 manage a living with difficulty
10 lacking interest
11 the longest continental mountain range in the World
12 letters and parcels sent by post in addition
14 stiff blisttle growing from the ear of barley or rye
19 Ioanian
21 length of a time a person existed
23 confess openly
24 pass 26. argon (symbol)
27 mouse
28 a diazo copying

Down:
1 largest Port in Kenya
2 defied
3 bring or recall to the conscious mind
4 a small space setback in a wall
5 monetary unit of Tanzania
6 Tanzania's Capital
7 to or at a distance
13 process digestive products
15 urge / goad into doing something
16 ahead
20 hereditary classes of Hindu society
22 escape, avoid
25 give money due for work

SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT: MOUNTAINS, DEVILOUS, DROUGHT, VENTURE, DIPLOMATS, STRIPES, YIELDS, SPRINT, INDIAN, EDITOR, TUESDAY, ENDURED, EMIRATE, ENAMOUR, ALLOTTED, TUG OF LOVE

CROSSWORD: 1. TIMES, 6. GOOD WISHES, 7. DOHA, 8. MARJORELLE GARDEN, 9. MANAGE, 10. INTEREST, 11. ANDERSON, 12. PARCELS, 14. RYE, 19. IONIAN, 21. EXISTED, 23. CONFESS, 24. ARGON, 27. MOUSE, 28. DIAZO



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Airtel Tanzania sets trend with 4-G technology, cuts data price

By Smart Money Reporter

AIRTEL Tanzania Limited may have triggered a new price war for data as the telco announced an 85 percent price cut for its fourth generation (4G) communication technology with immediate effect.

The company's Managing Director, George Mathen said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the record price slash is aimed to provide Airtel customers more value and freedom to enjoy the fastest 4G network communication across the country.

"Customers' daily data patterns have increased recently and we are delighted to introduce a new data rate in response to this demand," Mathen said adding that the new data offer of 5/- per megabyte will provide customers with the freedom to use their data however and wherever they want and not worry about running out of bundles.

He said that the move will allow more



Airtel Tanzania managing director, George Mathen

people afford the 4G technology service.

"Previously, the data cost was 40/- per 1MB. Airtel customers can now access the new data rate from the menu on their smartphone," he added.

Commenting on the latest move, Airtel Tanzania's Director of Corporate Communications, Beatrice Singano said the telco is focused on providing customers with affordable rates so that they can surf with ease.

"Our customers can stay online even when their internet bundle has expired. We believe our offer will help customers to connect with friends and family more and save money. Airtel continues to offer fast and affordable internet services in the country," Singano said.

She added, "We have a vast 4G

network in Tanzania available in over 24 regions across all major towns and cities.

We want our customers to continue using our services and urge new users to visit our Airtel Centers and purchase Airtel 4G Sim-cards to start enjoying our excellent and affordable services."

According to Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority's report dated March 2020, the number of internet users between 2014 and 2019 has drastically increased from 14.2 million to 25.7 million.

"We continue to strengthen and expand our 4G data network and launch more innovative products and services to suit the daily needs of our customers," she added while promising the market more price cuts for voice and data in the near future.

'Mitumba' imports see a Sh 600 million fall in value in three months in wake of virus fears

NAIROBI

THE value of second-hand clothes and footwear imported by traders in Kenya dropped by Sh600.4 million in the three months to March compared to a similar period last year on uncertainty about the Covid-19 pandemic in key source markets.

New figures by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows the value of shipment of the merchandise contracted to Sh4.79 billion between January and March from Sh5.39 billion a year earlier.

This marked the first drop in many years and came at a time key source markets such as China, the US and European countries had already instituted Covid-19 containment. The import bill for second-hand clothes, popularly called mitumba, thinned by Sh145 million, or 3.58 percent, to Sh3.92 billion from Sh4.07 billion in the first quarter of 2019, the KNBS data indicates.

Expenditure on footwear imports, on the other hand, dipped 34.46 percent, or

Sh454.80 million, in the January-March 2020 period to Sh864.9 million compared with Sh1.32 billion traders spent in the first quarter of 2019.

Business managers had painted a picture of weak circulation of cash in the economy which had eroded the consumer purchasing power, thus hurting demand even before Covid shocks struck, according to findings of Stanbic Bank Kenya's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI). The closely-watched index measures monthly business deals in the private sector by interviewing corporate managers largely in services and manufacturing sectors.

Higher quality and relatively lower prices for mitumba have continued to drive demand for the merchandise at the expense of locally-made clothes amid higher margins enjoyed by the traders largely in informal markets. The Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs) imposed a temporary ban on the merchandise in line with one of its standards, which prohibits buying second-hand clothes from



Second-hand clothes and footwear being transported by push cart in Nairobi.

countries experiencing epidemics.

The move was taken to protect shoppers from the risk of contracting the contagious Covid-19 pandemic through imported

second-hand clothes. The disease has, since mid-March infected more than 7,000 persons and killed more than 150 by yesterday.

Local apparel firms, however, want the temporary ban to be

made permanent to help grow and develop the local textiles sub-sector in line with manufacturing pillar of President Uhuru Kenyatta's ambitious "Big Four" agenda. Trade Cabinet Secretary Betty

Maina has given Kebs the go-ahead to explore the possibility of putting in place guidelines which could enable resumption of importation of the merchandise without exposing dealers and customers to the risk of contracting the virus.

Brazil burns billions of carbon credits in Amazon rout - CEO

BRASILIA

WHILE Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro defends opening up the world's largest rainforest to agriculture and mining, the head of Suzano SA said preserving the biome could earn the country \$10 billion a year on the carbon credit market.

"It would be an incredible opportunity in the green carbon market if Brazil cut Amazon deforestation and burning to zero," chief executive officer Walter Schalka said in an interview. "It's not a loan, or investment. It would be profit from carbon credit sales."

One of Brazil's most outspoken executives on the environment, Schalka makes the case for preservation at a time when the forest is being destroyed at the fastest pace in more than a decade amid looser rules and enforcement. In June, the first month of the dry season, fires rose to a 13-year high, National Institute for Space Research data show.

Still, tapping billions in carbon trading may have to wait. There's a gap in the system left by the transition to a global protocol to be designed by next year's climate conference in Glasgow, Schalka said. Once the new system is up and running, polluters will be able to buy credits from companies and nations that remove CO2.



Suzano SA CEO Walter Schalka.

For now, not even Suzano - with its 2 million hectares (4.9 million acres) of forested land - has been able to monetize the CO2 it removes in the fragmented market. Schalka will look to do so when the global system resumes. About 40% of Suzano's land is native forest and the rest is mostly eucalyptus plantations, which is renewed and expanded through the planting of 450,000 trees a day.

The pulp giant aims to remove a net 40 million tons of CO2 from the atmosphere through 2030. That could generate about 800 million euros (\$900 million) for the company in the next 10 years based on price references from the Kyoto Protocol of 20 euros per ton of carbon removed. "Forest destruction is by far the nation's largest source of CO2 emissions," he said. "By eliminating that, Brazil could assume a different role, leading a global movement toward a cleaner economy."

Uganda to impose 10% tax on imported phones

KAMPALA

THE government of Uganda plans to impose a 10% tax on all imported phones in a bid to increase the adoption of locally manufactured devices.

The country's Minister of Investment and Privatisation Evelyne Anite said the move is also to prioritise companies that manufacture devices or components for the government. The Minister said the country imports five million mobile phones per year without paying the required tax.

Now, with 10% tax added, the price of imported phones could be out of reach for most locals. Currently, on average, users are purchasing 2,000 locally produced mobile phones per month, according to Anite.

A local mobile phone manufacturing company was commissioned by Uganda's president Yoweri Museveni in November 2019 to meet local demand and also export excess volumes to the rest of Africa. Last month, the company exported 18,000 phones to Morocco.

Some of the gadgets assembled and manufactured at the plant have self-charging solar battery units making them suitable for rural areas where there is no electricity. The company's flagship brand is SIMI Mobile and both analogue and smartphones are being manufactured at the plant.

However, the Minister warned that if the current situation continues unchecked, the company could close its doors. She added: "Buying imported phones means that we are donating money and jobs to other countries that are producing the phones. I therefore want to ask Ugandans that let us embrace our products. The factory has the capacity to produce 2,500 phones daily."

According to latest report by the Ugandan Communications Commission (UCC), the number of active smartphones on networks had risen to 6.6 million by the end of December 2019, while feature phones with basic data capabilities totalled 17.2 million.

Industry and Trade ministry orders BRELA to axe dormant companies

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

COMPANIES which are registered by Business Licensing and Registration Agency but remain inactive should be deregistered, Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Trade, Professor Riziki Shemdoe has ordered.

Prof Shemdoe told Brela management officials when he visited them at their headquarters in Dar es Salaam earlier this week that some companies were registered by people with bad intention who have since abandoned them.

"If there is any obstacle that you face to deregister such companies, please write to the ministry and we will submit a bill to the coming parliament for amendment of the current law. We need only serious companies to appear in your system," he said.

The PS noted that he knows that the agency is owed a lot of money by the ghost companies but common sense simply means that there is no way that the money will be recovered as owners are nowhere to be seen.

The Industry and Trade highest civil servant, also counselled Brela management and staff members to follow ethics and deliver their services professionally so that customers are confident of the agency.

"If someone misbehaves while at work place make sure you suspend them and if necessary fire them because we need clean honest people," Prof Shemdoe noted saying recent World Bank update which ranked Tanzania as a lower middle income economy, means that hard work remains ahead.

Briefing the PS on Brela's rejuvenation, its CEO, Godfrey Nyaisa said the agency has since started online registration of companies and businesses to modernise the registration process. Nyaisa said because of the nature of advanced technology system, some business people have complained that the system is not user friendly.

He said Brela's ICT experts are currently working hard to review and simplify the online system so that it becomes user friendly for the business community and reduce



Industry and Trade ministry permanent secretary, Prof Riziki Shemdoe

such complaints.

"This system is good for governance because it limits manual decision making which is prone to corrupt practices and other illegal acts," the Brela chief noted while pointing out that digitization will also improve handling of

documents because currently many manual documents are defaced or completely destroyed by rogue owners colluding with dishonest staff members.

What will be the way ahead for Rwanda's horticulture industry?

KIGALI

THERE is need for an organised value chain to boost productivity and increase Rwanda's horticulture export revenue, horticulture exporters have said.

The call was made at the official launch of Rwanda's Horticulture Exports Association last week in Kigali. According to Robert Rukundo, Chairman of the association, the industry's performance has been mainly hurt by management and organisation issues.

He told the Business Times that, "As exporters we want to organise ourselves. Bringing our efforts together in order to boost the sector performance while we also address the existing challenges in this industry." Rukundo highlighted that, "The spirit of individualism, (selfishness), people wanting to work individually by not sharing information, has been the biggest challenge in horticulture export business."

However, the chairman also pointed out that owing to the current coronavirus pandemic, other challenges hurting the horticulture business include; financial capability, high cost of freight charges, a limited number of products exported, issue of discrepancies in data among others.

Speaking to this paper, Jean Marie Vianney Munyaneza, Diversification and Product Manager at NAEB, cautioned that the new association should strive for the sector to thrive. Munyaneza said that, "This should work as an ingredient to see that what is expected from this sector can be achieved with no excuses. Coming together is indeed a great milestone because if exporters are not organised themselves."

He highlighted that the Government forecast shows that the country will generate annual export revenue of \$130 million from horticulture by 2024. "Seeing that the group is ready to come together and put efforts together, it is a sign that our work is also going to be easier and better" said Fanny Musheja, Supply Chain Manager at DP world.

Additionally, Musheja noted that "We are optimistic that this will not only lead to an organised sector but it will also, ensure smooth operations with stakeholders." The association founded in 2016 has now grown to a tally of 38 exporting companies, but Munyaneza



Workers package vegetables for export at NAEB.

said that there are over 60 registered export companies.

Boosting productivity, foreign revenue Bosco Gakwaya, Cargo Manager, RwandAir, challenged the exporters to seek to enter bigger markets such as the UK, in a bid to increase the foreign revenue. Rukundo the head of the association said that: "We want to prioritise partnerships with different stakeholders, while we also deal with the issue of price wars and registration of exporting companies"

He also lauded the government's interventions to help the sector survive the current pandemic crisis, while he vowed to increase production in the industry. "Increase in productivity can only be done through the structured systems of trace-ability code. This will help us identify where goods are coming from, right from the farm, to the cold room up to the airline until it is exported as cargo," he said.

Currently the cost of airfreight has been said to be high by exporters standing at \$1.8 per kilogramme compared to \$1.4 before the pandemic. Andre Ndikumana, the acting Chief Executive of NAEB, said earlier that there are engagements with the airline to access ways to reduce the costs to improve the competitiveness of the exports and improve returns of producers.

Beyond working with RwandAir to reduce cost of airfreight, NAEB is also engaging them to open up more destinations which have demand for fresh produce such as Dubai, China and South Africa. The country's horticulture exports are dominated by onion, fresh beans, fresh peas, tomato, cabbage, carrots, cucumber, eggplants, French bean, pepper, and mushrooms. Others are chili, snow peas, flowers, broccoli, macadamia, avocado, and passion fruits.

Egypt's non-oil economy shows signs of stabilising

CAIRO

THE Egyptian non-oil private sector economy is beginning to show signs of recovery, helped by stability in new business as the most populous Arab nation slowly emerges from the Covid-19-induced slowdown.

The headline seasonally adjusted IHS Markit Egypt Purchasing Managers' Index - a composite gauge designed to give a single-figure snapshot of operating conditions in the non-oil private sector economy - rose to 44.6 in June, the highest in four months. That compares with 40.7 in May and a record low of 29.7 in April at the height of the coronavirus pandemic in the country.

A reading above a neutral 50 level indicates economic expansion and below points to a contraction. "June's PMI data gave some promising signs that the Egyptian economy is beginning to stabilise," David Owen, an economist at IHS Markit, said. "The headline PMI ... [is] signalling a further slowing in the downturn caused by the Covid-19 crisis that reached its worst level in April."

In line with the headline figure, sub-indices for output and new orders also rose to four-month highs in June. Many firms reported a boost in business by the partial lifting of Covid-19-related restrictions, as working hours increased along with new contracts from clients.

Still, the overall activity across many sectors remained weak, largely due to restrictions on travel and tourism. Despite softer contraction, the latest data shows that some firms laid off employees and others chose not to hire new workers to reduce staffing costs. Salaries were also adjusted, which lowered staff costs for the third month in a row.

"Employment numbers still fell at an accelerated rate in June, although multiple signals suggest this will soon change," Mr Owen said. "Higher demand at some companies, increased backlogs and sentiment rising to a six-month high all point to firms hopefully restarting hiring in the near future."

Firms also reported a softer reduction in purchasing activity in June, as the decline in new business also slowed. However, delivery times were again pressured by curfew hours and delays at port, lengthening for the fourth month in a row.

Prices paid for input goods meanwhile rose sharply, in part due to an increase in prices for medical materials and a rising US dollar value. The rate of inflation was the sharpest for nine months, leading to a renewed uptick in overall cost pressures at Egyptian firms. Optimism for future business activity was also the highest seen in 2020 so far, as firms said the government is looking to relax Covid-19 restrictions even further. Businesses expect further relaxation to restore private sector demand and support a rise in jobs in the future.



Uber to buy food-delivery firm Postmates in \$2.6-billion deal

NEW YORK

UBER Technologies said on Monday it would buy Postmates in a US\$2.6-billion deal, looking to expand its reach into the food-delivery market as the coronavirus crisis upends its core ride-hailing business.

The move is just weeks after Uber walked away from a deal to buy Grubhub, which would have given Uber's money-losing restaurant delivery service a leg up on market leader DoorDash. US online food delivery company Grubhub agreed to be acquired in June by Just Eat Takeaway.com in a \$7.3-billion deal.

Uber, which has been under pressure as ride-hailing services across the globe plummet because of lockdowns, offered a premium of about 10% on Postmates' last valuation of \$2.4-billion. Uber shares were up about 9% in pre-market trading.

"As more people and more restaurants have come to use our services, Q2 bookings on Uber Eats are up more than 100% year on year," said Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi. Uber currently estimates that it will issue about 84 million shares of common stock for 100% of the fully diluted equity of Postmates, the company said in a statement.

The boards of both companies have approved the transaction, and stockholders representing a majority of Postmates' outstanding shares have committed to support the transaction, it added.

Postmates operates in 4 200 US cities delivering food and other products from restaurants and stores to customers' doorsteps. One of the many taglines reads: "Have chips but no guac? Postmate it."

Founded in 2011, San Francisco-based Postmates accounted for 8% of the US meal delivery market in May, with its biggest rival DoorDash leading with a 44% market share, according to analytics firm Second Measure. Postmates in September raised \$225-million in a private fundraising round. The company's biggest rival, DoorDash, raised \$400-million from private investors at a valuation of \$16-billion in June.

Leading telco's chief says industry showing resilience from COVID-19

By Smart Money Reporter

THE outbreak of the novel coronavirus which has caused global concern and economic uncertainty across most sectors as governments, businesses and individuals adopt strategies to cope with unfolding events, the country's telecommunications industry has remained buoyant.

Most telcos put in place and executed continuity plans that have involved agile working systems and uptake of digital tools to facilitate work anywhere including remote area. Leading global research firm, Analysis Mason has forecast global revenues for telecoms operators to fall by 3.4 percent year-on-year as the coronavirus pandemic edges the world towards recession.

But in the local market, Managing Director of the largest telco, Vodacom Tanzania Plc, Hisham Hendi thinks that measures put in place by stakeholders earlier had assisted to ward off negative impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hendi said Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has been mindful of the COVID-19 outbreak hence did put in place measures to mitigate a fallout arising from some regulatory requirements.

"As outlined in our preliminary results announcement in May 2020, we barred 2.9 million customers in the last quarter of the year following TCRA's biometric registration instructions. We have subsequently reconnected 25 percent of these customers in line with the regulations," said Hendi.

He pointed out that the telco's preliminary results show that Vodacom had 2.5 million customers who were not biometrically registered whose activities generated on average 4.2bn/- in revenue per month.

"These customers will be barred on instruction from TCRA until such time that their biometric registration is concluded. It is important to note that, as matters stand, the TCRA has suspended further barring of customers in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic," the Vodacom chief noted while showering praises to the regulator for the move.

While there are certainly other industries that have been impacted much more severely than telcos, revenues are still under pressure from the wider economic impact such as increasing unemployment caused by the COVID-19 which has resulted into forced business shutdowns and slowdowns. "These trends cannot be ignored," he noted.

The Vodacom Tanzania chief executive further added that while challenges remain in the short term, he believes that the telco industry is well placed to weather the storm. "We will leverage the strength of our balance sheet and our resilient business model to ensure we continue to innovate and generate efficiencies that translate to value to customers and shareholders alike, while safeguarding performance for the future," he explained.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc managing director, Hisham Hendi.

Generally, the industry continues to see very good growth of 4G data traffic accelerated by continuous investment in 4G network by companies led by Vodacom hence tapping into the surge in smartphone penetration.

"Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, we have seen a modest increase in data traffic as more people work from home, turn to online entertainment and make use of the sites that we have zero rated related such as those offering online education, government services and health," Hendi stated.

The virus' presence will push this trend to continue in the short to medium term as more customers practice social distancing through various initiatives such as work from home while using technology to remain connected, educated and entertained.

Hendi's arguments are seconded by Vodacom's M-Pesa Director, Epimack

Mbeteni who said although the market's leading mobile money platform may be impacted in the short term, in the longer term the coronavirus pandemic could prove to be a catalyst for increased uptake of digital financial services.

"Mobile money services like of M-Pesa promote contactless payments, a crucial element in curbing the spread of the virus. It also facilitates the movement of money across the economy where people may have restricted movement," Mbeteni said.

"M-Pesa also encourages contactless purchase of airtime, ensuring recharges can still occur while people and businesses remain connected," he added stressing that in compliance with regulations covering the biometric registration requirements earlier this year, the telco industry has successfully waded off the biggest challenge for 2020.

Mobile cash transactions drop by Sh36.77 billion

NAIROBI

THE amount of cash sent by Kenyans on mobile platforms over the past five months to May fell by Sh36.77 billion compared to similar period last year, official data shows, a rare drop that reflects the financial hardship faced by households and businesses due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Data from the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) shows that Kenyans sent Sh1.752 trillion through their mobile wallets in the five months to May, down from Sh1.789 trillion in corresponding period last year – painting the picture of economic struggles.

In April alone, the deals fell by Sh50.23 billion to Sh360.22 billion from similar period last year which was the biggest month-on-month drop since last year. This sharp drop coincided with the imposition of travel restrictions and other regulation aimed at curbing the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

In March, the cash sent fell by Sh3.879 billion from Sh368.39 billion sent in similar period last year even as the CBK waived charges on mobile money transfers of up to Sh1,000. The fall continued into May as the money sent through the mobile platforms dropping by Sh6.88 billion to Sh357.37 billion from corresponding period last year.

CBK Governor Patrick Njoroge last month said that the impact of the State restrictions to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease such as night curfews and a ban of mass gatherings was severe in April.

"The indicators for the second quarter suggest that the impact of Covid-19 on the economy was most pronounced in April," Dr Njoroge said. The rare drop in mobile cash transactions – the first in the first months since 2008 – comes at a time firms are shedding jobs, cutting salaries and adopting un-paid leaves in efforts to reduce spending, a move that has plunged most workers into turbulent times economically.

Cash sent through mobile platforms has been on the rise since 2008 but job losses, pay cuts and un-paid leaves due to the coronavirus pandemic hurt the trend even CBK waived fees on mobile money of up to Sh1,000 in March.

The drop in money deals came even the number of mobile money accounts

remained on the rise to hit 60.24 million accounts as at end of May while mobile money matched the trend rising to 243,118.

Safaricom through its popular M-Pesa platform remains the dominant player in the sector but is facing stiff competition from banks that are now ramping up their mobile banking and internet-based banking market shares. The move that was last month extended to December 31, is meant to cut down physical handling of money as part of reducing the spread of the coronavirus disease.

Cash sent through the mobile platforms started falling in March when Kenya enforced bans on mass gatherings, enforced the dusk to dawn curfew that was later reviewed and social distancing first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in Kenya on March 12.

Kenya, which had by yesterday reported 7,886 positive cases of Covid-19 and 160 deaths suspended commercial flights in and out of the country, banned public gatherings and imposed a night curfew in directives that have since hurt businesses.

The economy continues to reel from the coronavirus pandemic even as several sectors like hotels gradually re-opened from May. In March, activity in the private sector plunged lowest in since November 2017 as the global coronavirus pandemic hit consumer demand and forced businesses to shed jobs coinciding with the first month-month drop in value of cash sent from last year.

The Market Stanbic Bank Kenya Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) – which tracks business performance in the manufacturing and services sector – fell to 34.8 in April from 37.5 in March from 49.0 in February.

April's number was the second-lowest in the survey's history, highlighting the impact of the virus on business and the economy in the second month of the State-imposed restrictions to contain spread of the coronavirus disease. The slump which has restrained demand for goods and services has reflected in the country's economic growth slowing down to 4.9 percent in the first quarter of this year from 5.5 percent last year, the slowest pace in eight years.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



An M-Pesa agent attends to a client at a shop in Nairobi.

Africa's biggest investment takes shape under Islamist threat

MAPUTO

DOZENS of soldiers clutching AK-47s and grenade launchers watch over roaring bulldozers on the white sand beach that meets a tropical turquoise sea. They're guarding Africa's biggest investment: a \$23 billion project to export Mozambique's natural gas from an area increasingly besieged by an Islamist insurgency.

Companies led by Total will pump the gas from wells about 40 kilometres (25 miles) offshore, cool it to temperatures below minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit so that it turns to liquid, then ship it to electricity plants from France to China. The consortium is about to finalise almost \$16 billion in project financing – another record for the continent.

"The work is immense," said Ronan Bescond, the 44-year-old French chemical engineer who Total chose to lead the project after a career of nearly two decades at the company. "The first cargo of LNG must be in 2024. And we are on the right track," he said to a handful of reporters in a prefabricated room at the site 32 kilometres south of the Rovuma River that marks the border with Tanzania.

The obstacles facing a project that's expected to transform the impoverished southeast African nation are huge. To achieve the target of first production for



Ronan Bescond, Total's LNG plant project leader.

an undertaking worth billions of dollars more than Mozambique's entire economy, developers need to move thousands of tons of equipment through territory thick with Islamic State-aligned insurgents.

At one stage, a Covid-19 outbreak saw the Total site accounting for three in four of the country's confirmed infections. All this as natural-gas prices plunged to near 25-year

lows. Militants who first pledged allegiance to IS in 2018 have carried out increasingly brazen attacks this year.

Deadly raid

Last week, they raided Mocimboa da Praia for a third time, and occupied the town for as long as three days. It's a crucial supply hub just 60 kilometers south of the project site

and the closest port. As many as nine workers for Total subcontractors Fenix Construction Services Lda died in the attack, Jasmine Opperman, an African analyst at Wisconsin-based Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, said in a Twitter post. The company didn't answer seven calls and two emails seeking comment.

Before the gas discoveries and insurgency, the remote coastline was more famous for luxury tropical island resorts. Last month, one of the nearby hotels offered a discount price of \$19,820 a night to hire out an island as a refuge from the coronavirus.

The private military company that Mozambique hired in April to provide air support to government troops in the form of helicopters fitted with machine guns has struggled to quell the violence. Lionel Dyck, the founder of Dyck Advisory Group, the firm the government employed, declined to comment when contacted by mobile phone.

IS warning

Governments including South Africa, the U.S. and Portugal have indicated willingness to help fight the insurgency. "The insurgency is a challenge but we're happy that our defence and security forces have been playing their role," Max Tonela, Mozambique's energy and natural resources minister, told reporters during the June 19 site visit. "We all

as Mozambicans must fight against this evil that comes from external attacks."

About 1 300 people have died in the violence, with a further 220 000 displaced since the first attack three years ago, which also took place at Mocimboa da Praia. For the second time, IS referred directly to the projects in a weekly newsletter this month. The group said that it would be "delusional" to think that the government could protect the investments, and warned other countries against getting involved.

The marginalisation of young men in a region that's predominantly Muslim and 1 900 kilometres away from the capital, Maputo, has helped lead to radicalisation that's fuelled the insurgency, according to researchers including Saide Habibe at the Maputo-based Institute of Social and Economic Studies who has studied the origins of the fighters.

Total's project will hire 14 000 people at peak construction, of which at least 5 000 will be Mozambican and many from the region, Bescond said at the briefing, wearing a surgical mask, as all visitors to the site must do to prevent another outbreak of the coronavirus. The financial rewards are worth the cost to the government of the soldiers patrolling the vast compound and snipers on its perimeter fence – Total's estimate is \$50 billion in direct and indirect revenue over 25 years for the \$15 billion economy.

WORLD

S. Africa announces further reopening of schools amid COVID-19 pandemic

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa will further reopen its schools in light of its phased-in reopening strategy despite an upsurge in confirmed COVID-19 cases, the government announced on Sunday.

From July 6, schools will reopen for Grades R, 6 and 11 learners, Minister of

Basic Education, Angie Motshekga said in a statement.

Provinces that are not ready to receive Grade R on July 6 must provide strategic and realizable plans for ensuring the reincorporation of Grade R learners to schools within, but not later than the end of July 2020, the minister said.



However, the provinces that are ready to receive Grade R learners on July 6 can proceed to receive those learners, she said.

On June 8, South Africa reopened schools for Grade 7 and Grade 12 learners in its first phase of school reopening.

Since then, 2,740 teachers have been infected by the virus, less than one percent of the total number of about 440,000 teachers in the country, according to the minister.

In the same period, 1,260 learners were also infected by the virus, translating to 0.01 percent of the total number of Grade 7 and Grade 12 learners, she said.

Meanwhile, 968 schools out of the total number of 25,762 schools were closed due to transmissions among teachers

and learners, Motshekga said.

Eleven teachers and four non-teaching staff members died of COVID-19, while three learners were reported to have succumbed to the virus, she said.

"All of us must simply follow the health, safety and social distancing protocols on COVID-19. If we fail to do so, the road ahead will be difficult for all of us," Motshekga said, apparently responding to concerns over further reopening of schools.

Xinhua

'Bolton distorts events in memoirs about dialogue with Russia's defense chief'

MOSCOW



FORMER US National Security Advisor John Bolton distorts information in his memoirs about a dialogue with Russian Defense Minister Army General Sergei Shoigu on the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Colonel-General Alexander Fomin said on Friday.

Russia's Defense Ministry paid attention to Bolton's memoirs published last week where he comments, among other, on the situation with the INF Treaty and the discussion of this issue with Russian Defense Minister Army General Shoigu, the deputy defense minister said.

"In principle, it is not accepted in the practice of negotiations to disclose the content of confidential discussions without the consent of the other side. Considering that the author of the memoirs allowed himself to ignore these rules, it would be fair to comment on his pronouncements, all the more so as the evaluations he gives considerably distort real events," Fomin said.

"He says that Russia allegedly supported the US deliberations that the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty had lost its significance, especially due to the considerable development of China's missile and nuclear program. We, however, believe that the US exit from this treaty was planned in advance and the accusations that Russia breached it are unfounded," the deputy defense minister said.

As for Bolton's claim about an increased threat from China, the Russian deputy defense minister characterized it as a banal 'manipulation' of facts. "We do not consider China's activity in the missile sphere as a security threat and, all the more so, as a reason for dismantling the INF Treaty," the deputy defense minister said.

Such an interpretation of facts suggests that the Russia-China strategic partnership that has currently reached the highest level in the entire history of bilateral relations causes the memoirs author "heartburn," Fomin said.

The colonel-general stressed that "the United States bears full responsibility for the treaty's dismantling."

International treaties

Over a long period of time, the United States has been persistently pursuing the policy of giving up its arms control commitments to ensure conditions for its military dominance, the Russian deputy defense minister said.

"The US side withdrew from the ABM Treaty in 2002 and from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran in 2018 and, as you also know, the United States made a decision in 2019 to pull out from the INF Treaty and currently the US position threatens the Treaty on Open Skies (the US announced its decision to quit it) and the New START Treaty," the deputy defense minister said.

The Russian defense official also dwelt on the situation with the INF Treaty. "We view the US exit from this treaty as erroneous while the claims the United States made to Russia as solely far-fetched," he said. On August 2, 2019, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty was officially terminated at the US initiative. **Agencies**

Nigerian president condemns Boko Haram for attacking UN aid helicopter

ABUJA

NIGERIAN President Muhammadu Buhari on Sunday condemned the terrorist group Boko Haram for attacking a United Nations aid helicopter in the country's northeast region.

Buhari described the Saturday attack that killed two civilians in the northeastern state of Borno as "dastardly." The Boko Haram terrorists had attacked the Damasak area of Borno and shot a humanitarian helicopter belonging to the UN mission, which was badly damaged.

The attack was earlier confirmed by Edward Kallon, UN resident coordinator in Nigeria. "This latest cowardly attack on the UN humanitarian helicopter is yet another desperate rearguard action by the Boko Haram terrorists who have been under intense pressure from the Nigerian military," the president said in a statement.

"Let me reassure the international community and Nigerians that this latest cowardly attack on a UN helicopter which claimed the lives of two people, including a five-year-old baby, would not go without severe consequences," he said. According to the president, the Boko Haram terrorists are clearly on the back foot and their increasing attacks on innocent civilians, including UN humanitarian workers, were part of their desperation to prove that they are strong in order to cover up their dwindling fortunes.

He said the security of foreigners and Nigerians remain the top priority of his administration, adding no stone will be left unturned until the "remorseless enemies of humanity" were eliminated.

He further underscored the need for all humanitarian and other aid workers in the region to, at all times, properly coordinate movements -- air or land, with local military authorities. **Xinhua**

US accused of double standards on rights

By Ren Qi

THE United States is displaying its double standards as it interferes in the internal affairs of other countries despite being unable to deal with problems related to racism on its own shores, a Russian political observer has said.

Andrey Kalachinsky, a political commentator in Vladivostok, in Russia's Far East, shared his views in a post on the news website Vladnews in June.

The piece headlined Double standard: get and role, focused on the double standards, especially related to issues concerning Russia and China, saying the US was using them as tools to shift focus away from its own problems.

Now the movement against racism in the US, after the death of George Floyd (pictured), under the slogan "Black Lives Matter" is not peaceful, but has descended into rioting in many places, he said, adding that the campaign which had spread to more than 40 cities and led to about 10,000 people being arrested, had also claimed more than 20 lives.

The marches were violent as these protesters took over buildings, smashed shops in the cities' downtown areas, blocked roads and clashed with the police, he said.

Pointing to how bad the situation had become, he said that in late May, US President Donald

Trump had requested local governments to restore order, and urged states to call in the National Guard.

But even as US politicians dealt with domestic chaos, they did not miss an opportunity to take aim at China and Russia, Kalachinsky said.

He said that while the US continued to accuse Russia of interference in the last US presidential election, it also tried to link the protests in the US with China without any proof.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo even called the protests "callous attempts by the Chinese Communist Party to exploit the tragic death of George Floyd for its own political gain".

Separately, he said in a tweet on June 6: "During the best of times, Beijing ruthlessly imposes communism. Amid the most difficult challenges, the United States secures freedom." Pompeo is not being rational about this, Kalachinsky said. "Is violence in the street and looting of stores a guarantee of freedom?"

"What do those Americans who have suffered from such 'freedom' think about this?"

Other actions

Referring to other US actions, he said the country had adopted special laws and imposed sanctions against Chinese officials, companies and institutions in



relation to its criticism of China's human rights situation and its policies in the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. And Trump signed the so-called Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 on June 17, besides receiving a Senate bill about sanctions on China on Thursday, after China passed the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in Hong Kong.

Commenting on these actions, Kalachinsky said this was not the first time that the US was showing its double standards toward China, stressing that the US had no right to target others as it treated its citizens with a different skin color as well as foreigners unfairly.

With regard to the 5G issue,

Kalachinsky said: "It is clear that China leads the research and development for the new 5G communications technology, and the deputy chair of the board of Chinese company Huawei, Meng Wanzhou, was detained in Canada at the request of the US. And the search for Chinese spies at all universities in the US has not produced any results.

"Again, the US is following double standards on cybersecurity issues while spying on politicians around the world and intercepting information. According to Edward Snowden and WikiLeaks, they even listened to German Chancellor (Angela) Merkel."

On the Hong Kong law, Kalachinsky said that Carrie Lam Cheng Yuetngor, the special administrative region's chief executive, had

said that the US criticizing China for adopting a law to protect the safety and stability in its own territory "shows double standards".

According to her, the governments of some countries show much seriousness about protecting their national security, but view a law for HKSAR's protection as biased, which is clearly a manifestation of double standards.

The same double standards appear in US policy toward various "revolutions" and the "Arab Spring", Kalachinsky said, adding: "According to the Americans, revolutions are justified even when a legitimate government is overthrown. But this looks ridiculous when we see the current situation in the United States.

"Now the National Guard is attempting to suppress rallies by force, using riot gear and tear gas. And armored vehicles are used. There are deaths and injuries, and more than 9,000 people are detained. And the US president has threatened to use the right to send federal troops to cities."

Referring to the various "revolutions" backed by the US, Kalachinsky said that the US clearly applies double standards when it calls itself a "defender of human rights" and waves its hands in front of other countries, judging them, interfering in their internal affairs on the pretext of protecting human rights, Kalachinsky said. **Agencies**

UAE restructures government, merges 50% of federal agencies

THE United Arab Emirates announced changes to its government structure, including reducing federal agencies by 50 percent, as the Gulf nation seeks to prepare itself for the challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic.

The new government has a year to achieve its "new priorities" and there'll be "continuous changes" to improve efficiency and flexibility, Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum said in a tweet on Sunday.

The head of Abu Dhabi's national oil company ADNOC, Sultan al-Jaber, was named as industry and advanced technology minister and Abdullah al-Marri was ap-



pointed economy minister, as part of the restructuring announced by UAE Vice-President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum on his official Twitter account.

Al-Jaber (pictured) will also head the Emirates Development Bank, and according to ADNOC, he would retain his post as ADNOC chief executive.

Meanwhile, the energy and infrastructure ministries were merged under a single portfolio to be headed by the current energy minister, Suhail Al Mazrouei.

The Ministry of Economy will have three ministers. Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri was named minister for economy, Ahmed Bel-

houl was appointed as minister for entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises, and Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi was appointed as minister for foreign trade.

Also under the restructuring, the Federal Electricity and Water Authority, Emirates Transport, Emirates Post Group and Emirates Real Estate Corp. will be brought under the Emirates Investment Authority.

The changes are being made to help the country deal with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Sheikh Mohammed said last month when plans to restructure were first announced. **Agencies**

Chinese company unveils positive results of COVID-19 vaccines

AN institute of biological products in Beijing affiliated with the China National Pharmaceutical Group (Sinopharm) announced on Sunday that it had achieved positive results for a COVID-19 vaccine candidate it developed.

The development came as the global number of confirmed patients exceeded 10 million as of 6:30 pm Sunday (Beijing time).

Three of the four inactivated COVID-19 vaccines developed in China evoked positive immune responses in Phase I and II clinical trials, indicating that China has made great progress in the research and development (R&D) of this type of vaccine, experts said.

The Beijing institute, which is under the Sinopharm China National Biotech Group (CNBG), said in a statement sent to the Global Times that all 1,120 volunteers in the first and second phase clinical trials successfully produced high-titer antibodies against COVID-19 after accepting two doses of the vaccine.

The vaccine has proven to be effective and safe, read the statement.

The clinical trials started on April 27 in Shangqiu county, Central China's Henan Province and were designed as randomized, double-blind and placebo-controlled studies, according to the state-

ment.

Another institute under CNBG in Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province, on June 16 announced the results of Phase I and II clinical trials of a vaccine candidate it developed. This provided further vital data for CNBG's research of inactivated COVID-19 vaccines, read the statement.

On June 23, CNBG announced that it had agreed with authorities in the United Arab Emirates to start Phase III clinical trials for inactivated vaccine candidates CNBG developed. The group did not say which vaccines were involved.

Experts said that if human trials go

well overseas, the third phase trial will be closed in August, followed by medical observation in September, with data revealed as soon as October. A vaccine could then be approved for marketing after positive results at the end of October.

Sinopharm is expanding manufacturing capacity for COVID-19 vaccines. One plant in Beijing and one in Wuhan can together produce at least 200 million doses annually, according to media reports.

The plant in Beijing is the largest manufacturing center for COVID-19 vaccines worldwide, reports said.

However, mass production of inac-

tivated vaccines is still facing the initial challenge of insufficient capacity, warned experts. "Each person needs two doses of the inactivated vaccine to evoke an immune response, and 200 million doses would only meet the immunization needs of 100 million people. This is still far from enough for China and the world at a time when vaccines are urgently needed," Tao Lina, a Shanghai-based vaccine expert, told the Global Times on Sunday.

China is developing COVID-19 vaccines in five categories - inactivated vaccines, recombinant protein vaccines, live attenuated influenza vaccines, adenovirus

vaccines and nucleic acid-based vaccines, reports said. Except for live attenuated influenza vaccines, all four types have entered human clinical trials, showing that the progress of R&D for COVID-19 vaccines in China is markedly faster than in the US, analysts noted.

Several other types of vaccines, if developed successfully, are theoretically more productive than inactivated vaccines, said Tao.

"The World Health Organization (WHO) expects 2 billion doses of vaccine to be available worldwide by the end of 2021. Inactivated vaccines alone will certainly not be enough," Tao said. **Global Times**



Speaking at the 44th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Cuba on behalf of 53 countries welcomed the adoption of the law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region by China's top legislature.

US political persecution deviates from human rights protection

SPEAKING at the 44th session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council on Tuesday, Cuba on behalf of 53 countries welcomed the adoption of the law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) by China's top legislature.

"In any country, the legislative power on national security issues rests with State, which in essence is not a human rights issue and therefore not subject to discussion at the Human Rights Council," said a Cuban representative.

"We believe that every country has the right to safeguard its national security through legislation, and commend relevant steps taken for this purpose," the representative added.

Such a voice represented the justice upheld by the international society, and was a forceful reply to the malicious practices of some Western countries, including the U.S., to interfere in China's domestic affairs under the pretext of human rights. It also firmly protected the important principles in the UN Charter, such as non-interference in internal affairs of sovereign states, as well as the basic norms of international relations.

It once again proved that justice naturally inhabits man's heart. The political persecution on other countries under the pretext of human rights will not be supported, and to apply hegemony and double standards on human rights issues will only lead to failure.

According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

Since June last year, groups advocating "Hong Kong independence" and "self-determination" have incited protesters with external forces, trying to turn Hong Kong into a heaven of violence. Emotionally blackmailing millions of people for their own interests, they encouraged mobsters' "mutual destruction" and lynch mob-style assaults.

Their practice not only paralyzed the traffic, shut down businesses and brought troubles to people's daily life, but also threatened the lives and property safety of the citizens. No country would allow and indulge such practices hurting human rights.

Hong Kong is China's Hong Kong. No one cares more about Hong Kong's prosperity and stability and Hong Kong resident's welfare and rights than the Chinese Government and people. The rule of law symbolizes the progress of human civilization, and also guar-

antees the realization of human rights protection. The law on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR clearly defines the principles on rule of law, including respecting and protecting human rights. Rather than restricting the rights and interests, as well as the freedom enjoyed by Hong Kong residents in accordance with the law, the legislation only makes better execution of such rights and interests in a more secure environment.

The right of China to safeguard national security, as well as its practical measures to protect human rights deserve respect from the international society. The Western intervention in China's sovereign acts and domestic affairs under the disguise of human rights protection is typical political persecution, and seriously violates the international law and the basic norms governing international relations.

One shall be objective and fair on the judgment of human rights issues, so that it can withstand the test of history. Facts have repeatedly proved that China is constantly improving its human rights conditions, while the U.S. is doing exactly the opposite. Recently, some U.S. politicians have been talking nonsense on Hong Kong and Xinjiang affairs out of political purposes, regardless of their own poor records in human rights protection, which exposed typical double standards. What the U.S. has done in the recent two months alone is enough to prove the country's indifference to its people's right to life and health, to international judicial fairness, and to the responsibilities it should shoulder as a major country. The U.S. is really in no position to point fingers at other countries' human rights conditions.

The 43rd session of the UN Human Rights Council held on June 19 adopted a resolution strongly condemning the continuing racially discriminatory and violent practices perpetrated by law enforcement agencies against Africans and people of African descent. The resolution, in particular, condemned police brutality that led to the deaths of U.S. citizen George Floyd in Minneapolis and other people of African descent. It also further condemned the structural racism in the U.S. criminal justice system.

Also in June this year, the U.S. declared to impose sanctions against some International Criminal Court (ICC) officials investigating possible war crimes committed by U.S. forces in Afghanistan, as well as the expansion of visa restrictions against these officials and their family members.

The decision by the U.S. to authorize sanctions targeting staff at the International Criminal Court (ICC) is "a direct attack to the institution's judicial independence", UN human rights experts said, adding that it could undermine victims' access to justice.

People's Daily

EU members seek to poison rapprochement between Venezuelan govt, opposition

MOSCOW

CERTAIN European countries seek to make any rapprochement between the Venezuelan opposition and the government "toxic", Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Saturday.

"The European Union has passed a package of sanctions against a group of the country's politicians, including from the opposition camp, who call for a constructive dialogue with the authorities.

It is important that the efforts of



the foreign ministers of Venezuela and the EU helped, however, to avoid any further escalation of the diplo-

matic crisis," Zakharova recalled.

"Not only do the steps taken in European capitals facilitate this, they pose a risk of bringing the situation to a standstill.

Their initiators admit their own defeat and a lack of ideas on the track of Venezuelan settlement.

The goal remains the same of making 'toxic' any rapprochement between the opposition and Chavists and to prevent the conflicting sides from finding common ground," she added.

Agencies

Australia closes state border for first time in 100 years after COVID-19 spike

SYDNEY

THE border between Australia's two most populous states will close from tomorrow for an indefinite period as authorities scramble to contain an outbreak of the coronavirus in the city of Melbourne.

The decision announced yesterday marks the first time the border between Victoria and New South Wales has been shut in 100 years. Officials last blocked movement between the two states in 1919 during the Spanish flu pandemic.

"It is the smart call, the right call at this time, given the significant challenges we face in containing this virus," Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews told reporters in Melbourne.

The move will, however, likely be a blow to Australia's economic recovery as it heads into its first recession in nearly three decades.

The number of COVID-19 cases in the Victorian capital of Melbourne has surged in recent days, prompting authorities to enforce strict social-distancing orders in 30 suburbs and put nine public housing towers into complete lockdown.

The state reported 127 new COVID-19 infections overnight, its biggest one-day spike since the pandemic began. It also reported two deaths, the first nationally in more than two weeks, taking the national tally to 106.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian said there was no timetable for reopening the border, which will be patrolled by the military to prevent illegal crossings from 11.59 p.m. local time on Tuesday.

The state line is highly porous, with 55 roads, wilderness parks and rivers. Some businesses straddle both sides and several workers, and school children, commute daily.

Lyn McKenzie, who runs a paddle steamer business along the Murray River from Mildura, a border city of 30,000 people, is waiting for more detail to gauge the full impact on her business.

McKenzie lives on the NSW side of the river, the boats pick up passengers from the Victoria side and the river itself is classified as part of NSW.

Freight train service deepens China-Europe cooperation amid pandemic

ON June 29, a Yiwu-Madrid express train carrying 70 TEU containers of pandemic prevention materials arrived in Madrid, Spain. The goods, including 25.05 million masks and 400,000 sets of protective clothing, weighed 257 tons.

"These materials are very valuable. They support us in strengthening epidemic prevention and control and create a safe environment for resumption of production," said the Spanish manager of DSV, a Danish transport and logistics company.

Spain has a rising demand for pan-



People wearing protective face masks practice social distancing while waiting to enter an Apple store on the first day of New South Wales' further eased coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions in Sydney, Australia, July 1, 2020. REUTERS

"I'm seeing this as possibly needing to shut down again, but it's a bit early for me, not knowing the exact details," McKenzie told Reuters.

Berejiklian said people would be able to apply for daily permits to cross the border, but added there would be delays of around three days in issuing the passes.

Paul Armstrong, who runs a petrol station in Wodonga, a border town on the Victorian side, said his children live in New South Wales but go to school in Victoria.

"I wonder if they will need permits," Armstrong said. Schools in Victoria are in their second week of the two-week winter vacation. Schools in New South Wales began their two-week term break on Monday.

NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller said the military would provide round-the-clock aerial and other surveillance to enforce the closure. Victoria's only other internal border, with South Australia state, has been closed since March 22 under previous coronavirus measures.

MELBOURNE LOCKDOWN

Australia has fared better than many countries in the coronavirus pandemic, with just short of 8,500 cases so far, but the Melbourne outbreak has raised alarm bells.

The country has reported an average of 109 cases daily over the past week, compared with an average of just 9 cases daily over the first week of June.

Melbourne locals are concerned that renewed social distancing measures have not been implemented uniformly across the city.

"Without a full Melbourne lockdown, I am not super confident this is going to be contained," Jack Bell, a life-guard who lives in Victorian suburb of Kensington, told Reuters.

Kensington is one of the 30 suburbs that have reimposed social distancing measures. The nine public housing blocks that have been subjected to a complete lockdown, Australia's first, are in neighbouring North Melbourne and Flemington.

Agencies

Kenya's rural areas turning weak link in COVID-19 fight

NAIROBI

FROM carrying more than the authorized number of passengers in public transport vehicles and motorbike taxis to failing to wear face masks in public places, Kenya's rural residents are becoming a weak link in the East African nation's fight against COVID-19.

The belief in most rural areas in the East African nation is that COVID-19 is an urban area disease, in particular Nairobi and Mombasa. Therefore, many residents do little to protect themselves and other people.

"We are seeing many people in rural areas not adhering to the laid down containment measures. Motorbike taxi operators

are carrying up to three people in violation of our guidelines," said Rashid Aman, the Chief Administrative Secretary in the Ministry of Health on Sunday.

Failure to wear masks and adhere to social distancing, according to Aman, pre-exposes one to the virus.

"Everybody needs to wear masks. It's the only way we can prevent the spread of the virus, especially where people are close to each other like in public transport vehicles. We want to encourage all Kenyans to wear the masks," he said.

Kenya's rural areas host a majority of elderly people, with the health ministry noting cases of

the disease among the group is on the rise. So far, the oldest person in Kenya to contract the disease is 100 years old. On Sunday, as he announced new cases of the disease in the last 24 hours, Aman said the oldest affected person was 83 years.

"Our worry is the older people in rural areas, who if infected will lead to critical cases and even death because their immunity is weak and they may be having other pre-existing conditions," he said.

East Africa's biggest economy recorded 309 more positive cases on Sunday, bringing the total caseload to 7,886. Recoveries stood at 2,287 as the death tally

hit 160 after one more person died. "These rising cases show containment measures are not working effectively as people flout them," said Aman.

Mannesses Otiao, a teacher in Busia, western Kenya, noted that the need to wear masks, maintain physical distance and sanitize has escaped many residents in the border district.

"You go to markets and fear for yourself because the people have no regard for containment measures. In public transport vehicles, it is business as usual as passengers are crowded," he said, with the situation mirroring what is happening in many rural areas across Kenya.

Busia is among the worst affected rural Kenya counties, with the others being Turkana, Makuani, Kajiado, Narok and Kitui.

A majority of the rural counties are ill-prepared to handle cases of COVID-19, which has made Kenya delay the lifting of restrictions put in place, according to the Ministry of Health.

Out of 47 counties, only 14 have a 300-bed capacity health facility to cater for COVID-19 patients. "We expect most counties to attain the target as the caseload continues to rise," said Francis Kuria, head of public health of Kenya's Ministry of Health.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta is on Monday expected to give further directions on the restrictions that include a curfew and partial lockdown of Nairobi.

While most citizens are hoping that the restrictions would be lifted, health experts fear that this may lead to a rise in COVID-19 cases in rural areas where most Kenyans live amid a poor state of preparedness in counties.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health said it is conducting a study to determine the age group of people that are most infected by COVID-19.

Aman said that the results of the study will enable the govern-



Ramaphosa wants S. Africans to keep distance from elderly amid COVID-19

CAPE TOWN

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday urged South Africans to keep a distance from their elderly parents and grandparents so as to save their lives as the COVID-19 pandemic kept spreading.

Coronavirus can infect anyone, but older people are among those at highest risk of getting severely ill and possibly dying, Ramaphosa (pictured) said in his weekly address to the nation.

"Sadly, there have been a number of coronavirus outbreaks at old age homes and care centers, resulting in a number of deaths," he said.

People with underlying medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, renal disease, asthma and chronic respiratory disease are more vulnerable to developing severe complications and dying from coronavirus, Ramaphosa said, citing data from the Department of Health.

According to new research published by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, a third of patients admitted to hospital with COVID-19 had at least one co-morbidity.

"This is a significant concern in a country such as ours that also has high prevalence of HIV and tuberculosis, the leading cause of natural deaths in South Africa last year," Ramaphosa said.

Additionally, more than 4.5 million South Africans have diabetes, a figure that has doubled since 2017, according to Ramaphosa.

In Western Cape alone, diabetes is a co-morbidity in over half of all COVID-19 deaths, he said.

In some provinces, including Gauteng and Western Cape, testing is being offered to people with co-morbidities such as diabetes whether they show coronavirus symptoms or not, said Ramaphosa.

"This smart approach to screening and testing is part of our effort to limit infections among those most vulnerable," he said.

As part of the national effort to contain coronavirus, protecting the general population from becoming infected must be matched by efforts to protect people who are at greater risk, Ramaphosa stressed.

"Difficult though it may be, we should not expose our elderly mothers and fathers to the virus through social visits. Let us keep in touch with them by phone or video messaging," he said.

Xinhua

ment to understand which age groups to put emphasis on while addressing the pandemic.

"The study will add value to our intervention and most importantly to inform where to put more resources," Aman told journalists in Nairobi.

He however said that from the laboratory tests that are conducted on a daily basis, fewer children are infected by the disease. "As the number of people turning positive keeps increasing in the country, we are worried more by the older people getting infected since the international trend has revealed that they are the most affected cadre of the population by the disease given their advanced age," Aman added. Xinhua



Australian Open champion Serbia's Novak Djokovic poses with the trophy during a photo shoot at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne, Australia in this February 3, 2020 file photo. REUTERS

Djokovic's event taught us to be cautious - French Open director

MUMBAI

FRENCH Open organisers are taking every precaution to ensure the Grand Slam does not meet the same fate as Novak Djokovic's Adria Tour, which was abandoned after several players tested positive for COVID-19, tournament director Guy Forget has told Reuters.

Djokovic has come under fire after the charity event was played in front of packed crowds in Serbia and Croatia and saw players hugging at the net and posing for pictures together.

Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki have all tested positive for the new coronavirus.

The French Open will allow up to 60% of the usual capacity inside the Roland Garros grounds when the rescheduled claycourt tournament starts on Sept. 27 and Forget said there was no chance of them repeating the mistakes of the Adria Tour.

"Maybe some people were overconfident there," Forget said by telephone.

"Luckily no one got hurt really bad but even a few cases is too much and we want to avoid that as much as we can.

"We want to reassure everyone that having people getting ill will be terrible for us. Let's be really careful, really cautious."

France began easing restrictions in May but has been reporting over 500 cases daily in recent days. Protective masks will be mandatory for anyone on the move inside Roland Garros and they will be recommended for those sitting courtside.

The French Tennis Federation (FFT) expect some 20,000 spectators a day during the early stages of the two-week tournament and about 10,000 per day on the final weekend.

Forget said a successful event needed to have some kind of a crowd.

"We all see soccer on television, it's wonderful but something is missing without the crowds," the former world No. 4 said.

"We are working closely with the

administration, the government, to make sure we can provide some crowd while still following very strict security measures."

MORE FLEXIBLE

The U.S. Open in New York, which is scheduled to start on Aug. 31, will have no spectators and operate under strict health protocols, including limiting the size of each player's entourage.

Forget said French Open organisers were not planning anything as strict and were even hoping to ease restrictions.

"Luckily things are a bit more flexible in Europe and in France, especially," he said. "Hopefully, what we're going to announce will probably be even more flexible than what we did."

The FFT drew heavy criticism in mid-March when it unilaterally moved the French Open to September from its scheduled May start amid the COVID-19 crisis, placing it in the middle of the hardcourt season.

Forget said he understood why some were unhappy about it but thought saving one of the most prestigious and lucrative tournaments in tennis was worth it.

"We're not going to celebrate or congratulate ourselves for the decision we took," the 55-year-old said.

"We thought it's a risk worth taking. Of course we'll make people unhappy.

"But in mid-October, if we're able to come together and we've been able to provide revenue for 600 people, I think we will be very satisfied as a federation and I as a former player."

Forget was reasonably confident the tournament would be a success but would not relax until after the men's final on Oct. 11.

"I don't want to shout 'victory' before the tournament actually happens," Forget said.

"As the tournament director I'll only be happy once the men's winner shakes the hand of the finalist.

"We will all together be able to say, we did it."

REUTERS

NBA distributes protocols for players traveling without team - reports

FLORIDA

AS the NBA begins welcoming teams to ESPN Wide of Sports Complex near Orlando this week for the resumption of the 2019-20 season, the league has reportedly set the protocols for players unable to travel with the rest of their team.

Citing a memo sent to teams from the league, ESPN on Sunday reported that players must arrange for their own travel to the Orlando area if a) they miss a scheduled coronavirus test in the two days prior to their team's scheduled departure date, or b) have "extenuating circumstances" previously disclosed to the league.

According to the memo, ESPN reported that a player can travel on a charter flight at their own expense, travel by car or fly commercial. If the player chooses to fly privately or drive, they must have two negative coronavirus tests before resuming basketball activities. If they fly commercial, they must test negative three consecutive times before rejoining their teammates.

There are also several players who have already tested positive for COVID-19, and according to ESPN, any players who tested positive in the last week will likely be unable to travel with their teams. Players who do test positive must self-isolate and pass at least two consecutive tests, according to the NBA's health and safety guidelines, ESPN reported.

The NBA announced last Thursday that 25 players tested positive for the coronavirus in the first eight days of testing. Among the teams with players who have reportedly tested positive are the Los Angeles Clippers, Denver Nuggets, Brooklyn Nets and Miami Heat.

The 22 teams taking part in the resumption of the NBA season are scheduled to arrive in Florida between Tuesday and Thursday. Beginning July 22, each team will compete in three inter-squad scrimmages at the ESPN complex before the regular season resumes July 30.

The NBA suspended its season after Utah center Rudy Gobert tested positive on March 11. REUTERS

As Paris Fashion Week is streamed, critics look to future

PARIS

THE coronavirus pandemic has instilled extra unpredictability into the already fickle Paris Fashion Week. After first canceling the July shows for menswear and Haute Couture, the French fashion federation has now organized an unprecedented schedule of digital-only events instead.

Top houses such as Chanel, Dior and Hermes are set to show their new Fall-Winter 2020/2021 couture collections or their Spring-Summer 2021 menswear collections online this week – but with no celebrity guests, no Vogue Editor-in-Chief Anna Wintour and none of the usual frenzied media circus.

No one from the public will be allowed to see the clothes in person at all, in fact, during this on-screen-only version of fashion week that starts Monday. Some shows will be live-streamed, and others may be pre-recorded.

The federation decided this spring that because of social distancing guidelines, Paris Fashion Week – famed for its 25-centimeter (9-inches)-a-bottom seating allowances – would skip in-person shows for a season, and return to normal, or, at least a new normal, in September, barring a second wave.

"It's uncharted waters this season, a whole new ball game," ODDA Magazine Editor-at-Large Jessica Michault said.

Chanel is live-streaming its couture show Tuesday after piloting such an approach in its Cruise collection in June. Hermes is presenting its show as a digital "experience" on two separate days, one streamed live and the second time as a video replay.

Dior Men's is putting on a digital show, while Dior Couture is revealing a "surprise" to editors, who will admire and review glimmering silk chiffons and diaphanous taffetas from the comfort of their couches.

Valentino, meanwhile, is going "rogue" this season by unveiling an online sneak-peek during its allotted couture slot Wednesday of what it promises to be a live performance in Rome for later in the



In this March 1, 2020 file photo, a model wears a creation for the Givenchy fashion collection during Women's fashion week Fall/Winter 2020/21 presented in Paris. The coronavirus pandemic has instilled extra unpredictability into the already fickle Paris Fashion Week. After first canceling the July shows for menswear and Haute Couture, the French fashion federation has now organized an unprecedented schedule of digital-only events instead. (AP Photo)

month. It says that the later event will "bring together the human and the digital touch, creating a dialogue where neither of them will take the lead." It hasn't said whether that means actual members of the public will be allowed to attend, or given details.

The new digital Paris Fashion Week calendar isn't bad for everyone. Normally, there is one official show per hour, allowing gas-guzzling cars to crisscross Paris transporting editors to and from venues. But because there's no need for travel this season – apart from to the kitchen to the living room and back to top up on mineral water and coffee – shows have been spaced out by only 30 minutes, effectively doubling the amount of on-calendar shows. The new gaps have been populated by smaller houses that wouldn't normally get a look-in, and menswear newbies such as Ernest W Baker, Alled-Martinez, Cool TM and Egonlab.

"This season will definitely have changed the fashion industry moving forward, especially for smaller brands, as the digital avenue can get them bigger visibility, by being on-calendar," Michault said. This season the calendar boasts a

record 68 men's shows over five days.

It's too early to tell whether this will sound the death knell for the traditional fashion show, but for Haute Couture, many fashion critics warn that this approach cannot do justice to the art of high luxury fashion and it just won't catch on.

"Paris is where designers show ideas, and ideas can't come through unless the shows are presented to breathing witnesses, who can testify with emotion to live clothes and staging," said Long Nguyen, a freelance critic who has spent decades observing fashion from the front rows.

"It's like physically going to Tibet or viewing it online – it's not the same experience. For commercial clothes digital streaming is fine, but couture and high fashion is different," he added.

Paris Fashion Week has said that next season, in September's women's ready-to-wear, there will be a return to the "normal" style of physical shows, but given the persistent threat of the resurgence of the virus, houses will likely have to change the way they showcase their clothes. Paris houses may have to rent out bigger spaces to adhere to social

distancing rules, or reduce audience sizes.

"Either brands will go large at giant venues like Louis Vuitton or go small and cull the guest list with fewer guests. Or go digital. Nothing beats being at a fashion show, sitting on the front row and seeing the clothes up close, but something's going to have to give," Michault said.

Milan menswear – which begins July 14, just as the Paris season wraps up, and runs four days – has also announced a mostly digital calendar, with just Dolce & Gabbana and Etro staging live runway shows, a month later than usual.

The coronavirus epidemic was confirmed in Italy during Milan's February shows, prompting Giorgio Armani to hold his show on Feb. 23 behind closed doors, while the fashion world watched live over streaming. Many complained at the time that the online format simply did not work as a platform to view and appreciate designs.

Nevertheless, the virus looks like it may be the catalyst for change in the whole high-fashion sector. Saint Laurent and Gucci have used the coronavirus scare to rethink the pace of the fashion industry, announcing they will leave the four-times-a-year rhythm of the fashion calendar behind, with its shuttling of fashionistas between global capitals where they squeeze shoulder-to-shoulder around runways for 15 breathless minutes.

Last week, storied Parisian house Mugler also said it would consolidate all its annual output into two shows from four "to respect a steady growth plan and the creative pace of the Paris atelier."

AP

DeChambeau delivers down the stretch to claim Motor City title

WASHINGTON

BRYSON DeChambeau held off overnight leader Matthew Wolff down the stretch Sunday, firing a final-round 65 to capture the Rocket Mortgage Classic by three strokes.

DeChambeau continued his comeback start to the pandemic-stunted season, finishing the week at 23-under 265 to claim his sixth career win on the USPGA Tour.

He quickly erased Wolff's three-shot lead to start the day but needed three straight closing birdies to seal the victory in a thrilling back-nine duel.

"I played really well on front nine and struck it beautifully," said DeChambeau. "On the back nine I got a little tight. I didn't hit driver the way I wanted to.

"I got a little unlucky on 14 going into water but I was able to persevere and do my best to make three birdies coming in to win."

The 21-year-old Wolff, who was trying to become the youngest two-time winner on the Tour since Tiger Woods in 1996, birdied four of his final seven holes to shoot a 71.

DeChambeau has been the story of the USPGA Tour's restart and was the favorite coming into this event. He now has a streak of seven consecutive top-10 finishes thanks in large part to his bulked-up body which allowed him to overpower the Detroit Golf Club course.

Sunday's win was his first since 2018 as he dominated the Michigan fairways with an average driving distance of 350 yards.

Wolff finished alone in second at 20-under 268 and Kevin Kisner was two shots back in third after a 66.

Canada's Adam Hadwin, American Ryan Armour, and Danny Willett and Tyrrell Hatton, both of England, were tied for fourth at 16-under, seven strokes behind DeChambeau.

World No. 10 DeChambeau and Wolff chose to come to the Motor



Bryson DeChambeau holds the Rocket Mortgage Classic golf tournament trophy Sunday, July 5, 2020, at Detroit Golf Club in Detroit. DeChambeau won the tournament. (AP Photo)

City while many of the PGA Tour's top players skipped the event.

In the PGA Tour's first three events after the COVID-19 pandemic slammed the season, the top five players in the world ranking participated in each tournament.

None of the top five competed at the Detroit Golf Club and the field included just 18 of the top 50.

But that doesn't take anything away from the power display that DeChambeau put on Sunday. He rolled in four birdies on the front nine then drained a 35-foot putt on the tenth to get to 21-under and a big lead.

He made another lengthy putt on 16 for the first of three consecutive birdies.

DeChambeau closed in style, blasting 367 yard drive on par-four No. 18. That set the stage for a dynamic finish, which included a stunning approach shot which landed just two feet from the flag.

- Fist bump -

He easily made the short putt then celebrated with a fist bump for his caddie.

Wolff, who missed the cut in each of his last two events, struggled early after three solid rounds. The 21-year-old hasn't posted a top-10 finish since his dramatic maiden win at the 3M Open in Minnesota last July. Wolff opened with a bogey and after pulling back that shot with a 53-foot birdie putt on the fourth, he had back-to-back bogeys at five and six.

He was 16-under with eight to play and tied for third before roaring back to life with two straight birdies on 12 and 13.

"I was telling myself to get back to what I was doing at beginning of the week and not worry about the outcome before it even happens.

He had a shot at an eagle on 17, landing his approach about eight feet from the hole, but his putt curled away at the cup for a miss by an inch.

"Those putts that didn't go in, it was a little bulky and it just wasn't meant to be," Wolff said.

"I have that firepower that I can rattle off so many birdies in a row. I made four of the last seven with missing a couple of short ones."

AFP

Barca chief hints that VAR favours Real Madrid

BARCELONA

BARCELONA president Josep Maria Bartomeu has launched an attack on the use of VAR in La Liga, suggesting it favours Real Madrid after watching his side fall four points behind their Clásico rivals at the top of the table in recent weeks.

Barca beat Villarreal 4-1 on Sunday to keep their faltering title hopes alive with four games to play but the win was overshadowed by decisions taken in Madrid's 1-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao earlier in the day.

Sergio Ramos scored the only goal of that game when referee Jose Gonzalez Gonzalez awarded a penalty for Dani Garcia's foul on Marcelo after consulting the pitchside VAR monitor. Moments later, Gonzalez Gonzalez opted not to give Athletic a penalty when Ramos caught Raul Garcia at the other end.

"I saw the game in Bilbao, another win for Madrid," Bartomeu told Movistar. "Our message, which I will repeat: I feel bad, but VAR is not at the level that we hoped for the best league in the world."

"Since the league restarted, it's not been very fair and that's having an effect on results. And it seems it always favours the same [team]. There have been many games when VAR has favoured the same [team] – and many teams have been disadvantaged as a result."

"We spoke with the [Royal Spanish Football Federation] about it in the past. VAR should help referees but in the images everyone has seen in recent weeks it's not been fair."

Barca complained about the application of VAR following a 2-2 draw at Real Sociedad in December but Bartomeu inferred they have been especially angered by decisions going in Madrid's favour since the league resumed last month.

Athletic's Iker Muniain said after Sunday's defeat to Madrid that "certain teams are getting all the decisions," while Real Sociedad also bemoaned the use of technology when they lost to Zinedine Zidane's side in June.

Asked if he understood the use of VAR across Spain's top flight, Barca coach Quique Setien said he increasingly "fails to understand the criteria applied."

Ramos, meanwhile, said earlier on Saturday that Madrid aren't on track to win the league thanks to refereeing decisions and that their challengers "should be critical of themselves."

Luis Suarez, Antoine Griezmann and Ansu Fati were all on target in Barca's win over Villarreal after Gerard Moreno had cancelled out an early own goal by Pau Torres.

The win eases the pressure on Setien for now, although Bartomeu said reports the coach's future was on the line following three draws in four games were "false."

"Quique has our support," the president said. "We've seen a dynamic performance today and we're going to fight until the end for La Liga and then we have the Champions League."

Bartomeu also played down a claim from Cadena Ser in midweek that Lionel Messi is considering leaving the club when his contract expires in 2021.

"I won't go into details about [negotiations] but Messi has said many times he will end his career at Barca," he added. "He has explained he wants to continue and the club and we're going to have him for many more years."

Barca return to action on Wednesday against Espanyol knowing that they need to win their final four games while hoping Madrid drop points in at least two of their remaining fixtures.

(Agencies)

'We will be waiting for them': Jose Mourinho bites back at Arsenal jibe

LONDON

JOSE Mourinho hit back at Arsenal's ridicule of Tottenham's defeat at Sheffield United on social media, saying "you only enjoy the problems of others when you are also in trouble".

Spurs' 3-1 loss at Bramall Lane on Thursday came days after Arsenal had beaten Sheffield United 2-1 to reach the FA Cup semi-finals.

The Gunners poked fun at their north London rivals on Facebook when they posted highlights of that win with the caption: "It's not easy beating Sheffield United at Bramall Lane."

A run of three straight league wins has taken Arsenal four points clear of Tottenham, who face Everton on Monday.

The two sides meet in a north London derby behind closed doors on Sunday, July 12, and Mourinho is hoping to take revenge on the field.

"I think if they were top of the league or fighting for top four in a really good moment they wouldn't enjoy the problems of others. You only enjoy the problems of others when you are also in trouble," said Mourinho.

AFP

Pep Guardiola at a loss to explain Man City defeats

LONDON

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola says he is struggling to understand why his team score so many goals and limit the opposition to so few chances but have still lost nine Premier League matches this season.

City, who relinquished the league title to Liverpool, lost 1-0 at Southampton on Sunday despite dominating possession (73%) and peppering the Saints goal with more than 20 shots.

Striker Che Adams sealed victory for 13th-placed Southampton and condemned City, who beat Liverpool 4-0 in their last game, to a third successive league defeat away from home.

Champions Liverpool have lost twice in the league all season.

"We're leading in goals. We create

a lot of chances," said Guardiola, who lost a third straight away league game for the first time in his managerial career.

"We're a team who concede less – no team conceded as few chances as us but we lost a lot of games."

"It's difficult even for me to find a reason why but you have to insist and talk about the game, the way they play and try to do more, concede as few as possible and score up front."

Guardiola backed City to return to winning ways at home against Newcastle United on Wednesday.

"I have confidence we can do it because we are the same guys and we did it in previous seasons," he added.

"This season the way we are playing is quite similar but it is not enough to win the games."

REUTERS

Mane boosts Liverpool's record hunt as Man City stumble at Southampton

LONDON

SADIO Mane helped Liverpool keep alive their bid to set a new Premier League points record as the champions beat Aston Villa 2-0 to restore a 23-point lead over Manchester City, who were beaten at Southampton on Sunday.

Just four days after City thrashed Liverpool 4-0 to seemingly lay down a marker next season's title race, both sides showed why there has been a chasm between them in the Reds' romp to a first league title in 30 years.

Liverpool were far from their best in their first outing at an empty Anfield as champions, but still ground out the three points in a manner they so often have this season in the final 20 minutes.

Mane broke struggling Villa's stubborn resistance by smashing Naby Keita's pass in off the underside of the crossbar from close range for his 20th goal of the season before substitute Curtis Jones rounded off a big weekend for the 19-year-old after signing a new five-year contract on Saturday.

Victory moved Liverpool onto 89 points and they need four wins from their remaining five games to surpass City's record 100-point total from 2017-18.

"We are where we are because we win difficult games," Klopp said.

"It was not a brilliant performance but it was a good performance that gets us three points."

Villa remain in the relegation zone, one point from safety as they battle to avoid an immediate return to the Championship.

City, by contrast, saw another dominant display go unrewarded as Che Adams's spectacular first goal for Southampton claimed a 1-0 win for the Saints. Pep Guardiola's men had 74 percent possession and had 26 shots but could not find a way past Alex McCarthy as Fernandinho hit the post and Gabriel Jesus, David Silva and Bernardo Silva all wasted huge chances.

"It was a little bit of a resume of this season - one mistake and they punished us," said Guardiola. "We played a really good performance but it was not enough."

- West Ham blow leads -
At the other end of the table, West Ham edged closer to survival despite twice blowing a lead to



Liverpool's Sadio Mane (C) celebrates his goal against Aston Villa (AFP Photo)

draw 2-2 at Newcastle.

Shock winners against Chelsea in midweek, West Ham were ahead within four minutes at St James' Park when Michail Antonio pounced after Jamaal Lascelles failed to cut out Jarrod Bowen's cross.

Newcastle were level after 17 minutes as the influential Allan Saint-Maximin slipped in Emil Krafth and his cross was converted by Miguel Almiron.

Tomas Soucek restored West Ham's lead when he lashed home after Declan

Rice headed Ryan Fredericks' corner against the crossbar.

But Newcastle equalised 92 seconds later as Jonjo Shelvey beat the West Ham offside trap, took Dwight Gayle's pass and beat Fabianski from close range.

After earning their first away point since December, West Ham are four points clear of the relegation zone with five games left to guarantee their top-tier status.

John Egan's first top-flight goal gave Sheffield United a 1-1 draw at Burnley as

both teams' hopes of qualifying for the Europa League were dented.

James Tarkowski put Burnley ahead just before half-time, but Irish defender Egan netted with 10 minutes left.

United remain in eighth place, which could be good enough for a place in next season's Europa League should Manchester City's ban from European competition be upheld on appeal, while Burnley move up to ninth, two points adrift of the Blades.

AFP

Griezmann stars against Villarreal as Barca keep title hopes alive

MADRID

ANTOINE Griezmann answered his critics in style on Sunday by scoring with a sensational chip as Barcelona thrashed Villarreal 4-1 to keep their faint La Liga title hopes alive.

After the humiliation of being brought on in the 90th minute against his former club Atletico Madrid, Griezmann was back in the starting line-up at La Ceramica and repaid the faith with a stunning goal, teed up by Lionel Messi.

"It was the kind of goal only great players can score," said Barcelona coach Quique Setien. "He played a spectacular match."

Messi also laid on a curling Luis Suarez shot into the top corner after Gerard Moreno cancelled out a Pau Torres own-goal that had put Barca in front. Ansu Fati then added a fourth late on.

An impressive victory for Setien's side reduces the gap back to four points behind Real Madrid, who earlier ground out another 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao at San Mames, with a Sergio Ramos penalty proving the difference.

Madrid's resilient performance, and their third 1-0 victory in a row, offered a stark contrast to a goal-fest from Barcelona that was certainly easier on the eye but instructive on the title race too.

An end-to-end contest, full of chances for both sides, showed Messi, Suarez and Griezmann at their free-flowing best yet the defence was opened up with ease by Villarreal, who might have scored more.

Madrid's discipline and organisation has made them firm favourites with four games remaining.

"We needed this match a while ago," admitted Setien. "We have to keep adding points and we'll see what happens."

Griezmann had experienced his lowest moment since joining Barcelona on Tuesday in the draw against Atletico but this was the perfect response.

He celebrated his goal by sharing a warm embrace with Messi.

Villarreal looked a difficult opponent after winning five games out of six since the restart, a run that has put them in in touching distance of the top four.

This defeat leaves them three points behind Sevilla, who play Eibar on Monday.

The first half was perhaps the most entertaining in La Liga since the restart, with four goals and chances for two or three more.

Barca were ahead within three minutes, Torres diverting Jordi Alba's cross into his own net under pressure from Griezmann at the near post.

- Ramos on the spot -
But Villarreal were level 11 minutes later as a superb pass from Samuel Chukwueze sent Paco Alcacer scampering in down the right and he did brilliantly to switch to Santi Cazorla on the opposite side.

Cazorla's drive was parried but only to Moreno, who finished.

Messi laid on two sumptuous assists before half-time but the finishes were even better.

After chesting the ball down in the centre circle, Messi touched and turned, leaving his marker for dead.



Antoine Griezmann celebrates with Lionel Messi after scoring a sensational chip against Villarreal on Sunday. (AFP Photo)

He drove through two Villarreal defenders before pushing the ball left to Suarez, who arrived from the angle on the edge of the box and curled first time into the far corner.

If that was power, Griezmann's was finesse, Messi and Suarez combining before Messi dragged back to the Frenchman, who caressed a delightful chip over Sergio Asenjo and in.

Messi thought he had his goal in the second half but Arturo Vidal was offside.

Suarez was taken off, presumably rested,

and Fati added a fourth off the bench. The teenager cut in from the left and pulled his shot back inside the near post.

After edging out Getafe on Thursday, through a Ramos spot-kick, Madrid repeated the trick at San Mames, their captain's nerve from the spot combining with a gutsy display for a pivotal win.

Ramos was perhaps fortunate not to concede a penalty himself late on when, off the ball, he seemed to slip and tread on the foot of Raul Garcia, but Madrid escaped.

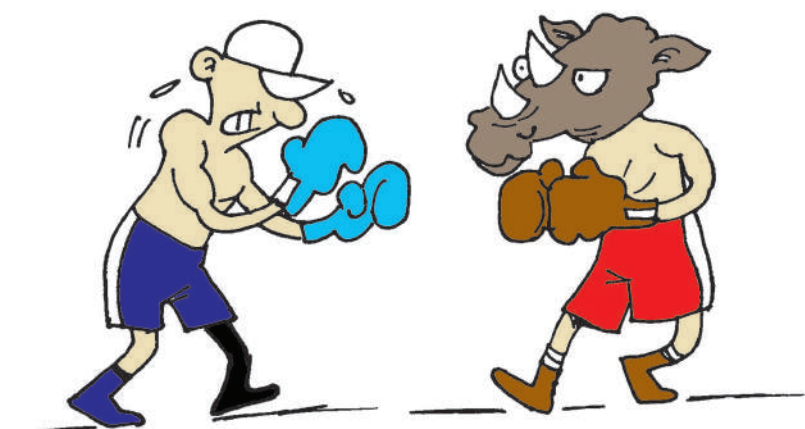
Instead, the defender's 10th goal of the season, the best tally of his career, proved decisive.

"It's a massive win," said Ramos. "We knew today was going to be one of the biggest games that we have left."

"It's always a difficult game away at Bilbao and we saw it like that. We're happy with another crucial three points that put more pressure on Barcelona."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mane boosts Liverpool's record hunt as
Man City stumble at Southampton

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Namungo FC defender, Hamisi Fakihi (R) tackles Simba midfielder, Hassan Dilunga, in the Vodacom Premier League's first phase duel bringing together the two sides in Dar es Salaam early this year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Katwila unhappy with Mtibwa Sugar draw

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

MWANZA'S Alliance FC and Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar's head coaches have expressed their dismay at their respective outfit's showing in a Vodacom Premier League match between the two clubs, held in Mwanza on Sunday.

The match, which was held at Nyamagana Stadium, had the two teams settling for 1-1 draw.

The two clubs' coaches said they were disappointed by their respective sides' failure to register victory in the duel.

A own goal by Mtibwa Sugar's experienced midfielder, Henry Joseph, and an equalizer by the Morogoro side's forward, Jaffar Kibaya, had the teams locked to the 1-1 draw.

Mtibwa Sugar head coach, Zubeir Katwila, disclosed they had every reason to come out victorious in the game but a defensive mistake committed early on in the match cost them.

Katwila (pictured) disclosed none of his players should bear the blame for the results, insisting all of them should instead blame themselves.

"It was a tough clash, but we were on the verge of notching victory, our opponents were keen on forcing their game plan on us," he disclosed.

"We have given our all and notched one point. We are focusing on the coming assignment, but it was a game we were supposed to register victory in."

Alliance FC head coach, Kessy Mziray, stated he blames himself for his side's failure to win the clash, given the squad was already in control of the proceedings in the first half.

"I wanted to close out the duel in the first half and the match was indeed in our favour. Our opponents, nevertheless, came back stronger in the second stanza, they pinned us down and levelled matters," he said.

"We were in precarious spot for the remaining minutes, given our opponents are experienced."

"Much as we opted to change game approach with a view to containing them and notching a second goal, the match was almost over."

The results has left the sides in difficult spot in the top flight table, as far as either avoiding a drop to the First Division League (FDL) or featuring in relegation play offs, is concerned. Mtibwa Sugar are placed 14th in the log after collecting 38 points, whilst Alliance FC holds the 15th spot with a point separating the two outfits. The squads need to chalk up good results in the respective five fixtures if they are to avoid a drop to the FDL.



Ismail Community's Jitin Singh (front) bats against Caravans in the previous season's GP Gymkhana Shield competition's final, which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club oval. Singh put impressive performance to inspire Aga Khan SC to victory over Caravans in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A clash, held at the venue on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Aga Khan SC clobbers Caravans in Kazim Nasser Cricket League

By Guardian Reporter

AGA SC cricketers have made their quest for yet another silverware in regional cricket tournaments known after commanding an emphatic five-wicket victory over Caravans in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A clash, which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club oval on Sunday.

An exciting rivalry has always been in view whenever Caravans come up against Aga Khan SC in regional tournaments in recent years and the Sunday duel was no exception.

Youthful Aga Khan SC all-rounder, Arslaan Premji, and experienced players, Issa Kikasi, Khalil Rehemtullah and Riziki Kisetu, deserve credit for their scintillating displays with the bat which ultimately won the game for the club.

Caravans were skittled for 141 runs in 32.2 overs of 50-over duel after they had won the toss and chose to bat.

Solid batting by experienced all-rounder Jitin Singh, who batted at number four, and youthful opener Ivan Ismail was instrumental in the outfit's ability to post the convincing total.

Singh was Caravans' top run getter in the innings given he was four runs shy of a half century, cracking five fours.

The no nonsense all-rounder's spell at the crease was brought to an end by Aga Khan SC's Kisetu, who caught the former from a delivery by spinner Aahil Jessani.

Caravans had early on shown intention to record an imposing total, in which Ismail posted 36 runs which included three fours and two sixes.

The squad's pursuit of a bigger score suffered a blow given Mohamed Omary, who opened the innings with Ismail, made an early return to the pavilion, posting nine runs.

Caravans' dependable player, Kassim Nassor, did not have a good day at the crease, given he posted 13 runs which included a

four.

There was little the side's remaining batsmen could do to see their outfit post an imposing total, given they were dismissed in quick succession.

Jessani had an impressive bowling figure for Aga Khan SC, ending his spell with five wickets and leaking 13 runs in 7.2 overs.

Needing 142 runs to win, Aga Khan SC made no secret of their intention to quickly humble Caravans, reaching the target for five wickets in 40.5 overs.

They went for solid batting from early on given opener Kikasi scored 27 runs, which included five fours.

Fellow opener Ismail was rather more ruthless at the crease, given he scored 46 runs which consisted of three fours.

Aga Khan SC's chase endured a wobble shortly thereafter as youthful batsman, Sadick Iddi, was dismissed for duck.

Kisetu and Rehemtullah, nevertheless, stepped up to steady the ship, chipping in with 22 runs

not out which consisted of four fours and 20 runs respectively.

Caravans' efforts to prevent Aga Khan SC from getting down to successful chase hit snag, as the latter's batsmen stood firm to earn their side the victory.

Caravans' Gokul Das, Nassor, Singh and Joji Arackel took a wicket each in their bowling spells.

The Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)-organized league is held annually in memory of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Event and Tournament Manager, Kazim Nasser, who passed away in the city in 2015.

Nasser was a respected cricket official, who also served in other positions in the national cricket governing body and the then Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC) for over a decade.

The KNML has three tiers, Division A that has participating outfits compete in 50-over games, as well as Divisions A1 and B that have clubs taking part in 30-overs matches respectively.

Namungo FC seeks to spoil Simba SC title celebrations

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

LINDI'S Namungo FC has vowed to spoil Simba SC's title celebrations when the former hosts the latter in a Vodacom Premier League game at Majaliwa Stadium tomorrow.

Simba SC has clinched this season's top flight silverware with seven matches to go and will therefore battle it out in the next season's CAF Champions League.

The domestic soccer giants are set to be presented with the trophy after tomorrow's match.

Namungo FC nevertheless has insisted Simba SC supporters should be ready for rather muted title celebrations.

The Lindi outfit's information officer, Kindamba Namli, said they have embarked on better preparations in an effort to inflict defeat on Simba and, in the process, stretch their unbeaten spell in the top flight.

Namungo FC has taken part in 17 games in the Vodacom Premier League with no loss.

"Simba are currently likened to someone that has just received pension but he does not know how to use it, we are eager to spoil their celebrations and have them make their way back with heads down," he disclosed.

"We want to stretch our impressive record, hopefully until the top flight comes to an end."

Namungo FC has, since conceding a 3-2 loss to Simba SC in the top flight clash which took place on January 29 this year, not suffered a loss, taking part in 17 outings.

The Lindi side is now preparing to host Simba at the former's venue in the second phase of the tournament.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has chosen the clash as an opportunity for the federation to present the top flight silverware to Simba SC.

A section of Simba SC members and supporters from across the country have headed to Lindi for the celebrations.

"I should warn Simba that they had to use underhand tactics to register victory over us in the first phase match, and to top it all they were playing at familiar venue," Namli stated.

"This time around they will be playing at our venue, Majaliwa Stadium, in Ruangwa, it will be extremely difficult for them to post victory."

Simba have not won their recent two games in the top flight, settling for a barren draw with Prisons of Mbeya and thereafter posting the same results away to Ndanda FC on Sunday.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



Simba are currently likened to someone that has just received pension but he does not know how to use it, we are eager to spoil their celebrations and have them make their way back with heads down

EATV TUESDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kilaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

TONIGHT @ 9:00
NIRVANA
Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrika RADIO
06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise
88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM