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AFRAA releases Covid-19 impact assessment on key African airlines

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE African Airlines Association (AFRAA) has released a new analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on the airline industry in Africa which projects an estimated revenue loss of USD 8.103bn for African airlines for the year 2020.

The analysis is the first in a series of studies that will be published by the association examining the toll of the pandemic on Africa's air transport sector.

The study further indicates a 90.3percent year on year passenger traffic reduction for the month of May; recovery is expected to start from Q3 2020 with domestic operations, followed by regional and intercontinental flights.

The evolution of the number of Covid-19 cases suggests that the more impacted countries in Africa are South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Ghana, each with above 5,000 cases of infection. While the rate of infections in other continents is beginning to ease off, in Africa the rate of infections are still on the rise. However, the recovery rate in



We also call upon international financial institutions and development partners to support airlines with facilities that can help ensure the availability of much-needed credit and liquidity

Africa is higher, with an average death rate of 9 percent compared to the global rate of 19 percent.

AFRAA Secretary General Abderahmane Berthe declared that the availability of liquidity is the main issue to be addressed for airlines to survive and restart their operations. Without it, airlines can simply not survive this pandemic long enough to restart their operations, he asserted.

He urged African governments to consider a bailout and stimulus package that compensates for the significant losses, reduces the burden of ongoing operating costs, also subsidizing the industry's survival and recovery.

"We also call upon international financial institutions and development partners to support airlines with facilities that can help ensure the availability of much-needed credit and liquidity," he appealed.

"There is also the need to ensure passenger confidence to resume air travel. Communication with passengers on the health and safety measures in place is crucial to reassure them of a safe and sterile travel experience with appropriate measures in place," he elaborated.

Since the onset of the crisis, AFRAA whose mission is to serve African airlines and champion Africa's aviation industry, has taken various initiatives to ensure the sector's

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Kinana apologises to JPM, seals cadres' reconciliation



Abdulrahman Omari Kinana

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

ABDULRAHMAN Omari Kinana, former secretary general of the ruling party yesterday appeared in public, asking President John Magufuli to forgive him for any wrongs he did during his time as a leader in the party.

Kinana, who served under former president and CCM chairman Jakaya Kikwete and for close to two years under Dr Magufuli, has come out in public to ask for forgiveness "so that he can retire from politics in peace."

Kinana, who served as Minister for Defence during the second term of the second phase presidency, declared at a press conference that there are things that he did recently that could have understandably enraged CCM leaders and members alike - including the party's national chairman, President Magufuli.

"I am sure that CCM national chairman Dr John Magufuli, who is also the country's president, will accept my apology and extend a forgiving hand," stated Kinana, the first Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) from 2001 to 2006 Benjamin Mkapa.

The former military officer was MP for Arusha Urban constituency until 1995 when he became campaign manager the third phase presidential election candidate.

Asked what exactly he believed he did wrong, Kinana said there had recently been utterances from him that CCM members did not take kindly to, "and I am really sorry for all that."

Kinana has also held talks with Arusha regional CCM chairman Zelote Steven and

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PCCB holds ex-Tourism levy accountant, auditor

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR senior officials with the Tanzania Tourism Development Levy (TDL) fund have been suspended to pave the way for investigations following disclosure of 4bn/- suspected embezzlement.

In addition, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has asked the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to investigate a former TDL accountant, Eliud Kijalo and other officers involved in the suspected misuse of public funds.

A ministerial statement stated yesterday that Permanent Secretary Prof Adolf Mkenda ordered the suspension after the ministry conducted a special audit of the levy funds in collaboration with the government's chief internal auditor operating from the Treasury.

The audit showed deficiencies and instances of outright embezzlement, hence the decision to suspend the various officials including the Director of Tourism, Deogratias Mdamu.

Also suspended was Flora Msami, the

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Bank disburses 160bn/- to businesses amid Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

FOLLOWING the negative economic outlook as a result of the outbreak of Covid-19, Exim Bank has announced relief measures for its corporate, small and medium enterprise clients in sectors that face significant income and cash flows reductions in this situation.

The move forms part of ongoing Exim initiatives to financially assist sectors adversely impacted by providing cushioning finance during these trying times.

At the start of June, the bank had provided relief of over 160bn/- in payment holidays and extension of loan repayment periods to help

clients in various sectors sail through the impact of Covid-19 on their businesses.

Exim Bank CEO Jaffari Matundu said the bank understands the needs of its clients and is doing all it can to help them navigate through. "We are doing this not only through loan restructuring but with advisory services on business strategies," he stated, noting that this will ensure that the respective businesses survive and thrive again.

Relief initiatives are provided on a case by case basis, as evidently the effects of Covid-19 have not been the same across the board. Clients in severely impacted sectors have

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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.



© 15/06/2020

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

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

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

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19



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Kinana apologises to JPM, seals cadres' reconciliation

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secretary Mussa Matoroka, assuring them of support even as he retires from active politics.

The regional chairman praised 'Comrade Kinana' for his decision to iron things out with CCM as well as seeking forgiveness from the national chairman, saying people like Kinana will be useful in grooming upcoming leaders.

Kinana becomes the fourth senior CCM official to apologize to the president after Col. (rt) Kinana and his colleague ex-secretary general Lt. (rt) Yusuf Makamba were allegedly implicated in voice clips interpreted as insulting to the Head of State, brewing

a loyalty impasse.

Last September, President Magufuli forgave former ministers January Makamba and William Ngeleja.

Makamba served as the Union Affairs and Environment minister in the Office of the Vice President during the fifth phase government and replaced in July 2019. Ngeleja served in the Energy and Minerals docket during the first term of the fourth phase government.

Last December, Dr Magufuli forgave Mtama MP Nape Nnauye who also featured in the video clips saga.

The recordings allegedly involved minister Makamba speaking to his father as well as Ngeleja and Nnauye, and former CCM secretary-general Abdulrahman Kinana and Nnauye.

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ministry's internal auditor, to facilitate exhaustive investigations into the matter.

Prof Mkenda directed the Commissioner for Conservation for the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) to suspend former accountant Moses Msemu for the same issue.

"The PCCB Director General has been asked to investigate Eliud Kijalo and all accomplices. Kijalo has already been placed in custody to assist in investigations," the statement said.

The ministry pledged cooperation with PCCB in its investigations so that all suspects are dealt with in accordance with the law.

PCCB said in a statement from communication officer Doreen Kapwani that Eliud Kijalo was in the bureau's cells in relation to fraud

allegations in TDL.

The Tourism Development Levy was established under section 59 (1) of the Tourism Act of 2008, empowering the minister to make regulations prescribing the manner and modality under which the levy may be collected and used.

Under the Act, registered tourism accommodation facilities collect a bed night levy technically charged on the tourist, an amount equal to two percent of a bed night charge.

The collected monies are remitted to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and are used for the development of the tourism sector.

Statistics indicate that the tourism sector has been contributing up to 25 percent of foreign currency earnings and represents 17 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).



Monduli District Council chairman Isack Copriano (2nd-L, in blue suit) pictured at a spot in Arusha Region's Mfareji ward yesterday checking a map showing the border separating Longido and Monduli districts, with a view to resolving a longstanding dispute over the demarcation. To his left is a Monduli District land surveyor, Filbert Kamasho. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Bank disburses 160bn/- to businesses amid Covid-19

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been proactively approached and assisted, he affirmed.

Discussions with more are still

ongoing, exploring various measures that best suit the nature and type of business, he specified.

"At Exim Bank, we believe in working tirelessly today for a better tomorrow

for our clients, their businesses and the community at large. It is in that spirit that we have adopted such initiatives during this time of uncertainty. We remain committed in addressing these

matters and find solutions alongside the regulator and government in ensuring our economy continues to remain stable during these trying times," he added.



Opposition NCCR-Mageuzi national chairman James Mbatia, who is also the party's legislator for Vunjo in Kilimanjaro Region, briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday on the party's preparations for later this year's General Election, the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing protests in the US. story on Page 6 Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Practise professional journalism, says TCRA

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has called on the country's various media to work professionally and abide by ethics during the general elections slated for October this year.

The acting TCRA head for the central zone Boniface Latia issued the plea here yesterday during a short ceremony of presenting a licence to Pasua FM radio station based in Dodoma.

Latia said the media should avoid misrepresentation of news and events during the elections to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding within the public.

"A small act of negligence can cost the nation and the public dearly from

a report published in newspapers or broadcast over the radios, hence you must abide by your professional ethics," he said.

He also appealed to those using social networks to also abide by ethics, professionalism in order to convey correct news and other reports to the public.

He said the authority is the chief regulator in the communications sector in the country that also

includes various subsectors - the Internet, content, broadcasting and postal services, and added that in regulating the subsectors, it has the responsibility to issue licences to broadcasting outlets for applicants who had followed the required conditions.

He said TCRA central zone offices handle Singida, Tabora and Kigoma regions which had about 15 radio stations, and 20 for the social

network.

The director of Pasua FM Erick Cyprian thanked the authority for trusting them and issued them with a license.

"We as Pasua media will make sure we abide by the content of the licence," he said.

He said his radio station will create job employment and enhance income for their families and that of the nation in general.

AFRAA releases Covid-19 impact assessment on key African airlines

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resilience to the pandemic and for post-recovery efforts. Key among these initiatives is the AFRAA recovery plan that defines a framework of various areas of intervention measures to be taken as part of urgent, immediate and consistent actions for the survival and

rebounding of the industry.

AFRAA is also working closely with leading aviation industry organizations under the framework of the high level task force that is undertaking various actions to ensure that the African civil aviation industry is well positioned on a strong trajectory for recovery during and post Covid-19.

Government promises to support pig farmers

By Polycarp Machira, Morogoro

THE government has promises to help pig farmers in the country adopt new technologies that will lead to improved production, saying there is a high demand for pig products both locally and internationally.

In a budget speech for the 2020/2021 financial year, minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Luhaga Mpina said his ministry continues to appeal to pig farmers to turn into commercial farming.

He said by 30th April, 2020 a total of 38,377.4 tonnes of pork were produced in the country compared to 37,773 tonnes in 2018/2019, attributing the increased to improved pig productions at the government farms of Ngerengere and Kitulo.

Minister Mpina thanked the Tanzania Pig Farmers Association (TAPIFA) for the good work aimed at improving pig farming in the country. He said the association with 220 members with over 200,000 pigs has brought serious changes among pig farmers in the country. The government in collaboration with TAPIFA will work closely to help improve pig farming in the country by solving the existing challenges facing farmers," he said.

Mpina said the cooperation will among others help import improved pig breeds like Camborough, Duroc, Peatrain, Large White and Topic from Zambia, Rwanda, South Africa and France.

Other areas of cooperation include working on how to reduce cost of feeds, having in place a modern abattoir in Dar es Salaam and start pork

processing at the Arusha based Happy factory.

His statements is a relief to TAPIFA members who have constantly complained of challenges facing pig farmers in the country.

During the last annual general meeting held in Morogoro, TAPIFA chairperson, Florence Misambila said that pig farmers in the country were faced with several challenges, calling for the government interventions.

He named some of the key challenges as availability of improved animal breeds, lack of vaccines in the country, a situation that lead to death in animals. He said some of the existing ones get into the country through informal ways from the neighbouring countries.

Another problem, according to the TAPIFA boss is lack of modern abattoir in the country, reducing chances of farmers going into value addition on pig products. "Some people do not eat pork simply because of the way it is prepared, without proper slaughterhouses," he said noting that if the facilities would be available, it would enhance consumption.

He noted that while farmers struggle to meet local meat demand and supply to the international markets, such bottlenecks remain key hindrances.

Terza Kitambo, one of the farmers who attended the seminar appealed to the government to consider reducing fees paid by farmers who import improved breeds from other countries.

Hendry Shirima, a Dar es Salaam-based farmer noted that the government should take measures to control transportation of animals during outbreak of diseases.



Mwanga district commissioner Tom Apson sprinkles sand on the coffin bearing the body of Christopher Mfinanga, a photographer with the Prime Minister's Office, who was buried on Wednesday at his home village of Mangio Vuchama in the district. Photo: PMO

Jafo 'upset' by teachers concentration in Mbeya region urban settings

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE concentration of primary and secondary schools teachers in schools in urban areas has shocked the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government -RALG) Seleman Jafo and has instructed all Regional Commissioners in the country to ensure there is an acceptable ratio among teachers for urban and rural schools.

The Minister registered his shock mid this week during his short visit in Mbeya Region to inspect the new Regional Offices building, renovation of Mbeya Day Secondary Schools infrastructures and the Magufui English Medium School in Mbeya City.

Jafo said despite the government hiring of 19,000 teachers, there is the challenge of many of them being concentrated in urban areas necessitating teachers' scarcity to schools in rural areas.

Jafo also warned leaders of government owned English Medium schools in Mbeya City including Mkapa English Medium Primary School and Magufui English Medium Primary School to enroll students with desired qualifications instead of enrolling them through bribery.

He said there have been incredible reports of schools' officials and parents engaged in acts of bribery to enable unqualified children to be enrolled at the schools adding that these acts has to stop.

The Minister also told Form VI students who intend to sit for their final examinations this month that the examinations will dwell on the students' knowledge and understanding hence they have to read and understand questions at examination time.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

260 northern zone factories fall short of NEMC environmental requirements

AS Tanzania joins the rest of the world in observing the 'World Environment Day today, the National Environment Management Council has inspected a total of 460 factories in the northern zone and discovered that more than 53 per cent of the production firms fell short, as far as nature protection is concerned.

"There are 260 factories that lack the environment certification, while among them were established without undergoing the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), while others still breached the required regulations in their respective operations," revealed

the Zonal NEMC Manager Lewis Nzali Mtemi.

That means out of the nearly 500 factories that have been inspected by NEMC, only about 200 such firms possess clean bills of health regarding the set standards of environment protection.

According to Mtemi, operators of some of the factories lacking EIA certifications claimed that their firms

were founded long before the country's independence and therefore the environment acts were written after their existence.

The NEMC assistant engineer for the northern zone, Nancy Nyenga pointed out that communities have started to take negative environment occurrences as normal and therefore even when cautioned against destructive habits, they hardly take heed.

"People are used to drought, famine and other hazards thinking it is normal, not knowing that most of these disasters are man-made, resulting to negative effects of climate change and global warming," she said.

As Tanzania joins the rest of the global community is observing the 46th 'World Environment Day,' with this year's theme being 'Celebrate Biodiversity,' the National

Environment Management Council has opted to use the media in conveying 'green' messages to the public in bid to play safe amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated on 5 June every year, and is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment.

The Day was first held in 1974, and since then it has been a flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging from environmental issues to marine pollution, human overpopulation, and global warming, to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime.

World Environment Day has grown to become a global platform for public outreach, with participation from over 143 countries annually, with each year floating a new theme that major corporations, Non-Government Organisations, communities, governments and all celebrities worldwide adopt to advocate environmental causes.

Endless mission: How we invest for the future of our planet

Reversing negative impacts of biodiversity loss

Living in harmony with nature can only be achieved if we reverse negative impacts of biodiversity loss & pursue full achievement of the **#GlobalGoals**

We are positive and optimistic that we can halve our impact on the environment & contribute to create a more sustainable future for everyone including our employees, our industry, our stakeholders and the many communities that we serve



40,000+

direct beneficiaries from the project



420 jobs

opportunities created as result of the program involving Youth, women & people who are differently abled



TZs 300 million

Has been invested by the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation for the implementation of Kijanisha Dodoma project



70,000+

seedlings were planted by Vodacom Tanzania Foundation, partners and staff on **116.1 hectares**

350,000

families and communities have been involved in the project so far

TAKE ACTION



- ★ Plant and nurture a tree
- ★ Reduce, re-use & recycle
- ★ Tell your story: Inspire and empower others by sharing what nature means to you and what you've done to protect it



NEMC called on to address human encroachment on mangrove forest

By Guardian Reporter

WHILE the government is building a multi-billion shilling bridge in a bid to further make Dar es Salaam a city of international fame, Deputy Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Mussa Sima yesterday during his visit at Dar es Salaam's treasured Selander Bridge mangrove natural forest only to find developers are still encroaching on the forest.

The stunned ministers said that what was going on was incomprehensible and impermissible. It was hard to understand why people had been allowed to set up buildings in the protected area and letting waste water from their buildings to flow into the Indian Ocean.

"Selander area is one of the strategic protected areas with natural vegetation in this country yet developers are encroaching on the forest... the government will not allow this kind of attitude to continue here and elsewhere in the country," said minister.

He called on the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to take action against encroachers on the forest as stipulated in the Environmental Management Act, 2002.

"What is illegally taking place here is taking place in other protected areas, those responsible should know that the law will take its course," warned minister.

The minister called on Tanzanians countrywide to protect natural forests.

NEMC legal director, Benard Kongola, one of the challenges at the site was preventing developers from building

houses because dishonest NEMC workers colluded with dishonest developers to forge documents that allowed them to carry out illegal development in the protected area.

"The minister's directive is a new impetus to our efforts because the council has already reported to relevant authorities dishonest workers who colluded with dishonest developers to forge document ostensibly legalising development in the protected area," the director said.

Kongola also said people who let waste water into the ocean had been fined.

The State of the Coast Report 2009 -Tanzania Mainland 2009, says that Tanzania's coast is important for a number of ecosystems including mangroves and biodiversity.

"However, over the last decade the forests, woodland and wetland have come under increasing pressures from a number of factors, including encroachment, unsustainable harvesting of timber, invertebrates and fish resources, conversion of mangrove areas into cultivation and use of riparian forests and woodlands for fuel," the report warned then.



What is illegally taking place here is taking place in other protected areas, those responsible should know that the law will take its course



Mbeya regional commissioner Albert Chalamila gets off a boat at a Lake Nyasa beach in style earlier this week while on an assessment tour of potential investment opportunities in Kyela District. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

WORKS, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe has called upon traders in the Lake Zone to increase production of fish products, fruits, meat and vegetables to enable the availability of reliable timetable flights from international airlines through Mwanza Airport.

Speaking soon after opening of the meeting attended by ministers of Works, Transport and Communications, Industry and Trade and Livestock and Fisheries, their respective permanent secretaries, regional commissioners from Mwanza, Mara, and Kagera regions and institutions in transport sector in Mwanza region, Kamwelwe said the availability of the timetable

Traders in Lake Victoria Zone urged to tap more from international flights

will depend on the availability of cargo from the zone.

"Up to now there are only two airlines that airlift fish fillets to foreign countries, but this number can increase if more cargo is made available," he said.

He said as of now Air Tanzania Corporation (ATCL) is in the final stages in the acquisition of a permit to enable it transport passengers and cargo to Europe.

The Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Luhaga Mpina assured traders that they will immediately

address challenges facing them to ensure that all products from the factories are promptly transported to reach consumers in the shortest possible time.

He said up to now there is more than 200 tonnes of fish produced on daily basis at factories in Mwanza and called upon the the ministry to ensure the timetables are extended to encourage traders to produce more.

The Minister for Industry and Trade Innocent Bashungwa lauded minister Kamwelwe for the ministers' joint meeting for discussion and come up

with a joint strategy that would ensure the fish export trade is beneficial to the people in the Lake Zone and is sustainable.

Bashungwa also promised the traders that they will continue insisting on the products' quality and better packaging to satisfy the export market.

RwandAir and Ethiopian airlines officially started airlifting fish fillets on May 12, this year whereby RwandAir made two flights and Ethiopian airlines one flight.

A total of 692 tonnes were transported by the two airlines.

TFS advises Tanzanians to bolster environmental conservation efforts

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Forests Services Agency (TFS) has appealed to Tanzanians and other various stakeholders to double efforts in the war against forests destruction for the country's economic growth.

The Commissioner for Forests Conservation Prof. Dos Santos Silayo said forests preservation and their better upkeep produces positive economic results for other sectors including livestock, agricultural, water and energy sectors.

"The world is marking World Environmental Day, which reminds that the environment we live in... if they are to be sustained, must be preserved, and we as a nation have the responsibility to ensure we preserve our environment in order to reap the intended fruits," said Prof. Silayo.

He said while marking this day it is essential for everyone to adopt the habit in preserving the environment by vigorously fight all acts that destroy the environment.

"We in TFS have the duty to conserve forests' resources, and in doing so

we believe they are essential as they are depended upon for the country's economy," he added.

He appealed to all people involved in the forests sector to use the World Environmental Day to continue giving education to the citizens on its importance and on how to continue fighting against all acts of environmental destruction.

"And if we attain that goal, as a nation we believe our contribution as the forests sector for our nation will reach a good position to bring more benefits," he added.



Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Abdallah Ulega (foreground) takes part in the digging of a pit at Isangijo village in Meatu District, Simiyu Region, on Wednesday at the site of what will be a cattle dip. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: DEVELOP BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE, INTEGRATION LAYER AND DATA WAREHOUSE FOR KENYA TRADENET SYSTEM

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20191259

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an aid-for-trade organisation that was established in 2010, with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade. Kenya Trade Network (KenTrade) with support from TMEA wishes to invite interested and qualified **reputable firms/consortiums** to participate in this tender to establish a Data warehouse, an Integration Layer and a Business Intelligence toolkit (BI) for the TradeNet system.

The Terms of Reference and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com. The closing date for submission of this tender is on or before **Monday, 06 July 2020 on or before 4.00 p.m. (Kenya Time)**.

Interested and qualified **reputable consultancy firms/consortiums MUST** submit their bids through TMEA's Procurement mail box using the email address, procurement@trademarkea.com. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed **5 MB**.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline.





Kahama district commissioner Anamringi Macha (R, in glasses) has a first-hand account of the functioning of the 67m/- Mlimani water project in Mhungula ward yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Shabani Njia

Women sensitised to exclusively breastfeed infants amid Covid-19

By Correspondent Ambrose Wantaigwa,

Tarime

WOMEN have been called upon to ensure exclusive breastfeeding of their infants for the first 6 months and comply with hygiene protocols which include regular washing of breasts to protect children from contracting the new Coronavirus.

Nutritional expert at the Tarime District hospital, Elizabeth Burure issued the advice following spreading rumor that some women were planning to stop breastfeeding their children over fears of infecting them with Covid-19.

The expert recommended that women should exclusively feed their children for six months before introducing them to other nutritional types of food.

She warned parents on abandoning breastfeeding saying the acts may result into various health challenges to the children.

She said mother's milk comprises of natural supplements that cannot be produced by consuming other types of food.

"It is important to adhere to recommended Covid-19 preventive measures to protect children from

contracting the disease. You cannot infect your children if you wash your hands and breast regularly," she said adding the district continues with educational campaign to promote breastfeeding.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends exclusive breastfeeding starting within one hour after birth until a baby is 6 months old. Nutritious complementary foods should then be added while continuing to breastfeed for up to 2 years or beyond.

According to WHO, breastfeeding has many health benefits for both, mother and infant. Breastfeeding protects children against diarrhea and common childhood illnesses such as pneumonia, and may also have longer-term health benefits for the mother and child, such as reducing the risk of overweight and obesity in childhood and adolescence.

The Tanzania Demographic Survey, 2015 shows that 45 percent of women at reproductive age suffer from anemia.

In Tanzania the high levels of chronic malnutrition is driven by poverty and food insecurity as well as poor children and infant caring and feeding practices at household level. The national stunting level stands at 34 percent.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has appealed to elders in Dodoma Region to work together with other leaders to identify all areas with historical significance in the region to be earmarked by the government as tourist attractions.

Majaliwa gave the directive after he was briefed by the Minister for Home Affairs George Simbachawene on the history of Iyumbu area in Dodoma City when he was speaking at a handing over event of houses built by the national Housing Corporation (NHC).

The Prime Minister said: "I am told

PM urges Dodoma elders to identify locations with historical significance

that the area near St John University contains history of Dodoma Region as the area where an elephant had allegedly sank into the ground hence local residents used to call it Idodomia, it is not known whether the elephant had fully sunk or only its legs, but it is important to preserve the history of our various places."

He said after such areas are identified, the elders in collaboration with officials will have the responsibility to submit the issue to the respective local council meeting for discussion, and added:

"Thereafter the councils may decide to insert the areas in their plans to designate them as tourist attractions.

"We have been receiving visitors but

we send them to far away areas while areas with historical significance in the nation's capital are fit to be designated as tourist attractions, make sure you identify them as quickly as possible in order to earn more income."

In his speech, Minister Simbachawene asked the Prime Minister to assist in resolving conflicts

in the said historical areas following their invasion by people who claimed they legally acquired them.

He mentioned the areas as including Iyumbu Village, Mt Mlimwa located within the Prime Minister's residence, Kikuyu near St John University and Chamwino State House.

This paper was able to talk to Chief

Lazaro Chihoma who maintains ritual areas for traditional chiefs of the Gogo tribe at Bwibwi in Iyumbu Village, he thanked the government for seeing the importance of the historical areas' preservation.

Chief Chihoma said the area for the rituals has a deep well of historical value as some chiefs drowned into it during meetings used to plan for war against rival tribes.

He said 13 traditional chiefs of the Gogo tribe will convene on June 15 this year for their annual rituals. He said in the past they used to invite chiefs from other tribes but this year they cannot do that due to the Covid-19 pandemic.




**EDF – PROGRAMME SUPPORT UNIT
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

European Development Fund - Programme Support Unit (EDF – PSU) is within the Ministry of Finance and Planning, established under the External Finance Division.

The European Development Fund (EDF) is the European Union's (EU) main instrument for providing development aid to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and to Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs). The activities of the EDF cooperation are in the fields of economic development, social and human development as well as regional cooperation and integration.

In Tanzania, the National Authorising Officer of the European Development Fund, is the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Finance and Planning.

In order to carry out his mandate, the Permanent Secretary established EDF – PSU which acts as a quality controller on all EDF Programmes in Tanzania and ensures timely and quality inputs to the EU Project Cycle Management. Also, the unit is the main interlocutor between the EU and Ministries and other entities that are implementing EU funded projects. Day-to-day activities of the unit are managed by the Deputy National Authorising Officer for EDF as the Head of the unit. Some of the functions of the unit include preparation of financing proposals, evaluation of tenders, authorising payments, and monitoring and evaluations of projects and programmes.

The Unit is inviting applications from dynamic, energetic and proactive Tanzanians with required technical skills and experience to fill the vacancy of **PROGRAMME OFFICER – RURAL DEVELOPMENT**.

Reports to: Head of Programmes

Station: Dodoma
Contract Period: 2.5 years with possibilities of renewal depending on performance and availability of funds

Summary of duties and responsibilities:

- Provide policy and strategic advice to the Head of Programmes on Agriculture and Rural Development related matters as stipulated in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement and its successor, national development and poverty reduction strategies and plans under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme and other relevant EU development financing instruments;
- Facilitate identification, preparation and appraisal as well as implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU funded Agriculture and Rural Development programmes and projects;
- Prepare and process tender documents for services, supplies and works contracts, call for proposals and prepare contracts and addenda for Agriculture projects;
- Monitor fulfilment of government undertakings as stipulated in respective financing agreements for various Agriculture as well as Rural Development related projects, general budget/ sector supports with specific reference to Performance Assessment Framework;
- Developing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems

based on performance indicators;

- Train and support counterparts and programme managers on EDF and EU rules and procedures;
- Liaise and coordinate on the implementation of projects with Project Managers of Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), private sector and other beneficiaries on the EU Agriculture funded projects; and
- Undertake any task assigned from time to time by management.

Qualification and experience

- Master's Degree in Economics/Agriculture Economics/Project management / Agriculture/ Rural Development/ or other related fields;
- At least five (5) years of work experience in Agriculture sector in Tanzania of which at least two (2) years is in management of Agricultural projects; Professional experience in EU funded Agricultural projects is an asset;
- Sound experience with Public and Private sector;
- Proven ability to interact competently with donor agencies on issues related to aid coordination; and
- Knowledge and experience on European Development Fund (EDF) procedures is an added advantage.

Key competencies

- In depth knowledge of Project Cycle Management;
- Excellent IT skills;
- Good analytical skills;
- Good public relations skills;
- Good written and verbal communication skills, in both English and Swahili;
- Comfortable to work independently, with tight deadlines and in difficult circumstances.

How to apply:
Applications must be directed to Email: recruitment@psu.go.tz. Applications by other means will not be accepted. Application letters, up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV) must be in English. Your CV must indicate current physical address, telephone contacts and three reputable referees with their reliable contacts including phone numbers and email addresses.

Also, attach copies of Relevant Academic Certificates (Form IV and form VI results slips, testimonials and all partial transcripts are not acceptable). Certificates from Foreign Universities and foreign examination bodies for Ordinary or Advanced level education must be accompanied by a verification document from Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) and National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA)/ National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) respectively.


An applicant employed in the Public Service should route his/her application letter through his/her respective employers.

Applicants with special needs/case (disability) are supposed to indicate that in their applications.

Application deadline is on **20th June 2020 at 11:59 PM EAT**.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview.

215762801



Tender Notice: Sale of Used Motor Vehicles

Introduction:
Heifer Project International Tanzania is a non-profit and Non-Governmental International organization with the mission to alleviate hunger and poverty while caring for the earth through sustainable agriculture practices. It has been operating in Tanzania since 1974 with Reg No. I-NGO/R2/000174 and its activities have led to improved household nutrition and income by sharing of livestock and knowledge.

Details:
Heifer Project International Tanzania welcomes competitive bids for the sale of its used motor vehicles on **'AS IS' and 'WHERE IS' basis**. The vehicles on sale by tender are listed below and are available for viewing and inspection on week days from **8th June, 2020 to 19th June 2020** between **09:00 am – 04:00 pm Monday to Thursday** and between **08:30 am – 12:00 noon on Friday** at the organisation premises, House # 86, Mwai Kibaki road, Msasani Beach, Dar es salaam and at CWT Building, Soko Matola, Mbeya. All vehicles are fully paid for VAT and import duty except vehicle with Reg# T714ASJ.

S/N	MAKE	MODEL	REG #	YEAR	CONDITION	CC/TON	TRANSMISSION	BODY	COLOR	LOCATION
1.	Toyota	Hilux	T958DF	2015	Running	2494	Manual	Pickup	Super White	Dar es Salaam
2.	Toyota	Hilux	T518DDT	2015	Running	2494	Manual	Pickup	Super White	Dar es Salaam
3.	Toyota	Hilux	T307DFG	2015	Running	2494	Manual	Pickup	Super White	Dar es Salaam
4.	Toyota	Hilux	T714ASJ	2006	Running	2494	Manual	Pickup	Red	Mbeya
5.	Suzuki	DZIRE	T572BJJ	2010	Running	1298	Manual	Saloon	Beige	Dar es Salaam

Terms and Conditions of Sale:

- The vehicles are sold on a **'AS IS' and 'WHERE IS'** basis. Heifer Project International Tanzania is not responsible for undertaking any repairs that may be required on the vehicles.
- All Bids must be quoted in **Tanzania Shillings (TZS)**. Bids must be submitted with fixed offer. Those who offer certain percentages or amounts over any other bidder will not be considered. All bids must be registered upon delivery.
- The closing date for receiving bids is at **12:00 noon on Friday 19th June 2020**. All bids will be opened by the Procurement Committee at a tender opening ceremony to be held at Heifer International Tanzania Office premises on the closing date of the bids.
- All bidders are invited to participate in the opening ceremony to be held at Heifer Project International Tanzania office premises both in Mbeya and Dar es Salaam on Friday 19th June 2020 at 12:30 pm.
- Successful bidders will be notified of the results immediately after the bid opening ceremony.
- Successful bidders must pay the full BID PRICE amount for the selected vehicles within **7 (Seven)** days of being informed of the results.
- The buyer is fully responsible for paying all taxes, vehicle ownership transfer fees and any other charges that may arise from the purchase of vehicles.
- The Procurement Committee reserves the right to accept or reject bids and the right to make final decisions concerning the sale of vehicles.
- All vehicles must be collected within three working days from the date of full payment of the bid price and completion of transfer documents.
- All bids must be submitted in plain, sealed envelope(s), indicating the respective registration number of the vehicle(s) and bid amount and clearly marked **'Tender for Purchase of Used Motor Vehicles'** and hand delivered to:

Procurement Committee
Heifer Project International Tanzania
House No 86, Mwai Kibaki Road, Msasani Beach
P. O. Box 33814
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

&

Procurement Committee
Heifer Project International Tanzania
CWT Building, 4th Floor, Soko Matola, Mbeya
P. O. Box 344
Mbeya, Tanzania

215762801

NCCR Mageuzi announces plans to have the remaking of Tanzania's Constitution its agenda for Oct elections

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE opposition NCCR Mageuzi has announced plans to take the demand of the new constitution as its main agenda towards the country's General Election slated for October, this year.

Addressing a news conference yesterday here, NCCR Mageuzi National chairperson James Mbatia said that the party will continue demanding for the country to have a new constitution for the sake of all Tanzanians.

"We will solely take the constitution issue as our main agenda in this year's General Election. NCCR Mageuzi is the only party that initiated the agenda even before formulation of the then Coalition of Defenders of the People's Constitution literally known as Ukawa back in 2014," he said.

According to him, NCCR Mageuzi is carrying on the agenda with an opinion believing that a good and acceptable constitution facilitates unity, peace, humanity and considers dignity of every citizen of the nation regardless of their social and economic status.

He added: "One may ask why are we carrying on the demand for a new constitution agenda in the coming general election and the answer is because a good and acceptable constitution by the mass of the nation's citizen since it is a general public

voice with diverse perspectives leads to an outstanding agreement for the country's prosperity."

However, he asserted that NCCR is ready and willing to collaborate with any opposition political party that wishes so in the coming General Elections.

Mbatia called upon other opposition political parties not to abandon or run astray with their main agendas that they have already initiated and brought before the public with loud voices but haven't been fulfilled yet.

"It is worth enough that political parties hold debates concerning their ideologies and policies so that voters can have a chance to understand and decide what party to vote for."

Meanwhile, Mbatia said the party will next week announce procedures to be applied by its members who are willing to contest for different positions in the coming General Elections.

He said the party has been receiving a good number of new members who are joining the party both in urban and rural areas coming from both the opposition and the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

"I do not want to intervene with the party's constitution since everything is handled according to rules and regulations of the party but we are going to have a person who will run for the presidential seat," he added.



Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training minister Riziki Pembe Juma addresses Zanzibar Teachers College students yesterday, with colleges and universities across Tanzania having reopened after weeks of closures related to the global spread of Covid-19. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

RUKWA Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo has ordered the arrest of three officials of Nkasi District Council for embezzlement of the council's funds they had collected.

Wangabo gave Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) seven days to ensure the officials return the 27,674,300/= embezzled and if not they have to be taken to court as soon as possible and also warned the Council Executive Director and Ward

Wangabo orders arrest of three Nkasi officials over funds misuse allegations

Councillors over their failure to take steps against this embezzlement that was known to them for a long time.

"I am told the embezzlement concerns three council officials, one of them 8m/- and the other two 9m/- each,

the council authorities said steps have to be taken against them, but they did not give the time frame, since PCCB are here they should take concrete steps against the trio," the RC said.

He also said according to the report

of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) for FY 2018/2019, revenue collected by the officials without supporting documents to show it was banked totaled 47,725,415/- while 20,051,115 was remitted but the

officials cannot correct themselves, hence by 31, May 2020 reports say the revenue collected but not banked totaled 53,813,308.38/- hence he asked the PCCB to take steps against the officials.

Wangabo gave the directives on Wednesday at the councillors meeting that discussed implementation of issues raised by the CAG Report.

The regional commissioner's directives are among implementation of instructions from the Minister of State in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (RALG) Selemani Jafu who during his recent visit in Sumbawanga called on the RC to use state organs under his charge to deal with embezzlers of the council funds.



Preparations for the construction of buildings for a new Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) college in Mkinga District, Tanga Region, well under way yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

ARTISANAL gold miners in Butobela Ward in Geita Region have been forced to stop operations after lacking explosives that are used to grind rocks underground.

The situation is caused by the Coronavirus pandemic because the instruments are imported.

However, the miners have called upon the government to establish a special factory for manufacturing the machines within the Lake zone to be

Geita Region artisanal gold miners stop operating citing shortage of explosives

used for the purpose.

Speaking when they received support for the prevention of Coronavirus which was donated by a government owned Foundation for ASM Development - FADev the Director for Mtalingi gold Mine

Hamza Mohammed said the disease has affected operations of the company whereby it has retrenched 100 workers.

In his remarks, Abdallah Mtalingi who is also an artisanal miner at the area said lack of the machines has derailed

the development of operations at the gold mine.

"The machines are imported from South Africa but the Coronavirus pandemic has made it difficult for the machines not to come to the country hence stopping the operations," he

said.

He said apart from absence of the machines Coronavirus has also led to the slow of businesses within the mining areas.

"For us to mine we need to get money from business people who buy

Nzega District hands out 140 million/- in loans to tens of vulnerable groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Nzega

NZEGA District Council has handed out loans totaling 140m/- to 40 vulnerable groups in the district as part of efforts to empower community's special groups from its internal revenues.

The loans were handed out to the groups at a short ceremony yesterday in Nzega town.

Speaking at the event the Council's Executive Director (DED) Philemon Magesa said 24 women groups were given 74.54m/- whereas 11 groups for youths received 38m/- and five for people with disabilities received 27.5m/-.

Magesa also said in the January this year they handed out 70m/- in loans to various vulnerable groups.

Speaking after the handing over of the loans, Tabora Regional Commissioner Aggrey Mwanri called on the council's leadership to ensure they provide adequate education to those receiving the loans on the importance of loans repayment in time.

Mwanri said the step will enable the groups to use the money for the same

purposes they had applied for and not anything else including entertainment that will make them fail to repay.

The RC also advised the council's leadership to look into the possibility of loaning the groups with tools to enable them establish small factories.

Meanwhile, the RC directed the council's leadership to ensure 22.6m/- lent to various other groups is repaid so as to solve audit issues.

He said it is better for them to communicate with those concerned so that they show their repayment plans and if they cannot pay by their own accord they should be taken to court.



Magesa also said in the January this year they handed out 70m/- in loans to various vulnerable groups

the gold but due to the Coronavirus the business is slow, a move which has made our lives so difficult," he said.

The Director for FADev Tina Mwashia said her institution has decided to issue Covid-19 protection facilities to protect them because of the interactions that they have due to their operations

The safety gears donated include masks, sanitisers, water tanks and soaps as well as safety pamphlets that have been posted in all public places.



Karatu district commissioner Theresia Mahongo (L) and district administrative secretary Abbas Kayanda check a set of Covid-19 personal protective equipment and a loud speaker for use in public education campaigns after the items were presented to them on Wednesday by an agency known as Community Aid and Social Education Empowerment. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Guardian Reporter

THE war against Covid-19 in secondary schools and higher learning institutions in Dar es Salaam got a fresh boost yesterday after a local manufacturer of cables and wires, Africab Company donated water tanks to facilitate hand washing.

Over 65 secondary schools and 13 higher learning institutions are recipients of a total of 100 tanks, worth 50m/-, with volume capacity of 1000 litres each.

Education, Science and Technology Minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako officiated handing over ceremony held at the company's head offices in the city.

Prof Ndalichako stated that the support was timely considering that Form Six and higher learning institutions students have resumed classes amid ongoing fight against the pandemic.

The donation is expected to benefit about 6150 Form Six students.

Firm donates water tanks to boost war on Covid-19

The minister commended the company for extending a helping hand in supporting the government and showing patriotism for their country.

"These tanks are going to further create better learning environment in schools but at the same protect student's health," she said.

The minister reiterated call to the schools and colleges to continue adhering to guideline issued by the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children for containing the spread of the

disease.

On the other hand, Prof Ndalichako, who represented the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the event, hailed the company for implementing government's industrialisation agenda.

Africab Marketing Manager David Tarimo praised President John Magufuli for his decision to restrict imported industrial products.

"This has given us strength and encouragement to utilize local market opportunity by increasing production and come up with new products without compromising quality," Tarimo said.

The Africab is owned by Tanzanians, and profits obtained benefit Tanzania, he said.

For his part, Mohamed Ezz, Co-director of the company, also commended President Magufuli for creating good investment atmosphere.

"This has given us strength and encouragement to utilize local market opportunity by increasing production and come up with new products without compromising quality"

Over two billion/- to be spent on Musoma water projects during 2020/21

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

A TOTAL of 2.136bn/- is expected to be used for implementation of various projects under the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Musoma District, Mara Region, for the financial year 2020/2021.

Among the projects is the expansion of a water project from Lake Victoria in villages of Suguti and Wanyere to villages of Saragana whereby as of now it has reached the procurement stage.

This was said by the District Commissioner for Musoma Dr Vincent Anney when he spoke to this paper on improvement of water services in his district.

"At the same time Ruwasa is implementing another project in villages of Nyambono Ward and taking water to villages of Bugoji and Kaburabura," he said.

The DC added that Ruwasa was conducting a survey for the project of taking water from lake Victoria to villages of Chumwi to villages of Mabui, Merafuru, Mikuyu and Seka.

According to the DC, other projects for the financial year 2020/2021 includes to dig wells for pumping water from villages of Masinono, Muhoji and Kinyang'erere.

The DC named other huge projects as expanding the Lake Victoria to villages of Bulinga/Bujaga to Bugunda and Kome then Makojo to Chimati.

Apart from this, the DC said there was another project for the Great Lakes countries which will involve 33 villages around Lake Victoria to Butiama.

"Villages of Mugano and Tegeruka will be distributed with water, the ministry has already released funds for the project but we are in the process of finding a contractor for the project after the first one lacked the qualifications," he said.

He further said the water provided by Musoma Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MUWASA) is only used up to 50 percent and the project is meant to reach wards of Etaru, Nyegina, Nyakatende and Ifulifu.

MUHAS School of Dentistry given equipment for use by its new clinic

By Correspondent Zuweni Shame

A US-based NGO—Miracle Tanzania (MC-Tanzania) has donated dental equipment for a new faculty and graduate clinic at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science (MUHAS) aimed at expanding the school's ability to care for more patients and provide more specialised treatment.

The donation was presented by members of Miracle Corners Tanzania (MC-Tanzania) last month at MUHAS and the School of Dentistry whereby new dental equipment including chair units, cabinetry, and computers which were shipped from the United States were delivered at the university.

The new equipment will support a more effective structure to deliver dental services at the school as well as enabling the school to provide services that concentrate on patients with private insurance separate from MUHAS' general public clinics.

Dental specialised care is expected to improve with the high-tech equipment and support to the dental school as well as additional income at the same time supporting faculty and graduate students with additional opportunities to practice dentistry.

The donation of new equipment to MUHAS marks the fourth phase of support from Miracle Corners of the World (MCW Global), with the first phase dating back to 2007.

Previous phases included upgrades and renovations to all of the dental school's clinics, critical training, and dental equipment. The establishment of a Dental Laboratory and Digital Patient Record System and Imaging (X-ray).

MC-Tanzania is a locally registered Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) with a mission to contribute towards improving oral health and dental services through promotion, prevention, curative and rehabilitation.

The organisation aims to see communities throughout Tanzania live free from oral and dental diseases. MC-Tanzania is an affiliate of Miracle Corner of the World (MCW Global), which is a New York based non-for profit organisation.



INSURANCE GROUP OF TANZANIA LIMITED

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

1.1 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	Notes	2019 Tzs.	2018 Tzs.
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property and Equipment	2	351,750,757	310,332,610
Investments		354,625,000	354,625,000
TOTAL NONCURRENT ASSETS		706,375,757	664,957,610
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash in Hand and Bank	3	1,388,298,709	824,004,873
Fixed Deposits	4	1,455,572,295	1,336,506,907
Other Receivables Accounts	5	1,523,825,568	2,956,684,820
Premium Receivable	6	1,612,210,968	1,632,432,055
Taxation Account	11	663,786,358	579,996,741
Reinsurers Share of Tech. Provisions	14	782,505,539	690,769,301
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		7,426,199,436	8,020,394,697
TOTAL ASSETS		8,132,575,194	8,685,352,307
FINANCED BY			
EQUITY			
Share Capital		4,119,038,243	3,969,038,243
Contingent Reserve		1,817,826,633	1,810,613,988
Retained Earnings	7	(1,271,777,641)	(1,504,986,518)
TOTAL EQUITY		4,665,087,235	4,274,665,713
CURRENT LIABILITY			
Duties & other Taxes	8	94,967,766	331,008,048
Claims Payable with adjusted IBNR.	9	1,435,515,488	1,649,092,301
Other Payables Accounts	10	123,522,500	204,034,578
Unearned premium	13	1,225,846,487	1,028,001,691
Reinsurers Premium Payable		367,641,232	522,501,930
Bank overdraft		157,483,078	728,856,010
Provision for Audit Fees		20,000,000	20,000,000
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		3,424,976,551	4,483,494,558
NON CURRENT LIABILITY			
Deferred Tax liability	11	42,511,408	(72,807,964)
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		42,511,408	(72,807,964)
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		8,132,575,194	8,685,352,307

1.1 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019.

	Notes	2019 Tzs.	2018 Tzs.
Gross Written Premium	12	12,258,464,872	10,280,016,913
Gross Earned Premium	13	12,060,620,076	10,495,906,348
Outward Reinsurance	14	2,061,117,296	1,828,519,142
Net Earned Premium		9,999,502,780	8,667,387,207
Commission Income	15	572,761,120	418,779,761
Investment Income	16	91,630,651	92,025,171
Other Income	17	339,340,784	313,210,031
Total Other Income		1,003,732,555	824,014,962
Total Income		11,003,235,335	9,491,402,169
Less:			
Claims Expenses	18	4,278,322,040	4,966,357,700
Commission Expenses	20	2,529,911,496	1,883,480,142
Marketing Expenses	21	525,022,880	701,016,934
Operating Expenses	22	1,471,985,215	1,143,946,397
Professional Expenses	23	432,612,727	473,336,529
Staff Costs	24	1,031,827,603	1,036,700,152
Statutory Expenses	25	175,544,233	158,256,493
Depreciation	2	49,807,862	65,584,665
Total Expenses		10,495,034,057	10,428,679,012
Profit before Tax		508,201,278	(937,276,842)
Corporate Tax for the year	11(a)	152,460,383	-
Deferred Tax	11(b)	115,319,372	(95,766,811)
Net Comprehensive Income		240,421,522	(841,510,031)

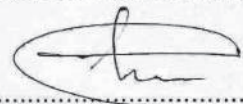
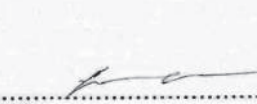
1.1 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019.

	2019 Tzs.	2018 Tzs.
From Operating Activities		
Profit before Tax	508,201,278	(937,276,842)
Add adjustable items:		
Fencing	-	7,600,000
Depreciation	49,807,862	65,584,665
Profit after noncash adjustments	558,009,140	(864,092,177)
Less:		
Increase in Fixed Deposits	119,065,388	(146,416,111)
Decrease in Other Receivables Accounts	(1,432,859,252)	704,979,746
Decrease in Premium Receivable	(20,221,087)	(2,867,136,888)
Increase in Reinsurers Share of Tech. Provisions	91,736,238	52,364,223
Decrease in Duties & other Taxes	236,040,283	(25,406,306)
Decrease in Claims Payable with adjusted IBNR.	213,576,813	153,362,673
Decrease in Other Payables Accounts	80,512,079	1,240,336
Increase in Unearned premium	(197,844,796)	215,889,436
Decrease in Reinsurers Premium Payable	154,860,697	819,280,303
Decrease in Bank overdraft	571,372,932	(232,228,766)
Tax paid during the year	236,250,000	337,500,000
Total change in working capital	52,489,294	(986,571,354)
Total flow from Operating Activities	505,519,846	122,479,177
From Investing Activities		
Property and Equipment	(91,226,010)	(126,871,989)
Total flow from Investing Activities	(91,226,010)	(126,871,989)
From Financing Activities		
Share Capital	150,000,000	-
Total from Financing Activities	150,000,000	-
Change in Cash equivalences	564,293,836	(4,392,813)
Balance b/d	824,004,873	828,397,685
Balance c/d	1,388,298,709	824,004,873

1.1 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019.

	Share Capital	Contingent reserves	Retained Earnings	Total
Bal. as at 01/01/2018	3,969,038,243	1,550,592,371	(403,454,870)	5,116,175,744
Comprehensive Income	-	-	(833,910,031)	(833,910,031)
Retained Earnings	-	260,021,616	-	260,021,616
Contingent reserves	-	-	(260,021,616)	(260,021,616)
Restatement of assets	-	-	(7,600,000)	(7,600,000)
				-
Bal. as at 31/12/2018	3,969,038,243	1,810,613,988	(1,504,986,518)	4,274,665,712
Bal. as at 01/01/2019	3,969,038,243	1,810,613,988	(1,504,986,518)	4,274,665,712
Comprehensive Income	-	-	240,421,522	240,421,522
Retained Earnings	-	7,212,646	-	7,212,646
New Issue of Share	150,000,000	-	-	150,000,000
Contingent reserves	-	-	(7,212,646)	(7,212,646)
				-
Bal. as at 31/12/2019	4,119,038,243	1,817,826,633	(1,271,777,641)	4,665,087,235

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements. The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorized for issue and signed on its behalf by:



 Chairperson Date 30/04/2020 Director

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Only broad, well-coordinated efforts will end illegal fishing

IN December 2017 the UN General Assembly in its annual resolution on sustainable fisheries proclaimed 5 June as the "International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing."

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) is an international issue around the world. Fishing industry observers believe IUU occurs in most fisheries. Illegal fishing takes place when vessels or harvesters operate in violation of the laws of a fishery. This can apply to fisheries that are under the jurisdiction of a coastal state or to high seas fisheries regulated by regional fisheries management organisations (RFMO). According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, illegal fishing has caused losses estimated at US\$23 billion per year, with about 30 per cent of illegal fishing in the world occurring in Indonesia alone.

Unreported fishing is fishing that has been unreported or misreported to the relevant national authority or RFMO, in contravention of applicable laws and regulations.

Unregulated fishing generally refers to fishing by vessels without nationality, vessels flying the flag of a country not party to the RFMO governing that fishing area or species on the high seas, or harvesting in unregulated areas.

The drivers behind illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing are similar to those behind many other types of international environmental crime: pirate fishers have a strong economic incentive - many species of fish, particularly those that have been over-exploited and are thus in short supply, are of high financial value.

Since no one reports catches made by pirates, their level of fishing cannot be accurately quantified.

One economic impact of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing on developing countries is the direct loss of the value of the catches that could be taken by local fishermen if the IUU fishing were not taking place.

These losses include a loss to GNP, and government revenues from landing fees, licence fees, and taxes payable by legal fishing operators. There are

further indirect impacts in terms of loss of income and employment in related industries; losses in income will tend to reduce the consumer expenditures of families working in the fishing industry.

IUU harvests may be brought to market at a lower price as unfair competition to the same products from the regulated supply or as a mislabeled competing product. In either situation this illegal unregulated contribution to the market may lower the overall quality and price of products available, thus creating an economic burden on harvesters following the laws and regulations.

IUU fishing can have a significant impact on the sustainability of both the targeted species and the ecosystem. Fishing generally has the capacity to damage fragile marine ecosystems and vulnerable species such as coral reefs, turtles and seabirds. In fact, all eight sea turtle species are now endangered, and illegal fishing and hunting are two major reasons for their destruction. Regulating legitimate fisheries is aimed at mitigating such impacts, but IUU fishers rarely comply with regulations. This may reduce future productivity and biodiversity and create imbalances in the ecosystem.

This may lead to reduced food security in communities heavily dependent on fish as a source of animal protein. The ocean is vast, and monitoring it for illegal fishing and enforcing laws that criminalise this activity continue to be big challenges. Many countries have insufficient resources for patrols at sea and remote surveillance, leaving much of their 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zones (EEZs) vulnerable to illegal operators. Many also lack sufficient regulations, oversight, or inspections at ports.

In the absence of an authority with the resources and mandate to police the world's oceans - or a standardised, global vessel identification and locator system - fishers can operate largely unfettered.

And with advances in technology, trawlers and other ships previously limited by geography can now reach the most remote marine areas. Vessels have also grown in size and number, and methods to catch fish have become even more effective.

Today's World Environment Day should see us working more to save planet Earth

WORLD Environment Day is a campaign established to bring some positive environmental changes all over the world to make life better and more natural. Environmental issues are big issues now-a-days to which everyone must be aware and give their positive efforts to solve such issues.

The Day is celebrated on 5 June every year, and is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of global environment. The Day has also grown to become a global platform for public outreach, with participation from over 143 countries annually.

First held in 1974, it has been a flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging from environmental issues to marine pollution, human overpopulation, and global warming, to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime.

In other words biodiversity is the variety and variability of life on Earth. Biodiversity is typically a measure of variation at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level.

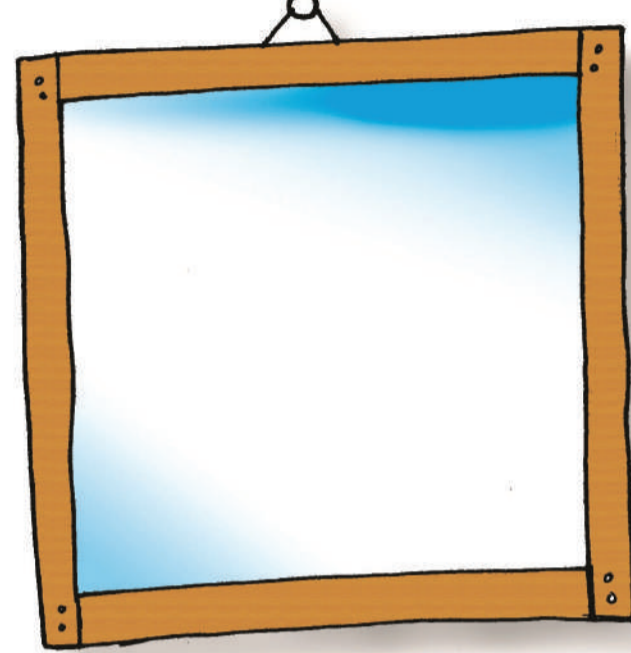
Terrestrial biodiversity is usually greater near the equator, which is the result of the warm climate and high primary productivity. Biodiversity is not distributed evenly on Earth,

and is richest in the tropics. These tropical forest ecosystems cover less than 10 per cent of earth's surface, and contain about 90 per cent of the world's species. Marine biodiversity is usually highest along coasts in the Western Pacific, where sea surface temperature is highest, and in the mid-latitude band in all oceans. There are latitudinal gradients in species diversity. Biodiversity generally tends to cluster in hotspots, and has been increasing through time, but will be likely to slow in the future.

Rapid environmental changes typically cause mass extinctions. More than 99.9 per cent of all species that ever lived on Earth, amounting to over five billion species, are estimated to be extinct. Estimates on the number of Earth's current species range from 10 million to 14 million, of which about 1.2 million have been documented and over 86 per cent have not yet been described.

More recently, in May 2016, scientists reported that 1 trillion species are estimated to be on Earth currently with only one-thousandth of one per cent described. In July 2016, scientists reported identifying a set of 355 genes from the Last Universal Common Ancestor (LUCA) of all organisms living on Earth. The age of the Earth is about 4.54 billion years.

Those who Benefited...
... from George Floyd's Killing



Here's how Africa can fight the COVID-19 pandemic

- COVID-19's impact on Africa could be much worse than elsewhere in the world
- African countries facing daunting challenges in combating the deadly coronavirus
- Policymakers should learn lessons from other countries' responses to the crisis

By Arkebe Oqubay

THE COVID-19 death toll is still mounting in the developed West, but the pandemic's impact on Africa could be much worse. African and international leaders must act boldly, decisively, and immediately to prevent a catastrophe.

Many African countries were ill-prepared to tackle the Ebola epidemic that erupted in 2014. And COVID-19 presents a much graver danger because it can spread exponentially, including via asymptomatic carriers, while African governments remain constrained by weak health-care systems, limited resources, and economic and spatial constraints on social-distancing measures.

Since Egypt reported Africa's first confirmed case of COVID-19 on February 14, the number of cases has risen to more than 10,000, with Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and South Africa each recording over 2,000. The continent's death toll already exceeds 500, implying a mortality rate well above the global average. This high death rate, together with the low number of confirmed cases, may reflect Africa's very low rate of COVID-19 testing.

Many African governments have signaled a readiness to respond to the pandemic. But designing measures that reflect reality, and ensuring that they are effective, will be difficult. Under South Africa's national lockdown, for example, the country's most vulnerable social groups are struggling to feed their families, cannot wash their hands regularly because they have no access to clean water, and cannot self-isolate if they live in crowded slums.

Other African countries - with far less developed social-welfare systems than South Africa - face even bigger challenges. According to the World Health Organization, the continent has just 1.06 nurses and midwives for every 1,000 inhabitants. And current evidence suggests that the belief that Africa's tropical climate will help to suppress the coronavirus is a myth.

In the coming weeks and months, millions of Africans may become infected with COVID-19. Researchers at Imperial College London recently estimated that, even under the most optimistic scenario, the virus would kill 300,000 people in Sub-Saharan Africa - not to mention the immense economic costs it would impose, owing to lost export revenues, severed supply chains, and plummeting demand.

African governments therefore must make COVID-19 their top priority,



African governments face numerous challenges, including limited resources and healthcare systems

and urgently design and implement ambitious, well-informed policies to combat it. After all, international support - although much-needed - is no substitute for resolute national action.

What is the World Economic Forum doing about the coronavirus outbreak?

A new strain of Coronavirus, COVID 19, is spreading around the world, causing deaths and major disruption to the global economy.

Responding to this crisis requires global cooperation among governments, international organizations and the business community, which is at the centre of the World Economic Forum's mission as the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

The Forum has created the COVID Action Platform, a global platform to convene the business community for collective action, protect people's livelihoods and facilitate business continuity, and mobilize support for the COVID-19 response. The platform is created with the support of the World Health Organization and is open to all businesses and industry groups, as well as other stakeholders, aiming to integrate and inform joint action.

As an organization, the Forum has a track record of supporting efforts to contain epidemics. In 2017, at our Annual Meeting, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) was launched - bringing together experts from government, business, health, academia and civil society to accelerate the development of vaccines. CEPI is currently supporting the race to develop a vaccine against this strand of the coronavirus.

For starters, African leaders must learn from countries that have already

experienced the pandemic, in the way that South Africa is drawing lessons from South Korea. Furthermore, it is vital that governments collaborate effectively, share their experiences of tackling the virus, mobilize experts - both local and from the diaspora - and strengthen their coordination with the WHO.

Indeed, every African government should coordinate action by private and public actors and civil society, but without resorting to force. And while governments should establish wartime-like organizational structures and seek to maximize coordination among national and local agencies, they should not use the crisis as an excuse permanently to constrain or remove individual freedoms. Rather, political leaders should encourage the public to hold them accountable for their management of the public-health crisis, and accept checks and balances on government power.

Africa has just 1.06 nurses and midwives for every 1,000 inhabitants

Managing the coming economic crisis also will be critical. This means reducing the damage to the most dynamic sectors as much and as early as possible, because more productive activities have bigger spillover effects and are crucial for recovery and large-scale employment. The biggest mistake would be to place all economic activities on an equal footing and try to make everyone happy.

Instead, policymakers should focus on export industries, which are vital to ensure foreign-exchange liquidity, ease balance-of-payments constraints, and generate employment. Encouraging services exports and high-value service activities is also critical, as is ensuring affordable food supplies.

Current and former African leaders,

prominent international figures such as former UK prime minister Gordon Brown, and organizations such as the International Monetary Fund have called for greater international cooperation to support Africa. But if the virtual G20 meeting in March is any indication, governments' current appetite for such efforts appears limited.

Nonetheless, international action is essential and must be guided by several critical principles. First, any support needs to focus on emergency health measures to help African countries to control the pandemic. Second, international cooperation must include development assistance to help countries manage economic crisis and humanitarian needs. It should also include support for foreign-exchange liquidity in order to limit insolvency and protect essential economic activities. And an economic-stimulus package, including a large new issue of IMF Special Drawing Rights and favorable terms for developing countries, is essential to a faster recovery.

Third, debt relief is indispensable. With their exports hard hit, African countries will not be able to afford the \$50 billion of debt payments that fall due this year. IMF and World Bank shareholders therefore should take the lead in waiving debt service for the coming years, not just for 2020.

Debt relief and new funding should be most generous for those African countries (typically non-resource-rich and less politically strategic) that are least able to borrow in commercial markets and least able to spend on building health-care systems. And while accountability is important, it would be wholly inappropriate to make such assistance conditional on specific market reforms.

Above all, the response to Africa's COVID-19 plight must be rapid and at scale. In a world where progressive global leadership is in short supply, and where rules-based global governance is under threat, this is a chance for African and international policymakers to take decisive action.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is showing the way in this regard, and not merely by acting swiftly at home. In his role as the African Union's Chair, he has appointed four of the continent's most respected leaders - Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Donald Kaberuka, Tidjane Thiam, and Trevor Manuel - as special envoys to negotiate debt relief. If the crisis in Africa is to be halted, similar dynamism will be needed elsewhere.

Post-Covid-19 chronicles : Is your career still relevant?

SO the last time I checked, I called myself a career woman. I am an averagely educated woman with a reasonable work experience and so I can pull that line of being a career woman. Am in the peak of my centenary and so as per societal expectations, I should not be employed but running my own outfit. This therefore means that from the above statements, it is not yet it.

Let me just get this done by saying that a job and a career are indeed related yet different. So according to <https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/career-vs-job,simple-definition> may be seen as, A job is something that is given to you, whereas a career is something that is created by you. The above site has more explanations for more clarity.

But then, early this year, when covid-19 hit the global atmosphere, suddenly only essential services are required, and only people of importance are out there. It is a medical situation so naturally medially related career jobs are practical. Yes but also, there are other things out here that are being deemed as essential too and thus still technically things are moving on as expected.

However, the reality is that this pandemic situation will soon be over - either over over or we learn to live with it kind of over. This then will mean that we need to figure out what will be our next move. Many of us have been off our regular desk top doing what we know best for the last few months and so being out here is a different place to be and or even appreciate.

In comes the social pressure about how we have handled this stay away from work situation. What have you learnt under this lock down - side hustle to start, or blah blah blah ... so it means that by the end - most people should have established a side hustle and or have a potential booming business plans and also be cleverer and street smart to be making their first million. - you must have seen this meme that circulated the media that said, if you don't Come out of this quarantine with a new skill, side hustle started and more knowledge then you never lacked time but discipline. Well it's a pandemic and not a progress contest but come on people...what did you do with all that free time?

Please note I am in no way patronizing all you hard working out of the box thinking people. Am told people are very different and we just hope and pray that they are able to withstand the lock down with sanity in place.

Truth is some jobs will be lost and almost no longer even considered jobs. Remember those days we had secretaries who used dictaphones and shorthand to write their bosses letters and then go and use a type writer? If you are below 30yrs of age this must be strange stuff to think life without the modern technology gadgets.

So post corona, what will become of our 'typewriter' people? What will become of those tasks and process that still went on well in our physical absence, our physical intervention was not required but life went on 'normal' - what ever that means? It may sound alarming but it could be true for some. Our jobs could be deemed as relics and hence done! This means that we may no longer be useful



in our current work space. So where do we go? What do we do with our selves henceforth? Does it mean we are no longer useful in the work space? Does our age also influence the way things will change now that the 'aged' were among the first to go and 'rest' and work from home. Actually some of these experienced staff were told to take early retirement in the name of they may be unwell and thus undue expose to the virus in the work place. This is real, even with all the number of years we have worked on a certain job, some of us may not have created a career out of it and this when the job ceases, what next?

Our jobs are dictated by the career we choose to have in life. A chef is not just a cook - there is some serious learning that has gone into making a chef vs the guy who brags about boiling an egg and makes black coffee. By the way, a chefs will still get these two done but you will tell the difference between the two meals.

Are we in panic mode yet, are there careers that are about to get obsolete?

During the lockdown, we have quite a number of companies close down since there was insufficient revenue being generated to sustain the business. And majority of the staff were indeed deemed as not essential staff during this period and thus had to just stay home. In fact only a few would confidently say that they had the ability to effectively contribute to the business continuity plan of the company.

So, what does this mean, to the rest who were told to work from home? Were they still productive enough to

sustain the company, I guess these are things we shall see eventually when this thing is over.

However, even at the moment, those business are still running with skeleton staff that are deemed to provide essential services.

So if majority of the staff can work from home and still have some level of productivity, then why should we still go back to work i.e. why should we still be cooped up in a box office for over 8 hours and yet we can still do the same from home?

We know profits will not be as expected, naturally we all made crazy new targets based on the previous year's productivity levels and yes, these were very attainable goals.

But then covid happened and everything just changed everything as we know it. In as much as the businesses have been affected, how has it affected you in your work space. When this thing dies down, will we still have our jobs, will be go back to our normal routine? - ohh, I will write about going back to normal soon. Yes will our jobs still be valid? Can I confidently tell

that what have been doing in January 2020 will still be useful to the company in July 2020?

So here is a question, what kind of career choice did you make, was it too rigid that it is too technical without the ability to be flexible to adopt to the growing changes? Or was it a skill that can be morphed into something useful for the new moment?

We spend so much time learning things and told we shall get a good job when we are certified at whatever level, and yet, at this moment, we may not be of any use to anyone? We have cases where certain people with skills that were deemed inferior and yet they are the team that is running the show.

Remember the janitor in school, who also doubled up as a plumber? Right now, they are very critical staff in our premises - not just the hospitals since they are using their cleaning skills to assist in the fumigating and cleaning of our work spaces. We who have worn many hats - woven in gold colored thread are currently working on algorithms to try and work on the exponential increase of these covid 19 numbers. Am not in any way trying to be little all the educated folks out there, oh gosh no.

But am just wondering what is this all about.

Is there a super career out there for people to pursue? People who are blessed with land and the amazing rain we have seen are busy making loads of money with their farm produce - because this is the situation that we are in. Suppose there

was massive drought, do those farms come in handy anymore? Are you a professor no longer writing papers of importance but currently in the farm with gum boots and harvesting the much needed healthy sweet potatoes in your farm?

During this season, many of us will lose jobs, yes that place we called - workstation will no longer be there for us to go back to. That is the sad reality however our careers will still allow us to continue with our lives. Question remains, so what are we expected to do with that which we do things.

Am honestly at a place where I cannot find a real answer to this query. Is there the most ideal career choice to withstand tough times? For now, I just feel there are going to be seasons where what one's choice of career will be at a peak and then flat line depending on the needs of the society. Even at this point, let me still

Remember that for one to be successful in their career choice, they MUST be fulfilling a need in the society. The reality is that once this covid situation is 'under control' we will need to ask ourselves very critical questions. How has this affected my career, can I still go on this way or what else can I do? Am I still relevant in this market, can I still go back to a job I was in about 2 or 2 months ago and still be effective, do I love what I do?

So for now, are we in a position to identify, what the society needs for us to be able to meet them? Or are we so stuck up with what we know and refuse to change?

College Comfort Zone

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It's a virtuous circle of opportunities at Canadian newspaper due to Covid-19

By Barbara Gorrard

GIVEN the flood of information about the current (Covid-19) pandemic, it's surprising to note that children have been almost completely left out of the loop. It's for this important group that La Liberté, a French-language weekly based in Manitoba, Canada, has chosen to return to the basics of its mission.

Journalists have a duty to recognise that they don't have all the facts. To be a journalist is to take a step back, to seek properly informed people, to discover various points of view, and to then cross-reference the data and, finally, to make all the information accessible to as many people as possible.

It is no wonder, then, that a "small" Canadian newspaper has assumed the task of painstakingly gathering information about the coronavirus for subsequent communication of the data in a way that children can clearly understand.

In less than five weeks, the paper's team fully designed, illustrated, funded and produced a 64-page magazine to explain how the human body fights viruses like SARS-CoV2.

It's in the nature of small newspapers like La Liberté to offer this kind of content, as they constantly have to reinvent themselves - often with limited means - or else run the risk of disappearing. La Liberté, which is 107 years, would not have survived without this drive to continue as well as to thrive and excel.

The start of the health crisis in March heralded the beginning of the end for several Canadian newspapers but Sophie Gaulin, editor-in-chief of the weekly, refused - in no uncertain terms - to let any such thing happen. To allow the drop in advertising revenues put an end to the paper's mission to be of real service to the public was simply out of the question.

She therefore decided to recruit Jean-Eric Ghia, a scientific director and professor of immunology, to the project. She also found more than 20 sponsors to deliver this first-ever science magazine for children and teenagers.

Eschewing the daily information race

that throngs newsrooms around the world, La Liberté's teams went knocking on many doors: those of professors, academics, and of the St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre - all those who could make a contribution to this educational endeavour.

Martine Bouchard, President and CEO of St. Boniface Hospital, immediately responded to the request by La Liberté's editor-in-chief.

"I was so pleased that St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre was able to contribute to this first-of-its-kind youth science magazine, using the local expertise of our educators from the Youth Biolab," she says.

Fully funded by sponsors and funders, this project was then distributed free of charge in digital version and in print not only to subscribers of La Liberté but also to subscribers of the English-language daily, the Winnipeg Free Press.

"A printed-form magazine is a way to reward our subscribers and those of the Winnipeg Free Press," notes Gaulin, adding: "Because in a world where information is given free of charge on almost all platforms, loyal subscribers must have a greater benefit. Since December 2019, we have been offering high-quality magazines. But this one is a little special, because it is for young people."

The magazine is also available online for free at la-liberte.ca. But, proof of the readers' attachment to their paper publication, it was the printed version that found the most resounding success.

"On the first day of publication, we received a lot of calls, emails and messages on social media by people interested in how to subscribe and when the next magazine would appear. In fact, two whole pages of responses from our readers were published in our weekly," said Gaulin, the editor-in-chief.

And the magazine is already slated to travel ... "A professor of microbiology at the University of Manitoba asked us for permission to reproduce the magazine and send it to schools in



Sierra Leone," says editor-in-chief.

A fundraising tool

If the positive response has allowed La Liberté to boost its subscriptions, there are other positives. One is that this brand new business model has a philanthropic component.

The newspaper has partnered with the Manitoba Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba to help in funding scientific research on the impact of Covid-19 on children. The back cover page has a message from the foundation's CEO, Stefano Grande.

The message expresses things quite clearly: "Manitoba Children's Hospital Foundation is proud to support this terrific made-in-Manitoba resource for children and parents to better understand viruses like Covid-19. As a parent, I want to help my children better cope in this time of unparalleled uncertainty. So, tools and resources like these that will help ease fears and anxiety about topics like keeping themselves, their friends, their grandparents healthy and safe are invaluable."

"Some of the money raised will cover the costs of creating and publishing the

magazine, and the rest will go to scientific research," says Gaulin, adding: "But if the funds exceed our expectations, the Foundation will then receive a credit to continue to advertise in our newspaper."

The result of this virtuous circle of dynamic energy is a magazine containing 64 colourful pages, duly and properly documented, that allows verified information about a disease still unknown to be communicated at a child's level.

And this is a human adventure that allowed a newspaper to retain its staff in times of health crisis, while participating in the advancement of medical

research. It's an experience that the director of La Liberté would be happy to share with her counterparts, through various networks of publishers.

In these times when good news seems to have almost disappeared, this one does a lot of good - in more ways than one.

La Liberté makes the content of its project available free of charge to any interested publisher.

• **Barbara Gorrard is an independent journalist based in France.**

The all-important question is how to get a Covid-19 vaccine to everyone

BY EMILY MULLIN

AFUTURE without the persistent threat of the coronavirus depends on a vaccine. Developing one is absolutely necessary “to return to a semblance of previous normality”, Francis Collins and Anthony Fauci of the US National Institutes of Health wrote in the journal *Science* on May 11.

With more than 100 vaccines in development and a handful of them already being tested in human volunteers, public health officials are cautiously optimistic that one could be available as early as next year.

Biotech company Moderna announced recently that its experimental Covid-19 vaccine produced an immune response in healthy participants in an early stage trial, but it still has a lot to prove.

The success of a vaccine hinges not only on its ability to protect against Covid-19 infection but also on how it's rolled out to the public.

Operation Warp Speed, the ambitious plan to rapidly develop a vaccine unveiled by the Trump administration on May 15, could play a crucial role in curbing the coronavirus pandemic in the United States.

The idea is to produce hundreds of millions of doses for Americans by January 2021, but it doesn't detail a plan for getting them to citizens.

A huge number of people will need to receive a vaccine in order to stop the spread of the coronavirus and establish herd immunity - the point at which most of the population is protected against an infectious disease.

To achieve herd immunity against Covid-19, experts estimate, around 70 per cent or more of the population may need to be immune. And, since no vaccine is 100 per cent effective, the

more people who are vaccinated, the better.

Getting a vaccine to all the people who need one will take a massive effort, both in the US and around the world. There has never been a global immunisation campaign on the scale that will be needed to distribute a Covid-19 vaccine.

If and when a vaccine does become available, there likely won't be enough doses to give to everyone at once. That means that governments will need to prioritise who gets it first.

“What it's probably going to look like is a phased-in approach, with vaccines being rolled out to different target populations at a time,” says Maria Elena Bottazzi, associate dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and co-director of Texas Children's Hospital Centre for Vaccine Development. Healthcare workers are an obvious first priority, since doctors, nurses, paramedics, nursing home workers and other frontline responders are at high risk of contracting Covid-19 from infected patients.

Moderna said in March that its vaccine could be available to healthcare workers as soon as this autumn. But that's assuming that a lot goes right.

Though Moderna's vaccine is one of the most advanced coronavirus vaccines in development, there's no proof yet that it can protect people against infection if they're exposed to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

Determining who should be in line to get a vaccine after healthcare workers will be a fraught decision. Adults aged 65 years and older are among the most vulnerable to severe illness and death from Covid-19, so it would make sense to protect them against infection. Prioritising them could help prevent hospitalisations, freeing up hospitals that have



been overwhelmed with sick Covid-19 patients. But some experts have raised concerns that a vaccine might not work as well in older people because the aging body tends to be less responsive to vaccination. Older adults generally don't mount the level of immune response that you might hope for,” says Lois Privor-Dumm, director of policy, advocacy, and communication at the International Vaccine Access Centre at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

She says making sure that older adults get vaccinated is more difficult than it is for children. In the US, childhood immunisation rates are more than 90 per cent for most vaccines.

That's largely because infants get regular doctor visits before they turn two years and because states have vaccination requirements for daycares and schools. Older adults might not be aware that they should get vaccinated for certain infections like flu, pneumonia and shingles.

While vaccine programmes have focused on children, Covid-19 is unlike many infectious diseases in that it doesn't seem to cause serious symptoms in most

children who get it. However, infected children can still pass the virus to others who may be at higher risk. Whether children should get a coronavirus vaccine before some adults will need to be debated.

Getting a vaccine to a large number of people could depend on what form it comes in and how many doses will be needed to provide an optimal immune response. A vaccine that requires two or more doses could complicate a rollout. Research on some multidosed vaccines, like the human papillomavirus vaccine, shows that many don't always get the necessary doses.

A potential complication of a vaccine rollout is that injectable vaccines need to be given by healthcare professionals. This means that the number of people who could administer a vaccine is limited - and that could slow its distribution.

Privor-Dumm says that vaccine developers should be thinking about other formulations, like oral vaccines or skin patches that could be more easily delivered, especially to children. Oral vaccines, which are given by squeezing drops into a child's mouth, have been used for decades to prevent infections like polio, rotavirus, cholera and typhoid.

Skin patches are being investigated for a Covid-19 vaccine, but their effectiveness still needs to be proven. If they work, they could be delivered through the mail and applied like a Band-Aid.

The cost of a vaccine is another consideration. Vaccines are generally covered by health insurance without a co-pay. But many low-wage workers who are at higher risk of contracting the coronavirus, such as those who work in grocery stores, meatpacking plants and warehouses, may not have insurance. Government officials will need to figure out where people will get vaccinated. Requiring people to go to their regular healthcare provider could overwhelm doctors' offices and some workers may not be able to take time off to get a vaccine.

Vaccinating people at workplaces, schools or community centres could ensure that more people get vaccinated. Drive-through locations, like those that have opened for coronavirus testing across the US, could also be used, but other options will be needed to accommodate people who don't have access to a car.

“One of my concerns is that the people that need to get the vaccine

most may not be able to access it,” Privor-Dumm says, adding: “We need to make it convenient for people in places of risk to get a vaccine.”

Hannah Kettler, director of vaccine financing and partnerships at Seattle-based nonprofit global health organisation PATH, says that it's worth considering that a vaccine will need to be distributed as social distancing policies are still ongoing, or perhaps revived, in some areas.

That raises the question of how to logistically get a vaccine to people who are spread out and staying at home. Vaccination campaigns involve immunising large numbers of people at a time. Even in a future where social distancing policies are relaxed, some still may not feel safe venturing out of their homes to go to a crowded place.

It will also be challenging to deliver vaccines to countries with weak healthcare systems, remote populations, and war zones. Many vaccines rely on a “cold chain”, a system of storing and transporting vaccines at certain temperatures in order for them to remain effective.

Kettler says that issues of delivery aside, rolling out a coronavirus vaccine will require a “massive scale of manufacturing capacity” in order to produce enough doses.

“There will need to be a combination of expanding on existing manufacturing capacity and also investing in new manufacturing capacity,” she notes.

Drug companies are pledging to deliver. The US government has inked a US\$1.2 billion deal with AstraZeneca to secure at least 300 million vaccine doses. The British drugmaker has licensed an experimental vaccine from the University of Oxford. And Johnson & Johnson says it is determined to produce 1 billion vaccine doses next year.

But it will take more than that to meet worldwide demand. “The ability to manufacture hundreds of millions to billions of doses of vaccine requires the vaccine-manufac-

turing capacity of the entire world,” wrote Collins, Fauci and their co-authors Lawrence Corey and John Mascola in the May 15 *Science* article. And manufacturing delays are almost certain, though some vaccines are easier to manufacture than others. Genetic vaccines, like the one Moderna, BioNTech, Inovio Pharmaceuticals and others are developing, could in theory be manufactured more quickly than traditional vaccines.

The main components of genetic vaccines - synthetic DNA or RNA - are cheap and easy to produce in the lab. Moderna was able to manufacture and ship doses of its RNA-based vaccine to the NIH for human testing in a matter of weeks.

However, genetic vaccines are not yet proven to work in people, and so far none have ever been licensed for sale, so no one is producing them in large quantities yet.

Bottazzi warns against being too optimistic about vaccines that rely on new technologies because they have never been scaled up before. Her institution, Baylor College of Medicine, has partnered with PATH to develop a so-called subunit vaccine. The approach uses small fragments from a pathogen (disease-causing organism), as opposed to a weakened or killed version of the whole thing, to stimulate the immune system. Many licensed vaccines - like those for hepatitis B, HPV, and whooping cough - are made using this method.

Bottazzi says a vaccine based on this type of existing technology could be scaled up faster because “many manufacturers already have all the capabilities, infrastructure and expertise” to do it.

But established methods of making vaccines have their pitfalls, too.

Emily Mullin is a staff writer covering biotech and Covid-19 at OneZero, a Medium publication about tech and science.

Can we get a Covid-19 vaccine early? See how the rich have been preparing

By Max Abelson

York.

ONE investor may fly to Idaho with or without family. A doctor in a Colorado ski town is soothing wealthy clients who want a cure. And one New Yorker called up the hospital with his name on it. This is some history.

Like everyone across the US, the rich have been bracing for a deadly coronavirus outbreak. Ken Langone, the co-founder of Home Depot Inc., watched President Donald Trump's press conference and wondered if the media were overplaying the risk - but he also made two well-placed phone calls from his winter outpost in North Palm Beach.

One was to a top executive of NYU Langone Health, and the other was to a top scientist there. Both were reassuring.

“What I've been told by people who are smarter than me in disease is, ‘As of right now it's a bad flu,’” said Langone, an 84-year-old who loves capitalism so much that he wrote a book called “I Love Capitalism!”

He was planning to return to New York for an appointment. If he happened to feel sick, he would go to NYU Langone, and said he'd expect no special treatment.

Some billionaires, bankers and other members of the US elite are calm, others are getting anxious and everyone is washing their hands. But the rich could afford to prepare for a pandemic with perquisites, like private plane rides out of town, calls with world-leading experts and access to luxurious medical care.

“It's been a full-on war-room situation over here. We have to beg, borrow or steal. Well, not steal - beg, borrow and pay,” said Jordan Shlain, an internist and managing partner of Private Medical, a high-end concierge service.

The company is procuring hundreds of full-body coverings for work that includes visits in San Francisco, Silicon Valley, Los Angeles and New

Just Asking

Tim Kruse, a doctor who makes house calls in Aspen, Colorado, meanwhile said: “The wealthy aren't going to necessarily have access to things that the common person is not going to have access to.”

However, he said that hadn't stopped them from asking if they could get their hands on a coronavirus vaccine, adding: “The answer is no. They just want to know.”

Confirmed coronavirus cases - and fatalities - worldwide have kept rising. The World Health Organisation once raised its global risk assessment for the illness to “very high”. Fear over the economic fallout has shaken global markets.

One co-founder of a major hedge fund, who asked not to be named discussing his plans, said he'd run in the other direction if his peers started fleeing into doomsday bunkers.

He might fly to a house he has in Italy, a country that the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention once advised Americans to avoid. Widespread panic, he added, would only make plane tickets cheaper.

Charles Stevenson, an investor who was the longtime board president at a Park Avenue co-op that's home to several billionaires, has been staying in Southampton.

“I don't feel concerned at the moment - it's not near me right now. If people in the village have coronavirus, I'd get out of here,” he said.

He would fly to Idaho and close himself off in a cabin - and his family could join him if they wanted, he said, adding: “That becomes a personal choice of theirs.”

Wealthy couples who aren't used to actually spending time together would be in for trouble, according to Mitchell Moss, who studies urban policy and planning at New York University.

“This is going to destroy the marriages of the rich. All these husbands and wives who travel will now have



to spend time with the person they're married to,” he said.

Davos Nightmare

Trump is on the record as having predicted that the virus will disappear “like a miracle,” while Democrats outlined demands for funding that include a guarantee of an affordable vaccine.

Face masks don't effectively prevent the public from catching coronavirus, according to US Surgeon General Jerome Adams, though health-care providers are at risk if they can't get the items. “Seriously people,” Adams wrote on Twitter, “STOP BUYING MASKS!”

Jewel Mullen, associate dean for health equity at the University of Texas at Austin's Dell Medical

School, said millions of Americans can't afford to stock up on supplies, miss work or have a steady doctor to call for advice - even on a good day.

“Resources like money and transportation and information give people head starts on protective and preventive measures, and can help create more comfortable scenarios for people to cope with disasters,” said Mullen.

The internist and epidemiologist, once commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Public Health, added: “That's where you really get to see disparate needs.”

JPMorgan Chase & Co., the biggest bank in the US, stopped employees from going on any inessential business trips. It joined a string of other corporate giants in restricting travel, splitting up

teams and traders to different locations, or quarantining staff.

Jamie Dimon, the bank's chief executive officer, said not long before the announcement that he had dreamed he and other billionaires contracted the coronavirus during January's World Economic Forum in Switzerland.

“I had this nightmare that somehow in Davos, all of us who went there got it, and then we all left and spread it,” Dimon said during the bank's annual investor day.

“The only good news from that is that it might have just killed the elite,” he noted. His audience laughed to themselves.

FAO calls for resilient systems in Africa's food supply chains amid Covid-19

By Charles Ayitey

AS the coronavirus tears the global economy into a recession, one grave concern for millions of households has been the impact this will have on food prices security in Africa.

FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa Abebe Haile-Gabriel explained that building resilience is the solution to increased vulnerability in food supply chains due to coronavirus.

"Covid-19 strikes at the centre of Africa's unique vulnerability.

There are mechanisms to mitigate the pandemic's impacts on Africa's most vulnerable people. Building the resilience of vulnerable communities and agricultural systems is the sustainable solution," he stated.

Already, there has been a national debate over the cost of foodstuff at various market centres amid the Coronavirus pandemic with the Agric Minister, Owusu Afriyie Akoto insisting "cost of food is so far the lowest even in cities like Accra".

Of the 135 million people globally who are estimated to be ex-

periencing crisis levels of acute food insecurity, more than half live in Africa.

According to recent FAO analysis, in the absence of timely and effective policies, millions of more people around the world are likely to join the ranks of the hungry as a result of the Covid-19-triggered recession.

Haile-Gabriel set out the main challenges facing governments and humanitarian and development partners in supporting vulnerable communities to weather this latest crisis. The region's agriculture sector has been hit by

three shocks in three years: Fall Armyworm beginning in 2018, Desert Locust swarms that began in 2019, and now Covid-19. At the same time, already-fragile communities are grappling with conflict, drought and floods.

Food preservation capacities in Africa are low, including for fresh fish, and therefore losses have been significant, he said. The lockdown in urban areas meant fish markets closed, so fish value chain actors were negatively affected, and restaurant closures reduced demand.

The self-employed and wage

workers in the informal economy are particularly vulnerable to the pandemic's effects.

They include women, youth and migrant workers and, without effective social protection measures, they disproportionately bear the brunt of the pandemic's resulting underemployment, unemployment and loss of livelihoods.

Africa also has a heavy reliance on food imports, and border closures and other restrictions have meant people's access to healthy diets has been reduced, especially in countries already affected

by high levels of food insecurity.

Turning to solutions, the Assistant Director-General said FAO's enhanced advocacy at all levels helped to reopen or keep food and agriculture supply chains alive. "The concerted actions of FAO, together with other like-minded partners, have contributed towards exempting food supply chains from the lockdowns through defining them as essential services," he said.

He also said FAO's advocacy helped keep supply chains open so that measures to control the Desert Locust outbreak in East

Africa - "a crisis within a crisis" - could continue.

FAO Africa is focusing not only on short-term measures but medium- and long-term responses as well. Technical assistance for socio-economic assessments, and data and knowledge sharing are supporting evidence-based policy formulation and implementation.

Countries and partners must plan now for a better recovery, to steer Africa towards a more resilient and sustainable path. Otherwise, hard-won gains to reduce hunger and poverty are at risk.

Tanzania marks Environment Day in innovative style amid Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

EVERY year on June 5th, World Environment Day is celebrated to encourage worldwide awareness and action to protect the environment.

The day engages governments, businesses, celebrities, and citizens to focus their efforts on a pressing environmental issue. But, this year, the day is being celebrated in new and innovative styles due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

Being part of the international community, Tanzanian government has issued a number of ways that will make people celebrate the global event safely against the novel coronavirus.

Mussa Azzan Zungu, the minister of State, Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) said: "There will be no public gathering during this year's World Environment Day due to the outbreak of the pandemic."

Instead, he said that the day will only involve campaigns through the media, where educational programmes would be aired by local televisions and radio stations.

"Equally, the awareness campaign shall be carried out in social media, essay writing competitions, and music that educates people on the effects of Climate Change and environmental pollution, as well as aired speeches from government leaders," the minister said. He added that other activities will include campaign clarifications, and sensitizing the locals on ways to prevent environmental degradation as well as protecting themselves against the Covid-19 infections.

The idea is to ensure that people abide by the directives from the ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children on public gatherings as a preventive measure against the pandemic, he said.

This year's World Environment Day nationally would be marked in the

Southern Region of Lindi with the theme: 'Environmental protection for curbing impacts of Climate Change.'

According to the minister, every region will have to mark the World Environment Day through different media outlets in their areas and social media in line with this year's theme. This will also be in line with organizing essay competitions on ways to curb climate change, leaders' speeches, sending different messages in mobile phones as well as virtual meetings that involve climate change experts.

"All these are to ensure that we avoid public gatherings," Zungu said.

He however revealed that the nation is facing serious environmental challenges, mostly caused by unsustainable use of natural resources such as wantonly tree felling for fuel wood, timber and agriculture, which destroy water sources, and loss of biodiversity.

In turn, he said: "These unsustainable activities affect the country economically and socially."

In addressing these challenges, the government in partnership with different stakeholders has been taking various measures such as public education on the importance of conserving environment for sustainable development, he said.

He described this year's theme: 'Environmental protection for curbing impacts of Climate Change' as relevant to Tanzania's situation, saying that in recent years the country witnessed a number of environmental issues such as severe and frequent drought, and floods which led the nation into loss that led into destruction of infrastructures, settlements and deaths in some parts of the country.

Citing recent floods that hit Lindi Region, Zungu said that 16 villages were affected with the disaster and killing 19 people. According to him, 15,000 people were rendered homeless and without food and some were affected with waterborne diseases.



This year's theme also encourages the use of different traditional ways and friendly technologies to conserve the environment including the use of drip irrigation, alternative energy, animal husbandry by using improved varieties and planting natural trees in water sources to address impacts caused by climate change.

National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka called upon Tanzanians to continue with environmental protection by planting trees, protecting water sources and engages in sustainable economic activities.

According to him, the public should continue planting trees, protecting water sources while also adhering to the rules and regulations so as to fight the impacts brought by climate change.

"Human being activities along restricted areas including forests have affected our environment a lot, so we should all together make sure that we avoid cutting trees and other destructive activities. Everyone has a role to play here, it should not be left to the government alone," he said.

Dr Gwamaka noted that the wave of massive pollution is also apparent on water sources and catchment areas, something which further needs the community themselves to be in the forefront to fight the activities.

He said that Tanzanians should use the celebrations to reflect on the importance of the environment for the benefit of the present and future generations, describing the global event as important event for Tanzanians and the international community as it reflects and take steps in the pro-

tection of the environment including planting of trees and other tasks.

According to him, climate change is the main cause of environmental degradation and the society should take bold steps to confront the situation.

The theme for World Environment Day 2020 is biodiversity - a concern that is both urgent and existential as per the United Nations official website. Recent events, from bushfires in Brazil, the United States, and Australia to locust infestations across East Africa - and now, a global disease pandemic - demonstrate the interdependence of humans and the webs of life, in which they exist.

The theme focuses on 'time for nature' and providing the essential infrastructure that supports life on Earth and human development.

Every World Environment Day is

hosted by a different country, in which official celebrations take place. This year's host is Colombia in partnership with Germany. This year, millions of people will be celebrating digitally due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The day was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 on the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, resulting from discussions on the integration of human interactions and the environment.

In 1974 the first World Environment Day was held with the theme "Only One Earth". Even though the World Environment Day celebration has been held annually since 1974, in 1987 the idea for rotating the center of these activities through selecting different host countries began.

UNFPA welcomes WB's approval of an additional \$376 million to advance women's and girls' empowerment in Africa

DAKAR,

THE World Bank's Board of Directors has authorized the execution of the second phase of the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend (SWEDD) project. This ambitious and innovative project works to accelerate the demographic transition and reduce gender inequalities. The World Bank has granted an additional amount of \$376 million, bringing its overall investment to \$680 million to strengthen human capital and impact African countries development.

"The World Bank believes that there can be no sustainable economic growth without women's empowerment, and considers the full participation and inclusion of girls and women as a key factor in the continent's progress," insists Deborah Wetzell, Director of Regional Integration in Africa at the World Bank.

Phase 2 of the project will intensify activities in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Mauritania extend them to two new countries: Cameroon (\$75 million) and Guinea (\$60 million).

Welcoming the authorization of SWEDD 2, Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, declared, "an investment in women and girls is an investment in a more equitable future."

Recalling the importance of investing in human capital, Mabingue Ngom, UNFPA Regional Director for

West and Central Africa, said, "The authorization of SWEDD II is a game-changer in our efforts to empower women and improve on the lives of girls and women in the Sahel."

It will certainly accelerate a demographic transition, and fast-track transformative shift in the region. Our gratitude to The World Bank for the support to scale-up this project as we strive towards more successful interventions."

In addition to the strategic axes and interventions of Phase 1, the integration of laws and regulatory, religious and customary standards, and the prevention and better response to violence against women will be in the foreground.

The investments will also facilitate access to essential medicines, including the delivery of contraceptives at the community level, and strengthen the capacities of midwives to work with women and adolescent girls in the rural areas.

One of the important components of SWEDD 2 focuses on strengthening the legal frameworks that support women's rights to health and education.

The activities funded by the project were defined at national and regional level following consultations between parliamentarians, judges and lawyers, in the countries covered by the SWEDD project and beyond.

They relate to strengthening legis-



lation and the capacity of the judiciary, as well as promoting the dissemination and application of existing legislation in communities where harmful practices are widespread.

In addition, the project has been enriched by the African Union (AU) being a new strategic partner.

Bringing together 55 states, the AU is the continent's largest intergovernmental organization and, as such, it constitutes a leading forum for social and economic transformations.

This partnership will consolidate the AU's capacity to serve as a frame-

work for the codification of political and legal reforms, to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and to communicate progress made in areas related to the promotion of women's empowerment in the continent.

The SWEDD project is in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, as well as national strategies of the various beneficiary countries. It also contributes to the World Bank Group's regional integration and cooperation assistance strategy, which emphasizes human capital develop-

ment and focuses in particular on promoting the economic empowerment of women.

The SWEDD regional initiative is a concerted response between the United Nations and the World Bank to the call for action launched in 2013 by Heads of State on demographic challenges in the Sahel. Phase 1 of the project was implemented between 2015 and 2019 (SWEDD 1) in seven countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger), and later Benin. With The

World Bank provides the financial support, while the technical support and overall coordination is from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as well as from the West African Health Organization (WAHO).

As an agency in charge of population and reproductive health issues, the choice of UNFPA is all the more justified as the axes of intervention of SWEDD are in line with the mandate and approach of the agency. UNFPA through its West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO), which provides the Regional Technical Secretariat (STR), has established implementation mechanisms thanks to a dedicated team, supported by a pool of international and national consultants and SWEDD focal points in UNFPA Country Offices. Coordination by UNFPA was supported by specialized partners and the conduct of the regional and promote social and behavior change communicate campaign.

In four years, SWEDD has contributed to a positive development in the areas of psychosocial skills and knowledge of young girls in sexual and reproductive health, to keep them in school and to widen their economic prospects. Key indicators

focusing on girls' education, adolescent fertility, family planning, mother and child health, child dependency ratio and raising the age of marriage have seen significant improvements.

Government needs strategic measures to boost domestic resources, curb COVID-19

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

It is estimated that the economic cost of the virus will exceed USD 1 trillion, putting increasing pressure on countries already crippled by a new debt crisis.

Many countries in Africa are now spending over 20 percent of government's revenue on repaying their debts; with Angola and Ghana both spending over 55 per cent.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends governments spend 4-5 per cent of GDP on health. But in Africa the average is 1.5 per cent...

Hospitals face staff shortages, WHO also recommends that there should be at least 44.5 physicians per 10,000 people. But in Zambia there are 12. Eight in Uganda; and just two in Tanzania.

Speaking over the weekend in Dar es Salaam on health and budget in the wake of COVID-19 during Policy Forum virtual debate, Child Right Governance Specialist from Save the Children International Tanzania, Neema Bwaira said that COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented devastation and a worldwide economic standstill of which Tanzania is not invulnerable.

The health, education, agriculture and tourism sectors have taken a massive hit and livelihoods both in the formal and informal sectors have also been negatively affected.

She further noted that according to the World Bank Group Report on Africa's Pulse of April 2020, the widespread sustained community transmission could prove difficult to manage in Sub-Saharan Africa, given the region's weak health systems, including understaffed medical personnel and the lack of hospital beds and equipment, which could lead to a high level of deaths.

Tanzania is already confronting multiple health challenges, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and non-com-

municable diseases, meaning millions of people may be more at risk of serious complications from this respiratory virus.

Bwaira noted that despite the government efforts to recruit 1630 health workers and distributed them to primary health facilities, yet the shortage of health workers was still high at 52 per cent, as indicated in the Mid Term Review of the Fourth Health Sector Strategic Plan (MTR HSSP IV,2020). "With COVID 19 outbreak there will be significant shortage," she said.

The World Bank Group report also explained the fiscal measures taken by the government of Tanzania to enhance preparedness and its containment capacity including measures to strengthen detection and surveillance capacity at points of entry such as airports and border-crossing sites, and training of medical staff on case management, risk communication and community engagement.

She also revealed that from the Minister of Health budget speech of 2020/21, the government also recruited 120 short-term staff in all cross-country borders in order to strengthen the check points for COVID 19.

For the FY 2019/20, the government of Tanzania (GoT) allocated amount of Tsh 1,950 billion for the health sector; equivalent to 5.9 per cent of the total government budget.

The overall trend of budget allocation for the Health sector has been declining for the past two years consecutively.

For instance, Health sector budget allocation has gone down by 5.1 per cent from 2,054 billion/- in the FY 2018/19 to 1,950 billion/- in the FY 2019/20. Again the Health Ministry Budget for Vote 52 has also gone down for FY 2019/20 to 959 billion/- and FY 2020/21 900 billion/-.

One of the 2020/21 priorities that the Ministry of Health identified is to strengthen the national readiness Programme to deal with epidemics, accidents and disasters. Therefore,



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Minister, Umy Mwalimu. File photo.

according to the minister's speech only 440 million Tanzania shillings has been estimated and tabled for approval.

For his part, Head of Department of Health Governance and Finance with Sikika, Daniel Mugizi commenting on the shift of funding from the Ministry of Health towards Local Government, said that development budget allocation decreased by 34 per cent to Tsh361 billion in 2020/21 (48% of health sector development allocation), down from 544 billion/- in 2019/20 (68% of health sector development allocation).

He further said that Regional Administrative Secretariats development budget allocation increased by 51% to 368 billion/- in 2020/21 (49% of health sector development allocation), up from 244 billion/- in 2019/20 (31% of health sector development allocation in 2019/20).

Regarding the reduction of funding from development partners (Global Fund) in MoHCDGEC-H, Mugizi said that Global Fund contribution to development has decreased by 79.5 per cent to 46 billion/- in 2020/21 (41% of development allocation) down from 224 billion/- in 2019/20 (12.7% of the 2019/20 development allocation).

World Bank contribution has decreased by 84.8 per cent to 46 billion/- in 2020/21 (12.7% of development allocation) down from 224 billion/- in 2019/20 (41% of the 2019/20

development allocation). Funding has shifted to other areas of health sector.

He further said that HIV & AIDS development budget allocation has decreased by 66 per cent to 40 billion/- in 2020/21, down from 120 billion/- in 2019/20.

Impact on HIV & AIDS sector is from 78.6 per cent decrease in Global Fund allocation to 25 billion/- in 2020/21, down from 118 billion/- in 2019/20. The decrease has mainly impacted the HIV & AIDS Control Programme in the MoHCDGEC-H budget.

Potential risk of a funding gap in HIV & AIDS sector may disrupt progress that has been done to halt

the spread of the virus. The total allocation to the Health Sector (development + recurrent) has actually increased slightly due to efforts by GoT to increase allocations to recurrent budget and development budget, and increased allocation from other development partners to development allocation to the health sector.

"Resource mobilisation should be prioritised to mitigate funding risks," he urged. Agaim, Bwaira said that with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is obvious that revenue collection during the second half of the year will be highly affected. Although the period between July 2019 and January 2020 witnessed revenue collection targets hitting high levels of 97 per cent.

Tax payment deadlines could be deferred for two months to provide liquidity to the private sector and allow retention, reopening, and recovery.

Beneficiaries could be those from most affected sectors like tourism transport and others.

Following the budget falling trend for health sector, the government should have strategic measures to increase domestic resources to ensure funding sustainability within the health sector and to efficiently curb COVID 19.

The budgeted 440 million is very low to put appropriate measures for COVID 19 response and recovery including costs of testing centres, purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers, improvement of health system, and wash facilities in public spaces including schools.

According to the latest ActionAid report entitled 'Who cares for the future? Transform the Financing of Gender Responsive Public Services' shows that Tanzania was spending 19.54 per cent of its revenue in debt servicing, which is beyond the IMF recommended 9 per cent to 15 per cent.

This compromises the government's capacity to deliver its obligations. The government should suspend all debt payments and renegotiate future debt servicing in the context of COVID-19.

Take measures that shield the private sector from collapse, protect jobs and hence protect the government's vital tax base.

Government credit guarantees and additional loans: Through the banking system, viable SMEs could get relief from cash flow stress caused by the COVID-19 slowdown by being able to access credit at partial guarantee (60-70%).

This fiscal tool can help a section of the business community stay afloat and in turn help the economy stabilize.

Covid-19 and South Africa: The end of the beginning or the beginning of the end?

By Robert Roy Britt

SOUTH Africa is approaching a tipping point in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, beyond which the government may find itself standing by quite helplessly and increasingly isolated in the coming months. Following one estimate, the country may reach that tipping point in November, when between 40,000 and 45,000 South Africans are projected to die from Covid-19.

We may, then, reach the point that in Melayu is called habis which, directly translated, means "finished" - but when applied to politics, it refers to a moment when everything is so messed up that it can no longer be corrected, and when damage to society

can no longer be undone.

Axiomatically speaking, corporate leadership (including government) is a 360 degree practice. In other words, the president, or any head of a country, has to keep their eyes on everything around them. They are at least expected to delegate someone trustworthy and competent to deal with matters away from the centre. As this leadership beams outward, to the periphery, there are, inevitably, "challenges" that are projected to the centre from any point along the circumference.

The government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic is being challenged from the most distant locations to (until recently) the most obscure. Challenges are also coming

from hastily assembled formations of vested interests. All the while, the focus on battling the pandemic seems to have loosened government's management of crime, corruption, maladministration and general lawlessness.

The legal challenge

Earlier this week, the Pretoria High Court found that in declaring the State of Disaster to cope with the pandemic, the overwhelming number of regulations were "unconstitutional and invalid".

The court sided with Reyno de Beer and his organisation Liberty Fighters Network (LFN). They argued that the regulations failed to satisfy the rationality test as they encroached on the rights

guaranteed to citizens in the Constitution's Bill of Rights. The court gave government - through Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma - two weeks to fix "deficiencies" in the regulations.

Judge Norman Davis ruled on Tuesday that, "... Their [the regulations'] encroachment on and limitation of rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution are not justifiable in an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom..."

It was made clear that the lockdown failed the test of rationality - and failed to show a connection to the objective of slowing or limiting the rate of Covid-19 infection. It is not inconceivable that the action brought against Dlamini Zuma may be politically driven, and with a long-term view on land expropriation.

The language of the LNF seems to be couched in the language of "fighting for the right to equal justice for all, especially in relation to stopping evictions", but at the level of perception, they seem not unlike a legal wing of AfriForum.

Couched in the language of the battle for justice and equality, their website specifically calls for "economically oppressed South Africans and lawful residents of all different groups as members, in particular inviting the economically oppressed from the white minority to join the struggle against the evil of class differences and inequality".

Again, at the level of perception, their battle to fight for "lawful residents" could quite easily be extended to the lawful residents of land - vast tracts of which remain in the hands of what the Liberty Fighters Network described as the "white minority". We will have to wait and see what will happen next, and how precedents that will be set against (current) evictions may be used to protect white land ownership in South Africa.

The infrastructure challenge

As the Covid-19 virus sweeps across South Africa, it is becoming clearer, almost daily, that the country's hospitals are having difficulties dealing with infected people. One example from the Eastern Cape stands out. At Livingston Hospital in Port Elizabeth, sanitary measures (cleaning and sanitising) in the casualty unit were reportedly not being implemented, while the hospital had to deal with staff and personal protective equipment shortages. Because of these issues, the

province's biggest casualty and emergency unit in the Eastern Cape was shut down on Wednesday. It is especially concerning since the Eastern Cape has overtaken Gauteng as having the second-highest number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the country, with 4,324 cases, 88 deaths and 2,123 recoveries.

In Cape Town, the Western Cape's largest hospital is under severe pressure, and has reported a need for more nurses, with many of its ICU beds occupied. The Western Cape accounts for well over half of the national number of coronavirus cases. Groundup reported, almost two weeks ago, that the number of Covid-19 patients at Groote Schuur Hospital was doubling every five days, and that the hospital will not be able to cope unless something is done.

At the time of reporting on 21 May, the hospital was running seven wards with over 120 Covid-19 patients, and 19 patients in four intensive care units.

Three of the wards were for confirmed Covid-19 cases while others were for suspected cases. Also in Cape Town, the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital is currently treating seven children for Covid-19. This was confirmed by the province's Health MEC, Nomafrench Mbombo, on Wednesday. By midweek, 30 children - out of 37 tested - had recovered from the virus.

Crime and lawlessness in a pandemic

With the growing number of infections, criminality and lawlessness continues unabated, and political office-bearers continue behaving badly. Projections of infections are frightening. It is as if the virus has not even properly reached South Africa yet.

The release of the projections during an extensive technical briefing with Health Minister Zweli Mkhize and members of several teams producing modelling for government, came after intense criticism over the apparent lack of transparency over the modelling methods and data on the virus.

Modelling by a consortium of some of the country's foremost experts would have us believe that between 40,000 and 45,000 South Africans could die from Covid-19 by November. As things stand, based on reports from around the country, current numbers of ICU beds will be overwhelmed "almost immediately".

The total number of cases between now and November is expected to be between 1 and 1.2 million. The National Institute for Communicable Disease confirmed, on 1

June that there were 34,357 infections in the country.

In general, there is a projected need for between 20,000 and 35,000 ICU beds over the next six months. While different provinces are expected to peak at different times in the coming weeks - with varying rates of infection and deaths - the national peak infection rate is expected around mid-July to mid-August.

Against this backdrop, the crimes and misdemeanours of South Africans - notably political office-bearers - will not cease. It was reported this week that the National Prosecuting Authority has declined to prosecute two criminal complaints of fraud lodged against Pretoria attorney Lesley Ramulifho in connection with a multimillion-rand Lottery-funded drug rehabilitation centre near Pretoria.

More than R20-million - and possibly more - of the total Lottery funding of R27.5-million for the project cannot be accounted for and, almost three years later, construction of the facility is still not complete.

Public lawlessness and recklessness continues unabated. One particularly gruesome minibus taxi accident just outside Cape Town left at least two people dead and 15 seriously injured after the vehicle collided with a lamppost. Police said the driver fled the scene.

Can the centre hold?

All told, the government is facing enormous and unprecedented challenges. While the legal case against the state has been given a rest for two weeks, there seems to be no stopping the virus, crime or lawlessness in the country.

It does not help that political office bearers keep getting involved in petty arguments on social media. What all of these do - and the above are merely examples of a very grave national state of affairs - is give impetus to centrifugal forces that pull power and authority away from Pretoria. Combined, these may cause the government to lose focus, destabilising the state, and pulling at the loose ends of an already frayed society.

The Covid-19 pandemic is unquestionably the clearest and most present danger, but what the courts do next, with respect to the legal challenges from the Liberty Network, may have serious implications for long-term land reform, or, as the populists might put it, "return the land to its rightful owners".

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 97 00--

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

5 LETTERS: ODD, LUG, AIR, DAY, MAD (6 WORDS)
 4 LETTERS: LOUD, MOOR, NILE, EDIT, SORT, OYEZ
 IDEA, BOOK, DOHA, AMEN (10 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: LOUSE, UMAMI, KRAAL, KENYA, DRAMA, AITCH (6 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: UGANDA, MADAME, AUGUST, TAMARI
 TABORA, BEDDER RHEBOK, BRAZIL (8 WORDS)
 8 LETTERS: DONATION,

WORD-FIT

CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS

1 Noisy
 4 Gateway to Europe in E.Africa
 7 a fen in United states
 9 The Pearl of Africa
 10 a box for transporting fruit
 title for a French speaking
 11 woman
 12 correct a text
 14 a category of things
 16 Modern name of Kazeh
 19 I agree
 20 a concept
 23 insane
 24 Largest country in S.America
 25 a small south African antelope
 26 Qatar's Capital

Down:
 1 lice
 2 a category of taste in food
 3 something given to a charity
 4 a traditional African villages
 of huts
 5 Longest river in Africa
 6 the eighth month of a year
 8 unusual
 13 a play
 15 given by court officer
 16 rich fermented soy sauce
 17 bedding plant
 18 open space above the surface
 21 24 hour period
 22 the letter H
 24 A rude person

TURNSTAR, HOLDING COMPANY OF DAR MLIMANI CITY, POSTS 50.6BN/- IN INCOME

By Property Watch Reporter

MLIMANI Holdings Limited's parent company, Turnstar Holdings Limited posted revenue of 258.6 million Botswana pulas (over 50.6bn/-) last year representing a three percent gross revenue compared to 2018.

In its latest audited results, Turnstar said its net profit also increased impressively to 158.4 million pulas (over 40bn/-) during the period hence allocated 21.2bn/- as dividend to shareholder during the period.

While commending the retail part of Mlimani City as performing well with occupancy rate at 100 percent, the company said its office space got a hit from the government's decision to relocate to Dodoma as its administrative capital.

"Turnstar experienced a 65 percent vacancy rate during the reporting period," the report stated noting that the office space in Dar es Salaam took a huge hit when it was decided to relocate government departments from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma.

"We also have vacant office space in Mlimani City. Two of the office blocks have been partitioned to smaller offices and we are beginning to lease these out. There seems to be more interest now from foreign companies," the report said.

It further added that Tanzania's assets accounted for 39 percent by value and 36 by



An office block at Dar es Salaam Mlimani City office park

gross leasable area with revenue generated from Mlimani City being P101 million (over 19.7bn/-) during the reporting period.

Mlimani City is a US\$100 million mixed use premier shopping and conference complex in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Mlimani City is the preferred retail and conference destination in Dar es Salaam. The retail mall has full occupancy at present. The mall's anchor tenants include Game, Choppies,

Woolworths, cinemas and several leading banks.

On finance costs relating to the additions to Game City and Mlimani City, the report noted that construction was completed midway during the previous year and hence the finance costs were incurred, only for a part of the previous year.

The results also benefitted from currency fluctuation of the Botswana Pula which de-

preciated significantly against the US dollar, during the year under review. "Approximately 43 percent of the group's total rental income is in US dollars hence the depreciation of the domestic currency resulted in a forex gain for Turnstar," the report added.

Turnstar is a stable, solid company with great assets. In Botswana the property market is challenging at present, due to the economic climate prevailing. There is very lit-

tle demand for space, from new companies coming to Botswana.

Most retail space in the country is occupied by large South African retail groups. These groups are also slowing down on opening new stores, as they are not performing well in South Africa. There are a few citizen retail companies that occupy space, on a very limited basis, the report stated.

NIT's aviation centre kicking off with vehicles worth 703m/- from Treasury

By Property Watch Reporter

THE National Institute of Transport which is designated to be an aviation and transport centre of excellence later become a university received four utility vehicles worth 703m/- received from the government earlier this week.

Minister for Education Science and Technology Professor Joyce Ndalichako who handed over the vehicles said the two Toyota Land Cruisers, one Toyota Hilux double cabin and a Toyota Coaster mini bus, will help speed up transformation into the centre of excellence in aviation and transport operations.

Prof Ndalichako said the project which is being funded by a five year World Bank's 49.1bn/- East Africa Skills for Transport and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), started last year 2019 and is scheduled to end in 2024.

She said the EASTRIP's main objective is to make NIT the centre of excellence in aviation and transport operations in East and Central Africa. The

minister added that the total loan secured by the government from World Bank is 175bn/- which is channelled through her ministry and is aimed to improve different sectors including transport sector. "If we secure another fund anywhere in future, I will make sure a certain amount of money comes into this institute to support the transport sector only," she promised while unveiling that the 49bn/- is for NIT while the balance goes to Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology and Arusha Technical College.

Prof Ndalichako challenged management of NIT to ensure that the utility vehicles are used according to intended purposes. "These cars should bring efficiency into your daily operations, and please make sure that they are maintained strictly to remain in good running condition," she added.

Briefing the minister, NIT Rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa thanked the government for the support saying establishing the centre

of excellence in aviation and transport operations, is an uphill task which his management has accepted to implement.

He said the five year project will enable the institute improve its training and logistics infrastructures so that it can train more students and build capacity of staff especially in aviation industry. "Part of this World Bank loan will be used to purchase three planes for practical training of pilots while the remaining funds will be invested in building hostels, lecture theatres and an aviation workshop.

NIT Governing Council Chairman Professor Blasius Nyichomba seconded NIT Rector's praise song to the government for approving various projects aimed at expanding the transport institute to become a regional hub. "We promise the government to deliver on this ambitious project for our nation and region," Prof Nyichomba pledged.

Speaking at the event, Director of Transport Services at Ministry



Education, Science and Technology minister prof Joyce Ndalichako (C) cuts a ribbon in Dar es Salaam earlier this week to mark the handing over of four utility vehicles to the National Institute of Transport. Second right is NIT rector Prof Zacharia Mganilwa. Photo courtesy of NIT.

of Works, Transport and Communication, Aron Kisaka said establishment of the NIT centre of excellence will reduce various challenges facing the country's transport industry.

Eng Kisaka said the government has currently financing various projects such as the purchasing of new planes to revive Air Tanzania Company Limited, construction of a standard gauge railways which will all needs experts trained by NIT.

NIT embarked on the process of establishing new and varied transport and logistics studies in 2011 with the goal of producing more and highly qualified personnel to address rising demand in the market.

Solar PV prices are crashing - and that could lead to a new boom

BEIJING

CHINESE manufacturers that dominate nearly every step in the global solar power supply chain are being forced to slash prices as the coronavirus disrupts projects around the world.

Costs for components like wafers and cells have fallen by as much as 20% since the start of the year. They likely haven't bottomed out yet, either, as the outlook for demand remains uncertain and new mega-factories threatens to add supply.

It's bad news for the companies that make solar components and could lead to consolidation among some of the smaller players in the industry. The bargain-basement prices, though, could also spur demand for a solar boom when the global economy recovers.

"The coronavirus added uncertainties to demand, especially overseas. Prices are still under certain pressure," said CMB International Securities analyst Robin Xiao. "But if the world is gradually recovering from the epidemic from the fourth quarter, cheaper prices may significantly raise competitiveness of photovoltaics."

The virus has disrupted new solar projects around the world as government efforts to slow the spread of the disease have kept workers away from installation sites, while the economic collapse has threatened funding for new projects. New global capacity added this year is now forecast to be 19% less than before the epidemic broke out, according to BloombergNEF.

The supply chain that creates those solar power plants is almost entirely housed within China. From producing polysilicon ingots, cutting them into wafers, forming those into cells to combine into panels, Chinese factories comprise at least 73% of



LONGI Green Energy Technology Co's solar panels.

global capacity in every step, according to BloombergNEF data.

Cheaper

With installations slowing, solar giants LONGI Green Energy Technology Co and Tongwei Co have had to cut product prices several times in the past two months to

maintain market share. Wafers and cells have become at least 20% cheaper this year while panel prices eased 10%, BNEF data show.

Chinese manufacturing might has been one of the reasons solar costs have fallen so much over the past decade that they're now a cheaper source of new, albeit intermittent, power than coal in many parts of the world. And to be sure, some of this year's cost cuts have been due to technological advances, such as LONGI being able to reduce the thickness of its wafers. BNEF expects wafer prices to continue to drop in the second half as more production is released. Prices could fall another 15% to about US\$0.28 per standard piece.

That could spell consolidation for smaller players in the field. Even after dropping wafer prices by 20%, LONGI still has at least a 15% profit margin, said Dennis Ip, an analyst with Daiwa Capital Markets Hong Kong. A further 5-10% cut in prices could effectively wipe out most small manufacturers, he said. "It's a great window for tier-1 producers to collect market share," he said. "The oligarch structure would get further strength."

Several top manufacturers announced aggressive expansion plans earlier this year even as the industry grappled with lower prices. Tongwei is planning to double its cell production capacity, already the world's largest, while GCL System Integration Technology Co is considering building the world's largest panel plant that by itself would be able to meet half of global demand. New capacity coming online "will further squeeze prices while producers seek to reduce costs through economies of scale", BNEF analyst Jiang Yali said.

TUNDUMA GETS 5M/- CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS DONATED BY NMB BANK

By Property Watch Reporter

NM Bank Plc has donated an assortment of construction materials valued at 5m/- for a health centre at Tunduma border town in Momba district of Songwe region as part of support against the coronavirus outbreak.

NMB's acting Southern Highlands Zone Manager, Hamadan Sillah said the donation is part of the bank's efforts to back government's efforts to improve health services delivery and comes from profits made in commercial ventures.

"As a responsible corporate citizen, the bank allocates part of its profits annually to invest in social services which includes health," Sillah who is Mbalizi Road Branch Manager said noting that the bank's support also includes disaster or health strife such as Covid-19 pandemic.

He said apart from investing in health, education and disaster relief, the bank has continued to expand its network of services through use of mobile phone technology to ensure that many Tanzanians have access to formal banking services.

"With the coronavirus outbreak, mobile phone banking has assisted in checking against the spreading of the virus as consumers can transact without visiting physical bank branches," Sillah added.

Tunduma Council Director, Regina Bieda said construction of the health centre which will comprise of two maternity wards and male patients will cost 95m/-. Bieda thanked NMB for the support saying the donation will speed up construction work.

Bieda's NMB praise song was echoed by Momba District Commissioner, Juma Irando who paid tribute to the bank's management for continuing to support government efforts to improve education and health services.

"This health centre is earmarked to cater for disease outbreaks of all kinds including coronavirus," Irando said. He pointed out that the health centre which is strategically located on the borders with Zambia but also serves cargo and passenger vehicles heading to DR Congo and other SADC countries, was initially designed to handle the EBOLA outbreak.



NMB Bank Plc's acting Southern Highlands Zone manager, Hamadan Sillah (L) presents 171 bags of cement worth 5m/- to Momba district commissioner Juma Irando earlier this week to assist with construction of a health centre in Tunduma township. Photo courtesy of NMB.

SBL launches beer packs for Lake Zone

By Property Watch Reporter

IN a bid to meet consumer demand, Serengeti Breweries Limited has introduced a 300ml Pilsner Lager packs targeting Lake Zone's market exclusively.

The Dar es Salaam based brewer said the new beer pack which was introduced earlier this week with a tagline, 'Imara kama samba,' will be available throughout the regions within Lake Victoria at an affordable retail price to allow everyone enjoy its taste and flavor.

"Residents of the Lake Zone are famed for their hardworking spirit and with this new 300ml Pilsner Lager, SBL customers and consumers in the zone can now enjoy a world-class beer retailing at only 1,000/-," said SBL's Head of Beer, Anitha Msangi.

Msangi said the new beer pack's style of brewing is inspired by the original process of brewing the first Pilsner in Eastern Europe hence consumers are assured of the taste and quality. "Through the years, East African brew masters have maintained this unique process which involves cold filtering the beer giving it that superior liquid clarity and authentic taste," she added.

SBL is the producer of Tanzania's first 100 percent malt beer, Serengeti Premium Lager and one of the most popular home-grown lite beers, Serengeti Premium Lite but is also home to renowned international premium spirits such as Johnnie Walker, Ciroc, Smirnoff vodka, White Horse, J&B among others.

Incorporated in 1988 as Associated Breweries, SBL is the second largest beer company in Tanzania, with its beer brands accounting for over 20 percent of the market by volume. SBL has three operating plants in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Moshi.

Since the creation of SBL in 2002, the business has



Visitors tour Mwanza SBL plant earlier this year. File photo.

grown its portfolio of brands year on year. The majority stake acquisition by EABL/

Diageo in 2010 has seen increased investment in international quality standards

leading to greater job opportunities for the people of Tanzania.

Total LNG building site declared free of coronavirus infection

MAPUTO

THE construction site of Total's natural gas processing complex in northern Mozambique is free of infection by the new coronavirus, after being a transmission site, the authorities announced on Wednesday.

"The site is free of Covid-19 contamination," Carlos Zacarias, president of the National Petroleum Institute (INP), said at a press conference in Maputo. He said that after the first case was detected at the premises of the Total consortium in Afungi, Cabo Delgado province (in the north of the country), health authorities traced the contacts, isolated the suspicious cases and those infected.

All 880 workers at the venture were tested, work was reduced to a minimum and several people were quarantined. The president of INP advanced that prevention also forced the activities related to the development of gas projects in Rovuma to be stopped, namely the construction works of the future LNG plant and the resettlement process of the communities.

Operations are currently being reprogrammed, with the aim of resuming the work as soon as the conditions are in place. In addition to Total, the Area 1 consortium is owned by the Japanese company Mitsui (20%), the Mozambican state oil company ENH (15%), the Indian NGOC Videsh (10%) and its subsidiary Beas (10%), Bharat Petro Resources (10%) and the Thai PTTEP (8.5%).

The INP president said that the prevention of the Covid-19 pandemic had also led to a standstill in hydrocarbon research in other parts of the country. The situation also forced the launch of the sixth international hydrocarbon exploration tender to be postponed, added Carlos Zacarias.

Qatar Airways to resume direct flights between Doha and Dar mid June

By Property Watch Reporter

QATAR Airways will resume direct flights between Hamad International Airport in Doha and Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam mid this month with an Airbus A320.

In a statement this week, the Doha based airline said the flight on June 16 will be the first direct passenger flight from HIA

to Africa since suspension of flights in March this year due to the novel coronavirus outbreak. There will be three flights each week.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Akbar Al Baker said this month of scheduled flights to Dar es Salaam which is one of the largest cities and a key trade and tourism hubs in East Africa is an encouraging development.

"Our wide network of flights during these challenging times has ensured we have kept up to date with the latest in international airport procedures and implemented the most advanced safety and hygiene measures on board our aircraft and in Hamad International Airport," Al Baker said.

He said during the ongoing crisis, the airline has become the

largest global carrier flying over 50 million kilometres to repatriate over 1.5 million passengers on nearly 15,000 flights. "We have been the airline passengers can rely on during this crisis and we will continue to ensure the safest and most reliable experience for our passengers as global travel resumes," Al Baker said.

He further noted that as one of the only global airlines to have

maintained a significant schedule throughout the Covid-19 crisis, Qatar Airways is uniquely positioned to monitor trends in traffic flow and passenger bookings.

The airline has scheduled these flights to connect seamlessly via its award-winning hub, Hamad International Airport, with key European destinations, including London, Copenhagen,

Stockholm, and Madrid.

In a bid to ensure safety and security of travellers, the airline has further enhanced its onboard safety measures for passengers and cabin crew. The airline has implemented several changes, including the introduction of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) suits for cabin crew while onboard, as well as a modified service that reduces

interactions between the passengers and the crew inflight.

Cabin crew have already been wearing PPE during flights for a number of weeks, including gloves and face masks. Passengers will also be required to wear face coverings inflight, with the carrier recommending travellers bring their own for fit and comfort purposes, the statement stated.

TECHNOLOGY

HOW COVID-19 IS AFFECTING INDIA'S REAL ESTATE MARKET

NEW DELHI

GODREJ Properties, one of India's major property developers, has changed its selling technique over the past few months. With the country under a nationwide lockdown, the developer says it has been forced to adapt and has moved its entire home sales process online.

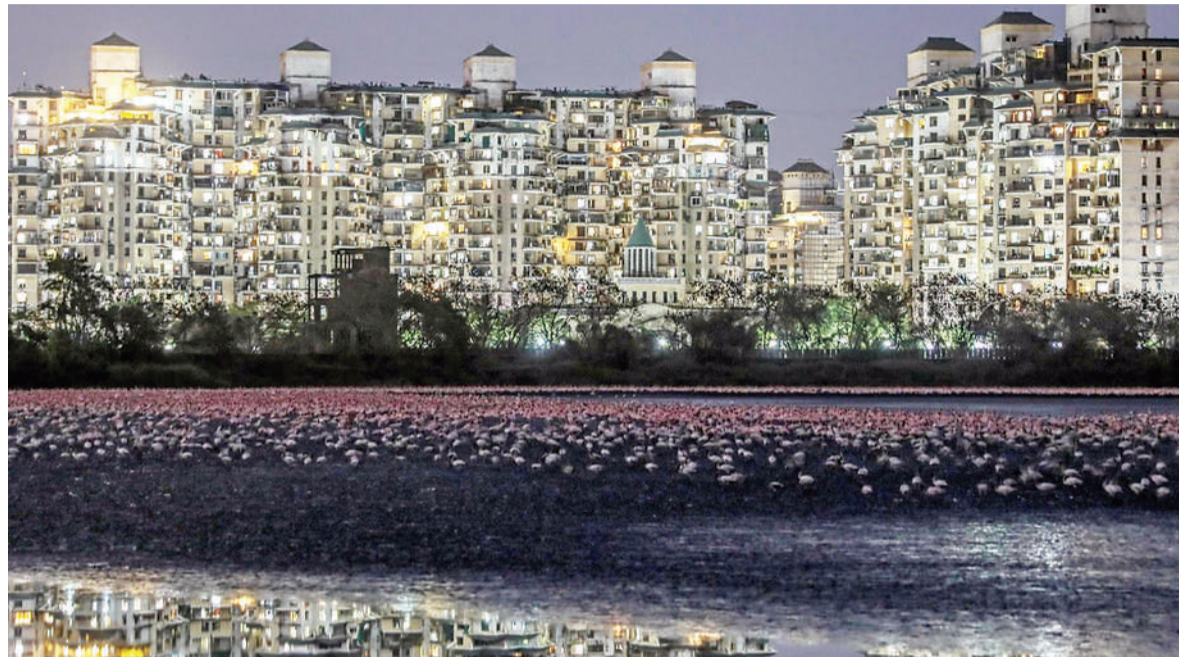
"We have been using video conferencing to engage with prospective home buyers," says Lalit Makhijani, the chief marketing officer at Mumbai-based Godrej Properties. "This is the first time we have attempted end-to-end digital sales."

But he admits it is not easy to sell homes over the internet, given that "real estate is a business which is high on touch and feel."

India's property sector has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. Work on projects that were under development was suddenly forced to stop as the nationwide lockdown - one of the strictest in the world - came into effect on March 25. In recent weeks, the measures have eased allowing some construction activity to resume in parts of the country. But demand for both residential and commercial property in India remains weak, industry insiders say.

"People are either going through job cuts or pay cuts and not everyone is keen to pick up a house," says Sudarshan Lodha, the co-founder of Strata, a tech-enabled real estate investment platform. "They'll probably want to delay the decision making for another six months or a year. This is going to drain a lot of cash flow for developers, which is going to be very stressful from a real estate point of view."

The office segment is facing its own set of challenges amid the coronavirus pandemic, which have forced companies to put in place remote working procedures. "Many employers are scared and they don't want to open offices because of liabilities if things go wrong," says Mr Lodha. "Many large companies have told their employees



A mega housing estate in Mumbai.

to work from home until September, October. This means that all the new leasing which was supposed to happen over the coming quarter will all be cancelled.

With many employees expected to continue working from home even after the lockdown ends, reports suggest that some firms may even consider moving out of prime offices to cut costs. "There are a lot of price corrections which are happening in commercial real estate and rentals are going to get cheaper," says Mr Lodha.

The lockdown has hampered India's economy as a whole. Official gross domestic product data released on Friday for the quarter to the end of March revealed that growth has slowed to 3.1 per cent, compared to 4.7 per cent in the previous quarter.

The economy is expected to slow further, as these numbers only include a week of the movement restrictions. Goldman Sachs forecast that India's GDP will contract by 5 per cent in the current financial year, which began in April.

India's property sector is a significant part of the country's economy, contributing up to 6 per cent of GDP, and is the second-largest employer in India after agriculture, according to official figures. But the sector - which was reeling from a liquidity crunch and slowing economic growth - was facing tough times even before the pandemic.

This left real estate firms struggling to find funding for projects, pushing many builders out of business. According to property consultancy JLL, the number of active property developers in India's major cities plummeted 36 per cent between October 2018 to March 2019, compared to the previous six months.

In recent years, sales have been muted, and residential property prices have declined in cities including Mumbai. Property consultant Knight Frank expects prime residential real estate prices in Mumbai to fall 5 per cent this year and 3 per cent next year.

"India's key markets will be faced with uncertainty, mostly due to a significant erosion of confidence among buyers across the spectrum," says Shishir Bajjal, the chairman and managing director of Knight Frank India.

The latest real estate sentiment index by Knight Frank and industry bodies FICCI and NAREDCO reveals that that confidence in the sector in India dropped to an all-time low in the January to March quarter.

"The real estate sector that had just about started showing some signs of revival during the last quarter of 2019 has suffered a severe setback due to the Covid-19 crisis," according to the report on the survey's findings.

But some experts say there is a limit on how far prices can drop. "It is naturally assumed that prices are going to fall, but we must remember one thing - that real estate has been under pressure for some time and accordingly prices have already corrected," says Ramesh Jogani, the managing director of Mumbai-based builder The Real Estate Company. "Any further correction would make it unviable for the developer to finish the construction."

Property fund managers for bargain hunting in struggling Spanish market

BARCELONA

THE coronavirus crisis has halted a stellar recovery in Spain's property market and left most sellers floundering, but major investors have stayed active and poised themselves to take advantage of faltering prices.

Ever popular with foreign capital, Spain's real estate sector had almost entirely recovered from its 2008 nosedive - but in the first six weeks of lockdown, only 1 per cent of pending transactions went through, the General Council of Notaries said.

Spain's strict coronavirus confinement sparked legal and financial measures that stopped the vast majority of buyers and sellers in their tracks - in contrast to more flexible markets like Germany, which still allowed property visits and could rely on a better-digitalised sector.

But real estate agents say heavyweight, highly-liquid investors continued their activity in Spain during the crisis, asking for "opportunity lists" of bargains they may only have a small window to catch. "I've seen investors coming cash-in-hand hoping to buy cheaply," said Kristina Szekely, a luxury real estate agent in Marbella whose crown jewel is a €32 million mansion with 10 bedrooms, a pool and a heliport.

Ms Szekely said some thirty clients had called in past weeks requesting advice on opportunities. "It's a new situation for me," she noted. Prices have dipped 10 per cent in the capital Madrid, another agent said. Opportunity lists often include new-development properties which investors favour, particularly when only a few units remain and developers are willing to sell at a discount.

In late April, one investor began negotiating for a pack of six such properties in central Barcelona, each averaging €600,000-€700,000, said Shirley Rhodes,



Residential apartments in Barcelona's Sant Antonio neighborhood.

commercial director at the real estate agency Lucas Fox.

The investor came to an initial agreement without viewing the properties in person, committing to sign deeds by the end of June. "It was a deal 100 per cent initiated and concluded under confinement," Rhodes said.

Unlike most people requiring mortgages and seeking a single property, large investors can quickly mobilise funds, delegate tasks to local associates and forego in-person visits - as with new-build properties, office and retail spaces, or "do-uppers" destined for total renovation.

"That money never sleeps," said independent real estate agent Francisco Vazquez, 46. Take French asset manager Amundi. By adjusting its own administrative processes and handing out powers to local representatives, Amundi acquired a €56m Barcelona office building in early April. It had visited the offices prior to confinement.

The group keeps looking for opportunities in Spain, mainly in the premium office market, said Jean-Marc Coly, director of Amundi's real estate fund, taking advantage of a buyer-friendly market. "We have kept moving possible transactions forward despite the lockdown, and we have competition on biddings," said Mr Coly.

But for smaller fish, even transactions well underway before the lockdown had to pause, according to Fotocasa, Spain's second-largest property portal. Measures to curb the coronavirus prevented individuals from conducting

property visits, taking out mortgages, and relying on public notaries.

"We could neither buy, sell, nor continue works already underway - all our sales stopped," said Cesar Rivero, chief executive for real estate consultancy CDM Inversiones. "Funds haven't been affected like us, who sell single properties to individuals - we've been hardest-hit by the health crisis."

Household credit - both consumer and mortgage loans - has dropped sharply in Spain, something banks hope to offset with government-backed corporate lending. Many hopeful house-sellers have been frustrated. Robert J Edwards, a 48-year-old lawyer from Sacramento, California, was ready to cash in on his investment: a Catalonian farmhouse he spent three years remodelling.

The house - a 7-bedroom, 7-bathroom stone affair overlooking the hills in Baix Emporda listed for €1.5m - generated solid leads in January and he was aiming for a 20-30 per cent mark-up on investment. "I had a couple of buyers who were definitely interested - to the point of having business plans for the property, trying to get financing," Edwards said. Then came Covid-19.

Spain has suffered one of the world's worst outbreaks, with more than 27,000 deaths so far. The economy, which relies heavily on tourism and real estate, contracted 5.2 per cent in the first quarter.



Cheap hotel stays could be a thing of the past in a post-COVID-19 world

RIYADH

CHEAP hotel stays may be in short supply for travellers in a post-Covid-19 world. That's because hotels could increase room rates to cover the rising costs associated with assuring hygiene levels.

"The cost of operating has gone up, team members have to be socially distanced and, looking at the entire supply chain, there are now additional costs," Amir Golberg, vice president of hotel operations at Minor Hotels explained in a webinar at the Arabian Travel Market on Wednesday, June 3.

He said that price is no longer king when it comes to booking hotel stays. Instead, guests are now willing to spend more for safety and security. "Price hasn't been the first priority," since the coronavirus pandemic started says the hotelier, who has brands such as Anantara and Tivoli under his remit.

"The first priority is that guests are assured that health and safety procedures are in place. Guests are calling and asking how we are meeting the standards, how we are going above and beyond, not what the price is."

However, while some room rates will rise to cover increased hygiene costs, Golberg also notes this will not be the case for every hotel. "The new norm is not necessarily a price increase, but it's about how to operate in a new market."

That's something that John Rogers, senior vice president of brands and franchise operations at Hilton agrees with. "It's not a given that all hotel prices will rise," he said during the same webinar. While customers are prioritising safety over price, he points out that there is still a strong element of competition in the hotel industry. "I don't think anyone should assume that prices will go up. It is a competitive market," added Rogers. But now it's the time for bargain

stays

While costs may rise in the future, right now is a good time to book a hotel stay if you are looking for a bargain. That is because hotel rates have tumbled as the global pandemic has severely affected the industry. In the Mena region, there's been an estimated 42 per cent drop in occupancy since March, according to the latest data from Colliers International.

This has resulted in several hotel groups ushering in cut-price room rates and staycation offers in a bid to get more customers through the door. With international travel currently on hold, domestic tourists have the upper hand when it comes to negotiating hotel rates right now.

Why will hygiene trump price? Alp Aksoy, vice president at Diversey Africa, Middle East and Turkey, said that hygiene has always been important in the industry, but it's now likely to trump price, at least for a while. "There is no way, even with the cheapest of prices, that you would knowingly go and stay in a dirty hotel," said Aksoy, whose company provides cleaning and hygiene products across the hospitality industry. Travellers are looking for transparency and communication in a world beyond Covid-19 and will be willing to pay more for this sense of security.

"We already know that the riskiest items in a hotel room are the remote control, the doorknob or the light switches. At the elevator, it's the buttons - all surfaces that are touched by individuals very frequently. Right now, on top of what's always been done, what is really changing, is that we are sharing and confirming these procedures with customers," he explains.

Higher visibility when it comes to cleaning procedures and clear initiatives like having stickers on high-contact surfaces to assure guests they've just been cleaned, are key to building trust for future travellers.

Lufthansa plans asset sales for bailout loan repayment

BERLIN

GERMAN airline Lufthansa signalled sweeping job cuts and said it plans to sell off assets to help repay a €9 billion coronavirus bailout from the German government.

Europe's biggest airline will slash employee expenses and look at spin-offs to bolster cash flow as the coronavirus crisis depresses revenue, it said in a statement Wednesday. The group reported a €2.1bn net loss in the first quarter, fed by fuel-hedging expenses that accounted for almost half the total. "In view of the very slow recovery in demand, we must now take far-reaching restructuring measures to counteract this," chief executive Carsten Spohr said.

The pledge to target labour costs is likely to lead to a struggle with Germany's powerful unions, which prior to the pandemic used pilot and cabin-crew strikes to thwart efforts to trim expenses. While other European carriers are also cutting back, Lufthansa's situation may be complicated by the state's pending 20 per cent holding in the airline. The deal will bring government representatives onto its board. Lufthansa shares were up 5.6 per cent at 6.49pm in the UAE. Its shares have fallen around 39 per cent since the start of the year.

Lufthansa wouldn't be the first German company to run up against labour resistance as it tries to pare costs. Industrial conglomerate Thyssenkrupp - once a symbol for German engineering prowess - is

selling off or closing entire divisions after years of failed attempts to put the business on a sustainable footing. If Mr Spohr's cost-cutting drive falls short, he won't be able to pay down debt and dislodge the state as a shareholder.

Mr Spohr said that Lufthansa's eventual job losses could exceed 10,000 as the airline grapples with permanently lower demand for business travel once the crisis lifts. Across Europe and the Middle East, more than 60,000 airline jobs are poised for elimination.

"The scale of the restructuring is immense, and agreement with unions on drastic reductions in staff numbers, wages or both will be difficult to achieve," said Daniel Roeska, an analyst with Sanford C Bernstein.

Mr Spohr's bid to sell non-core units won't be easy either, judging by Lufthansa's past spin-off attempts. A push to divest its LSG Sky Chefs catering arm met with repeated delays before an agreement was reached to sell the European division to Gate Group. Lufthansa earlier this year abandoned an auction process for the international unit.

The airline group has looked at a partial listing of its Lufthansa Technik aircraft maintenance and refit business, people familiar with the matter said previously. While a listing of the unit would give Lufthansa funds to pay down debt, unshackling the division could take years and would deprive the airline group of a reliable income stream.

Africa's COVID-19 caseload nearing 160,000, while Italy partially reopens border

BEIJING

WITH the novel coronavirus still in pandemic mode, the African continent has seen a continued growth in the total tally, while Italy, an earlier epicenter of the pandemic in Europe, has begun to partially lift travel bans as its new infections are dropping.

RISING AFRICAN CASELOAD

As of Wednesday afternoon, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the African continent surpassed 158,318, and the death toll surged to 4,508, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said. The continental disease control and prevention agency also disclosed that some 67,630 people who have been infected with the disease have recovered across the conti-

nent so far.

On Tuesday, Africa CDC said the virus has spread to 54 African countries. Figures from the agency showed that the highly affected countries include South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Algeria, Ghana and Morocco.

It also said that the Northern African region is the most affected area across the continent both in terms of positive COVID-19 cases and the number of deaths, followed by the Western Africa region.

South Africa, the worst-hit country on the continent, on Tuesday reported a total of 35,812 confirmed COVID-19 cases. According to the latest data compiled by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, the tally now stood at 37,525.

The United Nations Economic Com-



A soldier of South African National Defense Force carries a baby in his arm in Johannesburg, South Africa, April 20, 2020. (P/Xinhua)

mission for Africa (UNECA) on Wednesday projected that the ongoing pandemic could push 29 million people into extreme poverty across the continent. The UNECA further stressed that the containment measures established in African countries "have already cost the region some 69 billion U.S. dollars per month and are expected to have a negative impact on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region."

EASING TRAVEL BAN

Italy, earlier an epicenter of COVID-19 in Europe, partially reopened its border on Wednesday after closing it to all but essential travel for nearly three months.

Starting from the day, people in Italy are allowed

to move freely within the country. Cross-border travel restrictions were also eased on the same day, with travelers from the European Union and Schengen countries, as well as the United Kingdom, Andorra and Monaco being allowed to visit the country without subjecting to quarantine.

The step was part of a wider strategy to help restart the Italian tourism industry, which was shuttered along with the rest of the Italian economy at the start of the national lockdown on March 10.

"A month from May 4, when we reopened our manufacturing and construction sectors, we can say the numbers are encouraging," Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said in a nationally televised press conference Wednesday.

Xinhua

Israeli experts call for change as COVID-19 crisis exposes lack of international cooperation

JERUSALEM

THE world is lacking a coordinated global response to the raging COVID-19 pandemic and its economic ramifications, several Israeli experts have said recently.

To better cope with the COVID-19 crisis, they have urged all countries to come together to form cohesive policies on such issues as vaccine research and international travel.

LACK OF COOPERATION

Many previous crises in history, such as the financial crisis of 2007-08, have witnessed countries making joint efforts to tackle problems, yet the current COVID-19 crisis, which has so far recorded over 6 million infections worldwide and more than 380,000 deaths, has seen a lack of coordinated response across the world with some countries shirking responsibilities expected of them, experts said.

For example, international flights were canceled and airports shutdown following the outbreak. The United States, the sole superpower which should have taken the lead in promot-

ing global cooperation, halted exports of masks and respiratory machines to neighboring Canada, as well as Latin American countries.

Amnon Lahad, chairman of Family Medicine at the Hebrew University, found the real situation quite contrary to such expectations "that the United States would lead and that there would be a global response."

"There should have been an agreement on the implementation of World Health Organization (WHO) decisions. But every country made their own policy," Lahad told Xinhua.

Noting that politics have overshadowed the response process, he said that the current crisis "became a political problem rather than a health problem."

"Medicine mixed with politics, which made decision-making difficult," he said.

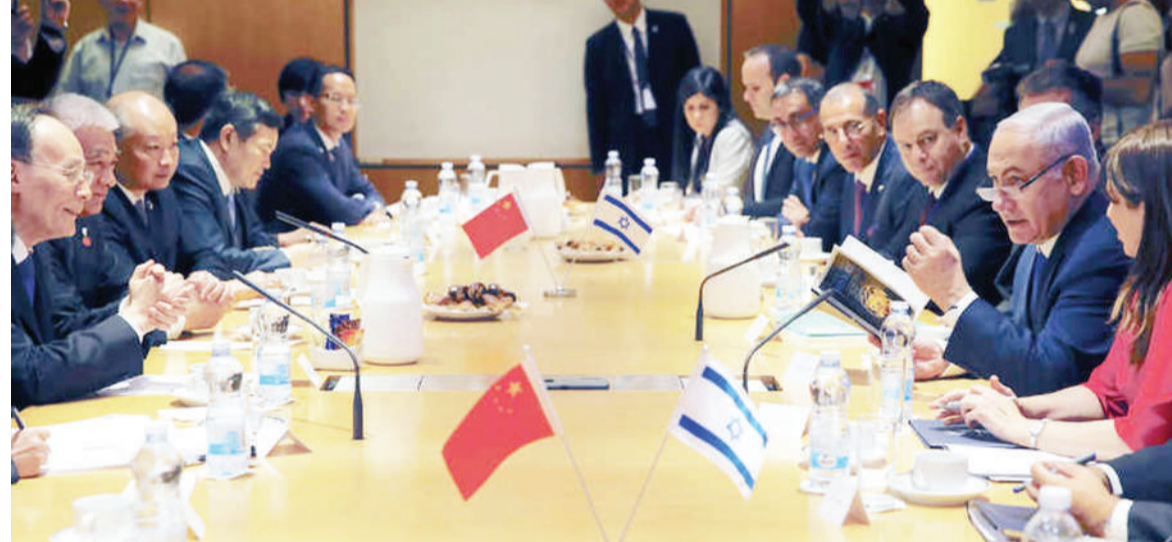
"What we witnessed is not a global world," Ronni Gamzu, CEO of Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, told Xinhua, adding that the lack of cooperation against the epidemic has also darkened the global economic outlook.

CHANGES NEEDED

enforcement abuses, rampant gun violence and a yawning wealth gap.

Across America today, African Americans are facing an ever higher risk of dying at the hands of police due to the color of their skin. According to Mapping Police Violence, a research and advocacy group, Black Americans are 2.5 times as likely as white Americans to be killed by law-enforcement officers.

Across America today, people of color are more likely to die during the deadly COVID-19 outbreak than the white population. Recent data compiled by the non-partisan APM Research Lab revealed that African Americans are dying at a rate of 50.3 per 100,000 people,



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (2nd R) talks during a meeting with Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan (L), Jerusalem, Oct. 24, 2018. (File photo)

In the face of the deadly virus, experts have urged countries to make changes as soon as possible, such as by forming cohesive policies on developing vaccines.

The international community should coordinate a push for progress in research for vaccines and treatment, they said.

Lahad warned that under the current circumstances, "vaccines will be distributed unevenly, not according to morbidity but ac-

ording to financial or manufacturing abilities."

Still, he said the above-mentioned situation could be avoided with firm international resolve, adding that global leaders must not be shortsighted when dealing with this global issue.

The experts also called on countries to set the same standard on pre-travel testing, and to form a common policy on how to compensate people who were

and may still be hit by travel bans and flight cancellations.

"Now is the time to begin working," Lahad said, adding, "there should be an international summit with experts from all countries that will manage the crisis before a second wave."

"The WHO needs to improve its operative multi-national arm," suggested Gamzu, calling for solidarity among the members of the global agency.

Xinhua

Washington should ditch sanctimonious double standards on human rights

BEIJING

WASHINGTON has long been accustomed to lecturing others on human rights, yet the recent mass street protests sweeping across the United States against racial discrimination and police brutality, as well as the raging coronavirus pandemic rocking the country have slapped the self-proclaimed guardian of human rights in the face.

The tragic death of George Floyd is just the tip of the iceberg of human rights violations at home, notably against minority groups.

Over the decades, America's human rights record has gone from bad to worse because of persistent racial discrimination, growing law-

enforcement abuses, rampant gun violence and a yawning wealth gap.

Across America today, African Americans are facing an ever higher risk of dying at the hands of police due to the color of their skin. According to Mapping Police Violence, a research and advocacy group, Black Americans are 2.5 times as likely as white Americans to be killed by law-enforcement officers.

Across America today, people of color are more likely to die during the deadly COVID-19 outbreak than the white population. Recent data compiled by the non-partisan APM Research Lab revealed that African Americans are dying at a rate of 50.3 per 100,000 people,

compared with 20.7 for whites.

And across America today, equal job opportunities are still out of reach for minorities trapped in miscellaneous low-paying jobs. They constitute 58 percent of agricultural workers; 70 percent of maids and housekeepers; and 74 percent of concierges, baggage porters and bellhops, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

It is true that those problems are very hard nuts to crack for a variety of reasons including the country's increasingly polarized politics. Yet politicians of both parties seem to have lost the motivation, the wisdom and the ability to reach across the partisan divide and make a difference for the better. More troubling is that this

White House has made things far worse.

As angry protesters continue to chant "Black Lives Matter" and "I Can't Breathe" in more than 40 cities in the United States, the current administration has chosen not to communicate with demonstrators but put on a strongman show with incendiary threats.

The irony is that these Washington politicians who vow to be tough are the same ones who once loudly accused Hong Kong police of violating human rights for doing their job to stop masked rioters from blocking roads and vandalizing public and private property in the Chinese city.

Furthermore, this White House's pandemic response has been a hu-

man rights catastrophe. The United State is now tragically leading the world both in infections and fatalities.

The human right record of the United States is not only notorious at home but appalling abroad.

The United States has committed one human rights disaster after another across the globe in recent years. It overturned a government in Iraq and bombed civilians in Syria under the pretext of promoting so-called freedom and democracy. It has deported immigrant parents and caged their children. It has refused to lift its unilateral sanctions on Cuba and Iran, suffocating their fight against the pandemic.

Xinhua

Xi says China ready to work with Germany, EU to create more global certainty

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said Wednesday that China stands ready to work with Germany and the European Union (EU) to strengthen strategic cooperation, uphold multilateralism, tackle global challenges, and jointly add certainty to the current world of uncertainty.



In a telephone conversation in the night with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Xi noted that it was the third time since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak that he and Merkel had spoken over the phone, which reflects the deep political mutual trust and close strategic communication between the two sides.

The Chinese side appreciates the German government's objective and rational stand as well as its respect for science on the pandemic issue, Xi said.

He added that China is ready to work with Germany to support the work of the World Health Organization (WHO), promote international cooperation within such frameworks as the United Nations and the Group of 20, help African countries fight the coronavirus disease, and contribute to safeguarding global public health security.

Stressing the need to coordinate epidemic control and economic and social development, Xi said the general trend of the Chinese economy towards stable long-term growth with a sound momentum remains unchanged.

China, he added, will stay committed to further opening up to and expanding cooperation with the rest of the world, and continue to create a favorable environment for German enterprises to increase investment in China.

The recently launched China-Germany "fast track" arrangement will help enterprises in both countries to speed up business resumption, and maintain the stability of international industrial and supply chains, he said.

The Chinese president said he is confident that China-Germany cooperation will play its due role in helping pull the world out of the economic recession at an early date.

With China and Germany maintaining a stable and sound cooperative relationship, China stands ready to continue dialogue and exchanges with Germany, Xi said.

Noting that Germany is to take over the rotating presidency of the European Union (EU) for the second half of this year, he added that China appreciates Germany's willingness to actively promote the development of China-EU ties.

As a series of significant events of China-Germany and China-EU political exchanges are now under discussion, China is willing to keep close communication and coordination with Germany and the EU to ensure the success of these events and lift China-Germany and China-EU relations to higher levels, he added.

For her part, Merkel said that Germany attaches importance to the economic and social development plan made in China's "two sessions," and stands ready to work with China to promote work and production resumption without compromising outbreak control and continuously deepen bilateral economic cooperation.

Xinhua

Turkey, Russia team up for clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines

ANKARA

TURKEY and Russia have joined efforts to conduct clinical trials of coronavirus vaccine candidates, Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said on Wednesday.

"We know that the vaccine research, in particular, tests on animals, have ended. Vaccine clinical trials is another serious process. It is not sufficient to conduct trials within a single country. We work alongside Russia on its clinical trials," Koca said cited by the Aksam daily.

On Tuesday, Koca said that Turkey and Russia would collaborate in developing the vaccine against and cure for COVID-19.

The presidents of the two countries, Vladimir Putin of Russia and Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, held telephone talks on May 18 and the Russian leader stressed the importance of cooperation in such areas as development of COVID treatment techniques and vaccines. Chief of Russia's sanitary watchdog Anna Popova said on May 22 Moscow and Ankara were ready for joint work to develop an anti-coronavirus vaccine.

In late December 2019, Chinese officials notified the World Health Organization (WHO) about the outbreak of a previously unknown pneumonia in the city of Wuhan, in central China. Since then, cases of the novel coronavirus - named COVID-19 by the WHO - have been reported in every corner of the globe, including Russia.

On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. According to the latest statistics, over 6,468,700 people have been infected worldwide and more than 382,000 deaths have been reported. In addition, so far, over 3,078,900 individuals have recovered from the illness across the globe.

Agencies

China gathers public wisdom in compiling civil code

TO compile the civil code is a major legislative task set by the Fourth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

According to schedule, general rules of the civil code, which is dubbed as an "encyclopedia of social life," will be made first, followed by detailed provisions.

Huang Wei, an official with the Legislative Affairs Commission of China's National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, told the People's Daily that legislative departments, conducting

thorough and extensive research, have heard advice via multiple channels and constantly improved the draft version of the civil code since the compilation started in 2015.

To gather wisdom from the mass is a conspicuous characteristic of the compilation, Huang noted.

She took the provisions on marriage and family as an example. Regarding the marriageable age, an issue that draws wide social attention, legislative departments have not only studied the opinions from different parties, but also conducted special surveys to solicit public

opinions on desired marriageable age under the help from the National Bureau of Statistics, to further improve the rationality and accuracy of the legislative resolution.

Relevant drafts have all been published on the website of the NPC to solicit public opinions after being deliberated by the NPC Standing Committee.

According to preliminary statistics, the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee has published seven times the drafts since August 2018, receiving 951,607 pieces of advice from 410,349 people.

The advice and relevant problems have been studied by legislative departments, and highlighted during the revision process.

Legislation shall be fact-based and shall conform to social reality. According to Huang, legislative departments have gone to different regions multiple times for investigation, hearing advices from parties concerned on the drafts.

During the drafting of the general rules and compilation of detailed provisions, these departments also went to various places for investigation and seminars.

They visited residential communities, neighborhood committees, enterprises and universities to solicit opinions. Besides, they also established a coordinating group consisting staff from the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Ministry of Justice, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the China Law Society, convening conferences on a regular basis.

How to improve the relevant regulations on high-rise littering is a hotspot issue during the compilation of the provisions on torts, Huang introduced, saying

high-rise littering is a frequent problem that seriously endangers people's lives and property.

Legislative departments, based on the existing terms in the tort liability law, have thoroughly studied relevant legislation of foreign countries, held seminars for parties concerned, scholars, property management companies and residents, and have gone to places concerned for special investigation, Huang introduced. They finally improved relevant provisions and won high recognition.

People's Daily

All 4 Minneapolis police officers charged in George Floyd

MINNEAPOLIS

PROSECUTORS on Wednesday leveled new criminal charges against four Minneapolis police officers implicated in the death of an unarmed black man who was pinned by his neck to the street during an arrest caught on video, sparking nine days of nationwide protest and civil turmoil.

Derek Chauvin, arrested Friday on charges of third-degree murder and manslaughter in the death of George Floyd, 46, was newly charged with an additional, more serious count of second-degree murder, according to court documents filed in the case.

The added charge, defined under Minnesota law as unintentionally causing another person's death in the commission of a felony offense, can carry a sentence of up to 40 years, 15 years longer than the maximum sentence for third-degree murder.

Chauvin, 44, was the white officer seen in widely circulated video footage kneeling on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes as Floyd gasped for air and repeatedly groaned, "Please, I can't breathe," before growing motionless while bystand-



This combination of handout photos provided by the Hennepin County Jail created on Wednesday shows (left to right) ex-officers Derek Chauvin, Tou Thao, J Alexander Kueng and Thomas Kiernan Lane booking photo. (AFP)

ers shouted at police to let him up.

Floyd, whom police suspected of trying to pass a counterfeit bill to pay for cigarettes, was pronounced dead at a hospital shortly after the fatal encounter on May 25.

Three fellow officers dismissed from the Minneapolis police department along with Chauvin the following day were charged on Wednesday for the first time in the case - each with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and with aiding and abetting manslaughter.

Those three - Thomas Lane, J Alexander Kueng and Tou Thao - have also been

taken into custody. Aiding and abetting second-degree murder carries the same maximum punishment as the underlying offense - 40 years in prison.

Floyd's death has become the latest flashpoint for long-simmering rage over police brutality against African Americans, propelling the highly charged issue of racial justice to the top of the political agenda five months before the US presidential election on Nov 3.

Scenes of protesters of all races flooding the streets - mostly peaceful but sometimes accompanied by arson, looting and clashes with police - have fueled a sense of

crisis but also hopes of change.

The mass public activity followed weeks of lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, which forced millions of Americans out of work and disproportionately affected minorities.

Trial months away

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, a black former US congressman, has requested bail of US\$1 million for each of the four former officers, court documents showed.

When reached by Reuters over the phone, Lane's attorney, Earl Gray, said he had not received any information on the charges yet. Attorneys for the other officers charged in the case did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"This is a significant step forward on the road to justice, and we are gratified that this important action was brought before George Floyd's body was laid to rest," Benjamin Crump, attorney for the Floyd family, said in a statement.

At an afternoon news conference, Ellison said winning a conviction "will be hard," noting that Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, whose office filed the

original charges against Chauvin, is the only prosecutor in the state to have successfully convicted a police officer for murder.

Fully investigating the case "is going to take months," he said. Protesters had demanded the case be widened to include all the officers who were present during the incident.

Outside agitators

Several major cities scaled back or lifted curfews imposed for the past few days. But not all was calm.

In New York City's Brooklyn borough, police in riot gear charged into a crowd of about 1,000 protesters defying a local curfew, albeit peacefully, near an outdoor plaza, and clubbed demonstrators and journalists as they scurried for cover in a downpour of heavy rain.

The confrontation in Brooklyn seemed to be the biggest exception to a calmer night, hours after the new charges in Minneapolis.

Protests erupted in Minneapolis and elsewhere the night after Floyd's death and have since spread to dozens of cities large and small across the United States.

Agencies

Supporters of Trump propagate COVID-19 origin rumor about China on Twitter

BEIJING

ABOUT 30 Twitter groups who claimed to be supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump, the Republican Party or the far-right conspiracy theory QAnon, have propagated rumors that the coronavirus was a bioweapon created by China, according to new research.

After analyzing over 2.6 million tweets collected by the think tank Australia Institute's

Center for Responsible Technology in the 10 days from late March, the research found that 28 so-called Twitter groups associated with conservative politicians or QAnon spread the story about the origin of COVID-19.

Many of the Twitter groups are automatically generated Twitter accounts that shared posts frequently, it added.

There have been coronavirus related-rumors on social

media since early January that some governments created the new virus as part of "military experiments," U.S. political news outlet Politico reported Tuesday. The World Health Organization and several fact-checking groups have rejected such rumors.

The think tank researchers found the conspiracy theory labeling "COVID-19 a Chinese bioweapon" had been shared by these Twitter groups nearly

900 times, the report said.

"Those online messages were then retweeted 18,500 times, collectively garnering as many as 5 million views of the rumor across Twitter," it added.

In early May, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo agitated for "significant evidence" on the virus' origin from the central Chinese city of Wuhan. However, he did offer any concrete proof to validate his

claims.

The WHO responded by saying that such a claim on the virus' origin remains "speculative," as the organization had not received any data or evidence from the U.S. side.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted by TASS news agency as saying in an interview with the National Interest published on Saturday that "the United States uses every single area

to pressure China in a most energetic and most forceful manner."

"I think it clearly entails a further growth of uncertainty in international relations," said Ryabkov.

Meanwhile, The Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday that Washington's announcement to punish China could validate the belief that the United States intends to contain China's rise. **Xinhua**

Moscow denies charges of complicity in protests in US, says ambassador in Washington

MOSCOW

MOSCOW denies the charges of alleged intervention in the United States' internal affairs and of complicity in mass protests in that country, Russia's ambassador in Washington, Anatoly Antonov, said in the 60 Minutes program on Russia's Rossiya-1 federal television channel.

"Even in this situation, where the country has encountered such serious problems, some are trying to find a Russian connection and accuse Russia of intervention in the United States' internal affairs. Allegedly we instigate what is happening here," Antonov (pictured) said.

US media, he remarked, keeps claiming Russia is behind the scenes and pulls the strings.

"This is utterly wrong. Everything that is happening in the United States is a result of the policy that has been conducted in the US in the field of inter-ethnic and



inter-racial relations. It is an explosion of the contradictions that have been simmering for a very long time," he said.

The coronavirus pandemic and economic problems have merely added to the tensions. "In the country there are 40 million jobless, who are tired of the lockdown. The negative emotions are overflowing and spilling onto the streets," he said. "I will say unequivocally that nobody is rejoicing. Everybody is watching with great regret what is happening in the United States," Antonov stated. "People are losing lives. We do see what attacks are being committed by the marauders and provocateurs, who never

miss a chance to take advantage of peaceful demonstrations."

"It goes without saying that what is happening in the United States is fresh evidence of human rights violations and double standards. But I would not like to put the emphasis on this in a country where we, Russian diplomats, are doing our job. We are very much worried over the situation in the host country. We wish to see its recovery. We wish to see order and people's constitutional rights restored as fast as possible. This would let us cooperate normally," Antonov said.

No progress for the time being

"I have a feeling that the positive, constructive signals from Donald Trump, who speaks about the need for improving Russian-US relations, do not reach the middle level, those who are expected to act on the instructions," Antonov said.

He recalled that several days

ago Russian and US presidents held a telephone conversation and set the tasks and specific aims of bilateral cooperation. "However, this has not taken the shape of concrete projects we would like to see," Antonov said.

Unrest in US

Many US states have witnessed protests and rioting following the death of African American George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. During his detention on May 25 police used a dangerous chokehold. A day later all four police officers involved in the operation were fired and one of them was arrested on charges of unpremeditated murder.

In connection with rioting the authorities introduced a curfew in 40 US cities, including Washington, Los Angeles and New York. The KTLA network said on Tuesday the unrest has left at least 11 people dead.

Agencies

Featured crop farming contributes to China's poverty alleviation

ORAH mandarins, a mandarin variety that is very popular in China nowadays, are flowering in Sede village, Nuijiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture of southwest China's Yunnan province. The plants are expected to generate profits for local growers this year.

However, when the proposal to establish an Orah mandarin plantation base in the village was raised by Zhao Qinggang, a member of the poverty-alleviation working team in the village, it encountered indifference from the villagers, and Li Yihua, who now works for the base and earns 3,500 yuan each month, even encouraged fellow villagers to not to contribute their land to the base.

What Li did was understandable, as he has his own calculations. The man explained that there would be at least two penniless years before the plants start fruiting, but his family of seven had to spend 8,400 yuan each year on food, which was not a small expenditure for him.

Zhao responded that the plantation base needed labor, too, and recommended Li to serve as management staff at the base, from which Li could even earn more than growing corns.

The poverty-alleviation team later visited the villagers from door to door to explain policies and clear up misunderstanding. It also invited technicians from a local institution of agricultural science to explain the feasibility of planting Orah mandarins, in an attempt to dispel the doubts of the villagers. Thanks to these efforts, the plantation base was established as scheduled.

Now Li is very pleased with



A Communist Party of China volunteer helps a villager pick tomatoes in Datan village, Shibao township, Chishui of southwest China's Guizhou province, May 10, 2020. Photo by Wang Changyu/People's Daily Online

his 3,500-yuan monthly income. Apart from management staff like Li, other villagers who work part-time at the plantation base can also make 120 yuan per day.

In addition to the Orah mandarin plantation base, oolong tea, apple and beekeeping programs are also popping up in Sede village, lifting 1,708 registered impoverished villagers out of poverty.

"To shake off poverty is only a start, and the annual dividend for villagers who contributed their land to the base is also a big sum of money," Zhao noted.

Many regions in China are nowadays relying on plantation, processing industry and e-commerce to create jobs for impoverished people.

The country achieved its poverty reduction target last year, lifting 11 million people out of poverty. 2020 remains a year of decisive victory for the elimination of poverty, and the whole country is making more efforts to help the impoverished find stable ways out of poverty.

The impoverished population

in China had been reduced to 5.51 million last year from 98.99 million in 2012, with the poverty headcount ratio dropping to 0.6 percent from 10.2 percent. The number of people lifted out of poverty each year has been kept above 10 million for 7 consecutive years. The per capita net income of impoverished households grew to 9,808 yuan last year from 3,416 yuan in 2015, with an average annual growth of 30.2 percent.

Upon completion of the poverty eradication task this year, China will achieve the goals set in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, lifting around 100 million people out of poverty.

Secretary General of the United Nations said that targeted poverty reduction strategies are the only way to achieve the ambitious targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and China's experiences can provide valuable lessons to other developing countries.

People's Daily

Missing Madeleine McCann: UK, German police have new suspect

LONDON

BRITISH and German police said on Wednesday they had a new suspect in the 2007 disappearance in Portugal of three-year-old Madeleine McCann and appealed for information about a German man currently imprisoned in Germany for sexual assault offences.

McCann (pictured), who is British, disappeared from her bedroom on May 3 during a family holiday in the Algarve while her parents

were dining with friends nearby in the resort of Praia da Luz.

Her fate remains a mystery despite

huge international publicity which prompted reported sightings from across the world.

Police want to speak to anyone



who has relevant information on the 43-year old man, whom they did not name, or the movements of two vehicles linked to him during the period around the girl's disappearance. Both cars, a Volkswagen camper van and a Jaguar, are now in the possession of German police.

German police said they were treating the case as a suspected murder and had determined the method used to kill McCann. They did not believe the murder was pre-

meditated and said the man was involved in crimes like break-ins and burglary. They also asked for anyone who was familiar with two Portuguese phone numbers to come forward. One of the phones was used by the suspect, and received a 30 minute phone call from the second number whilst in the Praia da Luz area on the night of the disappearance, shortly before McCann was last seen.

Agencies

China's homegrown navigation system applied to measurement of Mount Qomolangma

A new round of measurement on the height of Mount Qomolangma was recently initiated, 60 years after human being reached the summit of the world's highest mountain via its north ridge, and 45 years after China accurately measured and announced the height of the peak for the first time.

China's independently developed and operated BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) is applied to the elevation survey for the first time. Now, the Chinese surveyors are about to reach the summit soon.

The height measurement of Mount Qomolangma is an international race regarding survey-

ing technologies. In the arduous efforts to explore the altitude of the world's highest mountain, technologies have always offered strong support. The surveying and communication technologies acted as "teammates", making the measurement more accurate and smoother.

Li Guopeng, captain of the surveying team, introduced that the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) is an important part of the survey.

"In 2005, GNSS satellite measurement mainly relied on the Global Positioning System (GPS) of the United States. But this year, we will refer to four major global navigation satellite systems: the

GPS, Europe's Galileo, Russia's GLONASS and China's BDS. And we will take BDS data as our main reference," Li said.

The GNSS receivers, relying on the BDS and GNSS monitors in and outside the Qomolangma region, will observe simultaneously on the summit. They are also able to monitor the crustal movement in relevant regions.

As one of the four major satellite navigation systems in the world, the BDS is an important spatial infrastructure of China that is able to offer high-accuracy positioning, navigation and time services for global users. As of the end of 2018, a basic system of orbiting BeiDou-3 satellites had been in place and

started global service. 2020 marks the final year for the building of Beidou constellations, and the 54th Beidou navigation satellite just entered its orbit in March.

The BDS also offered vital assistance to China's effort to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Its accurate surveying largely facilitated the construction of makeshift hospitals Huoshenshan and Leishenshan, and its positioning and time services also made possible the tracing and dynamic management of people, cases and other subjects.

The height measurement of Mount Qomolangma calls for comprehensive application of multiple technical means, and

both traditional and modern surveying and mapping technologies apart from the GNSS will be used. The final height to be published is also a result of comprehensive data processing.

It's noteworthy that airborne gravity technology will be applied to the survey this time to improve accuracy. It is the first time for China to conduct airborne gravity and remote sensing survey in the region, which is expected to fill relevant data gaps.

Besides, the airborne method is also able to achieve extensive and precise three-dimensional topographic data of Mount Qomolangma and surrounding areas, which is like taking a million-pixel pano-

rama picture of the mountain.

The extreme environment of the measurement mission has raised a very high requirement on the technologies of equipment, and many devices must be specially modified. For instance, the equipment working on the summit must be operational in low temperature, pressure and oxygen content. Therefore, many surveying devices were customized this time by Chinese equipment developers.

The "snow radar" is one customized by a Chinese enterprise. It measures the snow thickness and rock height on the summit of Mount Qomolangma. Different from traditional geological radar,

it is able to work in low temperature, with low energy consumption and in extremely severe environment. The remeasurement of Mount Qomolangma this time raised higher technical standard on "snow radar" - the device must be light and portable, and able to acquire both locations and snow thicknesses.

Besides, the latest achievements of China's survey system construction will also be applied to the remeasurement mission of Mount Qomolangma. Li noted that China's surveying technologies are world-class, and they are confident to achieve a success

People's Daily

The Guardian

SPORT



This combination photo shows Miranda Lambert performing at the 2017 CMA Music Festival in Nashville, Tenn. on June 8, 2017, from left, Darius Rucker performing at the CMA Music Festival in Nashville, Tenn., on June 14, 2015 and Luke Combs performing at the 54th annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas on April 7, 2019. CMT is saluting heroes on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic with a star filled TV special featuring Combs, Lambert, Rucker, Florida Georgia Line and others. (AP Photo)

CMT special focuses on good news work of everyday heroes

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

COUNTRY stars highlighted the heroic work of citizens and communities around the country who were coming together to help each other in the middle of the coronavirus epidemic during the "CMT Celebrates Our Heroes" TV special.

But Wednesday's show largely didn't address the protesting and rallies for racial justice that have gripped the country in the previous week following the death of George Floyd after a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes.

CMT started the show with a simple text introduction: "As social unrest grips the nation, we want to say thank you to those taking action against injustice. There are heroes all around us."

The special aired in place of their CMT Music Awards, which were postponed to October. It appeared to contain pre-recorded performances and dedications from artists like Carrie Underwood, Luke Combs and Darius Rucker and was focused on good news stories of healthcare workers, educators, first responders and more.

Blake Shelton spoke about the pandemic especially hurting lower income people who are food insecure, including children who rely on school lunches before highlighting the city of Kodiak, Alaska, and its school district for delivering meals to children.

Underwood, whose sisters are teachers and her mother is a former teacher, noted how educators have come up with creative solutions

to keep kids learning even as classes went online. "Now more than ever we recognize what an important and difficult job they have," Underwood said.

Luke Combs sang his virus-inspired song called "Six Feet Apart" after acknowledging that he misses being able to sing for people.

Country singer Thomas Rhett in a black and white video sang his inspirational song "Be a Light," which included the timely lyrics: "In a world full of hate, be a light."

Country duo Brothers Osborne joined Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan on a video conference call to surprise their hometown heroes, a nurse and a local organizer helping to provide needy families with food. Darius Rucker performed "Forever and Ever, Amen," in front of projected images of couples getting married during the pandemic.

Miranda Lambert noted most of her family were in law enforcement, including her husband who worked for New York Police Department, before playing her song "Bluebird" on the back porch of her house.

Actress Scarlett Johansson said first responders stay calm under pressure, but nothing could have prepared them for dealing with the pandemic.

"When most of us are being told to stay at home, police, EMTs and firefighters go out and face this head on," said Johansson. "That takes courage and strength."

AP

'Big Three' join #BlackoutTuesday campaign against racial injustice

PARIS

LONDON

ROGER Federer, Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic were among the tennis players who joined the #BlackoutTuesday campaign against racial injustice, as protests continue over the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died in police custody.

Floyd died after a white policeman pinned his neck under a knee for nearly nine minutes in Minneapolis on May 25.

Men's world No. 1 Djokovic posted black screenshots on his Twitter and Instagram pages with the message "Black Lives Matter", and was joined by Federer and Nadal, the other members of the "Big Three" of men's tennis.

Grand Slam winners Maria Sharapova, Petra Kvitová and Stan Wawrinka were among other players who signalled their support for the campaign.

African-American teenage phenomenon Coco Gauff and Japan's Naomi Osaka have also expressed their anger over Floyd's death.

Replying to Federer's Instagram post, the

16-year-old Gauff commented: "Click the link in my bio to get resources on HOW YOU CAN HELP! THANK YOU."

Osaka, whose father is Haitian and mother is Japanese, said people should be doing more than posting "the black square".

"I'm torn between roasting people for only posting the black square this entire week ... or accepting that they could've posted nothing at all so I should deal with this bare minimum bread crumb they have given," she posted on Twitter.

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) posted a black screen shot as well as a statement against racism on its social media handles.

The USTA, organisers of the U.S. Open Grand Slam, said it was "extremely disappointed, angry, and heartbroken" at the hardships faced by communities of colour in the United States.

"The African-American community is an integral part of our tennis family and the USTA stands unwaveringly against racism and injustice of any kind," it added.

REUTERS

“

It is your duty not to burn your own house down for anger with an enemy," he said, adding that he has a lot of love and respect for police while also acknowledging that some of them have done "horrendous

Hamilton right to speak out on racial injustice, says Ecclestone

LONDON

FORMER F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone has backed Lewis Hamilton after the six-time world champion spoke about his "rage" over racial injustice following the death of George Floyd.

The 89-year-old Englishman said Hamilton and other sports stars should have the freedom to air their views.

Hamilton, the only black driver in F1, on Tuesday said he had been "completely overcome with rage at the sight of such blatant disregard for the lives of our (black) people" following the incident in the United States.

It was the second time he has spoken out about the death of Floyd, an unarmed African-American who died last week after a police officer in Minneapolis knelt on his neck.

Many global sports stars, including several Formula One drivers, have spoken out against racial injustice since the incident.

"It is a good thing that Lewis does come out and the footballers and start talking and they should carry on doing so," Ecclestone told AFP by phone from his home in Switzerland.

Ecclestone, who oversaw the transformation of F1 into a global multi-billion dollar commercial giant, welcomed the widespread reaction to Floyd's death.

"As far as I am personally concerned, it is a great surprise to me it has taken so long for a black person to be so brutally killed to bring sports people's attention to these things," he said.

Hamilton's stance was also supported by Toto Wolff, the British driver's boss at Formula One team Mercedes. "Thought you are white?" - "Lewis is a supporter of minorities,"



Lewis Hamilton pictured with former F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone (AFP Photo)

said Wolff. "I learned a lot from him.

"He asked me once: 'Have you ever had the active thought that you are white?' I said I had never thought about it. He said: 'I think about it every day.'"

Wolff added: "It is very hard for us to comprehend how difficult it is (as a black man) and I am happy he has come out so vocal. He is one of the ambassadors of this sport and I think it's good."

Ecclestone said he had taken a stand against racism when he removed the South African Grand Prix from the calendar in 1986 due to the apartheid

regime then in place.

"I pulled the race out of South Africa when there was apartheid, which was wrong and disgusting," said Ecclestone.

"I don't see that racism has ever gone away. People have always not been very nice."

Ecclestone compared his South African decision to when there were protests over the Bahrain Grand Prix in 2012.

The previous year's edition had been cancelled due to unrest in the country. Authorities cracked down on Shiite-led protests demanding

political reform.

But the Bahrain race controversially went ahead in 2012.

"I argued in Bahrain and supported the people who were complaining they had been bullied or whatever," he said.

"I met the person who was organising the protests and met with people who claimed to have been tortured.

"In this case they wanted to take over the country and that was not the case in South Africa nor now in the United States -- quite the opposite."

AFP

Japan to explore 'simplified' Games, says Tokyo governor



A man wearing a protective mask walks past a countdown clock for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Tokyo, Japan yesterday. REUTERS

TOKYO

TOKYO Governor Yuriko Koike said on Thursday it may be necessary to stage a "simplified" Olympics next year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and that organisers were already discussing possible changes.

Koike's comments came after the Yomiuri newspaper reported that various options, such as mandatory coronavirus testing and having fewer spectators, were being considered by organisers.

John Coates, the head of the

International Olympic Committee's (IOC) inspectorate for Tokyo, has said organisers had to plan for what could be a "very different" Olympics if there were no signs of COVID-19 being eradicated.

"Holding the Olympic and Paralympic Games calls for sympathy and understanding of Tokyoites and the Japanese people," Koike told reporters.

"For that, we need to rationalise what needs to be rationalised and simplify what needs to be simplified."

The Yomiuri, citing government and organising committee sources,

said making Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests mandatory for all spectators - in addition to athletes and staff - and limiting movement in and out of the athletes village were among the options Japan would discuss with the IOC.

At a regular briefing Tokyo 2020 spokesman Masa Takaya did not confirm the details of the Yomiuri report but said stakeholders were looking at ways to "optimise and streamline the scope and service levels in preparing for the Games".

"At this stage, we have no concrete outcome yet but we are keen to

continue the discussions," said Takaya.

"The spread of the novel coronavirus ... is something very ambiguous and we have no ability to completely understand what the situation will look like next year." The IOC and Japanese government in March took the unprecedented decision to delay the Games, which had been due to start in July. A further delay beyond 2021 has been ruled out.

The new coronavirus has infected more than 6.4 million people and killed about 380,000 around the world. Japan has had some 17,000 infections and 900 known deaths to date.

REUTERS

SPORT

Barcelona want to sell Coutinho, but why does not top club want him?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba's winger, Louis Miquissone (L), dribbles past fullback, Shomari Kapombe, during training at Bunju in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Ndanda FC in pursuit of Federation Cup last four

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

VODACOM Premier League's Ndanda FC are looking forward to proving their worth in the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) last eight stage's game against Tanga's Sahare All Stars, slated for June 27-28 at the latter's backyard, Mkwakwani Stadium.

Should Ndanda FC see off Sahare All Stars in the stage, the Mtwara-based club will confront either Alliance FC or Namungo FC, in the last four of this season's tournament.

Ndanda FC information officer Idriss Bandari stated his club has already entered camp to shape up for the rest of their games in the domestic top flight.

The team, the official disclosed, are equally committed to training well to see to it they come out victorious in the ASFC quarterfinal match against Sahare All Stars.

Victory in the ASFC last eight match, he disclosed, will likely see Ndanda FC stay on course for much more notable success, representing Tanzania in the next season's CAF Confederation Cup.

"This is our second appearance in the quarterfinal stage of the Federation Cup but we this time round want to go further," he stated.

"The good thing is we have been paired against Sahare All Stars in the last eight. Sahare are not a weak side either, given they have worked hard to book a place in the last eight."

"They have though been tasked with facing us, for that matter, they will lose."

He stated many domestic soccer fans had underrated them but they have proved them wrong.

Sahare All Stars, who play in the First Division League (FDL), are adamant they want to stretch their fairytale run in the ASFC.

The club's head coach, Kessy Abdallah, stated they are preparing to give a good account of themselves in the last eight match.

"I respect Ndanda FC, they are a good side, they have good players and good coaches, we appreciate they are an experienced squad but their quality hardly puts them in pole position in the match," Abdallah said.

Ndanda FC beat Dar es Salaam's Cosmopolitan FC 2-1 in the round of 64 stage of the competition to make it to the round of 32.

The following stage had Ndanda FC confronting Dodoma FC and the Mtwara side sailed through to the round of 16 after commanding 1-0 victory over their opponents.

Ndanda FC made short work of Kitayosa FC in the following stage, cruising to 3-1 victory and booking place in the quarterfinals.



Yanga head coach, Luc Eymael (2nd L), instructs his players during a training session, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Yanga head coach set to jet into Dar tomorrow

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) head coach, Luc Eymael, is set to jet into Dar es Salaam tomorrow, the club has disclosed.

Yanga's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, yesterday said all is set for the return of the Belgian, who left Tanzania after the suspension of the Vodacom Premier League and the rest of sporting activities due to Coronavirus pandemic.

He said the coach is expected to arrive at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere International Airport at noon and he will head straight to the team's training.

"All is set for the arrival of our coach, if everything goes well he will arrive at Mwalimu Julius Nyerere International Airport at noon and head straight to the ground where the team is training," he said.

Bumbuli said the coming of Eymael will boost morale of the team which is currently under the tutelage of assistant coach, Charles Boniface Mkwasu.

"We have a full house, it is only the head coach who was not with the team. I'm sure his coming will boost morale of the players," he said.

Yanga will next week take on Mwadui FC in a Vodacom Premier League game at Kambarage Stadium in Shinyanga.

Yanga are also set to lock horns with Kagera Sugar in the last eight stage of the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) at the end of this month.

Yanga will be confronting Kagera Sugar for the second time in a competitive encounter.

Kagera Sugar walloped Yanga 3-0 in the Premier League's first phase match between the two clubs. Yanga had started this season's ASFC impressively, hammering First Division League (FDL)'s Iringa United 4-0 in the ASFC's round of 64.

In the round of 32, Yanga took on fellow Vodacom Premier League squad, Prisons, and the former progressed to the round of 16, thrashing the latter 2-0.

Gwambina FC, also featuring in the FDL, were Yanga's opponents in the round of 16 clash, which ended with Yanga booking a place in the last eight following 1-0 win over the Mwanza side.

Simba coach impressed by players' displays in VPL preps

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIMBA SC head coach Sven Vandendroek has said he is very much impressed with the way his players are responding to training.

Simba, like other Vodacom Premier League clubs, have resumed training in readiness for wrapping the 2019/20 football season.

The season was suspended on March 18 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but the government announced that sporting activities should resume, starting with football tournaments.

The Belgian coach said he is happy with the way his charges are responding to trainings.

"The players are responding well and I'm sure that by the time we play our next game against Ruvo Shooting, they will be fit and ready," he said.

He said he, in cooperation with his assistant coach Suleiman Matola, are working on technical and tactical aspects of their charges.

He said Simba's assistant coach, Adel Zrene, is working on players' fitness.

Simba SC, currently leading the 20-team league with 71 points, will play Ruvo Shooting at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam next weekend.

Simba are thereafter set to take on Azam FC in quarterfinals of this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

Christian Bella reveals in success in music

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PROMINENT Tanzania-based musician, Christian Bella, has stated he is still riding high in domestic dance music circles, much as the genre is currently facing series of setbacks.

Bella, who leads Malaika Musica band, disclosed his success stems from his willingness to adapt to changes in the entertainment industry.

The Congolese musician added dance music has faced lots of changes in Tanzania therefore the genre's artists should adapt to the changes.

"The artistes' failure to do so, he noted, will see them fail to make headways in music and in the end turn into frustrated lot.

"Once I discovered the domestic dance music is experiencing challenges, I chose to improve my songs, going as far as doing collaborations with some of new genre 'Bongo Flava' artistes," Bella stated. He said his approach played a crucial role in his ability to continue winning popularity and attracting more music fans, as opposed to other prominent dance musicians who have plunged to oblivion.

"I have been doing different types of music depending on the market and honestly the initiative has helped me a lot. I have in the process kept on winning popularity as well as giving music fans better performances," he disclosed.

Bella disclosed he will keep on using different types of melodies in his productions, ranging from R&B to Hip Hop, with the aim of keeping on achieving success in music.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV FRIDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM