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# Covid-19 cases reach 88, Z'bar records first death

By Henry Mwangonde

**C**ORONAVIRUS cases in the country officially reached 88 yesterday after 29 more people tested positive, with Zanzibar recording the first death from the rampaging malady.

Ummy Mwalimu, the minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said that 29 people tested positive for the viral disease of whom 26 are residents of Dar es Salaam, two stay in Mwanza and one in Kilimanjaro Region.

Mwalimu said in a statement that the total number of people who have died from Covid-19 in the country stands at four while 11 have recovered.

She said tracing of people who came into contact with those patients was underway and called upon the public to avoid unnecessary gatherings.

Earlier, Zanzibar Health Minister Hamad Rashid Muhammad announced six new Covid-19 cases, saying one patient had died, bringing Isles cases to 18.

The deceased was a 63-year-old male, a resident of Kijichi who died on Saturday at his home and was buried on the same day, he said.

He said that the six new cases included five men and a middle aged woman, all from Zanzibar and did not have any recent travel history.

Two patients who were receiving treatment at designated hospitals were discharged after completing treatment.



**Mwalimu said in a statement that the total number of people who have died from Covid-19 in the country stands at four while 11 have recovered**

he said.

Meanwhile, Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda yesterday listed 24 sample collection centres scattered in various districts.

In a statement RC Makonda said that the move is aimed at containing the spread of the disease, especially with rising cases of coronavirus infection locally.

He said that previously, disease suspects had to be tested at the National Health Laboratory and results released by the ministry but this will change as some people with coronavirus symptoms reach health centres and mingle with other people.

This situation may touch off higher

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This is one of the nine Toyota Land-Cruiser hard tops to be deployed alongside mobile laboratories the East African Community has donated to the regional economic bloc's six member states, as found at the EAC headquarters in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

# JPM decries laxity after Mkuranga crash kills 18

By Guardian Reporter

**P**RESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday ordered the various authorities responsible for enforcement of traffic rules to ensure strict adherence to regulations to avoid road crashes claiming lives of innocent people.

This intervention follows a head-on collision between a passenger minibus and a lorry in an accident that claimed 18



**He has also appealed to motorists and other road users to observe road safety rules so as to avoid accidents**

lives early yesterday and left 15 others injured in Mkuranga District, Coast Region.

A statement released by the Directorate of Presidential Communications at the State House from Chato District in Geita Region, said the president was touched by the loss, praying for the departed and their families.

"The president has directed organs charged with ensuring road safety to take tough measures to end these avoidable losses of life," the directorate noted, conveying the president's condolence message.

"He has also appealed to motorists and other road users to observe road safety rules so as to avoid accidents," it said.

The victims of yesterday's crash succumbed to injuries after a passenger minibus from the southern regions heading to Dar es Salaam crashed into a lorry from the commercial capital, bound southwards.

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# EAC sets mobile labs for Covid-19 testing

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

**E**QUIPPED vehicles intended to be used as mobile laboratories have been deployed by the secretariat of the East African Community (EAC) to complement ongoing efforts against Covid-19 by authorities in the six member countries.

Rwanda, Burundi and South-Sudan are each set to receive one laboratory four wheel drive vehicle, plus another car equipped with all necessary laboratory auxiliary equipment. Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania with their greater population size will be getting two vehicles plus two lab trucks.

Equipment sets issued at EAC headquarters here yesterday totalled nine, all fitted with modern PCR equipment, to provide safe, accurate and timely patients' results, for Covid-19 and Ebola.

This is a reference to "polymerase chain reaction" (PCR), a technique used in laboratories in applications such as DNA sequencing (inherited traits, personal cells coding, cloning, expression

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# Bloc scans uplift ways in Covid-19 aftermath

By Guardian Reporter

**E**XPERTS at the East African Community (EAC) secretariat have called upon the bloc's member states to immediately begin developing national economic recovery plans as they strive to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The EAC secretariat said in a statement on Tuesday that it has finalised an EAC COVID-19 response plan and is developing an EAC-wide recovery strategy tied to a regional approach.

"While many people have already lost their jobs and are struggling to feed their families, there is a window of



Christophe Bazivamo

opportunity to prepare for the time after COVID-19 elapses, and to prevent another catastrophe," the secretariat asserted.

Citing remarks from Christophe Bazivamo, the deputy secretary general in charge of productive and social sectors, the secretariat especially urged partner states to strengthen their food production systems by encouraging farming activities during this period.

The partner states should more than ever before promote the use of technology and digital solutions to improve agricultural

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## SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

**FACT 1** Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity. Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

**FACT 2** For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

**FACT 3** Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people. For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



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

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, going to the bathroom, and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

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

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms AND
- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

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



## JPM decries laxity after Mkuranga crash kills 18

FROM PAGE 1

Rufiji Special Police Zone Commander, SACP Onesmo Lyanga told this paper the crash occurred at Kilimahewa village in Mkuranga District, and police were investigating the circumstances of the crash.

"The injured were taken to Kilimahewa health centre for treatment," he said. Mkuranga is frequently hit by such accidents. In March 2018, about 26 people died and 10 others sustained injuries when a truck driver lost control of his vehicle and rammed into a Toyota Hiace minibus.

National traffic police commander Fortunatus Musilim attributed the crash to speeding, saying the lorry was loaded with 32 tonnes of cargo and its brakes failed when the vehicle was negotiating a corner.

Later in June 2018, 14 people were killed and four others injured in a

collision between a minibus and a lorry at Dundani area in the same district.

Police blamed the crash on reckless driving as one explanation, warning drivers to be careful when driving on highways, particularly the Lindi-Dar es Salaam road which passes through Mkuranga.

Data from the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicate that an increase in average speed is directly related both to the likelihood of a crash occurring and to the severity of the consequences of the crash. A one per cent increase in mean speed produces a four per cent increase in the fatal crash risk and a three per cent increase in risk of fatality or injuries.

Around 93 per cent of the world's fatalities on the roads occur in low and middle income countries, despite these countries having about 60 per cent of motor vehicles globally, the agency affirms.



Health officer Said Sadick (3rd-L) explains to Mbarali district commissioner Reuben Mfune (C) yesterday how to identify liquid soap fit for human use in the war on Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

## Bloc scans uplift ways in Covid-19 aftermath

FROM PAGE 1

production and trade in agricultural products, the EAC expert emphasized.

He pointed out that as the EAC zone has received good rains since September 2019 in most parts and meteorological forecasts for this and next month show normal to above normal rainfall, livestock and wildlife are thriving and farmers are expecting good harvests.

"All this presents good prospects for the agriculture sector," said Fahari Marwa, a principal agricultural economist at the EAC Secretariat. He recommends that pastoralists and farmers should take advantage of these conditions to improve animal, food and cash crop production so as to fill the region's food basket.

"This is especially important as some of the EAC partner states are bracing for a second locust invasion," he said, referring to projections by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) which has warned that a new generation of desert locusts is expected to hatch in May.

"To mitigate the COVID-19 burden and to brace for expected economic challenges following the pandemic, the EAC Secretariat recommends partner states to meet immediate food needs of their vulnerable populations by ensuring that emergency food needs are met, and to adjust and expand social protection programmes," the statement intoned.

It further urged partner states to seek to obtain efficiencies and try to reduce trade-related costs, to reduce food wastage and losses, improve food storage systems and to resolve logistical bottlenecks.

It also called upon regional

and international partners to establish and support short-to-long-term measures which complement partner states' efforts to contain the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic on the food and nutrition security in the EAC region.

While starting to prepare for recovery after the COVID-19 outbreak, the secretariat recommended that EAC partner states should resolutely continue to implement measures that prevent and contain the spread of the disease until the pandemic is completely over.

This includes bans on non-essential travel and international commercial flights, enhanced active surveillance and quarantining of COVID-19 suspect cases as well as raising awareness on how to prevent and respond to infections.

"Further, the EAC Secretariat strongly encourages the strategy of 'test and isolate' to limit the spread and speed up the containment of the virus," it said.

"The EAC Secretariat encourages the EAC citizens to remain vigilant, follow the recommended physical distancing, maintain strict hygiene including washing hands with soap and water and sanitising them, among other preventive measures," the statement added.

**Owing to an unforeseen technical hitch, we ran the wrong story under the headline 'EAC seeks swift recovery models as Covid-19 bites' on the front page of yesterday's issue. Accordingly, we have rectified the matter today. All the same, we regret the error and sincerely apologise for any inconvenience it will have caused.**

- Editor.

## Covid-19 cases reach 88, Z'bar records first death

FROM PAGE 1

rates of infection in the region, which has so far registered over 30 positive cases, he said.

The selected centers for testing in Kinondoni District are Mwananyamala Hospital, Mag-

omeni Health Centre, Mikoroshini Health Centre (Msasani), IST Clinic (Masaki), TMJ Hospital (Mikocheni) and Rabininsia Hospital (Wazo).

In Ilala District the centers are Amana Regional Referral Hospi-

tal, Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, Buguruni Hospital, Regency Hospital, Muhimbili National Hospital, Aga Khan Hospital and Hindu Mandal Hospital.

In Temeke, residents can be tested at Temeke Regional Refer-

ral Hospital, Mbagala Rangi Tatu Hospital, Yombo Health Centre, and TOHS Hospital Chang'ombe.

In Ubungo District residents have been instructed to go to Sinza Hospital, Kimara Health Centre, Bochi Hospital and Mloganzila

Specialised Hospital

People living in Kigamboni District can go to Vijibweni Health Center, Aga Khan Hospital and Kigamboni Health Center for testing, the RC added.



Bishop Dr Dickson Chilongani (L) of the Anglican Church's Diocese of Central Dodoma presents to Dodoma district commissioner Patrobas Katambi (R) yesterday an assortment of items to help in keeping Covid-19 infections at bay. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Katavi RC pledges cooperation with TARI to increase production of crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

KATAVI regional commissioner Juma Homera has pledged to cooperate with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in using its modern technology on various crops to be grown in the region including those to be used as raw materials for the country's industrial economy.

Homera issued the pledge when speaking to TARI Director General Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo during the latter's visit in the region accompanied by a team of reporters to put in place strategies for the production of food and other strategic crops including cashew nuts, oil palm, simsim, sunflower and

groundnuts.

Speaking to the team RC Homera said they have already embarked on strategies for the production the crops in all districts to enable the region to be certain of food security as well as surplus.

He said apart from food crops, he has already mobilized the cultivation of coffee, avocado, cashew nuts and simsim but said only recently he embarked on cooperation with TARI.

Speaking on food crops production Homera said in collaboration with TARI the region will mobilize farmers to grow more crops to ensure food security. TARI Director General Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said they have already

done researches on technologically produced seeds of various crops including those that withstand drought and agricultural pests in order to increase the country's food production.

He said as of now TARI has been assigned by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to coordinate oil palm production in the country including production seeds thereof for free distribution to farmers.

Dr Mkamilo assured the Katavi RC that TARI was ready to start the cultivation of oil palm and other crops in the region if they are allocated a large area of land for research purpose, the request which was responded affirmatively.

## EAC sets mobile labs for Covid-19 testing

FROM PAGE 1

profiling and other needs. A scientific brochure says PCR amplifies DNA by copying the nucleic acid strands exponentially.

Ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko, the EAC Secretary General, said that the mobile Laboratory Project, is an EAC initiative funded by Germany through the KfW aid agency, to strengthen the capacity of the partner states to detect and respond to highly infectious disease-causing organisms.

Other than the globally notorious coronavirus, the mobile laboratories will also be used to detect Ebola and Marburg infections that have equally fatal tolls in the case of infection or touching off localized pandemics.

Accompanying the trucks will be 18 well trained medical personnel and operators to make sufficient use of the deployed equipment, he said.

Each partner state will receive those four-wheel drive vehicles fitted with laboratory and ICT equipment, as

well as all the necessary consumables for a fully functional laboratory with the capacity to conduct tests for Ebola and the coronavirus in addition to other pathogens.

The vehicles will get to final destination within two to four days after being dispatched from Arusha. They also have personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, gowns, masks, goggles, test kits, consumables as well as shoe protectors.

Meanwhile the EAC Secretariat here has put in place a Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) with operational guidelines to monitor and help in action to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

The committee works on risk communication and community engagement, policy and guidelines, finance and logistics while data and statistics sub-committees were also formed to oversee the regional COVID-19 response.

The RCC has already set in motion a number of activities to secure EAC organs and institutions as well as support the partner states in battling the coronavirus, he added.

### TIC orders invaders on farms meant for oil palm production to move out

By Guardian Correspondent, Uvinza

MANAGING director of Tanzania Investments Centre (TIC) Geoffrey Mwambe has called on all those who have invaded areas set aside for investment to move out to give room for the intended activities.

Mwambe was speaking soon after visiting 13.5 hectares of farms allocated by the government for oil palm cultivation in Uvinza district that have been so invaded.

"The two farms - of 10,529.86 and 3,249.76 hectares each were earmarked by the government for investment of oil palm cultivation for production of edible oil aimed to reduce edible oil imports," he said.

According to him statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture show that Tanzania imports 400,000 tons of palm oil spending more than 600b/- every year to meet the deficit from local production.

He said due to the deficit the fifth phase of President John Magufuli decided to add oil palm among the seven strategic crops that include cotton, tea, coffee, cashew nuts, sisal and tobacco.

During the visit, Mwambe met and held talks with Kigoma regional Commissioner Brig Gen (Rtd) Emmanuel Maganga and Uvinza district commissioner on the issue of removing invaders from the two farms.

Brig Gen Maganga said the main task is to beef up security in the farms areas so to prevent more invasions.



Tanga Regional Medical Officer Dr Charles Mkomba (R) shows Tanga district commissioner Thobias Mwilapwa (L) a hand sanitiser he said experts had confirmed as fake following a surprise check at the city's Ngamiani bus stand on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

# CAG unearths embezzlement of billions in PRIDE

By Guardian Reporter

THE Controller and Auditor General has discovered embezzlement of billions of shillings in Promotion of Rural Initiative and Development Enterprises Limited (PRIDE) Tanzania.

In his audit report for FY 2018/19, the CAG, Charles Kichere explains that PRIDE is a company established on May 5, 1993 to mobilize rural development through development projects.

He says the project is jointly managed between the Norwegian government and Tanzania government and since 2015

there was a dispute in regard to the ownership.

CAG says the dispute was finalized through court ruling and an agreement by the company's directors that PRIDE was a government institution.

"Following the agreement on January 4, 2019, the Ministry of finance and Planning and the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) requested my office to audit and verify the company's assets and liabilities up October 31 2019 to find out whether there was embezzlement attributed by poor management system of the firm for the period January 1 2017 to

December 31 2019.

"My audit found out the volume of assets and liabilities of the company up to October 31 2019 and discovered the existence of embezzlement in regard to both assets and liabilities, he explains.

The CAG explains that the company has assets with a total value of 19.9bn/- by October 31 2019 including loans to customers totaling 8.82bn/- and loans to its staff totaling 11.14bn/-.

"My audit on the legality and completeness of the assets discovered that the mentioned assets were not inclusive and there was in the loans given out.

"PRIDE has a procedure of issuing loans to its staff as part of service inducement. By October 31 2019 the staff was owed by company 11.14 bn/-. These loans were in three groups- house loans, special loans and general loans.

"My audit on the loans management systems (DUX) and financial management (Bankers Realm) found out that loans totaling 745.59 bn/- was in respect of loans to 168 staff who quit employment or dismissed from employment and the company do not have any strategy for recovery.

"Loans totaling 10.38 bn/-

were issued to 33 employees without repayment deductions effected by their salaries. In addition my audit discovered loans totaling 2.6bn/- whose details on the beneficiaries were missing, which made difficult to include as part of the company's assets," he says. He says the shortcoming arose from poor management systems in the company and sheer embezzlement by employees.

Apart from the loans to staff and other customers, CAG says the last report by external auditors for FY ending December 31, 2016 shows the company owning other assets including

immovable assets, permanent immovable assets, company shares, short and long term securities.

Nonetheless, CAG says these assets were not included in the list of company's assets by October 31, 2019, due to various reasons such as investment shares valued at 2.31bn/- in Bank M (Tanzania) that was lost after the bank was liquidated; long term securities valued at 48.2 bn/- in CRDB Bank, Bank M and NMB Bank used for repaying loans from the said companies.

Others were immovable assets (942.11m/-) and permanent assets (956.45m/-). CAG says all

these assets were not reported because the assets register did not show the cost of individual assets, instead it showed only one-digit hence the audit failed to verify its legality.

"A piece of land incorporating plots No 1 and 2 and title deed No. 392106 at Block A in Morogoro Region valued at 1.44 bn/- was not reported because its true value during the audit (January 2020) was not known.

"I recommend legal and disciplinary steps should be taken against company employees who were involved in the gross embezzlement over employees' loans.

## Govt to hire 40,000 public servants next financial year

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government is set to hire a total of 44,811 workers in public service sectors next financial year with most slots reserved to health, education, agriculture, police and higher learning institutions, the Parliament heard yesterday.

It will also promote workers totaling 222,290 in the public service as per guidelines which will be provided.

This was said by the Minister of State, President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), George Mkuchika, while presenting budget estimates for the year 2020/2021.

The budget which the ministry is requesting for the House to approve amounts to 700.16bn/- of which, 517.13bn/- is for recurrent expenditures and 183.25bn/- for development projects.

Speaking, Mkuchika named the sectors that will employ more staff as education (13,529 staff), Health (10,467), Police Force (2,725), Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (2,145), Prison Force (685), Fire and Rescue Force (501), Immigration Department (495), and 1,262 staff in religious institutions as well as 13,002 servants in other cadres including lecturers in various higher learning institutions.

The minister also said that the government will conduct verification exercise of various arrears in salaries amounting to 45.74bn/- to pay a total of 20,027 public servants.

According to him, in the

past four years, the government has paid a total of 140bn/- of salary arrears to public servants.

Underlining on the various priorities which the ministry expect to implement in the next fiscal year, Mkuchika said that the government will continue supervising to ensure that all rules and regulations are well adhered in provision of services in various sectors.

He highlighted that in the 2020/21 fiscal year, the ministry will strengthen scrutiny to ensure that there is proper utilization of public funds in all areas especially in development projects.

"In the fiscal year 2019/20 the ministry has rescued a total of 50bn/- which could have been used fraudulently in the implementation of various development projects," he noted.



### RECRUITMENT NOTICE

BBC Media Action is the BBC's international charity. We believe in the power of media and communication to help reduce poverty and support people in understanding their rights. Our aim is to inform, connect and empower people around the world. With an expanding portfolio, we are now advertising for a Country Director to lead the work of our team in Tanzania.

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/jobs/country-director-tanzania>

Candidates should send their CV and a cover letter (PDF or Microsoft Word format) outlining their experience and suitability for the role in English by email to: [recruitment@tz.bbcmediaaction.org](mailto:recruitment@tz.bbcmediaaction.org) with 'Country Director' in the subject line by 5pm on Friday 01st May 2020. Please do not send certificates or other attachments.

Applicants with no separate cover letter will not be considered. This is a local post, open only to people who have the legal right to live and work in Tanzania and national terms and conditions will apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

*The role may involve working with groups of vulnerable children and adults. For the successful candidate, mandatory training will be provided on BBC Media Action's safeguarding policy and staff code of conduct. A police background check may form part of the recruitment process. BBC Media Action operates a zero-tolerance policy concerning all forms of abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people.*

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JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA  
MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA  
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## TANZANIA



Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) Mhandisi James M. Kilaba anasikitika kutangaza kifo cha aliyekuwa Mkuu wa Ofisi ya TCRA Kanda ya Kati Ndg. Antonio Mabala Manyanda kilichotokea alfajiri ya Aprili 14, 2020 Jijini Dar es Salaam, Mwili wa Marehemu umehifadhiwa katika Hospitali ya Jeshi ya Lugalo.

Mipango ya mazishi inafanywa nyumbani kwa Marehemu Kimara Suka na mazishi yanatarajiwa kufanyika siku ya Alhamisi Aprili 16, 2020 katika Makaburi ya Kinondoni Jijini Dar es Salaam.

**Raha ya milele umpe ee Bwana na mwanga wa milele umuangazie apumzike kwa amani....Amina.**

"TUTUMIE MAWASILIANO KUJILETEA MAENDELEO"

 [tcr\\_a\\_tanzania](#)
 [tcr\\_a\\_tanzania](#)
 Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania
 



A Kahama resident washes his hands with soap at Msalala bus stand yesterday just before embarking on a trip, all in heeding calls on precautions against the spread of Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

## Katavi RC pledges cooperation with TARI to increase crops production

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

KATAVI Regional Commissioner Juma Homera has pledged to cooperate with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in using its modern technology on various crops to be grown in the region including those to be used as raw materials for the country's industrial economy.

Homera issued the pledge when speaking to TARI director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo during the latter's visit in the region accompanied by a team of reporters to put in place strategies for the production of food and other strategic crops including cashew nuts, oil palm, simsim, sunflower and groundnuts.

Speaking to the team RC Homera said they have already embarked on strategies for the production the crops in all districts to enable the region to be certain of food security as well as surplus.

He said apart from food crops, he has already mobilized the cultivation

of coffee, avocado, cashew nuts and simsim but said only recently he embarked on cooperation with TARI.

Speaking on food crops production Homera said in collaboration with TARI the region will mobilize farmers to grow more crops to ensure food security.

TARI Director General Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said they have already done researches on technologically produced seeds of various crops including those that withstand drought and agricultural pests in order to increase the country's food production.

He said as of now TARI has been assigned by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to coordinate oil palm production in the country including production seeds thereof for free distribution to farmers.

Dr Mkamilo assured the Katavi RC that TARI was ready to start the cultivation of oil palm and other crops in the region if they are allocated a large area of land for research purpose, the request which was responded affirmatively.

## TPSF commends TAHA innovative cargo deal with Ethiopian Airlines

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has commended the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA) for striking an innovative cargo deal with the Ethiopian Airlines under which Tanzania's horticultural exports will be ferried to Arabian, European and American markets thrice a week.

Speaking at a function held here, the TPSF chairman, Angelina Ngalula, lauded the association for the pioneering deal which she said would preserve international markets

of Tanzania's horticultural exports and bring to the fore Tanzania's contribution to stabilization of the global economy currently battered by the outbreak of the corona pandemic.

"The TPSF, through the agriculture cluster, congratulates TAHA on its fruitful efforts and getting an alternative way of serving its European and world clients. This move will help in preserving jobs of farm workers, will be of benefit to the entire chain value, big and small farmers who depend on farming for their livelihoods," she told her audience.

She reminded that for a long

time TAHA faced difficulties in taking its floral cargo to Europe via the Nairobi route, explaining that a solution to that problem may have come because of the corona pandemic.

She called on Tanzania to produce a lot horticultural products because they had a big market in and outside Tanzania.

She thanked the government for the huge support to TPSF members and called on transportation agencies to offer efficient services so that Tanzania could benefit from the opportunity.

Ngalula named the current three main tasks of TPSF

members as providing education on how to avoid contracting the disease, keeping jobs intact and ensuring essential services, especially the flow of foodstuffs to the public remain undisturbed.

The chairman called on other TPSF clusters to conceive strategies that would help members of the business community to continue having some income during the current trying period.

TAHA, started in 2004, is a platform of producers, traders, exporters and processors of horticultural products, mainly flowers, fruits, vegetables, hor-

tical seeds, spices and tubers. The horticultural industry is one of the 14 clusters of the TPSF.

The TAHA CEO, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, said Ethiopian Airlines' Boeing 787 Dreamliner cargo plane, expected to carry a minimum of 15 metric tonnes, would airlift the exports from Kilimanjaro International Airport to foreign markets. She described the availability of the cargo plane as a golden opportunity for preserving overseas markets. She said when airlines suspended flights worldwide, Tanzanian horticultural producers

were dispirited and depressed. Now that TAHA planned to export 55 metric tons weekly, she called on TAHA members to increase production and make the most of the opportunity. She said the deal would not only preserve external horticultural markets, but would also preserve jobs of Tanzanians in other branches of the national economy.

Dr Mkindi was grateful for the support the association received from the ministry of agriculture, the European Union, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Global Alliance of Agricultural

Agencies (Agri-Cord) and the FFD. The Kilimanjaro Airport Development Company managing director, Engineer Christopher Mkombe, urged horticultural farmers to double their efforts in order to benefit from the opportunity that presented itself.

"I am appealing for cooperation from all stakeholders so that we can preserve the arrangement and the international markets so that the business can continue as planned. It is also important to ensure we sustain our efforts aimed at fighting the corona pandemic," he said.

## EAC special meeting on Covid-19 postponed due to S. Sudan request

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A SPECIAL meeting of six heads of East African Community member states which was planned to take place through video conferencing yesterday was postponed to a later date following a request from South Sudan.

The 18th Extraordinary Summit of the EAC heads of state had been purposely planned to discuss the ongoing novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on Wednesday, 15th April, 2020. It was to be chaired by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and attended by Dr John Magufuli (Tanzania), Uhuru Kenyatta (Kenya), Yoweri Museveni (Uganda), Pierre Nkurunziza (Burundi) and Salva Kiir Mayardit (South Sudan).

The 18th Extraordinary Summit, which was to be held via video conferencing, had been called by Rwanda President and chairperson of the Summit, Paul Kagame, specifically to exchange on the regional response against COVID-19, including its fiscal, economic and social consequences on the Community.

In a letter dated 14th April, 2020 to the EAC Secretary General, Liberat Mfumukeko, Rwanda's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Vincent Biruta, said that the Extraordinary Summit had been postponed due to a request by the Republic of South Sudan.

Biruta, who is also the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, said that a new date for the extraordinary summit would be communicated in due course.

As at 15th April, 2020, all partner states had confirmed cases of coronavirus with Kenya reporting over 200 cases with 9 deaths; Rwanda 134; Uganda 55; Tanzania 53 with 3 deaths; Burundi 5 and one death and South Sudan 4 cases. Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda have not reported any deaths so far.

A joint ministerial meeting of the ministers responsible for health and ministers responsible for EAC Affairs on the COVID-19 pandemic preparedness and response held on 25th March, 2020 resolved, among other things, directed all partner states to continue implementing mandatory quarantine for 14 days for all travellers to the region, and avoid imported cases by implementing strict screening procedures at all border points.

The ministers further resolved to maintain suspension of EAC regional face-to-face meetings and urged EAC Organs and Institutions to utilize Modern Technology such as video-conferences, Webinars and Skype Calls for holding such meetings until such a time when the situation has been contained.

The meeting directed all partner states to implement 100 percent exit and entry screenings by applying the multilayer mechanism to avoid some loopholes, such as transit Passengers.

The ministers also resolved to minimize cross border movement of people while facilitating free movements of goods and services in the EAC region. This was to ensure that trade continues unhindered throughout the region.

Article 10 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC states that the Summit shall consist of the heads of state or government of the Partner States. Among the functions of the Summit is to give general directions and impetus as to the development and achievement of the objectives of the Community.



A traffic police officer removes a passenger service vehicle's number plate in Kahama District yesterday, apparently in connection with problems with the vehicle's roadworthiness. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

## 'Govt introduced nine new seed varieties of sunflower'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

IN efforts to increase the production of improved sunflower seeds in the country, the government has approved and introduced nine new seed varieties, it has been revealed.

The new seeds with ability to produce high yield of between two to five tonnes per hectare and

between 32 and 42 percent of oil, according to the government are also drought tolerant.

This was said by the ministry of Agriculture in a written response to a question from Serengeti MP, Marwa Chacha (CCM) who asked if the government was ready to provide farmers in Serengeti district with sunflower seeds.

"Since production of tobacco

has turned disastrous, forcing farmers in Serengeti to resort to farming flower, is the government ready to supply them with improved seeds for better yield?" he asked.

The minister acknowledged that farmers in the district despite producing tobacco have also embarked on sunflower farming to increase their in-

come. He said the government through the district council purchased 400 kilogrammes of hysun 33 worth 12,000,000/- whereby 400 farmers in some ten wards were the beneficiaries. The seeds, he said can produce 800 to 1,000 kilogrammes per hectare.

He added that the district council has also in the 2019/2020 set

aside a total of 10,000,000/- for the purchase of 300 kilogrammes of improved seeds, adding that all the procurement procedures are complete and farmers have begun getting the seeds.

At the same time, the council has also set a side another Sh 25,150,000 for purchase of 838 kilogrammes of sunflower seeds.

# MPs approve budget for President's Office

By **Getrude Mbago, Dodoma**

THE National Assembly on Tuesday approved a budget of 7.02tr/- for the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) which among others aimed to implement various projects and initiatives with focus on strengthening democracy, economic empowerment, improvement of education and health sectors in the 2020/21 fiscal year.

Winding up the ministry's budget proposal on Tuesday, minister Selemani Jafo commended MPs for their contributions assuring them that the government will work on all views and recommendations.

The budget which has seen an increment of almost Itri/- more from the 6.2tri/- of the current financial year, involved 4.73tri/- which will be used for recurrent expenditure and 2.29tri/- for development projects.

He said that the government will continue searching for alternative sources of funds to ensure that different goals are implemented.

The minister said that in past four years, the government has also recorded a number of achievements in various areas of education, transport infrastructures, health and economic empowerment.

In the health sector, Jafo said, in 2015 only 115 health centres had capacity to conduct surgeries but the number had now increased to over

400 health centres.

Furthermore, the minister said that, in the next fiscal year the government will also construct new 27 hospitals and improvement of provision of free education.

"In the next fiscal year, we expect to construct three dispensaries in each district council, seven laboratories in each district council, road infrastructures totaling 47 kilometers and rehabilitation of various education and health infrastructures," he said.

On the issue of the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (Tarura), the minister said that the government has taken all the recommendations raised by MPs which include capacitating the agency with more funds to enable smooth implementation of road and other infrastructures projects in rural areas.

According to him, in the next fiscal year budget the ministry will commence implementation of a new programme dubbed "Roads to Inclusion and Socio-Economic Opportunities (RISE)" which is aimed to reduce rural poverty through improved accessibility.

He noted that road accessibility is one of the necessary conditions for inclusion and socioeconomic opportunities. Roads connect people to social, education, health and financial services, labor markets and economic opportunities.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with former Zanzibar Chief Minister Shamsi Vuai Nahodha (R), who is now legislator for Zanzibar's Kijitoupele constituency, in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

# KOICA Tanzania sign agreements with UN Women and UNFPA to support women, girls programme

By **Guardian Reporter**

THE Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Tanzania has signed agreements with the United Nations Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Dar es Salaam to support a new \$5 million joint programme entitled 'realising gender equality through empowering women and adolescent girls'.

The signing ceremony comes at a time when the global community is battling the COVID-19 pandemic that has so far claimed thousands of lives the world over.

The coronavirus pandemic, which has now spread to Tanzania, will change the lives of many people in the country, while its impacts - both short- and long-term - may be felt most disproportionately by women and adolescent girls, with existing

gender-based inequalities exacerbated by the outbreak.

From April 2020 through March 2023, UNFPA and UN Women will work together to strengthen the social and economic resilience of some of the furthest behind rural women and adolescent girls in Ikungi district, Singida region and Msalala district in Shinyanga region.

UN Women will focus on economically empowering women

and female youth farmers by improving agricultural production, collective marketing and entrepreneurship skills; and enhancing land tenure security, addressing both the short- and long-term economic shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNFPA will support efforts to strengthen the capacity of front-line actors - health workers, the police - and communities to prevent and respond to gender-

based violence (GBV) and all harmful practices - which often increase during times of crisis - ensuring that survivors can access the comprehensive and respectful care and services they need to start rebuilding their lives.

Through this joint initiative, a total of 2,350 women and adolescent girls will directly benefit from the synergetic interventions of women's economic

empowerment and GBV prevention and response. In addition, outreach campaigns to promote women's economic agency, land rights and the prevention of and response to all forms of GBV and harmful practices are expected to reach more than 40,000 people in both regions.

Further, a total of 6,000 women and men in four villages located in Ikungi District will benefit from the land tenure se-

curity initiative that will support them to acquire Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs).

In his remarks, the KOICA country director, Kyuchool Eo said: "As Koica's objectives is to promote the realization of gender equality and women's rights as well as to reduce poverty and improve communities' livelihoods,"




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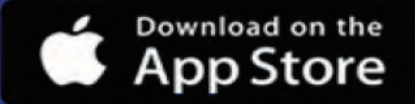


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Despite the day's drizzle and relentless warnings on the spread of Covid-19 infections, it's roaring open auction business for these residents of Dar es Salaam's Kitunda and Kivule suburbs - as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## 'Tanzanian ambassadors doing good job in advertising the country's tourist sites'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIAN envoys abroad have played a very important role in advertising the country and Kiswahili language outside the country, ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation told the House yesterday.

The statement was in a written response to a question from Special Seats MP, Maryam Msabaha (CHADEMA) who had wanted to know how the envoys had contributed in advertising use Kiswahili language outside the country.

"How has the Tanzanian ambassadors contributed in telling other countries more about Tanzania and Kiswahili language in effort to attract more tourists visiting the country," said the lawmaker.

In response the government said the envoys had done that duty rightfully through economic diplomacy which emphasises on attracting tourists.

It said other steps including different

campaign materials about tourism attractions in the country. "A case at hand is how the Tanzanian embassy in Moscow managed to help the country win recognition as one of the best tourist destinations in the world as reported in National Geographical Traveller (NGT) in 2018," said the ministry.

The envoys have also coordinated tours of different popular people like journalists from some prominent media houses in the world, including journalists from the famous Chinese TV Station

"Travel Channel" in October, 2018 and an educational tour of some 20 stakeholders in the tourism sector from four Asian countries of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines in April 2019.

It is through the efforts of the Tanzanian envoy in China that resulted in signing agreement with a Chinese company Touchroad International Holding Group (TIHG) that managed to send 450 tourists who visited Olduvai Gorge, Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro in May, 2019.

# Mbeya Lands office issues 10,837 customary title deeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Office of Assistant Commissioner of Land in Mbeya region has issued 10,837 customary title deeds to wananchi to enable them own land legally.

This was revealed early this week by the region's Assistant Commissioner for Lands Jer-

miah Minja when he spoke to this paper in his office on the strategic plan to enable wananchi own title deeds for their land.

Minja said customary title deeds are important for the wananchi's daily lives as they become trusted by financial institutions for access to

loans therefrom.

He said statistics for the period July 2019 to March 2020 10,837 customary title deeds were issued by the Mbeya Regional Lands office to people in various areas of the region.

He said a total of 9,879 title deeds were distributed to wananchi in Mbeya Rural Dis-

trict, 732 in Mbarali District and 129 in Rungwe District.

Minja said in Busokero District 57 customary title deeds were issued while Kyela District was issued with 38 and Chunya two.

He said there are some district councils that performed better out of their own ef-

forts in mobilizing wananchi as well as incorporating Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the realization of the goal.

Urban Planning Officer for Mbeya Rural District Lembris Laiser said the large number of customary title deed issued in the district was attributed

to the strategic planning, and the District Council's own efforts that included educating the wananchi on the benefits of having the title deeds.

Laiser said in order to ensure wananchi get their documents without much hassle, land experts incorporated other experts from

aid Land Tenure Assistance-Usaid-Ita, Caritas, Tanzania Forest services Agency (TFS) and African Wildlife Foundation (AWF).

He said up to now villagers from 16 villages in Mbeya District have received customary title deeds due to efforts from the said NGOs.

## DC urges Tunduru residents to put off unnecessary travel

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

THE government has appealed to people of Tunduru district, Ruvuma region to stop travelling unnecessarily in efforts to protect themselves against Covid-19 pandemic that continues to kill thousands of people worldwide.

Tunduru district commissioner Julius Mtatiro issued the appeal when speaking to reporters on steps being taken in the fight against the pandemic.

He said already the district had initiated a procedure to test temperatures of all wananchi who have been travelling to and from the district.

He called upon wananchi to abide by guidelines from health experts including washing hands from time to time.

He said those who have planned to conduct wedding ceremonies should look into how to go about them as this time it is not good hold big gatherings.

DC Mtatiro hailed district leaders for taking measures to control the disease.

Reports given by the Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme on 13 April this year said already 14 people who entered the country from Mozambique have been placed under 14-days quarantine in various areas in the region and that health experts are still monitoring their health status.

Mndeme also warned wananchi those who issue fake reports about the disease.

She said all those who will be found spreading such rumours via social networks legal steps will be taken against them.

She called upon the wananchi to cooperate by giving information about persons coming to the region through unauthorised routes.



**Reports given by the Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme on 13 April this year said already 14 people who entered the country from Mozambique have been placed under 14-days quarantine**



A hunt for scrap metal for sale to smelting and recycling centres well under way yesterday in the Kinondoni Kwa Ali Maua section of Dar es Salaam's polluted River Ng'ombe at Kwa Ali Maua. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# TARI produces food crop seeds to fight childhood undernourishment

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE TANZANIA Agricultural Research Institute - Uyoale Centre (TARI-Uyoale) in Mbeya in collaboration with other international institutions have produced new seeds for beans, groundnuts, and soya that are able to

fight the challenge of undernourishment in children as well as their ability in fertilizing the land for the cultivation of other crops.

This was revealed early this week by the TARI-Uyoale Director, Dr Tulole Bucheyeki who claimed that the four-year research conducted discovered that Tanzania has the un-

der-nourishment problem for children.

Dr Tulole said the creation of the food crops seeds will be of great assistance in facing up to the problem of undernourishment, and added that the centre will produce the seeds for sale to farmers at affordable price.

The Representative from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) for Tanzania DR Fred Kanampiu said the undernourishment problem in children is attributed to parents' lack of education on nourishment. He said the IITA in collaboration with TARI-Uyoale Centre will assist in

making available of various foods containing nourishment including production of seeds thereof.

Some farmers said the creation of the seeds was salvation to them as they will cultivate quality crops that will compete in the market.

# Construction of new multipurpose hall behind schedule, says director

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

CONTRACTORS building the 600m/- multipurpose hall in Morogoro municipality to handover the project even if it's unfinished after failing to finalise it within the agreed time.

Morogoro municipal director Sheila Lukuba told this reporter here that the scheduled time for the handover of the project was early April but up to now the contractors had not done so.

"I have ordered them to handover the project, due to the fact that they are out of the scheduled time because failure to do so will force us to redirect the funds to other municipal councils who need the funds," she said.

The project is set to increase the municipal's annual revenues from 75bn/- billion to 95bn/-, because it is designed with 5 shops and conference hall with capacity of hosting 200 people at a time.

"It is a project which will be useful, in the near future we want to launch another bigger one with enough spaces for parking but the municipal-

ity had estimated to repay a loan for 8 years, because we expect to collect over 100m/- from rental charges," she disclosed.

The engineer for the project Archard Ruhangisa said technical factors had led to the delay, saying they expect to handover the project in June, saying almost 70-per cent of the funds had been spent.

Last week, constructed slab for the first floor, technically for 28 days supposed to be watered because stable base will support other floors top on it, hope by June we will handover.



An official with the marine section of Zanzibar's Mkokotoni harbour pictured earlier this week outlining what he said were challenges the facility was grappling with, among them shortage of working tools. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Road infrastructure in Mwanza city almost complete - manager

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE construction of roads in Mwanza city to bitumen paved standard undertaken by Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) is almost complete.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, TARURA manager in Mwanza city, Mohamed Muanda said that move by government aims at improving transportation in the city popularly known as the Rock city."

The money for implementing the works had been provided by the government. The roads under construction include Hesawa (0.32km), Mtakuja (0.13km), Isamilo International loop (0.3km) and Nyegezi stand-Mesa Majengo Mapya (0.3km).

Stone roads are Isamilo-Nyashana (0.2km), Bugando-Mission (0.48km), AIC Nyabulogoya (0.2km), Kleruu street (0.2km), Mbege shule (0.2km) and Mlungushi street (0.2km), he said.

According to him, construction of other roads at gravel level are Luchelele (7.8km), Messa secondary 4.1km, Kang'anga (1.2km) as well as Mkolani-Buhongwa (3.4km). Also construction of bridges, and laying culverts for drainage systems were at advanced stage.

The engineer said that other works being implemented now are the construction of Kijereshi, Machinjioni-Kakebe and Bugayamba roads to gravel level.

TARURA is also constructing Fumagila bridge that connects Nyamagana and Misungwi districts, saying all works will be completed in this financial year.

TARURA is also doing emergency works on roads that had been damaged by on-going rains to ensure reliable transport for people in the region. The agency had also repaired the infrastructure which had been swept away by floodwaters in the city.

So far, the scores of the people here have commended the indigenous company, Nyanza Road Works, that has just completed the construction Lumumba road.

## Second annual US\$100,000 agripreneur prize launched

JOHANNESBURG

THE \$100,000 GoGetta Agripreneur Prize Competition 2020 was launched on Tuesday amidst the coronavirus pandemic, the aim being to give hope and support to agripreneurs in Africa.

Bringing on board influential co-founders, members and ambassadors, the competition is meant to grow the pan-African GoGetta entrepreneurial community and pave the way for new businesses embracing technology and innovation in the agrifood and agritech sectors.

The competition is back for its second year, the trust still being an inspiring young people throughout the African continent to launch and grow innovative or technology-driven businesses in the agrifood sector, from "seed to fork" and beyond.

This year's edition will acknowledge two innovative ventures, one led by a man and one led by a woman, who founded or co-founded businesses in the agrifood sector on the continent.

Each winner is awarded a grand prize of \$50,000 along with an industry-leading support network to take their businesses to the next level.

The competition comes as the coronavirus pandemic is having a severely negative impact on health, well-being and livelihoods of billions of people throughout Africa and across the globe. While the ultimate costs of this crisis are unknown, tremendous effort and innovation is needed to keep agribusiness going and ensure that the health crisis does not also translate into a severe food crisis.

Leadership and coordinated action are required at the global, national and local levels to find solutions for agrifood systems that are responsive to, and supportive of, health measures - where Africa's youth agripreneurs have a huge role to play.

"We have decided to go ahead with the 2020 GoGetta Agripreneur Prize Competition, not despite the coronavirus but because of it," says Yara International President and CEO Svein Tore Holsether.

"Now, more than ever, we need to support African agrifood entrepreneurs and the small and medium agribusinesses on the continent," the Yara chief noted, adding "They are the people who produce food and get it to the people who need it. They will be the people who will help to rebuild our economies after the pandemic is over."

Pan-African telecommunication, technology and renewable energy group Econet together with global crop nutrition leader Yara co-catalysed Generation Africa and the inaugural US\$100,000 GoGetta Agripreneur Prize awarded in September last year at the annual Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) Summit in Accra.

The success of the campaign attracted industry leaders in the global and African agricultural sectors. The Generation Africa initiative this year adds four inspirational co-founders to their ranks.

The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) strives to grow agriculture on the continent to feed Africa and the world. Corteva Agriscience harnesses cutting edge science to build flourishing farms.

The Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) meanwhile represents the common interests of regional farmers, while the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture links small-holder farmers to agri-services, insurance and quality seeds.

"Agrifood is more than an essential business in this global pandemic. It is urgent for survival," said Strive Masiyiwa, Founder and Executive Chairman of Econet.

The Econet executive elaborated: "Our African agribusinesses must stay strong and innovate to meet growing food needs locally - across the value chain. With forex income impacted by COVID-19, our nations can no longer rely on imports to feed our people. Now is the time for Africa's entrepreneurs to see and seize new opportunities."

Agencies

## GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - TANZANIA

### VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

**OVERVIEW:** The Global Health Supply Chain Program - Technical Assistance - Tanzania (GHSC-TAZ) project, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provides expert technical assistance to Tanzania to strengthen country supply chain systems across all health elements, e.g., malaria, family planning (FP), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) as well as essential medicines and medical supplies. In coordination with in-country and development partners, GHSC-TAZ assists Government of Tanzania (GoT) health programs for programmatic planning and implementation, strengthening the delivery of health commodities to service sites, providing capacity building support to broaden stakeholders' understanding and engagement of the supply chain system, and strengthening enabling environments to improve supply chain performance.

**GHSC-TAZ is seeking to recruit the following positions:**

1. **Job Title:** Logistics Management Services Advisor - 2 Positions  
**Department/Unit:** Capacity Building and Data Use  
**Location:** GHSC-TAZ Project Office, Dodoma  
**Reports to:** Capacity Building and Data Use Team Lead

**JOB SUMMARY:** The Logistics Management Services (LMS) Advisor will work under the technical guidance of the Capacity Building and Data Use Team Lead, and is focused on building capacity of LMS staff. She/he is dedicated to ensuring that LMS staff have the skills required to enable them to fulfill the role, functions and duties of the LMS as described in the updated LMS Charter, and supports the transition of the LMS to GoT. This position will be based at the GHSC-TAZ project office, Dodoma with occasional travel to zones.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:  
• Develop approach for ongoing capacity building of LMS staff and related curriculum, tools, job aids, etc.  
• Provide technical support to LMS staff in identifying, outlining, and developing training needs to build the capacity of LMS staff  
• Act as a technical resource to LMS staff  
• Cultivate leadership and management skills of individuals responsible for managing the LMS, including leadership at PSU, MSD, and PO-RALG.  
• Assist in monitoring the performance of the LMS, highlighting areas of improvement, and developing plans to address those areas.  
• Update support materials related to LMS and related systems, including SOPs, manuals, and administrative tools.  
• Conduct trainings on technical supply chain topics, consulting skills and administrative topics.  
• Assist in establishing LMS GoT monitor the performance of the LMS, including leadership and management plans for addressing obstacles  
• Ensure GHSC-TAZ workplan activities around LMS support are completed on time and of high quality, and coordinated across technical teams  
• Support the monitoring of the implementation of the LMS workplan  
• Document success stories, best practices, and lessons learned  
• Serve as a technical resource for project staff for implementing supply chain improvement strategies and management approaches  
• Prepare presentations, participate and/or represent the project in stakeholder meetings.  
• Complete and submit a in a timely fashion written technical and trip reports.  
• Perform other duties as assigned

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:  
• A qualified Bachelor's Degree in Supply Chain Management, Public Health, Statistics, or related degree with at least five years of experience in health programs.  
• Experience working in Tanzania's public health supply chain.  
• Ability to analyze supply chain data, conduct root cause analysis, and prepare quality presentations/reports  
• Experience providing supply chain trainings  
• Knowledge of various health information systems such as eLMS and e9  
• Ability to coach and mentor public sector stakeholders  
• Proven strong leadership skills and ability to build strong interpersonal relationships  
• Strong analytical and problem-solving skills  
• Ability to handle multiple tasks, set priorities and work independently.  
• Excellent technical writing and oral presentation skills highly desired  
• Excellent written and verbal English  
• A proven ability to work as part of a team and to be self-managing  
• Knowledge of Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint  
• Experience working with the Government of Tanzania and other NGOs preferred.  
• Previous work experience with USAID-funded projects desirable.

2. **Job Title:** Software Developer  
**Department/Unit:** Information System (MS) Team Lead  
**Location:** GHSC-TAZ Project Office, Dar es Salaam  
**Reports to:** MS Team Lead

**JOB SUMMARY:** The Software Developer will work under the guidance of the MS Team Lead and in collaboration with other developers he/she will be maintaining for 3 support of eLMS both in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. She will work to support system development and health information exchange across the multiple systems in the health program. She will work in collaboration with national stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MCHDCGEC), the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MCHDCGEC), and the Ministry of Health of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:  
• Develop software feature enhancements in Java and JavaScript, content testing, and provide maintenance and support for existing functionality of eLMS  
• Experience working in Tanzania's public health supply chain.  
• Use eLMS Web-based bug tracking systems (Jira) to log bugs and enhancements and to update bug resolution status.  
• Liaise with the global OpenMRS Core team to become familiar with the latest architecture and software development practices of OpenMRS  
• Utilize global standard practices/templates for software development, to brief on progress being made on software development projects, and collaborate and contribute to software development practices of OpenMRS  
• Participate in the full software development lifecycle (SDLC) by supporting the review of new redesign requirements, finalizing user stories and prototyping/building in consultation with project managers. Develop and manage release plans.  
• Work closely with users to design and develop specifications for software development work including wireframes, routing tables, business rules and user interfaces.  
• Develop automatic functional and performance test scripts for eLMS.  
• Preparing a plan to support long term capacity building to MCHDCGEC and PO-RALG ICT staff on OpenMRS code base.  
• Prepare technical documentation and user training manuals for software applications.  
• Conduct regular reviews and evaluations of all systems and related applications and implement improvements accordingly.  
• Provide regular updates to the supervisor, technical team, and project management team on work progress and any local database development issues that may affect the system.  
• Work as part of the Management Information System (MIS) team and be available for deployment to support the systems and users wherever needed.  
• Support integration of eLMS with other digital system on health sector like DHIS2, mSupply, etc.  
• Support GoT on the development of pharmacy and inventory modules on facility level systems (GoTHOMS and AyaCare).  
• Participate in country system rollouts in areas of synergies like GoTHOMS/AyaCare using health information exchange.  
• Perform other duties as assigned

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications in Education & Experience:  
• B.Sc. in Computer Science or IT or related field from recognized University/College  
• Familiar with Experience with health sector digital systems like DHIS2, AyaCare, GoTHOMS and HFR.  
• At least five years of experience in developing web-based applications in Java.  
• Knowledge in the Tanzania health information systems including eLMS, mSupply, DHIS2, and related systems.  
• Experience with PostgreSQL, PostGIS, and related databases in SQL, and stored procedures.  
• Experience with JavaScript and HTML, CSS, AngularJS, ReactJS, and/or NodeJS.  
• Experience with Model-View-Controller (MVC) based application development  
• Experience in security control systems such as firewalls, VPN, etc.  
• Experience with deployment management tools (Jenkins, Chef/Puppet)  
• Experience with agile/scrum  
• Experience with Selenium/Jmeter/automated testing frameworks  
• Experience in working with MCHDCGEC-National Maternal Control Program, Ministry of Health Zanzibar, Zanzibar Maternal Elimination Program (ZAMEP) and USAID funded projects is desired.

**Other Qualifications:**  
• Strong analytical and problem-solving skills  
• Established cultural competency in partnering with racial, cultural and linguistically diverse populations  
• Knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel, and OneDrive) and comfortable in a fast-paced technical environment.  
• Good communication skills with strong verbal and written English.  
• Ability to work in a dynamic team-oriented environment with self-managing of own time, take on responsibility and follow-through on assignments.  
• Ability to work with Linux operating systems and shell scripting language such as bash  
• Familiarity with teaching/mentoring and/or technical application server  
• Understanding of networking and information security  
• Experience using software development methodologies

3. **Job Title:** IMPACT Teams Advisor - 2 positions  
**Department/Unit:** Capacity Building and Data Use  
**Location:** GHSC-TAZ Project Office, Dodoma  
**Reports to:** Senior Capacity Building Advisor

**JOB SUMMARY:** The IMPACT Teams Advisor will work under the technical guidance of the Capacity Building Advisor, and will focus on implementing the Information Mobilized for Performance Analysis and Continuous Transformation (IMPACT) team approach, a people centered, data driven quality improvement approach. She will identify and encourage the adoption of leading practices for mentoring and building the skills of resident stakeholders within the Government of Tanzania (GoT) across data use for performance improvement through the design and institutionalization of IMPACT teams. She will work with in-country stakeholders including the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MCHDCGEC), and Medical Stores Department (MSD) in building capacity using supply chain systems and data for decision making, and to take actions to improve product availability. She will champion data use and data quality improvement efforts throughout the supply chain. This position will be based in Dodoma, with occasional travel to zones.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:  
• Support the implementation of the IMPACT team approach to improve supply chain performance.  
• Maintain and manage all relevant materials and tools for implementation of IMPACT teams, including training curriculum and standard operating procedures.  
• Identify and implement ways to improve IMPACT team approach and tools, including data analysis, use, dashboard and tool development, and the projects approach to implementation, including training approaches and methodology.  
• Work closely with the Logistics Management Services (LMS) Advisor and the LMS to align IMPACT team activities with other activities improving data quality and use, share lessons learned and best practices, and harmonize approaches and objectives.  
• Build capacity within relevant partners such as PO-RALG, implementing partners, and GHSC-TAZ staff on IMPACT teams  
• Coordinate IMPACT team training materials and capacity building materials in the eLearning platform, as appropriate  
• Support the implementation of the IMPACT team approach to improve supply chain performance, including training curriculum and standard operating procedures.  
• Document success stories, best practices, and lessons learned in IMPACT teams  
• Support technical resources for project staff for implementing supply chain improvement strategies and management approaches related to capacity building.  
• Support other capacity building activities as needed.  
• Prepare presentations, participate and/or represent the project in stakeholder meetings.  
• Complete and submit a in a timely fashion written technical and trip reports.  
• Perform other duties as assigned

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:  
• A Bachelor's Degree in Health Informatics, Health Information Management, Statistics, Public Health, Pharmacy or other relevant field.  
• Five years of experience in health programs, including experience working in Tanzania's public health supply chain.  
• Experience providing supply chain trainings and consultant in data learning  
• Knowledge of various health information systems including eLMS and e9  
• Ability to analyze supply chain data, conduct root cause analysis, and prepare quality presentations/reports  
• Ability to coach and mentor public sector stakeholders to use supply chain for performance improvement.  
• Knowledge of leading practices related to human resource capacity building  
• Proven strong leadership skills and ability to build strong interpersonal relationships  
• Strong analytical and problem-solving skills  
• Ability to handle multiple tasks, set priorities and work independently.  
• Excellent technical writing and oral presentation skills highly desired  
• Excellent written and verbal English  
• A proven ability to work as part of a team and to be self-managing  
• Knowledge of Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint  
• Experience working with the Government of Tanzania and other NGOs preferred.  
• Previous work experience with USAID-funded projects desirable.  
• Ability to travel for an extended period away from duty station to support technical activities

4. **Job Title:** Supply Chain Performance and Analytics - Team Lead  
**Department/Unit:** Performance and Analytics  
**Location:** GHSC-TAZ Project Office, Dar es Salaam  
**Reports to:** Project Chief of Party

**JOB SUMMARY:** The Performance and Analytics Team Lead (PATL) will work under the administrative and technical guidance of the Deputy Chief of Party, and is responsible for leading the project in determining and documenting the low performance as well as the performance of the public health supply chain. She will work in collaboration with national stakeholders such as Medical Stores Department (MSD), the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MCHDCGEC), and the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), and the Ministry of Health of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. She will champion collaboration with local available partners and leverage existing systems such as eLMS and DHIS2 to improve ITN supply chain data visibility through dashboard and promote data-driven decision-making to improve the supply chain. This position will be based in Dar es Salaam, with occasional travel.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:  
• Lead the supply chain performance and analytics team in identifying supply chain performance drivers, and developing actionable recommendations to improve supply chain performance.  
• Create robust analytical and problem-solving skills in supply chain performance, for dissemination to local and international audiences  
• Leverage data from a range of existing systems including eLMS and DHIS2 to conduct statistical analyses and analyze the performance of the supply chain, highlighting pain points. This supply chain data will be used for health services data.  
• Lead the use of supply chain data in programmatic decision-making, identify barriers to data quality and use, and develop and implement recommendations for addressing them.  
• Champion the use of supply chain data in programmatic decision-making, identify barriers to data quality and use, and develop and implement recommendations for addressing them.  
• Conduct the use of supply chain key performance indicators (KPIs) and facilitate institutionalization among key counterparts, identify and highlight when refinement of indicators may be needed.  
• Lead the implementation of the performance monitoring plan (PMP) and results framework, and Data Quality Assurance (DQA) system, including the use of the Performance Monitoring System (PMS) and Data Quality Assurance (DQA) system, including the use of the Performance Monitoring System (PMS) and Data Quality Assurance (DQA) system.  
• Prepare monthly bulletin, quarterly reports, annual reports, success stories, and other communications packages documenting the project's achievements, challenges, and data.  
• Respond to any reporting requirements from USAID, including stock status, inventory updates, items at risk of expiry, and other ad hoc reports  
• Assist with the sampling, collection, cleaning, documentation and analysis of primary survey data for the project, assist with training of data collectors in preparation for surveys and other field data collection.  
• Support the development of work plans, budgets, and activity monitoring and evaluation tools.  
• Ensure all data collected through the project are stored and accessible to the project team.  
• Participate in relevant meetings and technical working groups and liaise between GoT programs, donors, and other partners.  
• Perform other duties as assigned

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:  
• An advanced degree/ Master's Degree in Health Informatics, Health Information Management, Statistics, Public Health, Pharmacy or other relevant field.  
• Skills in SPSS, STATA, and other statistical software packages  
• Skills in data visualization tools, such as Tableau or Google Analytics  
• Experience in logistics/supply chain management and/or public health commodities management.  
• Proven experience in public health programs, with three years or more senior management experience preferred  
• Excellent performance in HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, reproductive health and essential medicines programs strongly desired.  
• Proven track record in systems performance assessment and M&E responsibilities, including development/implementation in PMP management and analytics  
• Proven strong leadership skills and ability to build strong interpersonal relationships  
• Ability to work on a team to develop strategies and manage implementation of projects  
• Ability to handle multiple tasks, set priorities and work independently.  
• Excellent technical writing and oral presentation skills highly desired  
• A proven ability to work as part of a team and to be self-managing  
• Knowledge of Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint  
• Experience managing a USAID funded contract or grant is a plus  
• Experience working with the Government of Tanzania and other NGOs preferred.

5. **Job Title:** LMS Training Facilitator (LMS) Advisor  
**Department/Unit:** Performance and Analytics  
**Location:** GHSC-TAZ Project Office, Dar es Salaam  
**Reports to:** Performance and Analytics Team Lead

**JOB SUMMARY:** The Life Long Inoculated Trained Nets (LITN) Advisor will work under the administrative and technical guidance of the Performance and Analytics Team Lead and is responsible for leading Inoculated Trained Nets (ITN) commodity tracking and visibility both in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. He/she will work in collaboration with national stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MCHDCGEC), the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Medical Stores Department (MSD), and the Ministry of Health of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. She will champion collaboration with local available partners and leverage existing systems such as eLMS and DHIS2 to improve ITN supply chain data visibility through dashboard and promote data-driven decision-making to improve the supply chain. This position will be based in Dar es Salaam, with occasional travel.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:  
• Work with local partners and institutions as needed to review/develop Chandaria Kiniki Dashboard; monitor progress on developments of dashboard and report out to stakeholders.  
• Routinely track key ITN data and provide reports to stakeholders including USAID, ZAMEP, and NACP  
• Assist in best practices on systems and data management.  
• Collaborate with project technical teams, the Central Medical Stores and Medical Stores Department, ZAMEP, NACP and other stakeholders to develop SOPs, appropriate indicators and define data requirements where needed for tracking distribution of ITN through eLMS and DHIS2 with visualization through Chandaria Kiniki dashboard.  
• Lead Chandaria Kiniki dashboard, track and report on developments observed, causes for the variance, and advise on action to be taken to mitigate the variance in collaboration with key stakeholders.  
• Prepare and share monthly, quarterly and annual reports including dashboard content, best practices, and lessons learned  
• Elevate the use of supply chain data in programmatic decision making; identify barriers to data quality and use, and develop and implement recommendations to address them.  
• Support the development of work plans, budgets and its implementation.  
• Perform other duties as assigned

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:  
• Bachelor's degree in Master's degree in health information management, statistics, public health, pharmacy, or another relevant field.  
• Skills in data visualization dashboard/tools and data requirement gathering  
• At least 5 years of experience in health programs, including experience working in Tanzania's public health supply chain.  
• Knowledge of ITNs, and Tanzania health commodities supply chain.  
• Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including English.  
• Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills.  
• Ability to work with partners in implementing programs in challenging environments.  
• Experience working with MCHDCGEC-National Maternal Control Program, Zanzibar Maternal Elimination Program (ZAMEP) and USAID funded projects is desired.  
• Demonstrated ability to work as part of a team and to be self-managing.  
• Knowledge on the Tanzania health information system including eLMS, mSupply, DHIS2, and related systems.  
• Proven interpersonal skills and ability to work well both within a team and independently.  
• Demonstrated ability to work effectively under pressure and to provide complete demands.

6. **Job Title:** Business Analyst  
**Department/Unit:** Information System (MS) Team Lead  
**Location:** GHSC-TAZ Project Office, Dar es Salaam  
**Reports to:** MS Team Lead

**JOB SUMMARY:** The Business Analyst will work under the guidance of the Management Information Systems (MS) Team Lead and will focus on facilitating all business architecture activities for the electronic logistics management information system (eLMS), and coordinating functional requirements for development and integration with country stakeholders including the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MCHDCGEC) and the President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) to build consensus on business architecture decisions, where appropriate. This position will be based in Dar es Salaam, with occasional travel.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:  
• Support the development of user requirements, including business process modeling and use case development or required system specifications  
• Monitor the log of bug, enhancement, and wish list in the JIRA/Performance wish; prioritize backlog in consultation with MS team and key counterparts  
• Periodically convene eLMS (and related systems) subject matter experts on to gather and analyze user requirements, articulate objectives for requirements and document  
• Facilitate government counterparts' involvement and active participation in the OpenMRS community for new features and latest releases/versions of OpenMRS/GoT for alignment  
• Develop test plans and schedules for any system changes, in collaboration with software developers and the MS team  
• Maintain and manage relevant documentation for eLMS, including technical documentation, user manuals, and related training curriculum  
• Conduct training for users, as required  
• Proactively identify and implement ways to improve eLMS functionality and use, conducting regular reviews of performance  
• Participate in country system rollouts in areas of synergies for health facility level systems like GoTHOMS, AyaCare and available registers like Health Facility Registry - FHR through the established Health Information Exchange platform.  
• Work closely with software developers, advisors and client/users to ensure technical compatibility and user satisfaction  
• Ensure all assigned work activities are completed on time and of high quality  
• Serve as a technical resource for project staff for implementing supply chain improvement strategies and management approaches related to capacity building.  
• Prepare presentations, participate and/or represent the project in stakeholder meetings.  
• Complete and submit a in a timely fashion written technical and trip reports.  
• Perform other duties as assigned

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:  
• Bachelor's degree in IT, Computer Science, Health Information, Business Information, or related field. Advanced degree preferred.  
• At least 4 years of practical experience in eLMS, DHIS2, HIMS, and/or related systems  
• Experience working with MCHDCGEC, health programs and knowledge of the larger HIS ecosystem in Tanzania  
• Experience with MIS technical documentation and user manuals  
• Experience conducting trainings  
• Familiarity with software development methodologies  
• Experience in IT mock-up tool such as Visio, Lucidchart or Gilly  
• Strong analytical and problem-solving skills  
• Proven communications and writing skills in English  
• Ability to work in a dynamic team-oriented environment with self-managing of own time  
• Ability to work independently, take responsibility, and follow-through on assignments  
• Ability to work in a dynamic team-oriented environment with self-managing of own time  
• Ability to work independently, take responsibility, and follow-through on assignments  
• Previous work experience with USAID-funded projects desirable.

7. **Job Title:** Supply Chain Advisor  
**Department/Unit:** Capacity Building and Data Use  
**Location:** GHSC-TAZ Project Office, Dodoma or Dar es Salaam  
**Reports to:** Senior Capacity Building Advisor

**JOB SUMMARY:** The Supply Chain Advisor will work under the technical guidance of the Senior Capacity Building Advisor and will focus on supporting the rollout of the electronic logistics system. She will work with the System Redesign Technical Team to ensure alignment across stakeholders on the approach and steps in the system redesign roll-out. She will work with in-country stakeholders including the Medical Stores Department (MSD), President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), and the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MCHDCGEC). This position will be based in Dar es Salaam or Dodoma, with significant in-country travel.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:  
• Provide technical guidance and specialist support to the System Redesign Technical Team, ensuring harmonization and alignment across GoT stakeholders, PIs, and any other relevant stakeholders.  
• Maintain and manage all relevant materials and tools for implementation of the revised system, including training curriculum and standard operating procedures.  
• Plan for and conduct monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the revised system, continuously determining the changes that may be needed and support their implementation.  
• Facilitate workshops and meetings with key stakeholders in relation to the implementation of the redesigned logistics system.  
• Collaboratively develop an implementation plan for the rollout of the system to the country, managing close collaboration with PSU, MSD, and PO-RALG.  
• Provide technical support to MSD zones in line with the redesigned system roll-out.  
• Liaise with the MS team to ensure that all relevant needs for the system design are captured in the eLMS.  
• Present GHSC-TAZ work in different stakeholder meetings  
• Strong updates and plans of activities to internal staff  
• Ensure workshop activities related to the system design are completed on time and of high quality  
• Document success stories, best practices, and lessons learned in the system roll-out  
• Support other capacity building activities as needed.  
• Prepare presentations, participate and/or represent the project in stakeholder meetings.  
• Complete and submit a in a timely fashion written technical and trip reports.  
• Perform other duties as assigned

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:  
• Degree in Pharmacy, Supply Chain, Public Health, or related field.  
• At least five years of experience in health supply chains, including experience working in Tanzania's public health supply chain.  
• Knowledge of best practices in supply chain management, particularly for health  
• Experience conducting trainings  
• Knowledge of various electronic health information systems such as eLMS preferred  
• Proven strong leadership skills and ability to build strong interpersonal relationships  
• Strong analytical and problem-solving skills  
• Ability to handle multiple tasks, set priorities and work independently.  
• Excellent technical writing and oral presentation skills  
• Excellent written and verbal English  
• A proven ability to work as part of a team and to be self-managing  
• Knowledge of Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint  
• Experience working with the Government of Tanzania and other NGOs preferred.  
• Previous work experience with USAID-funded projects desirable.  
• Ability to travel for an extended period away from duty station to support technical activities

8. **Job Title:** Laboratory Supply Chain Advisor  
**Department/Unit:** Demand Planning Advisor  
**Location:** GHSC-TAZ Project Office, Dodoma  
**Reports to:** Senior Demand Planning Advisor

**Job Summary/Function:** The Laboratory Supply Chain Advisor is expected to provide technical assistance to the HIV/Pharmaceutical and Laboratory Services Unit under the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) as well as working closely with Assistant Director Diagnostic Services (ADDS) and Head of Laboratory Services (HLS) to ensure that laboratory services are accurately planned, forecasted, procured, stored, distributed and managed according to best standards, procedures and regulations. In addition, the advisor will be required to provide updated information and data on commodities availability and use to the laboratory services unit. She/he will also be required to coordinate corrective measures as may be needed. She will work to collaborate with key stakeholders including Medical Stores Department, PEPFAR, Global Fund, Pharmaceutical Supplies Unit, other sectors within the NACP and other MCHDCGEC programs, as may be needed, to attain the best HIV/AIDS commodities availability and accessibility in the country.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Specific responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, the following:  
• Develop interventions/solutions for addressing Laboratory Supply Chain bottlenecks such as using trends and peer-to-peer benchmarking to improve commodity availability.  
• Support the planning and execution of effective management of HIV/AIDS laboratory commodity chains and demand management strategies, procurement plans, storage, distribution and monitoring of activities relating to improving availability of HIV/AIDS laboratory commodities.  
• Provide technical expertise in annual HIV/AIDS laboratory identification exercises and ensure identification reports are written timely.  
• Participate in quarterly review of supply plan and generate updated supply plan for laboratory commodity, and providing capacity to GoT  
• Update and monitor pipeline databases to ensure optimal laboratory supply of commodities.  
• Prepare and submit monthly commodity availability reports to the program, and facilitate its distribution to relevant stakeholders such as PEPFAR and Global Fund  
• Monitor HIV/AIDS laboratory commodities shelf life, prepare and follow through with action plans to avoid expiry of products in storage facilities  
• Liaise with GHSC-TAZ supply chain queries from GHSC-PSM, PEPFAR, and USAID I T-related agencies regarding US funded initiatives, ensuring productive collaboration between NACP and PSM.  
• Work with MSD and TMDA in ensuring that laboratory services and consumables and other related supplies are reported in accordance with the guidelines.  
• Review HIV/AIDS laboratory shipment documents from PSM and Global Fund and provide guidance for responsible actors to take action where needed  
• Build capacity within the NACP on order management processes such as placing orders with GHSC-PSM  
• Collaborate with key stakeholders including Medical Stores Department, PEPFAR, Global Fund, Pharmaceutical Supplies Unit, MCHDCGEC programs and implementing partners, as may be needed, to attain the best laboratory HIV/AIDS commodities availability and accessibility in the country and provide timely feedback as may be required.  
• Coordinate key stakeholders which may include but not limited to MSD, PSU, TMDA, MCHDCGEC-Depository Unit, NACP-PSU, and other stakeholders in supply chain resources.  
• Coordinate implementing Partners to address supply chain issues including funding mobilization for HIV/AIDS laboratory commodities and leveraging of supply chain resources.  
• Coordinate the preparation of annual work-plan and research questions to identify determinants of product availability.  
• Support the preparation of annual work-plans and budgets and ensure smooth implementation of all activities.  
• Contribute to the preparation of monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting, including development of project success stories.

**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required:**  
• An advanced degree or a Master's Degree in Public Health, Laboratory Science or other relevant area  
• Experience in working with USAID funded projects.  
• Proven experience in HIV commodity management and supply chain data analysis.  
• Knowledge in health supply chains in Tanzania.  
• Knowledge of Tanzania Logistics Management Systems such as eLMS, data visualization tools (such as ForLab, Quantified and Pipelinel) is an added advantage.  
• Ability to work in a dynamic team-oriented environment with self-managing of own time  
• Ability to work independently and on a team  
• Strong verbal and written communication skills in English and Swahili  
• Excellent technical writing and oral presentation skills highly desired

9. **Job Title:** Demand Planning Advisor  
**Department/Unit:** Demand Planning Advisor  
**Location:** GHSC-TAZ Project Office, Dodoma  
**Reports to:** Senior Demand Planning Advisor

**JOB SUMMARY:** The Demand Planning Advisor will strive to improve overall availability of medicines in Tanzania; provide technical expertise to demand planning and quantification, with specific focus on reproductive health, malaria, and TB, identify and encourage the adoption of leading practices for forecasting and supply planning; mentor and build the skills of relevant stakeholders within the GoT to forecast demand, and monitor supply plans; and recommend interventions to improve commodity security.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Specific responsibilities will include, but are not limited to, the following:  
• Provide technical subject matter expertise on all areas related to demand planning management including but not limited to: forecasting and quantification with national stakeholders such as MCHDCGEC, malaria, TB, and TB, and advocating for best practices in forecasting and supply planning  
• Prepare presentations, participate and/or represent the project in stakeholder meetings with GoT  
• Conducting forecast accuracy analysis and identifying areas of improvement  
• Coaching stakeholders from the GoT to review and analyze supply chain implications of product selection and changes in testing, treatment, and other product characteristics  
• Providing guidance to estimate the cost of required commodities and identifying financing resources to meet commodity financing needs  
• Coaching the GoT to perform pipeline analyses and monitor commodity supply levels  
• Highlighting potential supply chain challenges, and develop recommendations to address them  
• Consulting with project team members based in field to identify issues in data quality and availability, and identifying opportunities to improve data for more accurate forecasting exercises.  
• Ensure timely submissions of supply plans, PMPs, and PMPs to GHSC-PSM  
• Participate in routine communications with GHSC-PSM and highlight instances of commodity shortages. Forecasting and supply planning for decision making  
• Participate in annual work planning process and provide inputs to the operations team to budget for demand planning activities including meetings, trainings, and other activities  
• Identify lessons learned, best practices, and success stories  
• Complete and submit timely written technical and trip reports  
• Prepare presentations, participate and/or represent the project in stakeholder meetings  
• Perform other duties as assigned

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:  
• High qualification in Pharmacy or other Public Health professions  
• Experience with forecasting for malaria, family planning (FP), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH)  
• Data analysis and data management skills  
• Advanced skills in Excel highly desirable  
• Experience in and knowledge of leading practices in quantification  
• Knowledge of health supply chains in Tanzania  
• Ability to coach and mentor public

# The Guardian

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THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## It's important for the world to battle Covid-19 together

INTERNATIONAL governmental organisations are addressing the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has launched a platform to provide timely and comprehensive information on policy responses in countries around the world, as well as viewpoints and advice. From policies to strengthen health systems and the world economy to addressing the effects of lock-down and restrictions on travel, the digital hub includes a country policy tracker, and aims to help countries learn from each other and to facilitate a co-ordinated global response to the coronavirus challenge.

As an outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has raged in many countries, Tanzania has been impacted in some perhaps unexpected ways.

While the country's human toll has been relatively small – just 88 confirmed infected individuals, 7 of whom have since recovered and three fatalities out of a population of over 50 million people – the economic effects have been wide-ranging, and are still developing.

As of this month, there were more than over 13,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus across Africa, with a number of countries imposing prevention and containment measures like enforced lockdowns, to check the spread of the disease.

Schools and colleges nationwide have been closed last month and yesterday the government announced that will remain closed until further notice as coronavirus cases rose to 53. They will remain closed for the remainder of this month. The tourism industry has been hard hit in international tourist market amid a suspension of international flights in some countries.

Tanzania's timber sector, though not

as visible as tourism, is also suffering.

According to the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) the country may lose a substantial amount of foreign currency due to declining export of forest products.

The agency attributes the decline to closure of boundaries in many countries as a measure to contain the spread of the virus.

Briefing the TFS northern zone manager, Edward Shilogile, TFS manager in Tanga region, Laurence Brighton said the business has been affected following closure of boundaries and lockdowns in European countries and United States of America who are the main buyers.

Brighton said: "We are struggling with the business, exports of timber and logs have declined to between 10 and 20 containers per month". TFS Northern Zone Chief, Edward Shilogile said in the 2019/2020 fiscal year the agency surpassed its revenue collection targets by 26bn/- . He said the target was to collect 4bn/- but it has managed to collect 66bn/- . Figures on exactly how much trade has dropped aren't available yet

Shilogile said they are working hard to control illegal export of forest products calling upon TFS staffs in the northern zone to avoid engaging in corruption as well as assisting traders to illegally export logs without paying government taxes.

He also warned the staffs to stop engaging in economic sabotage by aiding illegal harvesting and exportation of forest products and theft of seedlings and seeds.

The agency has seized logs worth 240m/- in Tanga region during the 2018/2019 financial year. The logs were auctioned after the court ruling.

TFS is a government agency established to develop and manage forest and bee resources sustainably in collaboration with stakeholders in order to deliver sufficient and quality goods and services to meet local and international socio-economic and environmental needs.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

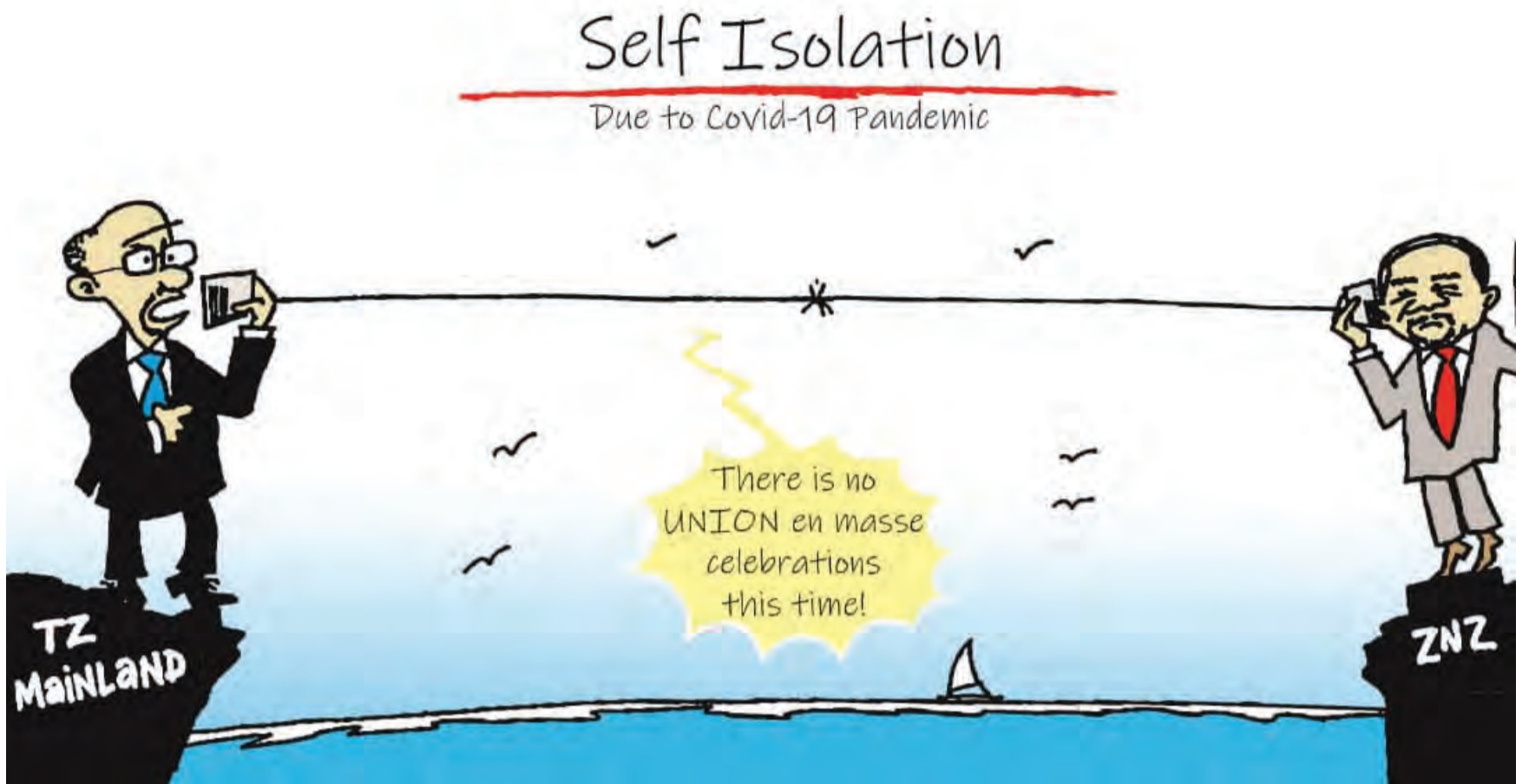
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## Heal the land, heal the people, heal South Africa

By James Blignaut

IN a society as fractured as South Africa's, it sometimes seems as though beginning the process of healing is an insurmountable task. Perhaps a good start would be by healing the place where it all begins, the land.

Sinisterly similar are the microbiological processes in both the soil and our stomachs. Bacteria, by their billions in a teaspoon, turn inaccessible nutrients into accessible, life-preserving, ones. The processes are so strikingly parallel the phrase from dust we are and to dust we return gets new meaning: We can be no healthier than the food we eat, and the food we eat can be no healthier than the soil it comes from.

The connection between healthy and restored landscapes and soil on the one hand and food production and human health on the other hand, is as strong and self-evident as we're simultaneously oblivious to it. Ignorance is bliss, but at what cost?

Degraded soils not only lead to a reduction in the productive capacity of the soil, but also in its ability to store carbon and water. Soil, plant and animal-based biodiversity is also inhibited as a result. System-wide resilience is therefore compromised – in addition, the land's capability to produce healthy food is compromised, and that compromises our health. External inputs, such as chemicals, can support sustained yields, but at increased financial costs and have their own detrimental and long-lasting consequences.

Why do we humans degrade that which supports our own well-being and life, that of future generations and that of other species? Are we just ill-informed, or downright stupid? In seeking to answer this, the bad, the ugly and the downright evil cannot be summarised in only a few lines. What follows are four trends that seem to dominate and that could be perceived as some of the key drivers.

First, our perception and appreciation, or not, of time and money and the relationship between the two, are instrumental in the choices we make regarding both today and tomorrow.

Can we eat wealth, can our



children eat wealth, or could we use money to restore and heal?

Second, our attitude towards both people and nature, or, simply put, the respect we have towards them, or then the lack thereof. Respect is value- and paradigm-driven – it is cultured at home, at school, in society. Respect is foundational. Disrespect leads to lawlessness, and lawlessness to a society in complete disarray. When leaders consider themselves above the rest, when political and business leaders behave like psychopaths and loot, rape and enrich themselves, society will be filled with looters, rapists and self-enrichers; people arrogantly concerned only about themselves and today.

Third, and connected to the previous points, is the weight of fragmentation – driven by, among others, the vices of social media. A disenfranchised, divided and disconnected society is a society that does not care; it cares neither for its women and children, nor for its environment and its future.

Fourth, when social injustices are layered on top of one another, then the value of life is eroded and the psyche of humanity becomes a wasteland.

Why value soil and soil health and the link to healthy food and healthy lives, when mankind does not value his own kind? More since the battlefield for the soul of the nation consists of land and land-related matters. Does it come as a surprise that land and land-related matters are at the heart of so many conflicts – worldwide?

These conflicts are but a reflection of our inner struggles.

They reflect our insecurities in and obsession with identity, consequently laying bare our ruthless short-sightedness – and the painful consequences thereof. The conflicts depict a people at odds with itself, with others, and with the land on and in which we live.

The longer this conflict prevails, the more ruthless and short-sighted we become. This leads to more knee-jerk reactions, more revolutionary responses which are followed by counter-revolutionary reactions. In the end, as the old African proverb goes: When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers.

It is the caring and loving, the vulnerable and marginalised citizen on the one hand, and the quality and ability of the land to support the fighting people on the other, that pay the price. The result is a deterioration in the quality of life for all parties.

While the list can surely be extended, these four, namely our perception of time and money, respect, societal fragmentation and social injustices clearly do shape, and heavily so, our destructive past. How do we plan to go forward while the baggage of the past is tagging along and there seems to be no immediate escape?

It goes without saying that if we do not like the past, either historic or recent trends leading up to today, or if today's quest is on the higher moral ground than that of yesterday, we should not make the same mistakes as in the past, recent or otherwise. It is accredited to Albert Einstein that problems cannot be solved within the same mindset that created them. This profound wisdom

**As we continue advances toward a low-carbon economy, we must not lose sight of the solutions that have been under our feet, in the soil and roots, and above our heads, in the forest canopies, this whole time. The fact is, the world won't be able to meet its climate change goals without them. Nature can help heal our planet, if we let it.**

has far-reaching consequences.

Healing cannot flow from a depressed national mindset, but only from a confidence-building, restorative one. Restoration does not deny the facts; it commences with the acknowledgement that something is wrong, seriously wrong, and that healing is required. Nobody is as blind to healing and deaf to caring as the alcoholic or drug addict in denial.

Restoration is thus, per definition, reconciliatory. It reconciles us with our past. It reconciles us with our future. It reconciles us with our neighbours and fellow countrymen. It reconciles us with our actions of healing and the desire to bring the same to others.

That is why restoration is not an event, but a process, like the healing path of an addict. It commences with an acknowledgement, followed by the desire and will to change, and then taking the steps to make those required changes – small steps at first, but progressively moving forward towards recovery.

Healing, therefore, does not come with the wave of a magic wand, but in taking that first step towards it.

Can we, as a society, change our perception with respect to time and money to invest where it matters most, where the dividends will last for generations by restoring the very land, the soil, on which we stand and from which we come?

Can we commence on a path of mutual respect, starting with the leaders – the champions of industry and politics – to cherish the future of others?

Can we find a common objective, an integrating whole, that unites and that undoes social injustices? Why not start where it hurts – the land – erosion scars are but the physical manifestation of a society in trauma. The healing of both is required, one step at a time.

Let us heal the land and heal the people.

## Africa can't revert to 'business as usual'

LIKE every other pandemic that the world has experienced in the past, coronavirus will eventually come to an end. It will be defeated, and life will return to normal. But it will teach us an important lesson: the need to invest in health infrastructure across the world, and particularly in Africa.

For centuries, global and national agendas have given premium to wealth creation and less attention to healthcare.

Indeed, the pursuit of wealth has even come at the expense of the environment. Budgetary allocations for health have been woefully inadequate compared to other sectors.

Just imagine this: if what we are experiencing today was a virus that attacked machines and not human beings, normal life would go on – handshakes, kisses and hugs would still symbolise friendship, love and comfort and not the threat of infection. From now on, we must prioritise human health collectively, not individually.

Globally, as of April 6, 2020, there have been 1,174,866 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 64,541 deaths, reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

We may not have reached the apex of this pandemic, and what we have seen so far from other countries suggests that Africa is a ticking time-bomb.

If advanced economies like Italy, Spain, the United States and France are struggling to contain the wrath of this pandemic, then it has a devastating potential in poor countries.

Lifestyle, beliefs, culture and economic conditions offer fertile grounds for disease to thrive. One would have thought that the Ebola outbreak, which began in 2014, would have opened the eyes of key stakeholders in Africa to consider the strengthen-

ing of health systems as a key priority. But this has not been the case.

At the beginning of the Ebola epidemic, fear and panic prompted some African governments to pay attention to the shoring up of their health systems. Yet, when the grip of the epidemic loosened, 'business as usual' continued.

Africa cannot afford to go back to business as usual when the COVID-19 pandemic is finally halted. Such an attitude would be akin to settling down to sleep while our roof is on fire.

There are too many health issues to be fixed – from an inadequate number of healthcare professionals to a lack of health infrastructure.

At present, Africa is home to more than 1.3 billion people and bears one-third of the global disease burden – yet it accounts for only 3 per cent of the global health workforce.

The average physician density in sub-Saharan Africa stands at two doctors per 10,000 people.

Nigeria, the most populous nation in Africa, has a physician density of three doctors to 10,000 people. Ethiopia has just one doctor per 10,000 people, even though it has the second largest population on the continent.

There is also a huge health infrastructure gap. An assessment by the WHO regarding the status of health infrastructure across the continent revealed woefully inadequate physical health infrastructure.

Dispensaries and health centres are limited in supply. The shortage of these facilities makes access to primary healthcare a challenge to most rural residents.

Investing in quality health infrastructure makes sense from both economic and social perspectives. Indeed, there is ample evidence that investments in health infrastructure create an avenue for resilient societies and drive inclusive growth.



# How it feels for ER doctor who is staying away from his family

By Garance Franke-Ruta

**W**E have been interviewing people across the United States who have had their lives vastly changed or who are experiencing the stress of the unknown.

One is Shuhan He, MD, a physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. He has been a frontline doctor treating coronavirus cases in the state since the eruption of what is known as the Biogen cluster.

That was when more than 90 cases, including 77 in Massachusetts, were linked to a Boston meeting of the biotech company at the end of this February.

We all knew about the coronavirus early. Let's be clear, I was worried about it. We had protocols early on dealing with Covid. At the time, it was still well controlled.

We have protocols for SARS, MERS, Covid and Ebola, so if people come from any countries where these are active, they get screened. If they have a fever and symptoms, they stay in the DECON (decontamination) room.

We had the protocol, and we were ruling cases out. If a patient came in off a plane from Wuhan (China) with a cough, they went into the DECON room; it has been an isolated incident.

Covid was something we knew had a high CFR (case fatality rate). In time, we did have community spread. That's an easy divergence point: when you start to have community spread, it no longer becomes a disease that is easily quarantined.

I was part of treating the initial Biogen cluster in Boston and helped diagnose part of those early clusters. So we knew about Covid early on, but last week is when the volume started to increase.

I am lucky to work in one of the largest hospitals in the world: Massachusetts General Hospital. We knew the volume was going to become quite concerning.

The community spread is beyond significant. I had a patient yesterday who I didn't think had Covid - two months of an allergy-like dry cough.

My true pretest probability on this patient was low; then I found out this morning she's go-

ing to be presumptively positive. I think she was having acute-on-chronic symptoms. It's one of those differences between the triage note, the note that you initially see, and the time you finally see the patient.

We had a patient come in with abdominal pain and then ultimately get diagnosed with Covid. This happens all the time in emergency medicine, when a person's chief complaint is not the same as the final diagnosis.

But what we're finding is that there's a pretty wide range of chief complaints that end up having a Covid diagnosis. The reason that's important for us as doctors is that it's hard to triage who needs PPE (personal protective equipment), who's high risk, and who's low risk.

We know from the data that there are five main symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, chills, body aches, and even things like headaches or just not feeling well. So we know those five are the main categories that we'll generally screen for most patients.

That's why most hospitals have gone towards a tent model, like a separate area just for these patients. At the same time, there are patients who have diarrhoea.

So it is quite challenging right now to figure out who has it, especially when the public also is aware of this and kind of hyper-aware. They're not always telling you what they actually feel, but what they feel like they should be telling you.

We're getting daily briefings, and our recommendations for treatment are different every single day. To give you a sense of it, we wouldn't change our management for a heart attack daily - it's been the same for 15 years.

**We just must learn to adapt**  
So the pace at which that information is changing is also shocking to everyone in the system. We just have to learn to adapt.

It has really picked up pace since last week. That was when I think people started to realise that we are now in the exponential curve. That's when the NBA (National Basketball Association league) was cancelled, on March 11. You could really feel the hospital on full alert. This is like a war, basically.

Everything is Covid all the time right now. Everything is getting cancelled, it's all hands on

deck. All research is cancelled; I have active research sites that have nothing to do with Covid, obviously, and they're on pause right now.

When there was a community spread in Seattle and then Biogen started happening around Boston, we knew that was our early warning. But you didn't really start to feel it and know it until late last week. That's when we started really intubating the sick ones.

Over the weekend, what I have noticed is that patients have gotten sicker and sicker. No one from Biogen was really sick from what I saw, but over last weekend, we had some really sick people come in, and I'm presuming they're all Covid. They're relatively young, healthy people with pretty profound symptoms.

Maybe the ones who are a little younger, they survive, but they're also in the ICU, and they're intubated on a ventilator. I think a lot of the messaging around young people is that, yeah, 20-year-olds probably aren't going to get intubated - a 50-year-old still has a whole life in front of them. That's pretty young. So that to me is concerning. But we're starting to see more of these.

I feel relatively protected. We don't walk in and think to ourselves: "I have no equipment." We don't have the Wuhan body-suits yet, but I don't think we quite need to. If I had really, really sick patients all the time, intubating, I would probably feel like we probably need to head towards that direction.

Those suits also pose risks towards patients because you don't change out of them. So you just move from patient to patient. We're doing protective PPE right now, head to toe, which I feel pretty good about.

The danger is that we know we're going to run out of supply, and at the pace we're using, it is unprecedented. We're changing for every single patient with a cough. We would never do that in a normal situation.

If you look at the pictures from what was happening in Wuhan, those people aren't changing, but the patients are so sick that it doesn't matter. So you just intubate, intubate, intubate, and you protect the healthcare workers more because the patients all have it anyway.

It becomes a shift, when



there's suddenly enough people who are sick that that calculus changes. But we haven't gotten there yet.

My fear is that someone on staff is going to get really sick before that happens. There are ER (Emergency Room) doctors I know of already who are quite sick. They're not intubated, but they are sick from presumed Covid. I fear that might change in the next few weeks.

I'm 32. We have a very senior leadership - I don't want to put an age on them - but they definitely have white hair. They're experienced and knowledgeable.

We have a tight group among us, and we're definitely keeping in mind that some people are higher risk than others. I try to volunteer for shifts because I know I will be fine. I have full confidence that I will not have any personal medical problems based on this.

I'm young, healthy. I'm staying away from my parents. I'm staying away from my grandmother. I do get a sense that it is my responsibility to do more and see the sicker patients.

**We all have to make sacrifices**

How doctors are keeping up right now because things are moving so fast - it's purely medical Twitter. It's amazing.

I actually never used Twitter before this, but just being able to follow the

people I follow - I read a paper that came out four hours ago in the New England Journal of Medicine that was terrifying. I would've never known about it otherwise. They're publishing things so fast about Covid; it's absolutely incredible.

I'm not going to the gym anymore. They shut down. I'm not going to take the T anymore; I'm just walking to work.

I definitely can't take public transit after work. I have much more caution about just who I'm hanging around. I'm trying to avoid anyone who may potentially be sick. If you want to get personal, I'm not going on dates because you just can't.

I know a lot of ER couples that are trying to separate their homes so that the ER doctor sleeps in another room. We're a high-risk population, I understand that. We all have to make sacrifices.

Will this ever truly go away? I don't know. The coronavirus is the same family as the common cold. We don't have a vaccine for the common cold. And we have a flu vaccine, but it doesn't go away every year. The truth is that every year people die from the flu.

I suspect that in the coming years, this is our new reality: people will die from coronavirus or Covid and it will be just one of the other reasons people die, just like strokes, just like heart attacks, just like sepsis (a life-threatening illness

caused by the body's response to an infection). Right now we're in the phase where we have to avoid everyone getting sick at once because then if all the ICU beds are taken and someone is in a car accident and needs an ICU bed, they're not getting it. That's terrible because that's preventable. The world still goes on and still people have other diseases.

We're doing this quarantine thing, but people still need to take care of themselves. People need to be kind to each other and check in on one another and have a social balance. I've been hanging out on G-Chat with my friend all day. I still need to spend time with friends.

I think people still need to take care of themselves. And people need to take it seriously. Understand social distancing. But go for a walk, get some fresh air. That's still okay. I'm still going to plan to have a G-Chat with my friends, and we're all going to drink wine together.

We're still human beings; we're social creatures - that never stops. Take care of yourself because this is going to be a while. If people burn out real fast, then we're going to get crushed again. So people need to last for months.

**Garance Franke-Ruta is Executive Editor of GEN, a Medium publication about politics, power and culture.**

## Some lawyers think they are above the law when it comes to lockdown

By Pierre De Vos

**R**EGULATIONS issued in terms of the Disaster Management Act have severely restricted the ability of people to move freely around South Africa. Due to circumstances, it's perhaps unsurprising that not everyone is fully complying with the lockdown. What is surprising is that lawyers have now also been caught violating the regulations.

In terms of the lockdown regulations aimed at slowing the spread of Covid-19, the services of legal practitioners and the courts are essential services, which means that attorneys and advocates may, in exceptional circumstances, leave their homes and attend urgent and essential court hearings on urgent and essential matters.

In terms of the regulations, legal practitioners who need to attend to urgent or essential matters during the lockdown period must produce a permit issued by the Director of the Provincial Legal Practice Council. The director of the relevant Legal Practice Council may only issue a permit

to legal practitioners if: (1) he/she is a practising legal practitioner; (2) who must appear in a case identified as urgent and essential services.

When 10 lawyers arrived at the Mpumalanga High Court in Middelburg on 31 March this year, five days after the lockdown commenced, to represent clients in the urgent matter of Administrator of Dr J S Moroka Municipality and Others v Kubheka, most of the lawyers appearing on behalf of the parties provided the court with documentation that purported to be "permits" issued to them in terms of the relevant regulations. Some did not produce any "permits" at all. (The regulations have since been amended but this had no practical bearing on the outcome of the case.)

But there was a problem. In the words of the presiding judge: "Before the proceedings started, I raised the concern and enquired from the counsel in court whether their permits complied with the requirements of the regulations and directives. Although I was assured by counsel that it did comply, I could establish by merely glancing at the 'permits' that there was non-compliance by all but

one of the legal practitioners in court, with the directives and regulations."

Despite the fact that many of the permits did not seem to comply with the regulations, the presiding judge nevertheless proceeded with the matter because he deemed the application extremely urgent, and did not want to cause the residents of Dr JS Moroka Municipality to "...suffer one further day because the applicants and respondent was involved in an ongoing dispute... that did not concern the residents, but caused basic services to be severely disrupted, prevented the applicants to render basic services to the community and to comply with their constitutional obligations."

But in a scathing judgment handed down last Friday, the judge took issue with the nine lawyers who had not complied with the lockdown regulations, pointing out that they had acted "recklessly by travelling across the border in breach of the regulations and openly defied the regulations". The court further pointed out that the failure to obtain the requisite permit amounted to a criminal offence.

In obiter remarks (meaning that

they are not binding on other courts) the court endorsed the view that the "present extreme circumstances caused by Covid-19, justifies the regulations and directives", explaining that these are: "...justifiable and reasonable in an open democratic society. Although the legal practitioners render an essential service, they are still subject to the regulations issued by the Minister. There are cogent reasons why these regulations were made, and the directives issued by the Justice Minister. By blatantly ignoring them or acting without proper attention being paid to the Regulations and Directives the practitioners are not doing themselves, nor the citizens of the Republic, any favours."

In my view, this sweeping endorsement of the constitutionality of the regulations (albeit obiter) goes too far. While few people will argue with the view that regulations to slow and/or suppress the spread of Covid-19 are necessary, it may well be that specific regulations are not constitutionally compliant. As the court pointed out, the regulations: "...severely restricts and impacts on almost all of the fundamental rights in chapter 2

of the Constitution. These include: human dignity (section 10); freedom of security of the person (section 12); privacy (section 14); freedom of religion, belief and opinion (section 15); freedom of expression (section 16); freedom of assembly, demonstration, picket (section 17) and petition; freedom of association (section 18); freedom of movement and residence (section 2); freedom of trade, occupation and profession (section 22); and education (section 29). The final lockdown regulations severely and directly limit the aforesaid rights."

To determine whether the limitations imposed on these rights by the various regulations are justifiable in terms of the limitation clause, one will have to assess each regulation separately to decide whether it is justifiable or whether it goes too far. Some regulations may be compliant, while others may be overbroad. But this can only be determined by engaging with the specifics of each case.

That said, the court's criticism of the individual legal practitioners is well made. In this regard, the court remarked: "One would expect legal practitioners to study the relevant

provisions regulating their conduct under the current exceptional circumstances before proceeding to court. The trying times that we live in affects everyone, and although one is sympathetic to the inconvenience that is being experienced by, amongst others, the legal practitioners, the regulations and directives are there for the good of everyone."

The court also pointed out that the conduct of the legal practitioners amounted to unprofessional conduct, seen in light of the code of conduct of legal practitioners. In this case there was a failure to uphold the highest standards of integrity, accountability and diligence in carrying out all their professional responsibilities as required by the ethical rules of the profession.

"Legal practitioners, as members of an honourable profession that interprets and applies the laws, must set an example to other citizens, and dare not flout with it. They must be seen to adhere to the law. Any breach of the law and regulations in an open fashion will cause the general public to lose faith in the legal profession and system."

# African women battle for equality

By Gumisai Mutume

A DECADE ago, African women had reason to expect change following a much-heralded global conference that set ambitious targets to transform the lives of women across the world. In 2005 marked the 10th anniversary of that milestone event, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China, in 1995. Like their counterparts elsewhere, African women are taking stock of progress and asking to what extent promised reforms have been implemented. They are also examining why progress has been limited in many countries and are seeking ways to overcome the obstacles.

During the last 30 years there have been a number of signs of improvement. UN Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women Rachel Mayanja told the 10-year review of the Beijing conference, in New York in March. There have been moves to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), a UN protocol, as well as the development of new policies and guidelines and creation of networks of gender experts, she said, citing just a few examples.

However, over the same 30 years since the first World Conference on Women in Mexico City, "men have gone to the moon and back, yet women are still at the same place they were – that is, trying to sensitize the world to the unwarranted and unacceptable marginalization of women, which deprives them of their human rights," Mayanja told the delegates, who came from 165 countries.

In Africa specifically, women have made significant strides in the political arena over the past few years. The continental political body, the African Union (AU), took a major step by promoting gender parity in its top decision-making positions. In 2003 five women and five men were elected as AU commissioners. The following year, Gertrude Mongella was chosen to head the AU's Pan-African Parliament, where women make up 25 per cent of members. Another AU body, the African Peer Review Mechanism, which oversees standards for good governance, is led by Ms. Marie-Angélique Savané.

African women have also successfully promoted agreements that advance their rights. By the end of last year, 51 of the 53 AU

member countries had ratified CEDAW, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and often described as the international bill of rights for women. And in 2003 activists succeeded in persuading their heads of state to adopt a protocol on the rights of women. They are now lobbying states to take the final step and ratify the protocol to make it enforceable (see box, page 9).

Obstacles persist

"We are all aware that despite achievements and progress made, African women face major challenges and obstacles," says Dr. Farkhonda Hassan, chair of the UN Economic Commission for Africa's Committee on Women and Development. For example, she says, the primary development policies in many countries, known as poverty reduction strategies, still do not take into account differences in income and power between men and women, hampering efforts to finance programmes that reduce inequality. In addition, she says, the majority of African women are still denied education and employment, and have limited opportunities in trade, industry and government.

Since the first World Conference on Women in Mexico City "women are still at the same place they were – that is, trying to sensitize the world to the unwarranted and unacceptable marginalization of women, which deprives them of their human rights," says UN Special Adviser on Gender Issues Rachel Mayanja.

Out of the 1995 conference emerged a plan, the Beijing Platform of Action, which laid out areas that needed improvement if the position of women was to be improved. The areas include reducing poverty among women, stopping violence, providing access to education and health care and reducing economic and political inequality. Barring some notable exceptions, progress in these areas has been slow.

The Beijing platform should no longer be viewed as a set of simple goals and aspirations, says Ms. Hassan, but must be used as a tool to push for the adoption of gender-sensitive policies. "The objective now is not to renegotiate our dreams, but to emphasize the accountability of all actors through detailed discussions of goals, targets, achievements and failures," she says. "We are no longer seeking promises, but are demanding action."

**Poverty has a woman's face**

For many African women, the Beijing platform and the various international instruments their governments have signed have yet to translate into positive changes in their daily lives. They remain at the bottom of the social hierarchy, with poor access to land, credit, health and education. While some of the agreements that African governments have ratified enshrine property and inheritance rights, in most countries women are denied those very rights.

Compounding the situation are setbacks such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic that is destroying the health of more women than men in Africa, eroding some of the development gains women had attained. As a result, poverty in Africa continues to wear a woman's face, notes Ms. Gladys Mutukwa of the Zimbabwe-based non-governmental organization Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF). She finds it disturbing that 10 years after Beijing, African women are much poorer.

Between 1990 and 2000, the number of people living in poverty dropped in all developing regions except Africa, where it increased by more than 82 million. Women make up the majority of the poor, as much as 70 per cent in some countries. More often than not, men are more likely to find a job and enterprises run by men have easier access to support from institutions such as banks.

A UN Food and Agricultural Organization study on Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Sudan, Tanzania and Zimbabwe shows that women rarely own land. When they do, their holdings tend to be smaller and less fertile than those of men. Studies also show that if women farmers had the same access to inputs and training as males, overall yields could be raised by between 10 and 20 per cent.

**Getting girls into school**

But perhaps the most inhibiting factor is that women in Africa continue to be denied an education, often the only ticket out of poverty. Disparities between girls and boys start in primary school and the differences widen up through the entire educational system. In total enrolment in primary education, Africa registered the highest relative increase among regions during the last decade. But given the low proportion of girls being enrolled,



the continent is still far from the goal of attaining intake parity by the end of this year. By 2000, sub-Saharan Africa was the region with the most girls out of school, 23 million, up from 20 million a decade earlier.

The total number of children out of school has declined during the last decade. Between 1990 and 2000, worldwide enrolment in primary education increased from 596 million to 648 million, with the highest increase occurring in sub-Saharan Africa, which recorded a 38 per cent rise.

Policies specifically targeting girls were responsible for considerable improvements in countries such as Benin, Botswana, the Gambia, Guinea, Lesotho, Mauritania and Namibia. In Benin, for instance, the gender gap narrowed from 32 to 22 per cent, thanks to policies such as sensitizing parents through the media and reducing school fees for girls in public primary schools in rural areas.

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reports that girls' enrolments rise relative to boys as the proportion of female teachers increases. Therefore an effective method of ensuring gender parity is to equalize the gender balance among teachers, a strategy Mauritania used to narrow the gender gap in primary schools from 13 to 4 per cent between 1990 and 2000.

Guinea employed a broader approach, making girls' education a national priority during the early 1990s. After assessing the challenges faced by girls in schools, the government embarked on programmes to build latrines, assist pregnant students, distribute free textbooks and increase the number of female teachers. By 2000, the country had more than doubled the number of girls in school and increased boys' attendance by 80 per cent. But in general, Africa has the lowest proportion of female teachers of any region.

Numerous other hurdles continue to hamper the expansion of education in Africa. Austerity programmes introduced in many countries during the 1980s constrained educational spending. Governments had little money to maintain existing schools or build new ones. At the family level, households that became poorer often faced the stark choice of deciding whom to send to school – and often it was the girl who stayed home. Costs of tuition, the requirement to wear uniforms, long distances between home and school, inadequate water and sanitation, all help to restrict girls' access to education.

By the time children go through high school and reach college, the gender gap has become even wider. "At the tertiary and university levels the low participation for women continues," declared African government ministers gathered in Addis Ababa in October to take stock of the continent's progress since Beijing. "Gender gaps are particularly pronounced in science, mathematics and computer sciences."

As with a range of other historically male-dominated subjects, an International Labour Organization (ILO) survey shows that women are starkly underrepresented in technical programmes in African colleges. The share of women enrolled in poly-

technic courses ranges from 40 per cent in the Gambia to just 2 per cent in Zambia, the ILO reports. In Ghana, even though 30 per cent of all those attending polytechnics are women, only 1 per cent of the total taking technical courses are women.

Africa, however, has registered improvements in adult literacy rates, which rose 20 per cent between 1990 and 2000. The goal is to raise adult literacy rates by 50 per cent by 2015, from the 1990 level. About half of sub-Saharan African countries have registered moderate increases towards gender parity in this area, UNESCO reports. However, in some countries the female illiteracy rates are much higher than the regional average of about 50 per cent. In Burkina Faso it is 82 per cent, in Sierra Leone 79 per cent and in Benin and Ethiopia 77 per cent.

Channelling money to women

Many now acknowledge that to enable women to escape poverty, development policies should place more emphasis on their contributions to the economy. Even though women make up a significant proportion of the economically active population, their contribution is not fully recorded because they are mainly engaged in family farming or in the informal sector. In other cases, what they do, such as household work, is not considered an economic activity.

In agriculture, sub-Saharan Africa's most vital economic sector, women contribute 60-80 per cent of labour in food production, both for household consumption and for sale. But while they do most of the work, they lack access to markets and credit. In Uganda, women make up 53 per cent of the labour force, but only sell 11 per cent of the cash crops.

"I strongly hold the view that since days immemorial, women have played and continue to play a significant role in the economic and social development of their countries," says Namibia's Women's Affairs Minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

"What is at stake is that they are not visible, not recognized and not rewarded for the hard work they do." She says that each country should allocate a percentage of its national budget to gender issues. "This request is based on the fact that to date no country allocates more than 1 per cent of its national budget to women and gender issues." Currently, resources for national programmes for the advancement of women come mainly from external partners.

Ms. Josephine Ouédraogo of the African Centre for Women in Addis Ababa says women's contributions through the household economy, which provides more than 70 per cent of food in Africa, are not adequately counted in national statistics. "Less than 10 African countries conduct systematic time-use or household surveys," she says. This makes it difficult to identify disparities between the sexes and design remedial policies.

To redress the bias in macroeconomic policies that favours men and boys at the expense of women and girls, a number of African countries have adopted a tool known as gender budgeting (see Africa Recovery, April 2002). Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda are among the countries currently assessing their

budgets along gender lines. This involves analyzing government spending choices and their impact on women and men, boys and girls, with the aim of better identifying disparities. That in turn can help mobilize more financing to narrow the gaps, for example by funding programmes to reduce the heavy time burdens on women or by improving their access to energy, water, transport and labour-saving technologies.

At a meeting in April 2004 to review women's progress since Beijing, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) called on its 14 member countries to adopt gender budgeting by December 2006.

Influencing policy

Almost all SADC countries have a national government body that deals with gender issues. However, in the 10 years since Beijing, these units, departments or ministries "have become weak and unable to be responsive to the challenges presented by the struggle for gender justice," NGOs declared at an African Social Forum in Lusaka, Zambia. "Poor resource bases, few staff and no power or authority within governments to advance equality and justice for women are just a few of the constraints."

However, women in some countries in Southern Africa have moved into positions of political influence. In South Africa and Mozambique, for example, women hold 30 per cent of the seats in parliament. In February 2004, Mozambique became the first country in the region to appoint a woman as prime minister, Ms. Luisa Diogo. In Rwanda, women lead the world in representation in national parliaments. There, 49 per cent of parliamentarians are female, far more than the 30 per cent target specified in Beijing. The world average is just 15 per cent.

In 14 of 23 recent elections in African countries, women increased their parliamentary representation. Still, the situation is far from ideal. In the majority of these countries (20), women hold 10 per cent or less of parliamentary seats. In Madagascar, Mauritania and Niger, for example, they occupy less than 5 per cent of seats.

In some countries, the presence of women in parliament has made a difference in the adoption of gender-sensitive policies. Because of pressure from women, some countries now have affirmative action policies, such as quotas, to increase the number of women in decision-making positions. In South Africa, women parliamentarians succeeded in passing various pieces of legislation, such as those legalizing abortion, countering domestic violence and ensuring child support.

In Uganda, women parliamentarians helped to adopt legislation making rape a capital offence. In 2003, following a long delay, Mozambique passed a family law considered pivotal for the emancipation of women in that country. "If we had just one sex in parliament, the bill would have been weaker," says the country's higher education minister, Ms. Lidia Brito.

"The objective now is not to renegotiate our dreams, but to emphasize the accountability of all actors. We are no longer seeking promises, but are demanding action."



## NGO sets out interventions to manage reduce stress among employees

By Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

A local NGO, new Hope Tanzania (NEHOTA) has come up with interventions to manage and reduce stress among employees who have lost employment or affected by closure of businesses due to coronavirus disease.

To begin with, NEHOTA is introducing an Employee Assistant

Programme (EAP), which is a set of integrated psychological and clinical services that aim at improving and maintaining the productivity and healthy functioning of the employee's workplace.

The aim is aimed at helping employees to overcome stress and come to terms with reports of a possible recession that to hit East Africa due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to Social worker, psychologist and community training expert at NEHOTA Linus Kamafa said the organization decided to come up with the strategies to help the society in general during this period.

"Employees spend a great deal of time on the job, and the balancing of work, lifestyle and family is becoming a big challenge. When that pressure becomes excessive

or otherwise unmanageable it leads to stress," Kamafa said.

He added that stress can damage employees' health and the business performance. "The pandemic could do more damage if there are no psychological interventions," he cautioned.

Kamafa said that the organization can conduct phone-based consultations in accordance with the guidelines that limit face to

face meetings. "Our officers in Dar are working out ways of spreading this intervention to curb possible stress that is being caused by disruptions of normal production and business operations.

According to the World Bank, the viral pandemic may cost the region anything from \$37 billion to \$79 billion in output losses in the year 2020 alone. This mostly due to a combination of adverse

effects like trade and value chain disruptions which would adversely impact commodity exporters in countries with strong value chain participation.

Other adverse factors include, but not limited to-reduced-foreign financing inflows from remittances, tourism, foreign direct investments and foreign aid, compounded by capital flight.

According to statistics from

the global organization for stress, stress affects about one out of four workers. The NEHOTA director, Dr Bonaventura Balige said that the current world situation (and with the emergence of Covid-19) is very favorable for the growth of the stress phenomenon.

Dr. Balige said that there is a variety of support programs offered for employees, but pointed out that even though EAPs are main-

## Alcohol drinking will not lessen coronavirus risk, warns Mbeya RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA regional commissioner Albert Chalamila has said drinking alcohol will not reduce coronavirus risk, saying there are no plans to close entertainment joints including bars because of covid-19 spread instead people should abide by preventive measures.

Speaking during covid-19 public awareness tour at entertainment joints Chalamila appealed to people to strictly observe social distancing, saying alcohol does not prevent covid-19 infection.

"When we are told that covid-19 is in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and other areas we should not think that

Mbeya is safe, we have no wall to protect to protect ourselves against the pandemic other than taking precautionary measures," said RC Chalamila.

"Condoms can be preventive against HIV/Aids, but covid-19 knows no condom, so we must follow preventive measures from health experts," he said.

Mbeya district commissioner William Ntinika appealed to owners of entertainment spots in the city to abide by directives from health experts.

So far 88 people in Tanzania have been proven to have contracted the disease but there hasn't been a single case in Mbeya region, but the region continues to remind people to take preventive measures against it.



**Condoms can be preventive against HIV/Aids, but Covid-19 knows no condom, so we must follow preventive measures from health experts**



Saleh Hamad, a farmer at Msongola in suburban Dar es Salaam, captured yesterday spraying his okra farm with a pesticide. Okra, also known as ladies' fingers, is a warm-season vegetable popular in Africa and various other parts of the world. It is widely acknowledged as a good source of minerals, vitamins, antioxidants and fibre. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## New push in war on Covid-19 as Arusha beverage firm donates sanitisers

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

In a bid to complement government's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Arusha-based beverage firm has donated alcohol-based sanitizers for

communities and health facilities in the northern safari capital of Arusha.

Since registering the first case of COVID-19 in the country last month, the demand for hand sanitizers has increased drastically, creating a need for more

supply of the product.

Speaking of the contribution, Mega Beverages Limited, General Manager, Chris Ndosi, said his company yesterday donated 2,500 litres of alcohol-based sanitizer and 50 hand washing containers to Arusha Region

Commissioner's office for distribution to health facilities and various community groups across the region.

Ndosi further said that the company believes that without a healthy society and a stable environment it is difficult to

operate its business and contribute to the nation's economic growth.

"We believe our contribution will help the community in the fight against the rapid spread of the disease" he emphasized.

Mega Beverages Limited has

a long history of supporting the socio-economic development of Tanzania as well as community challenges through its CSR programme.

For his part, Arusha Region Commissioner, Mrisho Gambo, thanked the company for dona-

tion and called on other stakeholders to continue to support the Government's efforts to combat the spread of Corona disease in the country.

Mega Beverages Limited produces of K-Vant Premium Spirit brand.

### Mega beverages donates sanitisers in Arusha region

By Guardian Correspondent

MEGA Beverages Limited, producers of K-Vant Premium Spirit brand, is supporting the government's efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 through donating alcohol-based sanitizers for communities and health facilities in Arusha.

Since registering the first case of COVID-19 in the country last month, the demand for hand sanitizers has increased drastically, creating a need for more supply of the product.

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Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo (L) and Mega Beverages Company Limited general manager Chris Ndosi (R) present over 200 litres of sanitiser and ten handwashing containers to Arusha's acting regional police commander, Koka Moita, in Arusha city yesterday. The items are a donation by the company for use by community and health institutions in the region in the war on Covid-19. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### Brewer donates maize flour for Rufiji District flood victims

By Guardian Correspondent, Rufiji

TANZANIA Breweries Limited (TBL) has donated 8.75 tonnes of maize flour to victims of the recent floods caused by heavy rains in Rufiji district, Coast region.

The donation which was handed over to the Rufiji MP, Mohammed Mchengerwa, is intended to bring relief to the residents of over 3500 houses and 6,600 acres of farms that have been swept away by the damaging floods in the coast region.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony in Dar es Salaam, TBL Plc's Managing Director Philip Redman said: "We at TBL Plc are committed to supporting the community in which we do business and this is our own small way of giving back to them in their time of need."

For his part, MP Mchengerwa welcomed the donation from TBL Plc and called on other organisations and individuals to support the flood victims in whatever way they could.

TBLPlc has a long history of supporting the socio-economic development of Tanzania and plays a major role in the agriculture, transportation and manufacturing sectors of the country.

In the agriculture sector, the company sources Barley, Maize, Sorghum and Grapes for the production of its products. Last year, TBL Plc sourced over 20,000 tonnes of the raw materials locally.

# COVID-19: Leadership in times like this

By Issa Aremu

NOTWITHSTANDING the commendable global efforts, the statistics is not yet receding. On the contrary, by the weekend, as many as 1,790,564 COVID-19 cases globally were recorded. Death tally posts some 109,654 with as many as 409,540 recoveries. According to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) there have been 318 confirmed coronavirus cases, 10 deaths in as many as 20 states of the Federation. There are 58 recoveries after contracting COVID-19. If we dare to care to know the names and surnames, gender and fate as well as the unrealised aspirations of the "statistical cases", we can just imagine the human tragedies at hand. An injury to one is an injury to all.

Undoubtedly there have been remarkable concerted efforts to "flatten the curve" (ie, "reducing the number of new COVID-19 cases from one day to the next"). "Flattening" actually helps prevent healthcare systems from becoming overwhelmed.

Of course we also witnessed televised embarrassing friendly fires between the Tetros Ghebreyesus, the Ethiopian microbiologist head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and China-phobia American President Donald Trump.

Trump accused WHO of being "China-centric" and even threatened "to cut funding", not to cut the rising infection rates in USA! But this discomfiting exchange only increases the noise level of the urgent need to get the vaccine and above all contain the coronavirus pandemic.

The point cannot be overstated: at times like this (and until the curve flattens!) we are all leaders who must guide others to live and act safe. Today more than any other time, part of the job description of any state and non-state leader is to lead (and must be seen to lead!) both "from the front" and "from the back" to damn the menace.

To this extent, I once again commend the visibility of the members of the Presidential Task Force (PTF). The periodic painstaking briefings are daily takeaways at least for those who are lucky to have electricity. Many are still "socially distanced" from light in 2020 Nigeria! The robust Q and A sessions are simply good and

better when they are done in mother tongues. Professor Oyewole Tomori is a Nigerian professor of virology. I single him out as a patriotic academic who at the time Nigeria (and indeed the world) calls he truly obeys to educate and elucidate.

The former vice chancellor of Redeemer's University had urged the PTF to be more open and transparent about the data of the cases, recoveries and deaths. PTF through full disclosures should offer leadership at times like this to convince the remaining misguided doubting and cynical citizens who gullibly think that COVID-19 is a joke or a conspiracy from Afghanistan. But beyond the good work (however imperfect) of governments at all levels, where are the civil societies, trade unions, women and youth associations?

This is the time to be visibly counted in confronting the virus, through education, collaborative and robust engagement to save lives and guarantee livelihood for their members locked down at home. As the vice president of the Industrial Global Union with 50 million industrial workers, I bear witness that trade Unions and union leaders around the world are visibly responding to the rapidly evolving situation, defending workers' rights and promoting social solidarity. The Secretary General of South African Clothing, Textile Workers Union (SACTWU).

Andre Kriel puts it better. Speaking to television news in South Africa recently, the general secretary said: "We can't run to government for everything. We must look at our own resources. It is our duty to rise to the call of the nation and combat COVID-19."

"So we said, let's look at the institutions that exist in our industry and smoothen some of the administrative problems." SACTWU got a historic COVID-19 lockdown agreement for both the clothing and textile industry's almost 100,000 workers. Precisely on March 23, the National Bargaining Council for the Clothing Manufacturing Industry of South Africa, ratified South Africa's first 'COVID-19 Lockdown National Collective Agreement'. This unique collective agreement guarantees employees in the industry full payment for the duration of a 6-week lockdown period.

It provides for consideration of extensions of this 6-week period (subject to further collective bargaining), in the event that the lockdown is extended beyond a 6-week period. South Africa has indeed extended the lockdown until the end of April.

On March 26, 2020, three days after the SACTWU collective agreement was concluded under the auspices of the clothing industry bargaining council, the Minister of Employment and Labour,



Thulas Nxesi, declared the collective agreement as a national law, published in the government gazette and extended to all companies and employees in domestic clothing manufacturing industry.

The first bi-partite industry-wide collective agreement which "brings together different labour market institutions in an innovative, problem-solving attempt to ensure that workers don't suffer loss of earnings during the lock down," is worth considering in Nigeria.

The agreement also remarkably establishes a rapid response task team to "manage practical issues". SACTWU took a proactive stance on confronting coronavirus through massive workers' education programmes several weeks ago, health and safety education unacceptably lacking in Nigeria.

Nigeria (more than South Africa)

parades many labour market institutions that include NLC and TUC, almost 80 industrial affiliate unions, National Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF). NSITF specifically aims to provide an open and fair system of guaranteed and adequate compensation for all employees or their dependents for any death, injury, disease or disability arising out of or in the course of employment.

Others are Salaries and Wages Commission, National Directorate of Employment (NDE), National Pension Commission (PENCOM), Labour Institute and scores of Pension Funds Administrators (PFAs).

These institutions must buy in through direct, immediate engagement in the struggle against the pandemic. The federal government must urgently revive the tripartite National Labour Advisory Council (NLAC) made up of workers, employers and government and constitute a labour market situation room with the singular task to save lives and ensure livelihood through occupational health and safety for essential workforce work with pay.

Nigerian workers and indeed all Nigerians need protected rights not necessarily charity or palliatives under the COVID-19 lockdown. Nigerians are citizens not refugees that seeking palliatives. Unions and employers must

also facilitate unconditional transfers of legitimate pay to workers and their dependents as long as this lockdown lasts. The Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) and Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) must direct their resources to protect their members on the frontline through health and safety measures and adequate pay.

They should avoid diversionary China-phobia and stop what late Peter Enahoro in his classic book: "The Complete Nigerian" called an "Art of Grumbling".

Precisely because China is commendably collaborating to help Nigeria flatten the curve of the notorious virus, the "most ferocious grumbles" would peter out like other grumbles. Meanwhile obey the health authorities with respect to personal, industrial hygiene and above all physical distancing.

## Ethiopia's postponed elections: Governing in the interregnum

By Adem Kassie Abebe

THE COVID-19 Pandemic has its first electoral casualty in Africa after Ethiopia announced the indefinite postponement of preparations for general elections for members of the House of Peoples' Representatives (parliament) and Regional Legislative Councils, originally slated for 29 August 2020.

Ethiopia's 2020 elections are expected to be the most free, fair and competitive since the ill-fated 2005 elections, which ended with a post-election violence, the detention or exile of opposition leaders and journalists, and overall cementing of authoritarianism.

There is hope, but also anxiety that the 2020 elections may similarly herald in a combination of authoritarianism and worsening of lawlessness and instability.

### A welcome postponement

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the timing of the Ethiopian elections was more a consequence of a constitutionally fixed five-year parliamentary term than its appropriateness. The constitutional term of the current Parliament ends in September 2020, which necessitated the holding of elections latest by August.

The August date fell in the middle of the rainy season in large swathes of the country. This meant that the reconstituted National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) needed to pursue preparations, all aspects of which have to be undertaken from scratch under a new electoral regime, amid disruptive rains. In a country with close to 80% rural population and only a small fraction of all-season roads, this was a herculean task even under the best of circumstances.

Crucially, the timing would have been detrimental to the preparations of opposition parties that have suffered years of political oppression. These parties not only need to comply with

new registration requirements, they must also develop and promote their political platforms, recruit and train members, and establish constituency presence.

Many opposition parties, therefore, opposed the August date, which clearly advantaged incumbent Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his newly minted Prosperity Party, in view of their control of the state apparatus and resources. The August date could have seriously undermined the free and fairness of the elections, and therefore the legitimacy of the outcome.

When the COVID-19 Pandemic landed in Ethiopia, and restrictions were imposed by both the federal and some regional governments, NEBE's preparations were brought to a halt. It therefore quickly convened consultations with representatives of political parties to update them on the developments, the various scenarios and the potential need for postponement, which was broadly supported.

This welcome postponement, however, generates thorny issues regarding its constitutional and legal basis and, crucially, the governance of the country between the end of term of the current parliament (and government) in September and the date of the next elections, which is yet to be determined.

### Lack of constitutional regulation

While the broad political consensus and demands of a free and fair election may confer legitimacy on the postponement, it cannot be used to dispense with constitutional legality.

Neither the constitution nor other laws anticipate and regulate the possible delay of the fixed elections for parliament. It is thus not clear which entity, if at all, can postpone elections and under what circumstances.

Local elections, which are not constitutionally regulated, have been controversially and repeatedly postponed through the deci-

sion of parliament, not NEBE. NEBE cannot therefore postpone the general elections and its announcement suspending preparation for the elections should be seen as an input for the ultimate decision on the fate of the date of elections.

Short of a constitutional amendment, which is practically off the table, the only possible justification for postponement of elections appears to be as part of measures in a state of emergency. While dissolution of parliament offers another possibility, this is anticipated in relation to the early, not delayed, holding of elections.

There have been suggestions that the declaration of a state of emergency merely to justify postponement of elections is inappropriate and sets a dangerous precedent. While the conclusion of this sentiment is agreeable, the premise is not.

Elections are not a one-day event. They are a cyclical process that require continuous preparations. In the Ethiopian case, the upcoming elections are for all practical purposes an inaugural election under a reconstituted NEBE and new electoral regulations, including for registration of political parties.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has disrupted preparations for elections, as much as normal livelihood. Accordingly, while there may be differences on the appropriate measures that may be taken in a state of emergency, there is no denying that an emergency exists. Although this emergency would hopefully end before the formal end of the term of the current parliament, the damage to the election preparations has already been done and postponement of the elections is a necessity, not merely a convenience.

The state of emergency declared on 8 April by the Council of Ministers does not outline any specific measures, instead allowing the executive to flexibly determine the needed measures. Nevertheless, while the details indeed require swift and adaptive responses that the Parliament cannot readily provide, considering the



importance of the elections, the decision on postponement should be taken by the Parliament, rather than be left to the government.

Unfortunately, Parliament approved the emergency declaration on 10 April without any measures related to the postponement of the elections. The detailed measures that the Council of Ministers subsequently announced do not similarly mention the elephant in the room. If the deferral of decision on the election issue is intended to strengthen cross-party engagement and consensus, including on governance in the interregnum, this must be communicated clearly. Otherwise, avoiding the issue only opens room for unproductive contestations.

### Governing in the interregnum

Whatever the constitutional contestations, postponement of the elections is a practical reality. A more valuable and productive debate would be to focus on how the country should be governed between the end of term of the current parliament in September 2020 and the new date of elections, which under a NEBE proposal could be as late as February 2021, assuming the COVID-19 pandemic will be under control sooner rather than later.

The absence of regulation on the possible postponement of general elections means that we are in the dark as to the modality of governance in the interregnum. If experience

from the postponement of local elections is anything to go by, things would proceed business as usual, i.e. the ruling parties at the federal and regional levels will continue to exercise full government powers. The ruling parties will likely seek to follow this path. The emergency declaration postponing elections may also be seen as concomitantly extending the life of the current parliament and government.

Nevertheless, considering the legitimacy deficit in the current parliament and government, resulting from the unfree, unfair and uncompetitive 2015 elections, insistence on business as usual would be unadvisable.

Another possibility is the establishment of a caretaker government. While the Constitution does not expressly provide for it, caretaker government has been recognized in relevant rules and regulations of the parliament in relation to early elections, where parliament is dissolved with its own consent or for failure to establish a replacement government following a successful vote of no confidence in a coalition government.

In such cases, elections must be held within six months of the dissolution and in the interim the government would conduct day to day governance and ensure the organization of new elections, but it may not enact new proclamations, regulations or decrees, nor may it repeal or amend any existing law.

Nevertheless, a care-taker government assumes the absence of parliament and would

be inappropriate in cases where parliament is still functioning. In any case, the aftermath of the emergency will require swift policy responses as well as continental and global co-operation to contain the damage to the Ethiopian economy. A caretaker government would not be fit for purpose.

Toward a 'consultative' government  
It is suggested that Ethiopia should move towards a consultative government for the interregnum where the government would continue governing but must formally convene and consult leaders of opposition parties on key policy decisions that may be necessary during the interregnum.

In this regard, the consultations that NEBE conducted with political groups prior to announcing the suspension of preparations for the elections and cancelling of the electoral timeline, as well as the consultations that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed conducted with leaders of opposition political parties provide a useful foundation to build upon. The proposed consultative government would strengthen what has been started.

In addition to providing a viable way out of the constitutional and legal conundrum, the practice of consultative government during the interregnum could engender a more collegial and cooperative spirit among the political contenders. Such a spirit is critical to reduce the chances of post-electoral instability and violence and resurgent authoritarianism.



**MARKET TRENDS**  
**Top banks register success in mobilising customer deposits last year**

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## Bank of Tanzania insists on market-driven interest rates

By The Banker Reporter

**I**NTEREST rates charged by banks on loans in the market will continue to be determined by market forces because since 1991, the banking industry is liberalised.

Bank of Tanzania's Director of Financial Sector Supervision, Jerry Sabi said in Dar es Salaam last week that following transformation of the financial sector in 1991 that involved liberalization of the banking sector for the purpose of ensuring a competitive environment amongst players, the government ceased to determine the amount of interest rates to be charged to borrowers by banks.

"Thus, interest rates to be charged to borrowers are determined by the market forces of demand and supply of loans and other factors such as the price of government securities, cost of funding, risk premium, reserve requirements, character of the borrower, credit worthiness of the borrower etc," Sabi said.

Responding to questions as to what the central bank is doing to address the issue of hiked interest rates in the market hovering around 18 to 16 percent, Sabi said other factors which lenders use to determine interest rates on loans are perceived default probability of the borrower, required profit margin, lack of credit history of some prospective borrowers and prolonged judicial enforcement process upon default.



Bank of Tanzania Governor Professor Florens Luoga.

"As part of the strategy to induce banks to reduce interest rates to be charged to borrowers, Bank of Tanzania took various measures such as reduction of discount rate from 9.0 percent to 7.0 percent in August 2018 which helped to improve liquidity among banks," he added.

The BoT Director further stated in a bid to improve interest charged on loans through readily availability of credit, the central bank stimulated credit expansion to private sector by lowering the Statutory Minimum Reserves ratio from 8.0 percent to 7.0 percent with effect from 1st July 2019.

"In addition, the bank introduced credit reference bureaus for the purpose of assisting banks to obtain credit history of prospective borrowers before granting loans. Based on such initiatives taken by Bank of Tanzania, they are expected to encourage banks to reduce interest rates to be charged on loans in the long run," Sabi noted.

Earlier, BoT Governor, Professor Florens Luoga said the regulatory body wants a smooth transition to median interest rates in the market without, "Disrupting smooth functioning of the banking industry."

The central bank director's explanation addresses pressure from Treasury where Finance Minister, Dr Philip Mpango and his Deputy Dr Ashatu Kijaji have challenged the regulator to reign in hiked interest rates in the market which have defied all available infrastructure put in place by the government.

## Sub-Saharan Africa M&A transactions totalled US\$ 4.8 billion in Q1 2020

By Correspondent Tarek Fleihan

Refinitiv yesterday released the 2020 first quarter investment banking analysis for sub-Saharan Africa. According to the report, investment banking fees in sub-Saharan Africa reached an estimated US\$128.2 million during the first quarter of 2020, down 15 per cent from last year's strong start.

Refinitiv is a global provider of financial market data and infrastructure. The company was founded in 2018. It is jointly owned by Blackstone Group LP which has a 55 per cent stake and Thomson Reuters which owns 45 per cent. The company has an annual turnover of \$6bn with more than 40,000 client companies in 190 countries.

Advisory fees earned from completed mergers and acquisitions transactions generated US\$33.5 million, down 38 per cent year-on-year, while syndicated lending fees declined 47 per cent to US\$35.7 million. Equity capital markets underwriting fees more than tripled to reach US\$36.7 million, a first quarter total only exceeded twice since records began in 2000. Bond underwriting fees increased 20% to US\$22.3 million, again the third highest first quarter fee total since records began.

Almost one-quarter of fees in the region during the first quarter of 2020 were earned from government and agency deals. Almost two-thirds of all fees were generated in South Africa. JP Morgan earned the most investment banking fees in the region during the first quarter of 2020, a total of US\$17.9 million or a 13.9 per cent share of the total fee pool.

In the M&A space, the value of announced transactions with any Sub-Saharan African involvement reached US\$4.8 billion during the first three months of 2020, 48 per cent less than the value recorded during the same period in 2019, and a four-year low.

The number of deals declined 12% over the same period. Monthly M&A declined in value for two consecutive months, with March 2020 marking the lowest monthly total since August 2009. Africatel Holdings' US\$1.0 billion sale of PT Ventures to Angolan Sonangol in January was the largest deal in the region during the first quarter of 2020.

Deals with a Sub-Saharan African target declined 74% by value to a seventeen-year low of US\$1.7 billion, as domestic M&A within the region declined 86% from last year and the combined value of inbound deals failed to pass the \$1 billion mark, a level achieved in all but four years since the turn of the century.

The largest sub-Saharan African deal of the quarter was announced at the beginning of January - MTN's sale of its tower businesses in Uganda and Ghana to The Netherlands Cooperative for US\$523 million. Deals in the materials sector accounted for 39 per cent of Sub-Saharan African target M&A activity during the first quarter of 2020. South Africa was the most targeted nation, followed by Uganda and Nigeria.

Outbound M&A totalled US\$1.8 billion during the first three months of 2020, 19 per cent more than the value recorded at this time last year, despite a 27 per cent decline in the number of deals. With advisory work on seven deals with a combined value of US\$993.0 million, JP Morgan holds to the top spot in the financial advisor ranking for deals with any sub-Saharan African involvement during the first quarter of 2020.

Regarding equity capital markets, Sub-Saharan African equity and equity-related issuance totalled US\$727.8 million during the first quarter of 2020, 32 per cent less than the value recorded during the same period last year and a three-year low. The number of deals recorded also declined by one-third to the lowest first quarter tally since 2013.

## E-commerce sector requests home deliveries of non-essential goods

JOHANNESBURG

South African logistics and e-commerce businesses wrote an open letter to the minister of trade and industry, Ebrahim Patel on Tuesday, 7 April, requesting home deliveries of non-essential goods to be allowed during the lockdown.

In a statement, the businesses say this request, driven by uAfrica's Andy Higgins, stems from the heavy trade and transport restrictions put in place during the national lockdown brought about by the global COVID-19 crisis.

The letter addresses the ban on the sale and home delivery of non-essential goods via e-commerce and calls for the lifting of this ban, in order to assist South Africans during the lockdown period, as well as support many small businesses that are now on the brink of collapse.

The letter also advocates that this endeavour would add great value to society and adds a minimal risk of spreading the virus as e-commerce allows for the sale of goods without social interaction, and the logistics industry has already adopted the necessary preventive measures to avoid the transmission of COVID-19 with the home delivery of essential goods.

"We would argue that by allowing all goods - including those deemed to be non-essential - to be transported domestically by professional courier companies, will allow many businesses to continue to operate and provide a valuable service to society while not adding undue risk to the further spread of the virus," the letter states. Furthermore, many drivers stand to lose their jobs if they are not able to fulfil enough daily shipments provided by essential goods alone, it adds. At this point in time, close to 4 000 companies have signed the letter.

Many desperate pleas and comments have also been received in support of the motion; many businesses will need to retrench employees, most do not have any form of income, and others may need to shut down completely, the businesses say. "We can play a vital part in not only preventing the spread of the virus but ensuring the well-being of South Africans - please allow us to do this," it adds.



South African Trade, Industry and Competition Minister, Ebrahim Patel.

## World Bank sees 'huge willingness' to suspend payments of debt by world's poorest countries

WASHINGTON

The World Bank is seeing "a huge willingness" on the part of official bilateral creditors to suspend debt payments by the world's poorest countries so they can focus on fighting the coronavirus pandemic, a top Bank official said on Monday.

World Bank Managing Director Axel van Trotsenburg said the Group of 20 major economies and the Group of Seven (G7) had been largely supportive of a call by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund for a temporary halt in debt payments.

"Everybody understands that we need to help the poorest countries. There is a huge willingness - as in nobody is questioning that, absolutely nobody," he told Reuters in an interview. "I think we are in a good place to move forward."

Finance officials from the G7 and G20 countries are due to discuss the debt relief issue this week. Three sources familiar with the process said details were still being finalised, but they expected the G20 countries to back a suspension of debt payments at least until the end of the year.

World Bank President David Malpass said last week he expected a "broad endorsement" of the proposal by the 25-member joint Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF on Friday. The World Bank and the IMF have begun disbursing emergency aid to countries struggling to contain the virus and mitigate its economic impact. They first issued their call for debt relief on March 25, but China - a major creditor - and other G20 nations have not formally endorsed the proposal.

The IMF announced on Monday a first round of debt relief grants to 25 of its poorest member countries, including Afghanistan, Mali, Haiti and Yemen. The funds will cover those countries' debt service payments to the Fund for the next six months, but the IMF is pushing donor countries to more than double the \$500 million



World Bank Managing Director Axel van Trotsenburg.

available in its Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust so it can extend the debt relief for a full two years.

The IMF-World Bank push for broader bilateral debt relief won significant backing over the past week, including from Pope Francis and the Institute of International Finance (IIF), which represents over 450 global banks, hedge funds and sovereign wealth funds.

The two institutions are urging China and other big creditors to suspend debt payments from May 1 for International Development Association (IDA) countries that are home to a quarter of the world's population and two-thirds of the world's population living in extreme poverty. With a combined gross domestic product of around \$2 trillion, those countries face official bilateral debt service obligations of \$14 billion through the end of 2020, the World Bank estimates.

The World Bank has already approved \$2.1 billion in emergency funding for 32 countries to respond to the Covid-19 crisis, with decisions on 40 more expected this month. Van Trotsenburg said it was crucial that commercial creditors also provide

debt relief for the poorest countries, which have also seen massive outflows of capital and a sharp drop-off in remittances by citizens living overseas.

"This is a global problem affecting everybody. Unless everybody acts, it will not add up," van Trotsenburg said. "That means every institution has the obligation to see what can it mobilise to the best of its ability, and to be fast."

IIF President Tim Adams said official bilateral debt relief could be provided relatively quickly but that it would take longer to provide commercial debt relief given the lack of details and oversight about who exactly holds all the debt.

Van Trotsenburg said it was also important to ensure that unsustainable debt levels not impede the poorest countries' movement toward more sustainable development, when asked about the need for a broader round of debt restructuring.

Adams said that discussion was premature, with circumstances and needs varying widely from country to country. But he said the crisis highlighted the need for greater transparency about lending to poor countries by China and others.

# Top banks register success in mobilising customer deposits last year



Azania Bank Limited's CEO, Charles Itembe, speaks at a past event. File photo

By Francis Kajubi

**T**IER 1 banks have registered an outstanding performance in customers' deposits growth during the fourth quarter of the year ending December 2019 as per audited results published this week.

According to audited reports for the year ending December 2019, CRDB Bank Plc led the pack in growing its customer deposits by 11.4 percent from 4.69trn/- to 5.22trn/- thanks to mobilization by the bank's staff and management.

CRDB's main rival in the market, NMB Bank Plc, was second on the list with customer deposits increasing to 4.88trn/- last year compared to 4.28trn/- made during a corresponding period in 2018.

Azania Bank Limited, which is the latest entrant in the elite group of Tier 1 banks in the market after acquiring Bank M Tanzania Limited last year, saw its deposits

almost double from 350.16mn/- in 2018 to 571.79mn/- in the fourth quarter lasted December 2019 from 350.169mn/- it registered in 2018.

According to its report, ABL said its total assets increased from 502.58bn/- to 1.13trn/-, a dramatic increase boosted by Bank M. The Dar es Salaam based lender said, as it implements its five year corporate strategy being the second year, the main focus is on consolidating after acquiring Bank M.

"The bank's pre-tax profit grew by 249 percent from 6.79bn/- to 23.73bn/-, the good performance was derived from both interest and non-interest income streams," the ABL report stated adding that interest income grew to 93.45bn/- from 51.59bn/-, an increase of 80 percent growth. On the other hand, non-interest income decreased to 368.23mn/- or a decrease of 95.2 percent compared to 7.691bn/- over the same period of time.

"The decrease is due to net loss

on assets and liabilities acquired from former Bank M," as ABL's CEO Charles Itembe promised to continue with the transformation process that seeks to drive changes in operations of the bank to align with market realities. "Our ambition is to become a scalable and digitally led bank."

"For us, this means transforming our current business by making it more open and connected, improving our ways of working to become faster and more agile, pre-emptive customer engagement, simpler customized offerings and selectively pushing the innovation envelope," the Azania Bank report added.

Azania currently provides banking services at 23 locations across the country as well as 10 standalone Bureau De Change outlets which transact forex. It also provides customer finance loans alongside mortgage lending through which customers can access medium to long term credit.

## CBK bars digital lenders from listing loan defaulters with CRBs

NAIROBI

Kenya's financial services industry regulator, Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has published new Credit Reference Bureau (CRB) regulations and additional measures on credit information sharing (CIS) which bars digital (mobile phone-based) lenders from listing their clients with CRBs.

The CBK has announced that the new regulations were published in Gazette Notice No. 55 of April 8, 2020 and were issued in accordance with Section 31(3) of the Banking Act and subsequently replace the CRB Regulations of 2013. The new CRB Regulations provide for the licensing and supervision of Credit Reference Bureaus by the CBK.

"Importantly, they also provide a framework for the exchange of borrowers' credit information between commercial banks, microfinance banks, Savings and Credit Societies (SACCOS), other credit information providers approved by CBK, and CRBs. They are now operational," stated CBK in a release.

"The revised CRB Regulations have been developed through a consulta-



Central Bank of Kenya Governor, Patrick Njoroge.

tive process that started in 2018, and are intended to strengthen Kenya's Credit Information Sharing System (CIS) that has been operational since 2010. In particular, they seek to enhance consumer protection for borrowers, expand the sources of information and ensure the sustainability of the CIS as a key tool to bridge the information gap about the borrower's creditworthiness."

The new CRB regulations come with various key reforms. The new reforms introduced include: a minimum of Kshs 1,000 now being the threshold set for negative credit information that is submitted to CRBs by lenders; borrower's information regarding nonperforming loans of less than Kshs 1,000 will now not be submitted to CRBs while borrowers that were previously "blacklisted" for

amounts less than Kshs 1,000 will be "delisted."

First-time CRB clearance certificates will be provided by CRBs at no charge, a move that is meant to particularly benefit the country's youth and graduates who are seeking employment. SACCO societies regulated by the Sacco Societies Regulatory Authority (SASRA) have now been included as authorized subscribers of credit data to CRBs. The SACCOs will now submit borrowers' information to CRBs and also receive credit reports directly from them.

In addition to publishing the above CRB Regulations, the following additional measures have been implemented: the CBK has withdrawn the approvals granted to unregulated digital (mobile-based) and credit-only lenders as third party credit information providers to CRBs, with immediate effect. The CBK notes that the withdrawal is in response to numerous public complaints over misuse of the CIS by the unregulated digital and credit-only lenders, and particularly "their poor responsiveness to customer complaints."

This therefore means that from now

henceforth, unregulated digital and credit-only lenders - who comprise the membership of Digital Lenders Association of Kenya (DLAK) like Tala, Branch, OKash, Alternative Circle and Aspira among others- will no longer submit credit information on their borrowers to CRBs.

On the recommendation of CBK, the Treasury CS has also published by Gazette Notice No. 3096 of April 8, 2020, the suspension for a period of six months, the listing of negative credit information for borrowers whose loans were performing previously but have become non-performing from April 1, 2020. Consequently, loans that fall in arrears from April 1 to September 30, 2020, will not lead to the "blacklisting" of the borrower with the CRBs.

"This is one of the emergency measures that were announced on March 25, 2020, in light of the exceptional circumstances from the Coronavirus pandemic and aiming to shield borrowers from the adverse impact. CBK will continue working with all stakeholders to ensure that the CIS mechanism works for and with Kenyans, and in line with best global practices," stated CBK.

## Malawi's gov't orders reduction on mobile money fees

LILONGWE

Malawi's president Peter Mutharika has ordered banks and mobile money service providers to reduce fees on all electronic money transactions to promote the use of electronic money services after the country confirmed 16 COVID-19 cases and two related deaths.

As has been done in Rwanda and Zambia, Malawi's government wants to increase digital transactions to minimise physical contact with cash. Mutharika said the treasury must enforce the directive during the period of partial lockdown.

He also ordered banks and micro-financial institutions to observe a three-month moratorium in interest and principle repayments for all loans contracted by micro businesses and SMEs. "These measures are aimed at cushioning the impact of COVID-19," said Mutharika.

However, CEO of the Institute of Bank in Malawi (IOB), has expressed some reservation and was quoted by the local Nation newspaper saying: "There are a number of factors to be considered before reducing fees and charges on electronic money transactions."

Chancellor Kaferapanjira, CEO for Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry has told the media that "the chamber expects banks to implement the measures smoothly for the benefit of the sector." Malawi's mobile money market is growing steadily as the government pushes for financial inclusion.

According to a 2019 Q4 report by the Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM), the country has a total of 6.2-million mobile money subscribers. The report said the number of mobile money agents network has also grown by 4% to reach 52,200 as of December 2019, thereby increasing the number of access points across the country.

## Coronavirus: UK banks scrap shareholder payments

WASHINGTON

Various African governments have imposed lockdowns and curfews to curb the spread of the coronavirus, but the restrictions are putting pressure on most economies

Sub-Saharan Africa's gross domestic product is expected to contract 1.6% this year, compared 3.1% growth last year, as the coronavirus pandemic wrecks the region's economies, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday.

Various African governments have imposed lockdowns and curfews to curb the spread of the coronavirus, but the restrictions are putting pressure on most economies - some of which were already in recession.

The IMF said in its World Economic Outlook that GDP was projected to fall sharply in South Africa, the continent's most advanced economy. The country's GDP is projected to contract 5.8% in 2020 from growth of 0.2% in 2019.



IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath.

South Africa entered a recession in the final quarter of last year as power cuts by state utility Eskom took a toll on the economy, while public finances were strained by bailouts to struggling state firms.

The country imposed some of the toughest restrictions on the continent to contain the coronavirus, including a five-week lockdown to the end of April. With production and spending curtailed, the economic outlook was set to remain grim.

The IMF also projected significant economic contractions in oil-exporting countries, with Nigeria's GDP forecast to fall 3.4% this year after growing 2.2% in 2019. Angola's economy was expected to remain in recession, contracting 1.4% in 2020.

The IMF and the World Bank - which has also projected a recession for sub-Saharan Africa in 2020 - are racing to provide emergency funds to African countries and others to combat the coronavirus and mitigate the impact of sweeping shutdowns aiming at curbing its spread.

## JPMorgan's first quarter profit falls by 69% on coronavirus loan provisions

NEW YORK

JPMorgan Chase's quarterly profit slumped by more than two-thirds as the coronavirus pandemic and record low oil prices forced the largest US bank by assets to boost reserves

to protect it from a wave of potential loan defaults.

Provision for credit losses jumped over five-fold to \$8.3 billion in the first quarter, with two-thirds of the additional credit reserves taken for consumer loans. "Given the

likelihood of a fairly severe recession, it was necessary to build credit reserves," JPMorgan chief executive Jamie Dimon said in a statement.

Mr Dimon had warned shareholders last week that the coronavirus crisis would hurt

profits "meaningfully" through 2020. The pandemic has shut down businesses, put nearly 17 million people out of work in the US alone and is expected to cause a global recession not seen in generations. The bank's net income fell to \$2.87bn, or 78

cents per share, in the quarter ended March 31, compared with \$9.18bn, or \$2.65 per share, a year earlier.

Analysts on average had expected \$1.84 per share, according to Refinitiv. It was not immediately clear if the reported

numbers were comparable with estimates. Profit was also hurt by a \$951 million charge in its investment bank due to a markdown on the bank's bridge book.

There have so far been more than 1.9 million reported cases of

Covid-19, the deadly respiratory disease stemming from the virus, and over 120,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking its spread. More than 460,000 have recovered.

# What if coronavirus is an opportunity for African economies?

By Kako Nubukpo

African leaders should know that the discourse of their Western colleagues has always been inconsistent.

We can only hope that this crisis will remind Africa that contracting out the attributes of its economic independence to others is a mistake. "The time of the finite world begins." This idea from French poet Paul Valéry accurately reflects the end-of-an-era atmosphere enveloping the planet as the death toll of the COVID-19 pandemic mounts.

Africa is not immune to the panic, although the sentiment is more frequently observed among the continent's globalised urban elite than among rural populations. The latter, typically excluded from development, know all too well that despite coronavirus's dangerousness, it will not cause as many deaths in Africa as the scourge of malaria.

The IMF shifts dramatically, becoming more Keynesian than ever before.

Yet, malaria has never led many African leaders to declare state-of-emergency measures or call for a "coor-

ordinated response," as they are more eager to parrot the bellicose semantics of their Western peers, with a mimicry that verges on the ridiculous, than to be attentive to the essential needs of their populations.

Be that as it may, the coronavirus pandemic has the potential, if we accept to learn from its still poorly assessed impact, to bring about a welcome change of perspective as to the economic policies Africa should adopt, both in the short and medium term.

In the short term, announcements regarding the resources mobilised are dizzying: \$3trn in the United States, €2.5trn (\$2.8bn) in Europe and more than 450bn CFA francs (\$756m) from the Banque Centrale des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, a remarkable feat for a financial regulator little used to so much extravagance when it comes to money creation.

Even the IMF is continuing its intellectual shift, becoming more Keynesian with every major crisis than the most orthodox disciples of British economist John Maynard Keynes, standing at the ready to inject astronomical amounts of cash



African leaders attending an African Union Summit.

into the global economy.

A cruel financing gap for income-generating activities

These counter-cyclical measures are all the more welcome in Africa, as its economies are cruelly affected by a financing gap for

income-generating activities

and a massive decline in global demand. The continent is facing consequences such as falling oil prices, now below \$25 a barrel, and the end of a globalised form of tourism, as confirmed by widespread border clo-

sures.

Africa, already vulnerable to debt distress risks, is bearing the brunt of this shock to global demand. Three of its six leading economies (Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa, i.e., 65% of the continent's

GDP) are highly dependent on oil (Algeria, Angola and Nigeria).

In the Central African CFA franc zone, countries will undergo a downturn on par with that of 2015-2016, which has renewed fears over a devaluation of the

CFA franc similar to that seen in the second half of 2016.

This period represents perhaps an extraordinary opportunity for the continent to forego the neoliberal discourse espoused by lenders, the likes of which has led us to neglect to build states worthy of the name and key sectors (health, education, etc.) under structural adjustment programmes and their many recent avatars.

You shouldn't sleep on other people's mats, as it's like sleeping on the ground

Our leaders should know that the discourse of their Western colleagues is - and has always been - inconsistent. Today, the intransigent guardians of austerity are suddenly more pragmatic and far from making their usual speeches about the urgency of a "balanced budget" and "monetary stability."

For Africa, the main medium-term lesson of the coronavirus crisis is as follows: the continent will continue to be vulnerable to outside shocks as long as it refrains from finding a structural response to its development challenges. One thing is clear: the perpetuation

of the continent's over-involvement in the primary sector of international trade - that is to say Africa limiting itself to exporting raw materials to the rest of the world and passively waiting in return to receive the volatile financial resources that fuel rentier economies - is truly toxic.

What Africa really needs is to process raw materials onsite, which alone is actually capable of creating value and jobs and diversifying the productive base of economies. Via its own production, Africa will be able to supply its future domestic market of more than two billion inhabitants and reduce its dependence on the rest of the world.

The Burkinabé historian Joseph Ki-Zerbo said: "You shouldn't sleep on other people's mats, as it's like sleeping on the ground." Today, Africa is on the ground and waiting for the umpteenth time for the rest of the world to come to its rescue. Let's hope that Africa will be able to lift itself up on its own and finally understand that it cannot endlessly contract out all of the attributes of its economic independence.



World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

## Just no time to waste, says WHO chief after the US halted funding

GENEVA

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus yesterday said on Twitter that "there is no time to waste" and that WHO's singular focus is on working to serve all people to save lives and stop the COVID-19 pandemic.

These remarks are believed to be the WHO chief's first public response after the US decision to suspend funding to WHO.

Also on Wednesday, Tedros retweeted a previous tweet from an epidemiologist, who said that after working for WHO for 10 years with six Director-Generals, he found Dr. Tedros is one of the best and the current political

campaign against Tedros is wrong.

US President Donald Trump announced late Tuesday that he had instructed his administration to suspend funding for the WHO, which he accused of "severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of the coronavirus."

Lockdowns should be lifted in two-week stages

Countries that ease restrictions imposed to fight the spread of the coronavirus should wait at least two weeks to evaluate the impact of such changes before easing again, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday.

In its latest Strategy Update, the UN agency said that the world stands at a "pivotal

juncture" in the pandemic and that "speed, scale, and equity must be our guiding principles" when deciding what measures are necessary.

Every country should implement comprehensive public health measures to maintain a sustainable steady state of low-level or no transmission and prepare its surge capacity to react rapidly to control any spread, the WHO said.

Some of the countries hardest-hit by the virus are now considering lifting lockdowns and beginning the transition toward a resumption of normal life. The WHO update said any such steps should be taken gradually, with time to evaluate their impact before new steps are

taken.

"To reduce the risk of new outbreaks, measures should be lifted in a phased, step-wise manner based on an assessment of the epidemiological risks and socioeconomic benefits of lifting restrictions on different workplaces, educational institutions, and social activities..." the WHO said.

"Ideally there would be a minimum of 2 weeks (corresponding to the incubation period of COVID-19) between each phase of the transition, to allow sufficient time to understand the risk of new outbreaks and to respond appropriately," it added.

It warned that the "risk of re-introduction and resurgence of the disease will continue".

## Covid-19 pandemic validates the need for multilateral institutions

WASHINGTON

The coronavirus pandemic validates the need for multilateral institutions, as governments try to buttress their economies and take a more active role in introducing emergency measures for crises, the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund said.

"This crisis completely brings to light the importance of having international institutions - the IMF, the World Bank and many others," Gita Gopinath said after the release of the World Economic Outlook report on Tuesday.

"This is a truly global crisis. It's not possible that we can have advanced economies coming out of it whole if emerging markets and developing countries still have the virus pandemic playing through their economies," she said. "It is quite a truly global effort. At the IMF, we are stepping up in many ways to provide exactly that kind of support in terms of rapid financing facilities and debt service relief for our poorer members."

Populist movements that have emerged in different countries in recent years have attacked multilateral institutions, free trade and globalisation. But the coronavirus pandemic, which has infected nearly 2 million people worldwide and killed about 125,000 so far, necessitates the co-operation of countries and international organisations now and in the future to cushion the effect on economies, people's health and livelihoods, Ms Gopinath said.

The outbreak is the biggest challenge to the global economy since the Great Depression, plunging it into a deep recession with growth set to contract by 3 per cent this year. Covid-19 has rattled investors, wiped out about \$17 trillion from stock markets worldwide and led to millions of people losing their jobs as countries impose lockdowns.

Governments worldwide have stepped up with \$8tn in stimulus packages backed by monetary support from central banks. This intervention raises the question of whether

governments will play a more active role in economies in the future, increasing spending and lowering taxes to stimulate demand and pull the global economy out of this pandemic or future crises.

"Whenever you have a crisis of this kind, the public sector role becomes that much bigger and this will be no different in that sense," Ms Gopinath said. "We will come out of this crisis with a much bigger role of the public in the economy and of course afterwards there tends to be a scaling down, but there will certainly be this period."

For policymakers, "speed is really of the essence", in easing the effects of the crisis on their economies, she said. The silver lining from such deep downturns is that more safety nets will be put in place to protect countries in the future.

"There will be a demand for more kinds of what we call automatic stabilisers, which is, when there is a downturn when people are losing jobs and income, there are automatic mechanisms that provide them with support," Ms Gopinath said. "For countries that don't have those kinds of automatic systems in place and existing infrastructures, this crisis is particularly challenging because how do you reach all the people that you need to reach in a very short period of time?"

"This crisis will enhance the importance of these kinds of automatic social security mechanisms so that next time a crisis happens, people get protection much more quickly." The fund is projecting global public and private debt to increase significantly, by "several percentage points", Ms Gopinath said.

Global debt reached \$188tn or 226 per cent of GDP in 2018, according to IMF data. "This is a crisis that calls for a very large response of this kind," Ms Gopinath said. "It's an exogenous shock. The point is that when you have a crisis of this kind and you're in a deep downturn, policies should be stepping up, so that's the right thing to do."



IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath.

## WORLD

## Washington's decision to halt US funding to WHO draws criticism

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that his administration is halting the nation's funding to the World Health Organization (WHO), a move that experts said could exacerbate the COVID-19 pandemic and cost more lives.

Speaking during a press briefing at the White House, Trump said a review is being conducted to assess the WHO's role in addressing the spread of the coronavirus.

"With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have deep concerns about whether America's generosity has been put to the best use possible," Trump told reporters, also claiming that "the WHO failed to adequately obtain, vet, and share information in a timely and transparent fashion."

The announcement came as Trump is aggressively defending his own han-

dling of the COVID-19 crisis after his administration has been increasingly scrutinized for downplaying the threat from the coronavirus early on and is being faulted for delays in testing.

Patrick Leahy, ranking member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, said that "Withholding funds for WHO in the midst of the worst pandemic in a century makes as much sense as cutting off ammunition to an ally as the enemy closes in."

"The White House knows that it grossly mishandled this crisis from the beginning, ignoring multiple warnings and squandering valuable time, dismissing medical science, comparing COVID-19 to the common cold," the Vermont Democrat said in a statement.

"Not wanting to take responsibility as the deaths continue to mount, he blames others."

Patrice Harris, president of the American Medical Association, said in



President Donald Trump

a statement that halting funding to the WHO is "a dangerous step in the wrong direction that will not make defeating COVID-19 easier."

"Fighting a global pandemic requires international cooperation and reliance on science and data," Harris said. "Cutting funding to the WHO - rather than focusing on solutions - is a dangerous move at a precarious moment for the world."

According to a tally from Johns Hopkins University on Tuesday, the United States has reported more than 600,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and over 25,000 deaths, both the highest on record. Globally, the number of confirmed cases is approaching 2 million, as the death toll has reached over 126,000, the tally showed.

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, the WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations for international public health, which has played a crucial role in guiding the global efforts in combating the coronavirus pandemic.

The United States contributed more than 400 million U.S. dollars to the agency in 2019, roughly 15 percent of its budget.

Thomas Bollyky, director of the global health program and senior fellow for global health, economics, and development at the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. think tank, said Tuesday that the WHO "plays an irreplaceable role" in global outbreak response.

Bollyky tweeted that the WHO "has largely served its purpose well" in the COVID-19 crisis, urging Washington to seek to strengthen and enhance the agency's independence and effectiveness, not to "degrade it amid a crisis."

Lawrence Gostin, director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, called the White House's decision "disgraceful," warning that it would cause deaths and even blow back on the United States.

"How shortsighted when global coop needed more now than ever," Gostin said in series of tweets Tuesday, adding that Washington has "entirely abandoned" U.S. global health leadership.

It is noteworthy that Trump's tone toward the WHO differed sharply from one of his tweets on Feb. 24, several days before the United States reported the first death from COVID-19. "The Coronavirus is very much under control in the USA," Trump wrote. "We are in contact with everyone and all relevant countries. CDC & World Health have been working hard and very smart."

In an interview with CBS News Radio on Monday, Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States, said the WHO "has been a very important public health partner with the CDC, and continues to be."

Redfield also noted that CDC staffers have been working "side-by-side" with the WHO, but added that he'd "leave the politics ... for others to try to resolve."

"We must quarantine politicizing this virus at national and global levels," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said from Geneva last week. "We have to work together, and we have no time to waste," the director added.

Agencies

## Museveni says Uganda making progress in COVID-19 fight

KAMPALA

UGANDAN president Yoweri Museveni on Tuesday said that the east African country is making good progress in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic as confirmed cases totalled 54 since the index case was registered on March 21.

Museveni (pictured) in a televised national address attributed the success to about 34 measures that the country took to stop the disease from spreading.

The key measures include the closing of the country's borders to incoming and outgoing passengers in a bid to stop the importation of the cases into the country.

The country also banned all public gatherings, closed public and private transport and closed schools, emphasizing social distancing as one of the mechanisms of stemming the spread of COVID-19.

"These measures seem to have worked because we have, up to the 13th of April, 2020, tested 5,664 persons and only 54 have been found positive with the virus," Museveni said.

According to ministry of health figures, out of 5,664 persons, 4,015 were returnees from abroad, 1,232 were those who interacted with the returnees, and 402 were people who had not travelled or had not been in contact with the returnees, but got worried and volunteered to be tested.

Museveni said out of the 54 confirmed cases, seven have been discharged and others are slated to be released soon from hospital after undergoing successful treatment.

The country has not registered any deaths as a result of COVID-19. He said the country is following up the 18,000 people that entered the country through Entebbe International Airport from March 7 to 22.

The ministry has on several occasions called upon these people who are already in the public to report for checking.

Museveni said that the country is expanding its focus to UN humanitarian staff, cargo truck drivers, cargo aircraft crew, medical workers and the porous borders. He noted that these are the risk



areas that need to be addressed because they may lead to an increase in the number of cases.

According to the ministry of health, all cross-border cargo truck drivers are subject to a COVID-19 test and are only allowed to park and sleep in designated areas. Cargo aircraft crew also sleep in designated hotels.

Regarding infiltration of foreigners into the country using the porous borders, Museveni urged village chiefs to report strangers in their areas, noting that they may spread the disease if left to interact with the villagers.

The president also warned corrupt immigration and police officers who allow in foreigners,

noting that they would face harsh punishments.

Security is going to strengthen the counter-intelligence efforts to eliminate corruption in our forces and anybody found guilty will face the charge of murder or attempted murder. It will not be nice for them," Museveni said.

He said the health workers are going to be provided with personal protective gear because they are at the frontlines of fighting the pandemic.

Museveni announced an extension of the nationwide lockdown for another 21 days in a move to contain the disease. The 14-day lockdown was supposed to end on Tuesday.

"The government has decided to extend the stay-home decision for another 21 days. This is in order to give ourselves more time to study the situation for a longer period," Museveni said.

Museveni justified the extension of the lockdown, noting that the intensification is to track down people who got infected with the virus from cases that are asymptomatic.

Asymptomatic cases accord-

ing to the ministry of health can spread the disease for 34 days without necessarily developing signs themselves.

Museveni noted that it is these people that are being targeted in a bid to limit chances of the disease spreading in the communities.

"Let's not be impatient, let's wait for another 21 days," Museveni said, noting that if a person gets the virus from an asymptomatic case, by the end of the 21 days the cases would have come out.

The president said at the end of 21 days, he would open up depending on the situation. "We shall have to work out a systematic plan of how to bring things back to normal before the 21 days elapse," said Museveni.

Ugandan scientists, according to Museveni, have started developing cheaper tests that could go for about 25 U.S. dollars per test compared to the current tests that cost 65 dollars per test. A lower cost per test would allow a big number of test samples to be taken.

Xinhua

## East African farmers face new outbreak of locusts amid COVID-19 outbreak - ICRC

ADDIS ABABA

AS the world battles COVID-19, farmers in East Africa are facing another devastating outbreak, swarms of desert locusts, says the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The ICRC said in a statement on Tuesday that it fears that the new swarms could spark widespread crop loss and deepen already serious levels of food insecurity, espe-

cially in places reeling from conflict or violence.

"The outbreak of desert locusts cannot be forgotten in the race against COVID-19," said John Karongo, the regional agronomist for the ICRC, based in Nairobi.

"Farmers in East Africa are entering their most important planting season as new swarms are beginning to hatch. We have to act now to avert the worst."

The March rains create a trou-

bling domino effect as the new swarms emerging in Kenya, Somalia, and southern Ethiopia have the right conditions to remain, mature, and lay eggs, with the possibility of moving to Uganda and South Sudan. These swarms could then lay eggs in May, which would hatch in late June and July when farmers are just starting to harvest.

The ICRC statement mentioned farmers in Somalia like Halima Abdisalad, who lives in Garowe town,

already saw vegetation be decimated by locusts earlier this year and fears the worst is ahead if more eggs hatch.

"Once swarms of locusts arrive at a farm, they don't leave anything behind - they eat everything," said Halima.

Fueled by warmer and wetter weather patterns late last year, the locust outbreak is the worst East Africa has seen in decades and came on the heels of a year marked by ex-

treme droughts and floods.

"We have already seen a decline in food security in many areas because locusts wiped out pastureland and crops," said Karongo.

"If the locust outbreak is not stopped, we could see the biggest swarms at their hungriest time right when crops are starting to mature, all while the COVID-19 pandemic is creating economic turmoil that will undoubtedly hit poor families the hardest."

## Wang Yi: Rock-solid China-Africa friendship will not be affected by isolated incidents

ON Monday, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone call with Chairperson of the AU Commission Moussa Faki Mahamat.

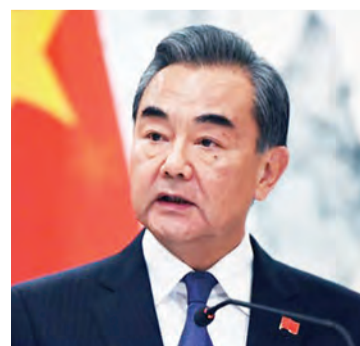
Wang (pictured) said that COVID-19 is a common challenge to China and Africa. As comprehensive strategic and cooperative partners, China and Africa must fight it together through closer coordination and cooperation.

China will always remember the solidarity and support from the AU and African countries at the height of its battle against the outbreak, with explicit opposition to certain country's attempts to politicize the outbreak

and label the virus. It speaks volumes of our brotherly ties and solidarity in times of adversity and the strength of China-Africa strategic cooperation.

Wang noted that as Africa battles the spreading outbreak, President Xi Jinping has made phone calls to leaders of South Africa, Egypt and other African countries to convey sympathy and support.

He called on the international community to increase assistance to Africa at the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit. Despite its ongoing domestic outbreak response, China has provided emergency assistance to African brothers, sending



much needed medical supplies to the AU and African countries through various channels.

Wang said that China is ready to provide more medical supplies if needed by Africa. China is also willing to share experience on outbreak response with

African brothers and send medical expert teams there.

We will support Africa's purchase of medical supplies in China and deepen cooperation in public health. China will stand firmly with Africa and fight together with our African brothers and sisters until the virus is completely defeated across the African continent.

On issues raised by African friends concerning local government outbreak response, Wang underscored China's commitment to protecting the health and safety of all Chinese and foreign nationals in China and treating them alike. China is against any differential treat-

ment targeting any specific group of people.

Wang reaffirmed China's commitment to its long-standing policy of friendship towards Africa. China and Africa are good brothers and comrades-in-arms. We are always there for each other come rain or shine.

The traditional friendship between China and Africa has stood the test of time and the changing international landscape. Our friendship is rock-solid and unbreakable.

It will not be affected by any isolated incident, still less disrupted by forces trying to drive a wedge between us. At this particular juncture, China and African coun-

tries need mutual trust, support and solidarity more than ever if we are to overcome this challenge together.

Faki fully shared Wang's comments on Africa-China friendship. He said that African countries and China are comprehensive strategic and cooperative partners. We are friends and, more importantly, comrades-in-arms. Our destinies are closely intertwined.

Nothing can change or damage this friendship. Africa knows that China is making great efforts to prevent a domestic resurgence of the outbreak and believes that the measures China takes would not be discriminatory.

Faki underscored that Africa

will not forget the support and assistance from China for Africa's national independence and liberation, fight against apartheid and economic and social development.

Faki expressed deep appreciation for China's emergency assistance to Africa's COVID-19 response. Safeguarding the Africa-China comprehensive strategic and cooperative partnership is our joint sacred mission.

Some forces are trying to exploit the situation to drive a wedge between Africa and China. We will absolutely not let them succeed. Africa will continue to stand firmly with China.

Chinese Ministry of Foreign

## Nokia confirms its Mobile strike-out

By Keith Dyer

COMPANY says it expects to be a "sizeable player" in Chinese market well into the future.

Nokia has confirmed to TMN that it has missed out on the largest Chinese mobile industry tender for 5G base stations to date.

This week many media sites have followed up a report in a Chinese language news site report that China Mobile had awarded the bulk of its Phase 2 5G base station contracts to Huawei and ZTE, with a smaller share for Ericsson.

The FT then reported yesterday that the overall \$5.2bn tender was for 232,143 5G base stations, "the majority of the company's targeted buildout this year".

It said that Huawei was awarded 57.2% by number of base stations, ZTE with 28.7% and Ericsson 11.5%. The terms of those shares are unknown, although it is known Ericsson was under severe price pressure to win even that portion of the deal.

That leaves Nokia with nothing. The strike-out in 5G is despite Nokia signing a series of large scale frame agreements - often scoped to billion Euros - with China Mobile over recent years.

The most recent of these, referencing radio access network equipment as part of the frame, was in mid 2018. Later in 2018, the company added two more frame agreements with China Unicom and China Telecom, whose Phase 2 5G contract awards are still to be public. These two operators are conducting a network share for parts of the 5G network.

Up until this point, Nokia has been quiet on the 5G tender process in China, but it has told TMN that it will continue to engage with Chinese mobile operators on 5G, despite confirming it came up empty handed this time. It said it still expects to be a "sizeable player" in China "well into the future".

It also pointed out that the addressable market is about more than 5G base stations, and notably it also referenced the potential to "pursue opportunities" with Enterprise and Webscale players.

Here is its statement: "We are aware that China Mobile has announced its 2020 5G NR CP2 central bidding results. Nokia has been operating in China for 40 years and our commitment to China remains the same.

We still expect to be a sizeable player in China well into the future and in addition supporting the Chinese operators' 5G ambitions, we continue to pursue opportunities with service providers in core, routing, transport, fixed access and our current 4G business, as well as with Enterprise and Webscale customers."

Agencies

## Market for unmanned cars will form at least another 10 years, expert says

MOSCOW

THE market for unmanned vehicles, including in Russia, will be forming for at least another 10 years, since this is a very long and complicated process, Cognitive Pilot CEO Olga Uskova said in an interview with TASS.

"This market will be forming for at least 10 years. Everything here is connected with the legislation and a very complex system of changes in traffic rules, insurance, and so on. We can see this from the dynamics in different countries, the dynamics are sluggish, there's a lot to do. In addition, there are discussions about the new concept of urban transport: it's still unclear whether personal transport will remain in principle, how much it will be replaced by taxis or car sharing," she said.

According to Uskova (pictured), radical changes in this area are unlikely in the coming years, and the first thing to think about is to create a regulatory framework.

"This is all related to the inclusion of artificial 'brains' in the list of products that should be given preferences for Russian development companies. This is a new type of product, we need regulation and certification of artificial intelligence technologies," she explained.

In addition, unmanned vehicles require training ranges, including free ones. "We spend quite a lot on renting training ranges in different places around the world, and the creation of Russian training ranges, especially free ones, would be significant support for young businesses," Uskova said.

"Another important thing that we recommend to the authorities is to develop virtual training ranges, where Russian artificial 'brains' could train. Such services are too expensive to buy for startups themselves," she added.





# 'African people are dear friends and brothers'

ON Monday Assistant Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong held a group meeting with ambassadors and representatives from over 20 African countries to discuss the situation of Africans in Guangdong Province with regard to the local COVID-19 response.

Chen (pictured) underscored that for the Chinese people, the African people have always been dear friends and brothers to share weal and woe with.

Ours is an unbreakable friendship that has taken deep root in the hearts of people both in China and Africa. Following the COVID-19 outbreak, China and Africa have once again come together to fight the challenge.

China feels deeply for African friends who are now also battling the virus and has provided emergency containment supplies to Africa despite its own outbreak challenge. Chinese provinces, cities and businesses have also sent help in various ways.

Chen noted that the outbreak is a serious test. At this particular juncture, China and Africa need to strengthen solidarity and maintain friendship and cooperation more than ever. The Chinese side will do everything it can to deliver more support to Africa, and fight with Africa until the final victory is won against the outbreak.

Chen said that China has taken the most comprehensive, stringent and thorough action to fight the virus. That is how China has been able to achieve important progress in controlling the outbreak, albeit at huge cost. As the outbreak continues abroad, China is facing a growing challenge in preventing imported cases.

This is particularly the case with

Guangdong, a leading province in China's opening-up endeavor, with much higher risks of inbound transmission. We must institute more rigorous measures across the board and tighten all potential loopholes that may trigger a rebound.

This is the only way to make sure that everything we have worked so hard to achieve will not be lost. China is doing this not just to be responsible to its own people, but also to the Africans and indeed all foreign nationals in Guangdong.

Chen said that China is paying serious attention to the issues raised by some African diplomatic envoys regarding the situation of Africans in Guangzhou and elsewhere involved in local outbreak response.

Guangdong authorities are taking a number of steps to improve its response. Health measures will be implemented in a non-differential way.

Starting from the day of this meeting, measures on Africans who are neither confirmed cases nor close contacts (suspected cases included) will be lifted in a phased way pursuant to relevant containment protocols. A mechanism for effective communication will be established with African consulates general in Guangzhou.

The Chinese government treats all foreign nationals in China alike. This is China's consistent policy and position. In China, we always make sure that African friends are treated in a fair, just and friendly manner. The Foreign Ministry will stay in close contact with Guangdong to earnestly address the legitimate concerns of the African side.

Chen underscored the importance



of preserving China-Africa friendship and contributing to the battle against COVID-19 both globally and in China.

He hoped that the African envoys would correctly understand China's policies and measures and explain the facts fully and objectively to their governments and people, so they could see the full picture and view the issue in a rational way.

Chen also hoped that African governments will do what is necessary to protect the safety and lawful rights and interests of Chinese nationals and institutions in Africa.

The Acting Dean of the African Diplomatic Corps and other African diplomatic envoys expressed appreciation to the Chinese Foreign Ministry for holding the meeting and having open, in-depth discussions with them on the situation of the Africans in Guangdong.

They said it demonstrates the seriousness and sincerity of the Chinese

in its response to the disease. They thanked China for actively supporting and assisting Africa's control efforts in spite of difficulties.

The African side raised concerns over specific issues in Guangdong Province's outbreak control related to African nationals, such as nucleic acid testing, accommodation, visa, and the treatment of African students.

They commended the Chinese side for informing them of the steps already or to be taken by Guangdong authorities, including establishing channels of dialogue and communication with African consulates general in Guangzhou.

The envoys said that they will immediately, fully and faithfully report to their capitals and notify their nationals in Guangdong, and look forward to the timely and effective implementation of such measures.

The African side will work with the Chinese side to urge and guide African nationals to abide by Chinese laws and observe the containment measures of China.

The envoys said that it is their mission and duty to promote Africa-China friendship and cooperation and they will continue to serve as the bridge and bond between the two sides. Africa and China are good brothers and partners.

The issues that occurred in Guangdong are issues between brothers and can be resolved entirely through friendly consultation. No external force, with whatever motives or methods, can stop the strengthening of Africa-China friendship.

**Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

## Russia urges Council of Europe to focus on report over NGOs' influence on ECHR

MOSCOW

THE Council of Europe member states should pay attention to the report by the European Center for Law and Justice non-governmental organization regarding the influence of the western non-governmental human rights organizations (NGOs) on the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement published yesterday.

According to the ministry, the flaws pointed out in the report initially appear to relate to purely technical moments, including lack of strict requirements for refusal of judges, connected to the NGOs that have interest in a case outcome, as well as lack of judging experience among some of the ECHR judges.

"However, these aspects directly affect quality, impartiality and justice of the court's rulings," the Foreign Ministry said. "This report sparked our interest not least because Russia repeatedly called on the Council of Europe colleagues to pay attention to this practice of hidden and open influence of major western NGOs on the ECHR, outlined in this document."

"We believe that our colleagues from the Council of Europe and its member states should pay attention to this report, which might provide valuable food for thought in the context of the ongoing ECHR reform," the Foreign Ministry said. "Russia has always advocated for a strong, but non-politicized European Court."

The ministry expressed its hope that the proper consideration of the existing flaws in the ECHR activity during the reform "would allow to correct and eventually minimize political externalities in its practice."

**Agencies**

# Endorsement from Obama boosts Biden's presidential bid

WASHINGTON

FORMER U.S. President Barack Obama said on Tuesday that he's endorsing Joe Biden, his former deputy, for the White House, giving the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee a boost for an upcoming matchup with sitting President Donald Trump.

In a 12-minute video posted on Twitter, Obama (pictured) stressed Biden's leadership and capability, as the United States is combating a coronavirus out-

break that has infected more than 590,000 people and killed over 25,000 in the nation.

"If there's one thing we've learned as a country from moments of great crisis, it's that the spirit of looking out for one another can't be restricted to our homes or our work places or our neighborhoods or houses of worship, it also has to be reflected in our national government," Obama said.

"The kind of leadership that's guided by knowledge and experience, honesty and humil-



ity, empathy and grace. That kind of leadership doesn't just belong in our state capitols and legislatures, it belongs in the

White House," he said. "That's why I'm so proud to endorse Joe Biden for president of the United States."

Biden became the Democratic Party's presumptive presidential nominee last week after his only rival, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders, suspended his own bid. Sanders, who had campaigned on progressive policies, endorsed Biden, a moderate political veteran, on Monday.

Obama served as U.S. president from 2009 until 2017, with

Biden as his deputy. The two have maintained a close friendship that has gone beyond their time in the White House, and the endorsement was not a surprise to many, though Obama stayed on the sidelines during the primary, which at one point featured over 20 Democratic hopefuls.

"Choosing Joe to be my vice president was one of the best decisions I ever made, and he became a close friend," Obama added. "And I believe Joe has all the qualities we need in a presi-

dent right now."

Biden, retweeting the video, said that Obama's endorsement "means the world" to him. "We're going to build on the progress we made together, and there's no one I'd rather have standing by my side," said the former U.S. vice president.

In Tuesday's video, Obama did not mention Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, by name but took a shot at the administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

**Xinhua**

**“We believe that our colleagues from the Council of Europe and its member states should pay attention to this report, which might provide valuable food for thought in the context of the ongoing ECHR reform.”**

# One-China principle allows no challenge

CHINA expresses strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition toward the so-called "Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019" which was recently signed by Washington into law.

The U.S. practice seriously sabotaged the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. Joint Communiqués, and severely violated the international law and the basic norms governing international relations. It also grossly interfered in China's domestic affairs.

The "Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019" is an evil act that allows the U.S. government to enhance or cut economic, security and diplomatic relations with other countries in accordance with the latter's relationship with Taiwan. It is nothing but a hegemonic threat that indulges the wrongdoings challenging the one-China principle.

The U.S. made huge hypes over the so-called "international space" of Taiwan when selling the act. However, it shall be sol-

emnly pointed out that Taiwan's "international space" is never something that can be defined by Washington. There's only one China in the world, and adhering to the one-China policy is a recognized code for international relations and a consensus of the international society.

A total of 180 countries have established diplomatic relations with China. Even if the U.S. uses its hegemony to stop other sovereignty countries from developing normal international relations with China, the historic trend can not be reversed.

The Taiwan question touches upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and involves China's core interests. The Chinese government reiterated that China has an unshakable will in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and no external intervention can change that.

The development of China-U.S. relations in the past 40 some years proved that the general stability of bilateral relations can not be achieved without certain political foundation. The Taiwan question has always remained a

core and most sensitive issue in China-U.S. relations, and without the one-China principle, the foundation of the relationship will not stand solid.

If the U.S. keeps proceeding toward the wrong direction over the Taiwan question and seriously disrupts the general picture of bilateral relations and bilateral cooperation on major fields, it will finally damage its own interests. The U.S. has to take all responsibilities for the results of its practices.

Lately, some U.S. politicians have acted in an arrogant and unscrupulous manner on China-U.S. relations, and even challenged the bottom line.

At the recent Group of Seven (G7) foreign ministers' meeting on COVID-19, U.S. officials pushed to include language that stigmatizes China in the joint statement.

Such act blatantly violated the international rules, and was opposed by even traditional allies of the U.S. An European diplomat told the media that what the U.S. suggested was a red line.

It proves that a just cause en-

joys abundant support while an unjust cause finds little. The international justice can never be defined by the U.S. for its private profits.

China and the U.S. are at a critical moment regarding their bilateral relations, and the U.S. should take concrete actions to improve the ties.

In terms of the Taiwan question which decides the foundation of China-U.S. relations, the U.S. shall have a clear understanding - following the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. Joint Communiqués, as well as removing obstacles impeding the China-U.S. relations that feature non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

To stabilize China-U.S. relations concerns the interests of both parties.

Under the backdrop of the spreading COVID-19 pandemic, both China and the U.S. should conform to the aspiration of the people, and cooperate with each other to overcome the current difficulties.

**People's Daily**

# Americans learn it the hard way as US toll highest in world

WASHINGTON

WEARING masks has long been regarded by Americans as unnecessary for healthy people. Yet, since just about half a month ago, it has become a common practice for grocery goers as well as on duty apartment concierges.

The change occurred against the backdrop of the United States becoming the global epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the country's coronavirus deaths the highest around the globe.

**MASK WEARING**

Although Americans have generally abided by the federal government's guidelines asking them to keep social distance, avoid group gatherings and practice good hygiene, wearing masks has been harder to come by.

Not only were most Americans still reluctant to wear masks when the coronavirus ravaged the country, they also doubted the effectiveness of doing so in preventing the transmission of the disease, believing that only



sick people need to wear them. Some were even physically attacked for covering their faces.

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which previously did not suggest that healthy people wear masks, put out a recommendation on April 3 for the use of "cloth face coverings" in light of the large number of asymptomatic

bearers of coronavirus, Americans finally began to realize the merits of such practices. As a result, more and more of them have since chosen to wear masks, scarfs or other makeshift coverings.

Zhang Siqi, a visiting scholar at Duke University, recalls the reaction of an employee at her local Costco wholesale store when seeing her talking while wearing

a mask in mid-March.

"She was sanitizing the hand-rail of my shopping cart with disinfecting wipes," Zhang said. "When I explained to her that she didn't need to do so since I was wearing the mask, she got so nervous and scared that she suddenly jumped two meters away from me, not at all caring about what I said."

Zhang said the employee's reaction made her feel unwelcome, "as if the virus was erupting from my mouth as I spoke."

Things have changed now. When Zhang and her fellow members from the North Carolina Chinese Scholars Sino-US Exchange Association went to a local police station on April 10 to donate two boxes of masks, a police officer was very grateful, saying he would encourage his colleagues to wear them.

The change in Americans' attitude towards wearing masks is reflective of the Chinese experience in combating the virus more objectively and rationally.

**Xinhua**

# Over 2.8 million in Zhejiang volunteer help in fight against COVID-19

OVER 2.8 million people in east China's Zhejiang province have volunteered to join the efforts to control and prevent the novel coronavirus epidemic and bring economic and social development back to normal.

Their selfless contribution shed a bright light on the fight against COVID-19 and brought positive energy to the society, building a solid fort against the disease with love.

To lower the risk of cross-infection, senior dining centers in Changqing neighborhood of Xiacheng district, Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang suspended operation.

To help the seniors eat on time, a delivery squad consisting of Party members, elderly-aid personnel and the warmhearted was established by a volunteer organization in Xiacheng district.

They deliver food, medicines, and vegetables for 190 seniors in 6 neighborhoods. So far, they have finished over 800 times of services.

Wu Huiifen, a member of the squad, volunteers to deliver meals for 6 senior people living alone in Wuya neighborhood. Every day she cooks food and delivers it to the seniors.

"I'm doing my best to ensure the food is gut-friendly and

multiply the variety," Wu told People's Daily after sending a meal to an 86-year-old woman in the neighborhood.

The volunteer organization Wu's in was established in 2016. Wearing red vests and red hats, its members are a distinctive view of the city.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, they have demonstrated high sense of responsibility in epidemic prevention and

control in the neighborhoods, practicing volunteer spirit with concrete actions.

This organization is only the tip of the iceberg offering volunteer services Zhejiang during the epidemic.

A young man named Ni Kaomeng in Wenzhou launched an online campaign to raise preventive and protective materials for his hometown, and he was responded by more

than 10,000 young people in the city.

Another volunteer named Ma Xiaolin went to a Guangdong-based factory for disinfectants after a 6-hour ride on bullet train.

Zhang Xiao, owner of a bookstore in Wenzhou, distributed masks to citizens for free at the gate of the store.

More and more volunteer organizations are popping up

on the COVID-19 front line in Zhejiang.

According to rough estimates, over 2.8 million volunteers from more than 10,000 organizations in the province have joined the fight against COVID-19, acting as a major force for the networked and society-wide efforts to prevent and control the epidemic.

**People's Daily**



Taylor Swift

Oprah Winfrey

## Taylor Swift, Oprah join huge global event to celebrate coronavirus workers

LOS ANGELES

Taylor Swift, Jennifer Lopez and Oprah Winfrey have joined a global broadcast special telecast this weekend that will recognize the efforts of workers on the front lines of the coronavirus outbreak, organizers said on Tuesday.

The "One World Together at Home" event, a combination of music, comedy and stories from doctors, nurses and grocery workers, also announced an additional six-hour streaming event that will include appearances by major sports stars, including British Formula One racing champion Lewis Hamilton, U.S. women's World Cup soccer player Megan Rapinoe, World Cup skier Lindsey Vonn and dozens of other singers, actors and social media influencers.

The April 18 streaming event will precede the two-hour show to be broadcast across multiple North American and international television networks on Saturday evening in the biggest effort so far to show solidarity with frontline workers.

All those taking part in the event, organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and advocacy group Global Citizen, will appear remotely due to social distancing and shutdowns aimed at curtailing the spread of the disease that has killed more

than 124,000 people worldwide.

"Our hope for the special is that everyone will come away believing that we, as a shared humanity, can emerge from this moment forever grateful for the work of doctors, nurses, teachers, grocery store workers, and all those who are the backbone of our communities," Hugh Evans, co-founder and chief executive of Global Citizen, said in a statement.

Lady Gaga announced the event last week but it has since expanded dramatically and now includes some of the biggest celebrities in the world, including Celine Dion, Billie Eilish, John Legend, Elton John, Paul McCartney, Chris Martin, Andrea Bocelli and Michael Buble.

While the special is not billed as a public fundraiser, it is also aimed at encouraging philanthropists and companies to dig into their pockets and contribute to the WHO's Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund. Gaga said last week that more than \$35 million had been raised from corporations.

"When we do air live on April 18th, put your wallets away, your credit cards away, anything away that you need to and sit back and enjoy the show that you all very much deserve," Gaga told a news conference last week.

REUTERS

## Clarke slammed for suggesting Aussies 'suck up' to India

NEW DELHI

MICHAEL Clarke's claims that Australian players "sucked up" to India and Virat Kohli to secure lucrative deals in the country's premier league are ridiculous, say former top Indian cricketers.

Clarke said last week that Australians were "too scared to sledge" skipper Kohli or other Indian players because of the influence of the world's wealthiest Twenty20 tournament.

This year's Indian Premier League has been postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic and may not be held at all.

"Just by being nice to someone doesn't get you a place in IPL," VVS Laxman, an advisor to the Sunrisers Hyderabad team,

told Indian broadcaster Star Sports.

Teams look at a "player's calibre and value" to win matches, he said.

Krishnamachari Srikkanth, a former India captain and chief selector, said "you do not win matches just by sledging", referring to the on-field banter between players.

"His statement was ridiculous I would say," he added.

"If you ask Nasser Hussain or Sir Vivian Richards -- who are experienced players -- you can never score runs or get wickets through sledging."

Australia captain Tim Paine has also rejected his predecessor's assertion that some Australians went soft on Kohli during their 2018-19 encounters.

AFP

## Tour de France postponed, could start in late August

PARIS

AFTER weeks of holding out hope that the Tour de France would be able to go ahead as planned, the world's most famous cycling race was finally added to the list of sporting events postponed by the coronavirus pandemic.

The three-week race could still take place this year, however, with French newspapers reporting late Tuesday that a new start date has been set for August. Both L'Equipe and Le Parisien said organizers are now hoping to stage the race from Aug. 29-Sept. 20.

That new time slot would see the race end on Champs-Élysées just as the rescheduled French Open tennis tournament starts a few miles away in western Paris.

Tour organizer Amaury Sport Organisation did not immediately reply to a request for confirmation from The Associated Press. But local authorities in Haute-Savoie region tweeted that the last of the mountain stages will pass through its rugged and daunting climbs on Sept. 17 on the race's 18th stage.

The Tour was set to start on June 27 in the Riviera city of Nice. But that effectively became impossible on Monday night when French President Emmanuel Macron announced in his speech to the nation that all public events with large crowds have been canceled until at least mid-July.

"Given that it's now impossible that the Tour starts at its



In this file photo taken on July 26, 2019 spectators along the road applaud the riders during the nineteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Saint Jean De Maurienne and Tignes. Swarms of fans clog the city streets, winding roads and soaring mountain passes of the Tour de France during cycling's three-week showpiece. (AP Photo)

planned date, we are consulting with the (International Cycling Union) to try and find new dates," ASO had said earlier Tuesday.

The last time the Tour was not held was in 1946, with the nation still emerging from World War II. It was also stopped during WWI.

Holding the race without legions of fans on the roadsides and mountain passes of France -- an idea previously proposed by French Sports Minister Roxana Marcineanu -- is not something organizers are likely to favor.

Millions of fans watch each year's race in a festive atmo-

sphere across many regions. This year's event has 21 stages, with the longest of them stretching 218 kilometers (135 miles). Thousands of police officers are needed to keep crowds under control and help negotiate safe passage for riders.

Riders, too, have to be physically ready to tackle the grueling race -- and able to actually attend it. After weeks of confinement, competitors would likely need several more weeks to get into racing shape.

Borders would have to be open, too, so racers like last year's win-

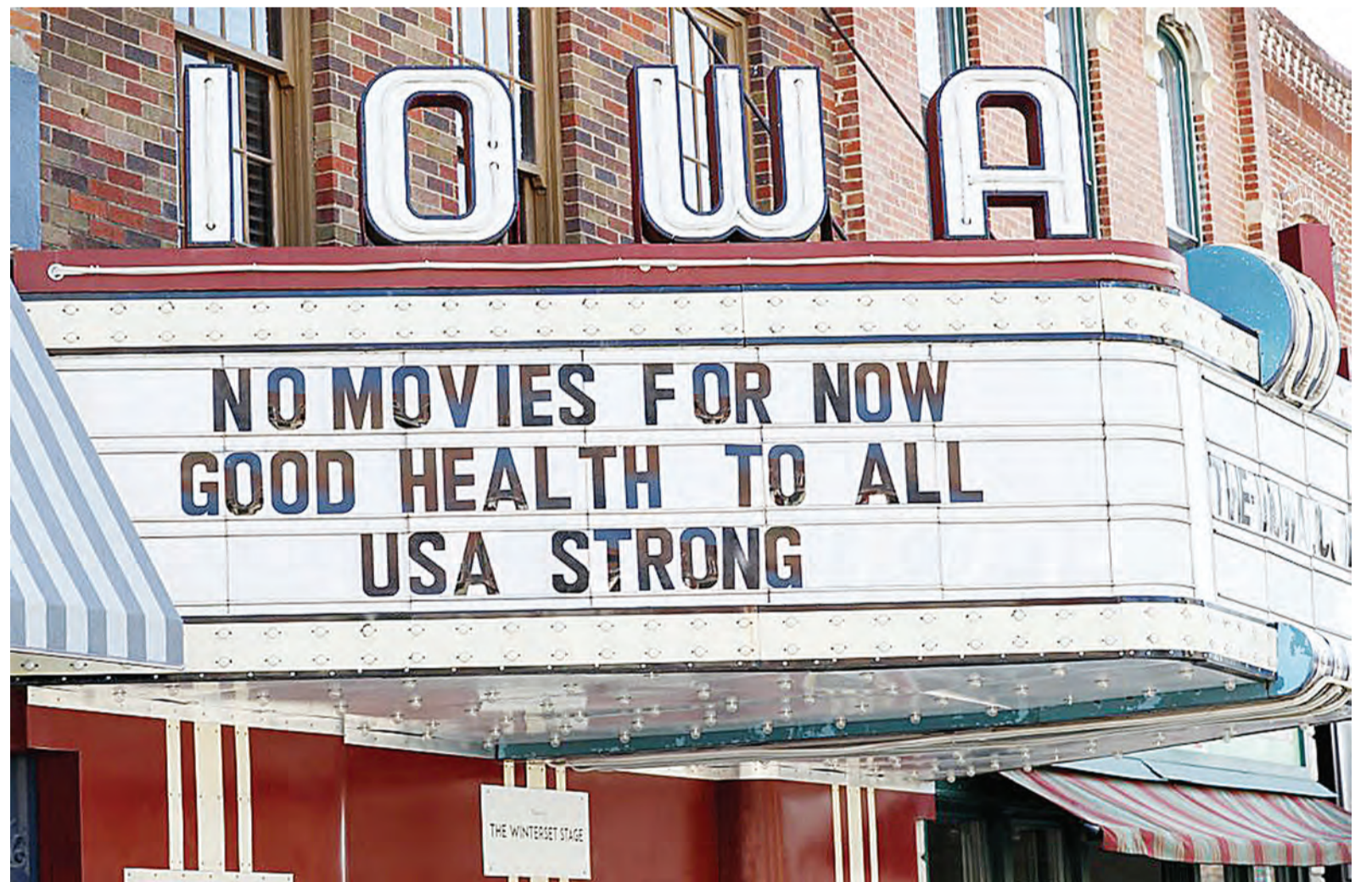
ner -- Colombian rider Egan Bernal -- can travel to France.

Juggling the cycling calendar is also tricky because of the various races scheduled throughout the season, including the Giro d'Italia and the Spanish Vuelta.

The Giro, which had been set for May, was called off late last month.

The Spanish race, which is also owned by ASO, is still on the schedule for Aug. 14-Sept. 6 but could feasibly be moved forward by a week or two so as not to clash with the Tour.

AP



The marquee for the Iowa Theater, closed in response to the coronavirus outbreak, is seen on John Wayne Drive, Wednesday, April 1, 2020, in Winterset, Iowa. The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people, but for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death. (AP Photo)

## In shutdown, a glimpse of life without movie theaters

NEW YORK

JENNIFER Page jokes that four months in, this decade is already the worst of her life.

A server at a nearby resort, she's out of work due to the pandemic. After someone tested positive at her mother's nursing home, Page moved her into a room off the dining room. Two weeks ago, her father died. The day after his memorial, she and her family went for a walk, and her 5-year-old daughter, Roxa, asked for something coveted by children for more than a century.

"She was just like, 'Mama, when this is over, can we go to the movies?'" recalled Page, 36, of Buffalo. "She went through the whole process of going to the movies. She said, 'We

can get popcorn and each have our own drink and each get a candy.'"

The coronavirus pandemic is forcing Americans to journey through hardship without some of the reliable comforts of hard times. One of them is the movies. For more than a century, movie theaters have been a refuge, a communal escape, a place for popcorn-chomping-dreaming-with-your-eyes-open transportation away from everything else.

A world without movie theaters, like the one we're temporarily inhabiting, has long been foretold. It's been predicted with every major technological advancement in media, and especially since the advent of streaming. Cinemas, so inconveniently located outside the home, are

a dinosaur, analysts have said -- one that's on its way out.

Now, we're getting a glimpse of life without movie theaters. Most see this as an opening for streaming services, hastening their expected takeover. But it has also brought a renewed appreciation for the pleasures of going to the movies and clarified their unique role in social life. Isolation has only illuminated the power of sitting together in the dark.

"It's one of those things you can't really appreciate something until it's taken away from you," says John Bell, president of the Tampa Theatre, a 1920s-era movie palace. "This has certainly accelerated a dystopian future look at what the landscape could look like. But I just innately believe

that humans are social creatures and, ultimately, they will want to gather again. Streaming is great, it's convenient. But it's just not the same."

Nearly a month of shelter-in-place orders have forced some to hanker for the sticky floors of cinemas like never before. Sure, those people texting a few seats over were always a nuisance and the films weren't always so great. But peruse social media lists of "What I'm going to do when this is over" and you will see countless cravings for the big screen and a tub of popcorn.

Being holed up at home has, for some, made the difference between streaming and moviegoing especially acute. Neither "Tiger King" nor the bite-sized "movies in chapters" of

Quibi fill the loss of a night out at the movies. Gary Walker, a 22-year-old in San Jose, California, who's studying film at San Francisco State University, has been filling his time watching documentaries on Netflix and series on Disney Plus. But it doesn't do the trick.

"I can't wait to go back," says Walker. "I'm just a person who really likes the social experience of going to the movies, not sitting at home watching a movie by myself. Don't get me wrong -- I like doing that, too. But it's really different sitting in a theater with other people."

Theaters nationwide have shuttered indefinitely due to the pandemic, leaving about a dozen still open. Most are drive-ins, which have seen

a sudden resurgence after a decades-long slide. Chains have furloughed or laid off employees, many of whom are part-time or hourly workers.

The shutdown will almost certainly lead to the permanent closure of some cinemas. Analysts say that AMC Entertainment, which presides over the nation's largest chain, is on the cusp of bankruptcy. To weather the storm, theater owners -- like many other businesses -- have sought federal aid through the coronavirus stimulus package.

The earliest most theaters are hoping to reopen is June. All major releases have been postponed up until mid-July.

AP

## Kane or Sancho? Man United face dilemma over top transfer targets

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

HARRY Kane has given Manchester United a dilemma. Here is a player who has been on the Old Trafford wish list since 2015 and, all of a sudden, may be available. He may also be affordable, if football recognises the financial reality check that is coming its way and Tottenham Hotspur's fantastical £200 million valuation of the England captain is halved due to a variety of factors (more of those later). In which case, Kane will not be eclipsing Paris Saint-Germain's £198m outlay for Neymar as the world-record transfer anytime soon.

But just as Kane begins to come into range for United, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has to consider whether to go all-out for one of the most consistent goal scorers of the Premier League era -- and do what United always did under Sir Alex Ferguson by targeting the best players in England -- or to stick with a plan that is finally beginning to show signs of progress and focus instead on signing Jadon Sancho from Borussia Dortmund.

In an ideal world, United would attempt to sign both players, but even in normal times, it would stretch the finances of a club of their stature to spend a minimum of £200m on two forwards during the same transfer window.

The world is still attempting to navigate a route out of the corona-

virus crisis, and football, like every other industry, is bracing itself for the massive financial impact that will follow as a consequence, so no club is going to be throwing money around when some kind of normality returns. Which is why United will have to focus on one or the other -- Kane or Sancho -- once transfer business becomes a priority at some, as yet unknown, stage down the road.

Kane has been on United's radar ever since the summer of 2015, following his breakthrough season at Tottenham, when he scored 21 goals in all competitions under Mauricio Pochettino.

United have always regarded the best British players as a key element of their recruitment. Some, like Rio Ferdinand and Wayne Rooney, they signed, and others, such as Frank Lampard or Gareth Bale, they missed out on.

Since 2015, Kane has always seemed out of reach because of United's post-Ferguson decline and Tottenham's emergence as Champions League regulars. But, having always insisted he could realise his ambitions with Spurs, Kane opened the door to a move away during an Instagram Q&A with former Tottenham midfielder Jamie Redknapp last month.

Kane's comments have been followed by well-sourced reports that Spurs chairman Daniel Levy would be prepared to sell the player for £200m.

## Man United's Pogba says he has grown used to criticism

LONDON

MANCHESTER United midfielder Paul Pogba has said he is no longer bothered by criticism from soccer pundits because he has grown used to it.

The France international, who joined United from Italy's Juventus in 2016, has made eight appearances in all competitions this season due to injury and last featured in the Premier League in a 4-1 win over Newcastle United on Boxing Day.

"I guess they miss me," the 27-year-old told the club's UTD Podcast, referring to the pundits.

"I'm not someone that looks always at Sky Sports News. When you know football, you don't need someone to tell you what's happening.

"If they want to speak, they are allowed to speak, it's their job to speak. I am used to it now. I am really used to it, it doesn't bother me."

Former Liverpool captain Graeme Souness has been one of

Pogba's most vocal critics and has labelled the Frenchman "selfish" and a "doddle to play against".

Pogba responded by saying he did not know who the three-time European Cup winner was.

"I heard he was a great player and stuff like that. I know the face but (not) the name," Pogba said.

"I watch a lot of football but I don't stay after the game to listen to what they say about why they did this or why they did that."

Souness, who also won five league titles with Liverpool but unlike Pogba has never won a World Cup, responded to the Frenchman.

"The oldest saying in football comes to mind: 'Put your medals on the table'. I've got a big table," the 66-year-old told Sky Sports.

Pogba was closing in on a return to action after recovering from an ankle injury when the Premier League season was suspended indefinitely due to the coronavirus pandemic.

REUTERS

## Colombian fans in Argentina now struggle to return amid pandemic

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

THE plan of 15 soccer-crazy fans of Colombia's Independiente Medellin was very simple. They wanted to travel to Buenos Aires to watch their team face Boca Juniors in the historic La Bombonera stadium in a Copa Libertadores group stage match. And they did that.

But then came the new coronavirus pandemic.

One month later, the group of supporters is in isolation in a modest hotel of Argentina's capital. They say Colombian officials have deserted them.

"We don't know what will happen to us, we need Colombian authorities to step up and help us return to our country," said Angelo Taborda, who speaks on the behalf of the supporters, in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

The March 10 match ended in a 3-0 Boca win. Only days later the South American tournament was suspended because of the outbreak.

The Colombian fans attempted to return home via Bolivia and Brazil, but when they were about to cross the border with Bolivia, Argentinian President Alberto Fernández closed

it. On March 20, he also issued a decree for mandatory isolation.

The supporters were stranded for 15 days in the bordering town of La Quiaca, where Taborda said they were beaten and robbed.

The Colombian fans were then put on a bus and sent back to Buenos Aires. As they were about to arrive in the capital, police stopped them because their vehicle had no authorization to enter.

Since the beginning of the month the fans are in one of the hotels that Buenos Aires city hall is offering for foreigners and Argentinians coming from abroad to quarantine.

All supporters were tested negative for COVID-19, local authorities said. The fans spend their days by the hotel's windows, showing off their tattoos, waving shirts of their club and of Colombia's national team. Many of their neighbors do not enjoy their noise.

Their quarantine ends in two days. Colombia's consulate in Buenos Aires is expected to pay the bill.

"They said they will have us here until tomorrow, and we don't know what will happen to us then," Taborda said.

AP

# Barcelona's historic success owes a lot to Bartomeu. So does the club's ongoing crisis

BY GRAHAM HUNTER, ESPN SPAIN WRITER

ONLY one man in the history of football has presided over the gigantic and historic achievement of his club winning a second league, domestic cup and Champions League Treble. That fabled podium for Treble winners has been attainable since the birth of the European Cup, 63 long years ago. Only seven clubs (Celtic, Ajax, PSV Eindhoven, Bayern Munich, Inter Milan and Manchester United) have managed the feat -- with Barcelona being unique in achieving it twice.

Barca's president in 2015, when that second Treble was clinched, was Josep Maria Bartomeu.

During his six-year reign, Barca have won 71 trophies across their various sporting sections (including roller hockey and beach soccer). It's also praiseworthy that despite Bartomeu previously quitting Barcelona's board in 2005, furious about then-president Joan Laporta's devotion to Johan Cruyff's influence, it has been during Bartomeu's presidency that the ruinous relationship between Barcelona and the Cruyff family has been assiduously and patiently rebuilt. The club and Cruyff's academic institutions run joint courses; the new training-ground arena is named Johan Cruyff Stadium after their greatest football thinker.

Danny Cruyff, Johan's wife, pledged never to return to Camp Nou after the way Sandro Rosell (the Barcelona president, 2010-14) treated her husband. Under Bartomeu's reign, she has often been seen in the presidential box. More praise for Bartomeu.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Barcelona were prompt to hand over their facilities to the medical authorities in Catalonia. While only time will tell how useful this has proved, the willingness, timing and alacrity of action were exemplary.

Yet despite all this, Bartomeu will not be well remembered when history comes to judge him. Considering the list above, isn't that pretty incredible?

**The short summary of his atrocious situation reads like this:**

- In the middle of a pandemic crisis that should have seen everyone at Barcelona dedicated to helping the football club, its employees and fans survive this brutal virus, several of his board have just walked out on him
- Long before the opening of the transfer market, which continues to fill the front pages of the local football papers despite none of us knowing when the summer window will commence, or whether Barcelona will have the financial wherewithal to operate in it, Bartomeu has been consistently turned down by a number of big signings
- Carles Puyol said "No, gracias" to an offer of joining the technical staff, as did Jordi Cruyff, at least once. When Xavi, viewed by many (rightly or wrongly) as this club's saviour-in-waiting, was offered the chance to take over as coach a few weeks back his answer, too, was "No, thank you." Ditto Ronald Koeman
- Don't forget Neymar embarrassingly saying, "I'm not interested" when Bartomeu offered him a huge contract extension, and appropriate salary rise, in winter 2016. His precursor to leaving them in the lurch

In the nostrils of these pretty distinguished alumni of FC Barcelona, something smells not quite right when they get a whiff of Bartomeu.

When Xavi talked about the sort of environment he'll try to establish when he (eventually) becomes Barca coach, he specifically used the word "toxic" when talking about the type of characters he'll determinedly expunge from both Camp Nou and its training facilities.

Did he specifically mean Bartomeu, the man who has kicked out director of football after director of football



Josep Bartomeu's reign as Barcelona president has yielded unprecedented success, and now potential collapse. (Agencies)

in the past few seasons? The man who, when it became crystal clear that media reports of a company being employed by Barcelona's board to create negative social media images of presidential opponents and some current Camp Nou players had foundation basically said: Well, I'll have to find out how this has happened, it's nothing to do with me?

The man who, when Lionel Messi directly criticised what he believed were Camp Nou board leaks to the Catalan media about how long it took for Barcelona's players to negotiate a massive 70% pay cut basically said: Well, I'll have to find out how this has happened, it's nothing to do with me? Or did Xavi simply mean the poisonous, backstabbing, mistrustful, finger-jabbing atmosphere that hasn't simply been allowed to take root, but to dominate at Camp Nou under Bartomeu's reign?

**Draw your own conclusions.**

I think it's illustrative that over the past couple of weeks, both Liverpool and Tottenham -- clubs of comparable ambition, recent rivals in Europe and fellow commercial behemoths -- have made bad errors of judgement that drew torrents of reprobation and dismay. What did both Liverpool and Spurs do after their respective decisions about how to treat staff and the clubs' public images were comprehensively hammered both inside the industry and out? They recanted and they corrected.

These are tactics that Bartomeu, who on Monday announced a "Nothing to see here, folks" Camp Nou board re-shuffle, would do well to learn from. Phrases such as "I see where I/we went wrong," "We've learned our lessons," "We're listening to these criticisms," "We'll try to avoid repeating these kind of mistakes" don't seem to be in his vocabulary.

One of his fundamental errors, and again one for which he'll be badly judged in the history books, is forgetting the true purpose of being Barcelona president. The central purpose is to ensure the club has a healthy, intelligent, visionary sporting and commercial strategy, one that is enacted, reviewed, updated and made wholly transparent. Kudos, laurel wreaths, trophies and veneration will follow.

Instead, he seems to have pursued self-aggrandisement and legacy, focusing more on the creation of a Bartomeu empire.

In this tendency, he's very far from alone. Even Barcelona's historically most successful president, Laporta, faced censure from within his ranks, a motion of lack of confidence and desertion from his board.

Being president is far from straightforward, but Bartomeu is the man who has presided over a pretty comprehensive abandonment of the very policies that took Barcelona from the scrapheap to the world throne in the space of six years.

When Laporta instituted a complete overhaul of this club in 2003, during what was a six-year hiatus without a single major football trophy, he used Cruyff as his pole star, Cruyff's disciples as his staff and Cruyff-selected footballers as his Praetorian Guard. Barcelona, a football wasteland for years, swept the board both in terms of trophies and admiration.

Bartomeu has decided over time that Galactico-style mega-signings are the way forward. Half a billion euros (including transfer fees, wages, tax and agents' fees) was spent on three footballers in Philippe Coutinho, Ousmane Dembele and Antoine Griezmann, and not one of them looks likely to come close to returning the investment.

Bartomeu, gradually, has decided that being the first club to reach €1 billion turnover is somehow more worthy and more desirable than a healthy wage bill, more important than a fully functioning Cruyffist youth system providing a flow of first-team-ready products. The neck-and-neck ego race with Real Madrid president Florentino Perez about which club could claim that €1b turnover tag has become, at Camp Nou at least, a glittering distraction from real flaws and false directions.

Did Bartomeu know this pandemic was going to arrive and cut off revenue flow, leave him scrabbling around to pay what the club is committed to paying and desperately hoping the domestic and European seasons can, somehow, be completed to avoid utterly disastrous financial damage? Of course not. But Sod's law is globally understood, and popularised in every

language: If you're risking more than you can afford to lose, the immutable universal law is that circumstances will conspire, however improbably, to trip you up.

So it has been for this president's reign. The commercial stasis caused by this pandemic has not only left Bartomeu's tactics exposed, it has left those who disagree with him, mistrust him or downright oppose him in much more powerful positions.

Throughout his reign, Bartomeu has benefitted from those inspired by Cruyff. He inherited footballers who were either signed while Cruyff was involved with Barcelona or subsequently signed using his principles.

For this ambitious president, that 2015 Treble was like the man who steps up to a roulette table in Monte Carlo, slaps down €50 on 15 red, wins €1,750, then, on the law of ever diminishing returns, starts to lose more than he wins and, endlessly, chases after another big win, abandoning good principles and throwing good money after bad.

Bartomeu, it strongly appears, has not only hungrily been chasing legacy, but chasing a legacy that he can claim is his alone; not Cruyffist; nothing to do with what the successful decades prior to his inheriting the presidency -- when his friend and predecessor, Rosell, did a midnight flit -- have taught everyone.

His tendency toward two clashing ideas, that of "I know better" and "This was someone else's fault," have left him grievously wounded -- just at a time when his club desperately needs sound, visionary and intelligent leadership to steer clear of the financial, moral and sporting precipice that will yawn in front of Barcelona if this crisis is prolonged. His players, his critics and his opponents all know this. Watch them muster, watch them start to use his weakened position to their advantage.

Redemption, for Bartomeu, lies down the route of acknowledging his errors, adopting greater transparency and trying his absolute best to show that he merits seeing out the remaining year and a bit of his now massively troubled mandate.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

## Kane or Sancho? Man United face dilemma over top transfer targets

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**EATV THURSDAY**  
11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Bongo Hits  
13:00 Msosi Kilaani (r)  
13:30 Kati Za Wana  
14:00 Ulevizi (r)  
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbe (r)  
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:30 ASHITAS  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:30 Kurosa  
18:00 sNews  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Salomana

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**Salomana** is our new show in which Salomana has a chat with interesting people from different spheres of influence in our society. You will be entertained, educated and amazed.

Every Thursday at 9pm

**eastafrica 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

# TPLB laws mum on Premier League cancellation, says Kasongo



Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Chief Executive Officer, Almasi Kasongo.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**T**ANZANIA Premier League Board (TPLB) has disclosed its laws are silent on what ought to be done in case the 2019/20 Mainland Premier League season is canceled due to the Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

Three weeks ago the government suspended all gatherings, which include sporting activities.

This season's Mainland Premier League, First Division League (FDL)

and Second Division League (SDL) are therefore in the list of the suspended sporting events.

Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, had on Tuesday announced that the suspension still stands until

further notice.

The board's Chief Executive Officer, Almasi Kasongo, said the board's executive committee members will meet to decide on the future of the league, as the

current rules and regulations governing and running of the league are silent on the matter.

"The rules and laws of the Premier League Board are silent on such calamities like the one

which the whole world is going through, but soon the executive members of TPLB will meet to see the way forward," he said.

Kasongo could not disclose when the committee will hold its meeting, but said the stand will take into all considerations from stakeholders and recommendations from the government on the matter.

The Mainland Premier League defending champions Simba SC are on top of the 20-team league log with 71 points from 28 games. Azam FC are positioned second with 54 points from 28 games while Yanga are third with 51 points from 27 games.

There have been mixed reactions on the future of the league with some sections of sports stakeholders saying in case the 2019/20 league season is canceled Simba should be awarded the top honour while others are saying TPLB should use last season's winners.

However, the biggest challenge is on who should be promoted to the Premier League and who ought to be demoted to FDL.

## IPL 2020 suspended indefinitely

DELHI

THE BCCI has suspended the 2020 edition of the IPL until further notice because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is understood that the BCCI has not set a new window yet for the tournament, which was to be held between March 29 and May 24 originally.

On Wednesday morning, all the eight franchises were informed of the decision by Hemang Amin, the IPL's chief operating officer. Amin told the franchises that, following the extension of the nationwide lockdown till May 3 by the Indian government, there was no possibility of hosting the event in the regular summer window.

The decision follows a meeting among the BCCI's top brass over a conference call on Tuesday evening. Among those involved in the discussions were BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, secretary Jay Shah, IPL chairman Brijesh Patel, BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal, and Amin.

This is the second time the BCCI has been forced to defer the IPL. Last month, just before the government put the country in a three-week lockdown, the board had pushed the start date of the tournament back to April 15.

On Tuesday, Indian prime minister Narendra Modi announced an extension of the lockdown until May 3, even as all domestic and international travel in and out of the country remained blocked. This made it apparent that there would be no chance of hosting the IPL in the foreseeable future.

Although it was preparing for this scenario for some time, the BCCI had also been optimistic about conducting a month-long IPL with the final scheduled in the first week of June. Also, as part of its contingency planning, the BCCI was looking at staging all the matches behind closed doors in limited centres.

All those plans had to be pushed to the back-burner after a spike in Covid-19 infections around the country. As of Wednesday, over 11,000 people have tested positive in India with deaths inching towards the 400 mark. With several restrictions put in place by the government in terms of social distancing and travel bans, and overseas players unable to participate with their own countries in lockdown, the BCCI was left with little choice but to put off the IPL.

This leaves the tournament's stakeholders, including the players, facing a big setback. At the auction last December, a total 62 players were bought by the eight franchises, who spent INR 140.30 crore [USD 18.4 million approx.] overall. Australian fast bowler Pat Cummins became the most expensive overseas buy in IPL's history after Kolkata Knight Riders bought him for INR 15.5 crore [USD 2 million approx.].

None of the IPL players will receive any money until the tournament actually takes place. As per the norm, franchises make payments in two installments: the first a week before the tournament starts and the rest after the season is over. The franchises, too, will feel the pinch as they rely heavily on the IPL's commercial revenue, which also includes broadcast rights which were bought by Star India for a record sum for a five-year period in 2017. Every franchise, since then, was assured a minimum share worth INR 150 crore [USD 19.7 million approx.].

AGENCIES

## TFF committee set to work on Simba SC complaints

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona



Simba midfielder, Clatus Chama.

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has confirmed it has received a complaints letter from Simba SC asking the federation to intervene on the allegations of player tapping by Yanga.

Yanga through the squad's Vice Chairman Fredrick Mwakalebela are reported to have discussions with Simba player, Clatus Chama, who still has a running contract with the latter.

In the letter, signed by TFF information officer Clifford Ndimbo, Simba want the federation to intervene on the malpractice committed by Yanga as Chama is still Simba's player.

The letter accuses Yanga's Vice Chairman, Mwakalebela, of alleging that he had discussion with Chama with the aim of signing him.

"We are in receipt of Simba SC letter of complaining that Yanga Vice Chairman Fredrick Mwakalebela alleged to the media that he had conversation with Simba player Clatus Chama, the letter said Mwakalebela alleges that the aim is to sign the player," he said.

said they have referred the matter to its Committee on committee on players status and welfare.

According to FIFA player tapping is an attempt to pursue a player contracted with another club (team) without either the knowledge or permission of the player's current team.

On Tuesday, Simba's information officer Haji Manara told the media that he will report Mwakalebela to TFF for having discussions with Clatus Chama who has a contract with the squad.

He said the aim of Simba SC is to see to it that the malpractice comes to an end.

"This is not acceptable, we will report Yanga to TFF, we did not expect such a person with vast knowledge on football like Mwakalebela to be involved in such a malpractice, everyone knows that Clatus Chama is still our player with a contract which runs up to 2021," he disclosed.

Mwakalebela who is the former TFF secretary general on Tuesday issued an apology to Simba SC and Yanga supporters and fans, saying he did not mean what he was saying as he was simply joking.

"I did not mean that we want to sign Chama, we know he is a Simba player, what I meant was just a joke," he disclosed.

"It was not a serious thing, it was just a joke, I'm sorry for what my comments have caused to Simba and Yanga supporters," he said.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

