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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 6 JUNE, 2020

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# JPM writes out Covid-19, wants schools back

By Henry Mwangonde



**T**HE government has said it is seriously considering reopening primary and secondary schools, with the number of Covid-19 patients having declined further in health facilities across the country.

Addressing delegates of the Tanzania Teachers' Union (TTU) annual general meeting (AGM) at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma yesterday, President John Magufuli assured Tanzanians of decreasing new coronavirus infections, affirming that schools are likely to be opened soon.

"As the number of Covid-19 patients is decreasing every day, I am thinking of reopening primary and secondary schools," he declared.

To start with, the government will reopen schools in Dodoma this month as a pilot project, with expectations that the exercise will then be spread out countrywide, he told the delegates.

The disease will be successfully battled with prayers as well as adherence to health experts' preventive measures, he further asserted.

"The latest figures I have indicate that the number of Covid-19 patients in the country's health facilities has gone down further," he said.

The government's proposal to reopen primary and secondary schools comes in the wake of reopening colleges, universities and Form Six classes.

In a televised speech, Dr Magufuli warned individuals and institutions distributing Covid-19 protective gears which have not been approved by responsible authorities.

He said distribution of unapproved protective gears including face masks poses health risks to users as some of them might be contaminated with the coronavirus.

"If you want to wear a face mask, go make your own, it is very simple," he urged, directing authorities to take action against individuals or organizations donating and distributing unapproved protective gear.

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## Vaccines: Bill Gates Foundation sets \$1.6bn for US Gavi Alliance bid

SEATTLE

THE Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has announced a five-year US\$1.6 billion commitment to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to deliver lifesaving vaccines to the world's poorest countries.

The commitment was announced at the Global Vaccine Summit 2020, hosted by

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## Zanzibar sighs with relief, Covid-19 cases drop to 10

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR has successfully handled the Covid-19 pandemic with the number of active cases dropping to 10 in the whole of Unguja and Pemba.

Hamad Rashid Mohamed, the Minister of Health, told the House of Representatives here yesterday that the decreasing trend of Covid-19 infections has led to closure of four treatment centers for over two weeks.

Health workers at the specific centers have not received any patient in the period, he said.

Presenting the ministry's budget estimates for the 2020/2021 financial year, he said that of the 10 patients currently receiving treatment

**“The two leaders managed to allay fears among Tanzanians, with the people continuing to engage in economic activities, he stated.”**

at various centers, one is in Pemba.

"We have successfully controlled the spreading coronavirus," he enthused.

He said defeating Covid-19 was made possible by islanders' adherence to preventive

measures centering on hygienic precautions as per directives from Union President John Magufuli and his Zanzibar counterpart, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein.

The two leaders managed to allay fears among Tanzanians, with the people continuing to engage in economic activities, he stated.

He commended Isles residents for adhering to preventive measures as they are critical to slowing the spread of the illnesses, citing social distancing, frequent hand washing with soap and running water or alcohol-based hand rubs.

The minister told the House that the government was considering easing more of the containment measures

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## Former MSD officials in court

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Medical Stores Department (MSD) executive director Laurian Bwanakunu Rugambwa and former acting director of logistics Byekwaso Tabura were yesterday arraigned at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court facing five counts, including money laundering and occasioning the government 1.6bn/- loss.

The former director is also alleged to have approved salary



increment for the agency's staff without consent from the Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance).

Reading the charges before resident magistrate Richard Kabati, senior public prosecutor Faraja Ngukah said the accused committed the first offence between July 1, 2016 and June 2019 in Dar es Salaam.

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### SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19



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## JPM writes out Covid-19, wants schools back

FROM PAGE 1

He said the TTU President called him shortly after the closure of the schools, setting out the demand that teachers should continue being paid salaries during the coronavirus pandemic.

Dr Magufuli said the government was set to introduce an electronic system to monitor and keep records of all debts and arrears which civil servants owe it to control the proliferation of ghost debts.

The government has so far paid over 80 percent of teacher's arrears, the president affirmed.

Dr Magufuli hailed the outgoing TTU leadership for a job well done as it had played a vital role in increasing the pass rate for Form Four students from 64 percent in 2015 to 85 percent in 2019.

"The government will continue paying teachers even if the pandemic lasts for ten years. We spend 300bn/- to pay teachers salary every month," the president noted, amid applause from teachers.

During the past five years the government employed 22,341 teachers and in the next fiscal year 13,526 teachers will be employed, he further noted, raising spirits further by elaborating that in the next financial year, 166,548 teachers will be promoted.

The government will this August pay 15bn/- in teachers' arrears, with a total of 22,341 primary and secondary school teachers having been employed from 2015 to 2019, he stated.

Teachers account for around 50 percent of the civil service, he pointed out.

He was optimistic that the new TTU leadership will address the raised teachers' complaints including the two percent salary deduction where the monies go directly to the union.

Earlier, TTU Secretary General Deus Seif requested the Head of State to consider promoting teachers who were employed in 2015.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), Jenister Mhagama had said earlier that Tanzania has 33 trade unions with TTU being the largest.

When social security funds were merged, the government owed teachers 1.2trn/- in arrears but now 80 percent of the arrears have been paid, the minister added.



Former Medical Store Department director general Laureen Bwanakunu Rugambwa (R) and logistics director Byekwaso Tabura (2nd-R) under police escort outside the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after appearing there charged with five counts, including money laundering. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Zanzibar sighs with relief, Covid-19 cases drop to 10

FROM PAGE 1

earlier imposed to mitigate the proliferation of Covid-19.

He said the government has already reopened universities, colleges and Advanced Level secondary schools, partially.

"We ordered the resumption of classes for Form Six students because

they are about to sit for national examinations," he pointed out.

The minister hinted at allowing air traffic for specific commercial flights ferrying tourists to the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Last month, the government reopened tourism activities in the Mainland, putting in place conditions for tourists

arriving from abroad to present medical proof on their Covid-19 status.

In the new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) announced by Natural Resources and Tourism minister, Dr Hamis Kigwangalla the government outlined a number of measures meant to ensure arriving tourists leave the country without

being infected with the new disease.

Covid-19, the highly infectious respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus emerged in China late last year and has spread to at least 188 countries on six continents, with the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring the outbreak a pandemic.

The virus that causes Covid-19 is transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes or exhales. A person can be infected by breathing in the virus if he or she is within close proximity of someone who has the disease or by touching a contaminated surface and then touching eyes, nose or mouth.

Data from John Hopkins University and the Africa Center for Disease Control on Covid-19 indicated that Africa has a total of 170,704 confirmed coronavirus cases.

At least 74,822 people have recovered from the deadly disease while reported cases of deaths had reached 4,763 in the continent.



Police Commissioner of Operation and Training Liberatus Sabas (R) views police sniffer dogs during a tour of the force's Dog and Horse Section in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of Police Hqs.

## Ex-MSD officials hauled in court

FROM PAGE 1

He claimed that Rugambwa together with other civil servants engaged in an organized crime for purposes of getting a profit.

Ngukah was assisted by two prosecutors from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), Fatuma Waziri and Sofia Nyanda.

The two accused were alleged to have caused a loss of 3.8bn/- to the government, an offence they committed between July 2016 and June 30th 2019 at MSD offices located at Keko, Temeke District in Dar es Salaam Region.

Ngukah claimed that between July 2016 and June 30, 2019 at MSD offices, Rugambwa wrongly approved a salary increment totaling 3.8bn/- for the agency's staff.

The salary increment

endorsement was done without approval from the permanent secretary contrary to regulations, the state prosecutor asserted.

At the same premises, the two suspects allegedly caused a loss of 85.1m/- due to negligence, in failing to properly preserve government bought medical equipment.

In the last count, the suspects are alleged to have engaged in an organized crime to get 1.6m/-, an offence they committed between July 2016 and June 30, 2019.

The suspects were not allowed to enter any plea since the court does not have jurisdiction over the case.

The case was adjourned to June 19 pending investigations, with the accused remanded because the charges facing them are not billable.

## Vaccines: Bill Gates Foundation sets \$1.6bn for US Gavi Alliance bid

FROM PAGE 1

Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom.

Funding secured today for Gavi's next strategic period will help the alliance reach an additional 300 million children in the world's most vulnerable communities and save up to eight million lives.

This brings the total number of children immunized with Gavi support to more than one billion since its inception in 2000.

In addition to supporting the continuation of routine immunization services during the current COVID-19 crisis, Gavi will play a

vital role in efforts to end the pandemic, leveraging its two decades of experience in vaccine delivery to deploy potential COVID-19 vaccines to low income countries when they become available.

"Not many people outside the global health sector have heard about Gavi, but over the past twenty years, it has transformed the way the world invests in and protects the health of children," said Melinda Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"If the current pandemic has reminded us of anything, it's the importance of vaccinating against

deadly diseases. The pledges that leaders are making today will help Gavi save even more lives."

Working closely with developing country governments, vaccine suppliers, donors and other partners around the world, the Alliance has achieved extraordinary results. Yet, despite this unprecedented progress, one in ten children still did not receive basic vaccines in 2018.

In addition, as COVID-19 disrupts health systems, supply chains and the ability of health workers to safely reach communities, millions more are at risk of missing out on protection against vaccine-prevent-

able diseases.

"To beat the COVID-19 pandemic, the world needs more than breakthrough science. It needs breakthrough generosity. And that's what we're seeing today as leaders across the public and private sectors are stepping up to support Gavi - especially Prime Minister Johnson," said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"When COVID-19 vaccines are ready, this funding and global coordination will ensure that people all over the world will be able to access them," he emphasized.

The foundation has supported

Gavi since its founding more than two decades ago. During this time, Gavi has immunized more than three-quarters of a billion children, saved an estimated 13 million lives and cut child mortality in half in supported countries.

"As we enter one of the toughest periods in our history, with the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting vaccine programmes across the globe and causing huge economic damage, this pledge will play a vital role in supporting countries' efforts to prevent the resurgence of other deadly, vaccine-preventable diseases," said Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, chairper-

son of the Gavi board of directors.

The Gates Foundation is also committing \$100 million to Gavi's new effort to purchase COVID-19 vaccines for lower income countries through a new COVID-19 Vaccine Advance Market Commitment. This includes \$50 million of new funding announced today, as well as the foundation's \$50 million pledge that was made at the coronavirus global response international pledging event last month.

Today's pledge also includes \$75 million to the Gavi Matching Fund that was announced back in January, the board chair underlined.



## 'Why we need to encourage cycling to promote tourism'

By Correspondent Marc

Nkwame, Arusha

THE maiden bicycle tour is going to set records of being the longest cycling race in the country, topping at 360 kilometres and taking three consecutive days when it gets flagged off in September. The event aims to encourage cycling and to promote tourism in the country as well.

Dubbed 'Tanzania Heritage Tour,' the maiden larger-than-life bicycle racing is slated to be flagged off on September 11 for three days before climaxing on 13th of September under the organisation of Arusha based, 'Rexlex cycling' company, in conjunction with the local cycling association here.

Speaking here on Friday, the Secretary General of Arusha Cycling Association (ACA) Joel Senny, said we need to encourage cycling to promote tourism in the country

and that nearly 150 riders from all over the country, including Zanzibar will participate in the so-called 'Stage Tour' cycling event.

The 'Tanzania Heritage Tour' will be flagged off from Arusha City, heading to Miremani mining hills of Simanjiro, in Manyara Region where the youth aged between 15 years and 45 years will make a stop

at the Great Mirerani Wall, surrounding Tanzanite gemstones mines.

On the second day, the second leg of the tour will see the riders returning to Arusha via the Arusha National Park then cycle before heading to Engikaret animal corridor on the third day and also have a feel of the highlands of Mount Meru.

"In this bicycle tour, we aim at branding the country, promoting tourism after the Covid-19 lockdown, boost youth health, create entertainment and provide employment for young people," stated Senny.

As it happens, the main 360 kilometres race will be partaken by healthy male youth, the women cyclists will just cover 300 kilometres, a lesser distance which will also be undertaken by older riders as well as youth at the rate of 100 kilometres per day. Warming up for the grand 'Tanzania Tour' the Arusha Regional Cycling Association is organising three mini bicycle racing competitions at the end of this month then in July during the Sabasaba Day and in August.

Meanwhile the association has warned cyclists who like to practice on roads, should first notify Arusha Cycling Association officials so that they can be assisted in case of any events or incidents.



Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani (R) has an audience with producers of electricity poles in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He demanded that they turn from those of the more widely used wooden variety to concrete ones with effect from next month. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne

# Report: Improve business environment to attract investment

By Getrude Mbagu

THE government has been called upon to invest heavily in improving the business environment so as to promote sustainable investments for the country's economic development.

This is according to a new report released yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the country's top think-tank, REPOA. Among other issues, the report analysed several issues raised by the Nordic traders which in a way had been thwarting their investments in the country.

Speaking during the report launching event in Dar es Salaam yesterday REPOA's executive director, Dr. Donald Mmari said that the traders made the recommendations in a study dubbed "Busi-

ness Climate Survey of Nordic Companies in Tanzania, 2019".

According to him, the survey which was conducted in October and November last year had revealed that many companies had faulted the country's trade and investment regulatory frameworks as well as the tax regime.

He also said that the firms are also calling the government to conduct some reforms and improvement in the area of work permit issuance, tax administration and labour force.

"In the survey, less than half companies (43 per cent) made profits in 2018. Nearly as many companies (37 per cent) reported losses in their operations in 2018. However, a segment, firms operating in the services sector (53 per cent recorded profits in the same

year," he said.

In addition, the Nordic firms are also calling for more public-private dialogue to discuss various issues affecting business in Tanzania and how to collaboratively address them.

"The firms are decrying on the cost and procedures to accessing work permits; number of fees and levies as well as availability of specialists competence, there is shortage of competent human resource who are able to deliver well, so the companies are calling on the government to also look on this area," he said.

Dr Mmari said that the government has taken a number of measures to ensure that traders and investors operate smoothly which include reviewing policies and laws and implementation of

various strategies, however there were some few areas which still need more improvement.

Dr Mmari further said that, despite the uneven implementation of various reforms, Nordic firms are attracted by Tanzania's favourable geography and positive internationalism and remain willing to constructively engage with public authorities to resolve business environment bottlenecks and rebuild trust with authorities.

For his part, Swedish ambassador to Tanzania Anders Sjöberg remarked that "Nordic companies have invested significantly in Tanzania, created many jobs and paid substantial taxes and they stand ready to invest more."

He said that Nordic countries tasked Repoa to conduct the study to better understand the

situation for the Nordic business community and about Tanzania as an investment destination.

"Companies that are willing to invest in the long-term development of a country and its people need predictability and transparency in solving disputes and in the application of taxes and regulations. So dialogues between traders and the government should be emphasised," he said

Dr Goodwill Wang, the executive secretary of the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) commended the Nordic countries of Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland for their keen support to the country urging them to increase more economic partnerships.

He assured traders that the government will continue work-

ing on various bottlenecks affecting business development in the country.

"The government is currently working to establish online work and information system which will simplify issuance of work permits. The government is trying to digitise its operation to curb unnecessary bureaucracy," he said.

In his remarks, Jesper Sorensen, chairman of the European Union Business Group (EUBG) said that "As we are currently in a Covid-19 situation, it is high time for the government to consider conducting regular dialogues with the private sector to discuss impacts brought by the disease and how to live through the post-Covid-19 period.

He also reiterated the need for the government to continue im-

proving the investment climate while ensuring the availability of a competent workforce toward achieving the country's industrialization agenda.



**Companies that are willing to invest in the long-term development of a country and its people need predictability and transparency in solving disputes and in the application of taxes**



Special Seats CCM legislator Janeth Masaburi (R) pictured in Dodoma on Thursday presenting five computers and a printer to Ithumwa Secondary School headmaster Greyson Maige for use by the school. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Z'bar to continue providing free medical services, says minister

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Minister for Health Hamad Rashid Mohamed said the government's aims to continue providing free medical services to the citizens in the implementation of the aims of the 1964 Zanzibar Revolution.

Speaking in the Zanzibar House of Representatives when tabling his ministry's Budget Estimates for Financial Year 2020/21 he said the aims of the 1964 Revolution was to provide the people with basic social services that they lacked during the colonial era - including education, health services

and land for settlements and agricultural purposes.

He said during the ten years of Dr Ali Mohamed Shein's leadership health services had greatly improved at Mnazi Mmoja hospital where a total of 64 patients with kidney ailments had received dialysis services.

He said many patients underwent kidney implant and 221 cancer patients also received various treatment at the hospital as well as 1,646 people with heart problems.

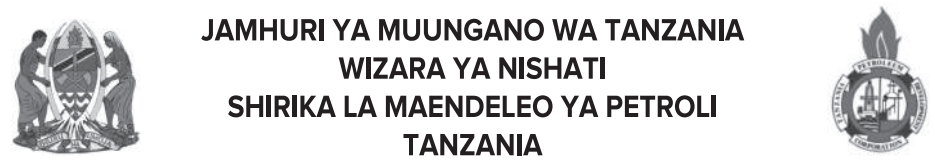
He mentioned major strategies being implemented by his ministry at the moment include the

construction of a modern laboratory for diagnosis of various diseases at Binguni in Zanzibar central district.

He said in the Financial Year 2020/21 the government has embarked on implementing modern referral hospital project at Binguni.

"These are two major strategic projects which the ministry has started to implement whose aim is to improve Zanzibar's health services delivery," Mohamed said.

Members of the House Representatives endorsed the ministry's budget estimates for FY 2020-2011.



### TAARIFA KWA UMMA UFAFANUZI JUU YA ENEO LA MRADI WA LNG NA MALIPO YA FIDIA KWA WAATHIRIKA WA MRADI

Dar es Salaam, 6 Juni 2020  
TPDC inachukua nafasi hii kufafanua juu ya taarifa iliyoandikwa mtandaoni na IPP Media Juni 2, 2020 kuhusu kupunguzwa kwa eneo la Mradi wa gesi ya kimiminika (LNG), na kutengwa kwa baadhi ya wananchi walipo ndani ya mita 300 kutoka usawa wa barabara ya Nangurukuru-Lindi.

Ifahamike kwamba, Mnamo mwezi Agosti 2012, Serikali ya Tanzania kwa kushirikiana na makampuni yaliyofanya ugunduzi wa gesi asilia katika vitulu namba 1, 2 na 4 (vilivyopo katika kina kirefu cha bahari wa Hindi) walichagua eneo la Likong'o na Mto Mkavu yaliyopo kata ya Mbanja, Manispaa ya Lindi, kuwa eneo la mradi wa LNG.

Katika kuhakikisha kwamba eneo la mradi linapatikana, Serikali ilifuta hati miliki ya yaliyokuwa mashamba makubwa saba ya mkonge katika eneo la Likong'o Mkoani Lindi lenye ukubwa wa hekta 2,071.7 mwezi Oktoba, 2015. Tangazo la kufuta umiliki wa awali lilitolewa kwenye Gazeti la Serikali la tarehe 17 Novemba, 2015. Aidha, tarehe 29 Disemba, 2015 **Hati Na. 1,0277 MTW** yenye ukubwa wa hekta 2,071.7 ilitolewa kwa TPDC kwa ajili ya utekezaji wa mradi wa LNG.

TPDC kwa kushirikiana na Wizarata ya Ardhi, Nyumba na Maendeleo ya Makazi, walifanya uthamini wa eneo la mradi na kuongeza eneo la pembezi (300m kutoka barabara ya Nangurukuru-Lindi) ambalo lipo nje ya eneo la mradi. Uthamini huo ulikamilika mwaka 2015. Aidha, mnamo mwaka 2017 utenganihaji wa waathirika wa eneo la mradi na wananchi walio pembezi mwa eneo la mradi (300m kutoka barabara ya Nangurukuru-Lindi) ulifanyika, ambapo waathirika waliokuwemo ndani ya eneo la mradi walipaswa kulipwa na TPDC. Kadhalika, wananchi walio pembezi mwa eneo la mradi (300m kutoka barabara ya Nangurukuru-Lindi) taarifa zao za uthamini zinashughulikiwa na Mamlaka ya Manispaa ya Lindi. Taarifa ya utenganihaji wa eneo la Mradi na lile la 300m kutoka barabara ya Nangurukuru-Lindi, zililwasilishwa kwa Mamlaka za Serikali za Mitaa husika pamoja na Manispaa ya Lindi.

Mnamo mwezi Aprili 2020, Serikali ilitoa fedha kiasi cha Tsh. 5.2 Bilioni kwa ajili ya ulipaji wa fidia kwa waathirika 693 watakapisha eneo la mradi wa LNG lenye ukubwa wa hekta 2,071.7. Hivyo timu ya TPDC ikishirikiana na Wizarata ya Ardhi Nyumba na Maendeleo ya Makazi na wizarata ya Nishati, walifika Lindi tarehe 4 Mei, 2020 kwa ajili ya kazi ya ulipaji fidia.

Zoezi hilo lililuhisisha programu mbili; ya kwanza ilihusu elimu juu ya masuala ya fidia, utatuzi wa migogoro, sheria, matumizi ya fedha pamoja na kufungua akaunti za benki. Programu ya pili ilihusu uhakiki wa taarifa na ulipaji wa fidia wa mali zipatazo 618, ambapo hadi kufikia tarehe 17 Mei, 2020 kazi hii ilikuwa imekamili kwa asilimia 90% ambapo kiasi cha Tshs. 4.4 Bilioni zililumika. Uhakiki zaidi unaendelea kukamilisha idadi ya waathirika waliobaki.

Kwa ufafanuzi huo, tunapenda Umma utambue kwamba, eneo la mradi wa LNG ni hekta 2,071.7 na halijawahi kupunguzwa, ambalo TPDC kama mmliki halali imekuwa ikilipa kodi ya archi kila mwaka kwa mujibu wa sheria.

#TPDC TUNAWEZESHA

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Wilson Mbogo (L), a pharmacist with Babati-based Ikizu Pharmacy, presents various items to Manyara Media Club chairman Yusuf Daif (R) on Thursday as contribution to efforts to keep Covid-19 infections at bay. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## BMH planning to set up oxygen production plant

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Benjamin Mkapa Hospital (BMH) plans to set up an oxygen production plant for medical treatment in the central zone and neighbouring regions.

Oxygen is used for anaesthesia in operating theatres and mobile emergency vehicles for ventilating patients.

BMH executive director, Dr Alphonse Chandika, announced at the weekend, pointing out that the public hospital had already submitted a project proposal to the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

"The plant will provide us with oxygen for medical treatment and we will be able to supply to other hospitals in the central zone and neighbouring regions," said the executive director while briefing Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Godwin Mollel.

Dr Mollel, who replaced Dr Faustine Ndagulile in the post following a recent mini-reshuffle made President John Magufuli, was on his official tour of public hospitals in Dodoma.

Dr Chandika said presently BMH depended on the service from a single supplier based in Kilimanjaro region, posing a serious challenge. He said the plant would address a challenge of oxygen at BMH and other hospitals in the central zone.

"We came up with an idea of setting up an oxygen production plant due to a serious challenge of its availability in the central zone because all hospitals depend on the single supplier based in Kilimanjaro region," he said.

Dr Chandika explained further that plans were underway for BMH to set up a blood bank which would also facilitate bone marrow transplant at the hospital, noting that the service would be introduced, thanks to the support of an Italy-based university.

"The service for bone marrow transplant has been delayed because of the outbreak of coronavirus," he noted.

For his part, Deputy minister commended Dr Chandika for good plans geared towards enhancing services at BMH.

He urged the BMH staff to cooperate with the executive director for good plans to materialise.

## WHO to continue supporting measures to cut down tobacco use

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has pledged to continue working with government and other stakeholders to speed-up reduction of tobacco use and avert years of debilitating illness and preventable deaths in the country.

WHO representative in Tanzania Dr Tigest Mengestu said yesterday in Dodoma during the

launch of the first Global Adult Tobacco Survey (2018 GATS) country report, saying the report was an important milestone in the fight against use of tobacco in the country.

The launching of the report in Dodoma was officiated by Ummu Mwalimu, the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

"The GATS results serve a very

important benchmark for the country to continue monitoring its progress in tobacco control and impact of tobacco control measures currently in place," she said.

She added that the report places Tanzania in a better position to fulfill its obligations to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and have in place laws and regulations that are compliant with the convention. In

a speech read on her behalf by Dr. Edwin Swai, the WHO representative said the launching of the report demonstrates government's commitment to track and monitor tobacco use and key tobacco control measures using global acceptable standards.

Dr. Mengestu noted that Tanzania has now joined five other countries from the continent to have implemented the GATS and released data; and mentioned the

countries including Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda.

She told participants at the launching of the report that tobacco kills half of its users and smokers have high risk of severe diseases and death if infected with COVID 19 and insisted that "All forms of tobacco use are harmful and there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke". On the state of tobacco use in the

continent, she said there were 94 million men and 13 million women, and one in five adolescents use tobacco products.

Dr. Mengestu said it was disturbing to see the increasing use of tobacco among 13-15 years old girls and increasing use of tobacco products other than cigarettes in Africa.

"Every year, 146,000 Africans die from tobacco related diseases. Illness related to tobacco use ac-

counts for 3.5 percent of annual total health expenditure in region" She noted.

The WHO representative lauded efforts made by many governments in Africa to combat tobacco related illness and deaths despite facing industry interferences and WHO vows to continue working with countries to counter those interferences to debunk manipulation tactics and strengthen healthy practices.

## Managing Director: 47 pct of university students have been given Board loans

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

FORTY-SEVEN per cent of university students in the country have received loans from the Higher Education Students Loans Board (HESLB) while the rest are expected to receive the loans by the end of the week.

HESLB managing director Abdul Badru said when speaking to reporters during his visit to St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT), Mwanza to monitor the loans payment exercise.

Badru said even though there are universities whose students had not yet reported the exercise continues well and they have increased the number of paying officials who work till night time to ensure the whole exercise is completed as early as possible.

"So far 4,000 out of 9,000 students in various fields at SAUT have already been paid and this shows that by the end of the week all of them will be paid," he said.

"SAUT is among the country's major university and for this year alone the learning institution had been allocated 32.2bn/- out of more than 120bn/- allocated for the country's various universities," he added.

SAUT's Vice Chancellor Prof Costa Mahalu said the issuance of the money in time has removed complaints they had been subjected to by the students over the delay.

The president of SAUT Students Association Elian Rodrick said they are satisfied with the procedure of affixing of signatures on the forms to ensure students protect themselves against Covid-19 infections.

"We will make sure we do not allow students to sign the forms if they do not wear masks, and secondly every student who enters the room has to apply sanitizer and lastly we enforce social distancing," Rodrick said.

Eveline Nzigu, SAUT student said they have reported to the university and will ensure they will compensate for time lost when they were on leave due to the pandemic.

SAUT's loan officer Noel Ndias said since the government's announcement on the reopening of the universities from June 1, this year they will ensure all students are paid the education loans by Friday as they are well mobilised for the exercise.



**SAUT is among the country's major university and for this year alone the learning institution had been allocated 32.2bn/- out of more than 120bn/- allocated for the country's various universities**



Construction of the second phase of Dar Rapid Transit infrastructure well under way along the Mbagala Kizuiani stretch of Dar es Salaam's Kilwa Road, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## 'TRC's Dar-Moshi goods train services to resume within two weeks'

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Railways Corporation (TRC) has announced that it will resume goods train services between Dar es Salaam and Moshi in Kilimanjaro region within two weeks.

The services were suspended due to floods from Pangani river following heavy periods of rains in Kilimanjaro region and neighbouring Kenya.

A press statement issued by TRC communications and public relations manager Jamila Mbarouk said the floods had destroyed the railway infrastructure between Bwiko and Hedaru stations that saw a 1.6 kms of the railway line submerged in water for 21 days.

"Consequently TRC suspended both passenger and goods services between Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Kilimanjaro regions from May 10 this year, and the TRC director

general Masanja Kadogosa visited the area for inspection of the ongoing repair works," the statement said.

The statement said TRC continues with the work to raise the ridge of railway line between Bwiko and Hedaru stations that will take 14 days.

"From the assessment conducted by TRC experts the whole repair works that began on June 1, this year will be completed on

June 14," the statement further said. Before suspending services, the government planned to procure 40 new coaches to improve the carriage of passengers along the recently launched train route from Dar es Salaam to northern zone regions.

This follows an increased number of passengers using the services from an estimated 700 people to 900 per trip, on the basis of Tanzania Railway Corporation

(TRC) affirmations.

Isack Kamwelwe, the Minister for Works, Transport and Communications was quoted as saying the new coaches will also see TRC taking the train service to Arusha city.

"We have added the passenger wagons due to a growing demand from people travelling to northern zone regions for holidays. We have already ordered new coaches to facilitate train services in the new train route," he said.



## 100 households in Temeke benefit from food donation

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 100 households at the Magurumbasi 'A' and 'B' Streets in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam Region have benefited with food assistance from Nama Foundation and its partners—An-Nahl Trust and Nice Tanzania.

The provided food items include rice, sugar, beans and cooking oil. The foundation also provided various Covid-19 preventive equipment including face masks, liquid hand washing soap and sanitisers.

The foundation's coordinator, Hamza Jabir told journalists that similar assistance will be provided to over 5,000 residents in Dar es Salaam, Coast Region and Zanzibar.

"We are aiming to assist special groups including people with disabilities, widows and orphans during the pandemic outbreak. We are supporting the government's efforts against Covid-19," he said adding that the foundation will also provide medical equipment and protective gears worth 500m/-.

Jabir said the foundation will in total provide equipment worth 1.3bn/-. He said the medical equipment have been handled over to the Health,

Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children which will be distributed to various hospitals and health centers countywide.

He said the provided personal protective equipment (PPE) includes oximeters, oxygen concentrator, thermo scanner, special beds for intensive care unit (ICU) and several others in accordance with government's directives.

Magurumbasi 'A' street chairman, Khamis Taimo commended Nama Foundation and its partners—An-Nahl Trust and Nice Tanzania for supporting the vulnerable population with variety food stuffs.

He said that 70 households have benefitted with the assistance with most of them being orphans, widows and people with disabilities.

According to the World Health Organisation those mostly at risks of developing severe symptoms include older citizens and people with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and heart diseases.

Preventive measures that are critical to slow the spread of illnesses include social distancing, frequent hand washing with soap and running water or alcohol-based hand rubs.



CCM National Executive Committee member Gasper Kileo pictured in Shinyanga on Thursday presenting to Shinyanga regional commissioner Zainab Telack (in headscarf) an assortment of items to help in the war on Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Govt deployed more officials across the country in effort to increase pace of land surveying - Jafo

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development has deployed new and competent staff in all regions who will be responsible for approving town planning drawings, zonal maps, valuations, land tenure as well as registration of various

land documents.

In a written response, the minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jafo, told the House all the employees had already reported to their work stations.

He was responding to the question raised by the Tarime Urban

MP Esther Matiko (Chadema), who sought to know what the government was doing to ensure that more land plots were surveyed in the country.

In her basic question, Matiko noted that the majority of land owners including small-scale farmers and traders have been struggling to access loans just

because their plots are yet to be surveyed.

According to her, in Tarime Urban only two wards -Bomani and Sabasaba have been surveyed by 75 percent out of the eight wards due to significant shortage of land surveyors.

Responding, Minister Jafo said in efforts to increase pace

of land surveying in various parts, the government has continued to employ more staff to serve the communities.

According to him, the current task is to link the newly employed staff with their fellow working in land surveying,

planning and title deeds issuance in the respective regions.

"The next step is to organise the staff in line with all the land cadres, including planning officers, land surveyors, map masters, appraisers and land officers," said Jafo.

The minister further asserted that in order to improve the functioning, land servants under the President's office have

been transferred to the Ministry of Land, Housing and Settlement Development.

In addition, he said that the ministry of land has established land offices in all 26 regions of mainland Tanzania to bring the sector's services closer to the people.

## Govt: We'll connect power to all villages in Msalala District under REA Phase 3

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Energy has said that all villages in Msalala District, Shinyanga Region, will be connected to power during the implementation of the forthcoming Rural Energy Agency Phase III project (REA-III) which is expected to commence next month.

Minister for Energy Dr Medard Kalemami told the House in a written response that villages such as Kashishi, Ntobo, Mega, Mwanase, Butondolo and Mwalugulu are among the first beneficiaries.

He was responding to a question by the Msalala MP Ezekiel Maige who wanted to know how many villages will be connected to electricity during the implementation of the REA III project.

The lawmaker also sought to know when the government will deliver electricity to public institutions in villages that are not yet connected to electricity in Bulyanhulu, Segese, Ngaya, Bulige, Isaac, Chila, Busangi, Shilela, Lunguyu and Bugarama wards.

Responding, the minister said that the project work in Msalala involves the construction of an electric grid of 33kV of a high-pressure electrical pathway covering 57.2 kilometers.

It also involves construction of a 0.4kV high-pressure electrical pathway covering 73 kilometers as well as the installation of 12 transformers of KVA 50 and 100 and connection of 320 new customers.

He said the cost of the whole project stands at 633 million/- and that it is scheduled to be completed by June next year.

The government through REA in the financial year 2020/2021 will implement the Phase II (IIB) energy connection project which covers Shinyanga region and especially the Kahama district as one of the priority areas alongside public institutions.

Dr Kalemami asserted that the Tanzania Electricity Corporation (TANESCO) will also continue to supply electricity to public and private institutions in the streets and suburbs of the Msalala Council including Bulyanhulu, Segese, Ngaya, Bulige, Isaac, Chila, Busangi, Shilela, Lunguyu and Bugarama.

He insisted that, however, the government, REA and TANESCO are implementing various projects to supply electricity in all villages in mainland Tanzania, a work will be completed by June, 2021.



Youths from Magole Chamazi in suburban Dar es Salaam keep a close watch as a dealer weighs their scrap metal yesterday before paying them. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Agriculture ministry out to invest in reviving of pyrethrum production

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Agriculture has expressed its zeal to invest heavily to revitalise and boost the production of Pyrethrum from the current 2400 tonnes to 5,000 tonnes per year by 2025.

Responding to a question from Mbeya Rural MP Oran Njeza, Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga said that through the implementation of the 10-Year Strategic Plan (2011-2021) that targets at strengthening pyrethrum production in southern regions, the government is implementing several measures to ensure that the farmers benefit from the crop.

In his basic question, Njeza wanted to know the government's plan in increasing production as well as boosting the access of the pyrethrum cash crop to the growing demand at the global market.

Minister Hasunga said that in a bid to increase production of the crop the government has decided to bring together farmers into forming groups where so far a total of 137 groups of farmers have been formed.

"Through formation of these groups farmers have been exposed to knowledge that has led to improvements in the quality of the produced yield which has steadily improved to 1.3 per cent against the international required average standard of 1.24 percent," Hasunga

said. According to him, the government has continued to encourage farmers to join the Agriculture Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOs) where so far three AMCOs have been registered and other 10 are in the final stages of registration.

He asserted that despite all these efforts, the government will also continue to provide education to farmers on the application of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) to increase production and improve the quality of the market that meets the global market demand.

"The government will continue to encourage investment and especially value addition where there are currently two processing

plants in the country, namely Tanextract factory located in Inyala Region Mbeya and Pyrethrum Company of Tanzania (PCT) factory located in Mafinga, Iringa Region," he said.

He however added that the industries are capable of processing between 2800 and 3000 tonnes each per annum.

The government will continue to encourage farmers to engage in commercial agriculture through the contract farming system. The government will also continue to conduct domestic and foreign market research using envoys representing Tanzania in their respective countries to ensure that the country wins access to the global pyrethrum market," he added.

**It also involves construction of a 0.4kV high-pressure electrical pathway covering 73 kilometers as well as the installation of 12 transformers of KVA 50 and 100 and connection of 320 new customers**





Zanzibar Attorney General Said Hassan Said (L) in tête-à-tête with Zanzibar Lands, Housing, Water and Energy minister Salama About Talib outside the Zanzibar House of Representatives yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## RC orders arrest of revenue-collecting agents in Ukerewe over loss of 274.6m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Ukerewe

MWANZA Regional Commissioner John Mongella has tasked the police force to arrest five revenue-collecting agents in Ukerewe District who are allegedly involved in the loss of 274.6m/- and five revenue collecting machines.

He said that after the arrest of suspects the law to take its course against them including returning the money to the council.

Speaking at a special councillors meeting that discussed issued raised by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) for FY 2018/19, Mongella said the government will not close its eyes on such acts of embezzlement committed by revenue collecting agents.

He mentioned the names of the five as Leopard Musiba, Fortunatus Mutesigwa, Thomas Bagetilanya, Frola Ntale and Didas Majura and added:

"After seven days I want them arrested and the law should take its course - the 274.6m/- collected was not banked and I direct the District

Police Officer Commander (OCD) and Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to ensure the money is remitted to the council and I want to see the bank's pay slip thereof."

Some councillors said apart from the loss of the money there is also some controversy in regard to their allowances that are in accordance with the laws as they have not been paid to date while the parliament is about to be dissolved.

"We are claiming our benefits - sitting allowances as every time we were paid only half of the actual amounts, and we don't know when we will be paid," they said.



**After seven days I want them arrested and the law should take its course - the 274.6m/- collected was not banked and I direct the District**

# Govt set to establish ten veterinary laboratories

By Guardian Correspondent, Meatu

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries plans to establish 10 laboratories for veterinary examination of livestock in the next fiscal year.

Abdallah Ulega, the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries revealed this during his working

visit in Meatu District in simiyu Region to inspect the renovation of the cattle dip for Mwakisandu and Isangilo villages, the construction of the veterinary laboratory and livestock clinic for Meatu District, poultry development activities in Mwandoya Village and the Outpatient Department (OPD) building at Mwandoya Health Centre.

Ulega said the aim of the government is to ensure it reduces to a large extent the spread of livestock diseases as it wants to closely serve all livestock keepers in the country.

"As of now we have Eastern, Northern, Western and Lake Zones but we want to increase them so as we go closer to the livestock keepers... and with regard

to animals vaccines up to now we have accorded priority in six vaccines," he said.

He added: "Cattle dipping activities are progressing well and in FY 2017/18 we bought vaccines and provided 300m/- subsidy to local councils...about 8,000 litres and for 2019/2020 the government again bought 12,000 litres

equivalent to 400m/- subsidy to the local councils and as of now herders will dip their cattle for 50/- and no more than that," he said.

He said the construction of the planned veterinary laboratories, cattle dipping and the manufacture of the vaccines coordinated by the Tanzania Veterinary Labo-

ratory Agency (TVLA) are going on well.

Meatu District Commissioner Dr Joseph Chilongani said his district has a huge livestock population and having such veterinary servicing centres is important for the herders as it reduces the challenges of going great distances for veterinary service.

"As you can see some areas are asking for grass seeds for cultivation of cattle feed and in all such things we cooperate with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to ensure our herders benefit...the custom where a herder possesses many livestock that do not benefit him is outdated," Dr Chilongani said.

## Agency renews commitment to support Mwanza water supply

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

AS the world marked the Environment Day yesterday the French development agency has renewed its commitment to support improved water supply in Tanzania, highlighting its water and sanitation services project in Mwanza city.

The Agence Française de Développement (AFD) said here yesterday in a statement that Mwanza is among the cities along Lake Victoria that have received support for water and sanitation services.

AFD has set aside 440 million Euros for the combined Lake Victoria project. Activities in these projects include infrastructure building as well as technical assistance to ministries and water utilities. AFD also funds water quality monitoring studies on the Lake.

Mwanza is the second largest city in Tanzania after Dar es Salaam and the second most populous city on the lake after Kampala.

Specifically the Mwanza project involves improvement of water supply (production and distribution) and sanitation (collection and treatment) services in Mwanza city itself and satellite towns of Lamadi, Misungwi and Magu.

The 76.5 million Euros project also aims at capacity reinforcement through provision of technical assistance for the water utility in Mwanza (Mwauwasa). Another activity is the monitoring programme on the Lake Victoria water quality.

"The Mwanza project, which was signed in May 2014, is ongoing and is financed through both sovereign loan and grants. It will be conducted in a period of 20 years," reads part of the statement released to mark the World Environment Day.

In addition to Mwanza, AFD also finances drinking water access for Musoma and Bukoba towns. Bukoba and Musoma do not have collective sanitation systems and the existing one in Mwanza is very limited. Part of the population uses individual or communal latrines connected to septic tanks that are rarely emptied.

Tanzania has significant water resources, with an average available water supply of 2,000 cubic metres per capita per year in 2012, a level that is expected to reach 1,400 cubic metres in 2025, given population growth.

In 2010, drinking water coverage rates in Tanzania were 68 per cent in Dar es Salaam, 84 per cent in the 19 major cities, 54 per cent in secondary cities and 57 per cent in rural areas. Less than 20 per cent of the urban population was connected to a sewerage system.

The Lake Victoria water and sanitation project is crucial because access to clean water is important to people's health. It is even more important in times of Covid-19 crisis, the statement says.

"Sanitation is as important. It is a responsibility we have when we develop access to clean water. Not developing the sanitation part equals endangering the source of drinking water, and destroying the biodiversity of Lake Victoria," reads the statement in part.

Present in Tanzania since 2008, AFD group provided financing solutions and technical assistance of more than 760 million Euros (1.9 trillion/-) over the last 10 years, to support the Tanzanian government, local authorities, private sector and NGOs to reduce economic, social and territorial inequalities through the promotion of sustainable and inclusive development.

Focusing on climate, biodiversity, water, agriculture, urban development, education and health, AFD carries out more than 4,000 projects in 115 countries contributing to the commitment of France to support the sustainable development goals.



Technicians lay underground electricity cables along the Upanga East stretch of Dar es Salaam's Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Police in Shinyanga hold six over unlicensed diamond recovery

By Guardian Correspondent, Kishapu

POLICE in Shinyanga Region are holding six residents of Kishapu District in the region for processing diamonds recovery from sand in their homes without licenses.

Speaking to this paper, Shinyanga Regional Minerals Officer Eng Joseph Kumburu said the six were arrested on Monday June 1 this year

during an operation following reports of people engaged in diamond recovery in their homes without licenses in the District.

Kumburu claimed that Shinyanga Mineral Office in collaboration with the district's defense and security organs arrested the six from various areas of the district found to be recovering diamonds at home.

He mentioned those arrested as

Mahona (48), Leonard Masuke (39) and Charles Joseph who were found with various equipment and quantities of sand bearing diamonds.

Others arrested in their vehicle with Reg T268 DRB in Mwanholo area while in the process of conducting mineral transactions were Mapande Elibudi Mposha, owner of the vehicle, Kinga Kurwa (45), Zengo Seni (43) and Joseph Leonard (35) all

residents of Utemini area.

He said the arrested were taken to Maganzo police Station for interrogation while the seized diamond sand was taken to Kishapu Police Station for storage.

He said special operations of this kind have been conducted from time to time in collaboration with defense and security organs at Maganzo whereas in the month of

April and May this year four cases were opened against various people found to be conducting these activities in their homes.

"Shinyanga Regional Mineral office in collaboration with defense and security organs will continue conducting such operations as well as educating the public to ensure mining laws are adhered to in regard to the mineral trade."



## WHO says its representative told to move out of Equatorial Guinea

DAKAR

EQUATORIAL Guinea is "severely affected" by the coronavirus, the World Health Organization's (WHO) Africa head said yesterday, as its representative in the country was told to leave.

The Central African nation of over 1.2 million people has registered more than 1,000 cases of COVID-19 and 12 deaths since confirmation of its first case in mid-March, according to WHO data.

That is dwarfed by other countries in the region, but is significant given the oil-producing nation's small population, the WHO said. "By population we estimate it to be one of the severely affected countries in terms of the number of cases," WHO's Matshidiso Moeti told reporters.

The government has asked the WHO to replace its representative

Triphonie Nkurunziza in Equatorial Guinea, Moeti added, without giving details on why.

"We are currently working on doing that," she said.

"I'd like to emphasise very much that we are committed to working with the government, particularly working to support the people."

Sub-Saharan Africa's only Spanish-speaking territory, run along authoritarian lines by President Teodoro Obiang since a 1979 coup, has also been badly hit by a global oil downturn this year as fossil fuels provide 90% of state revenue.

The WHO has been helping the government respond to the coronavirus epidemic through the implementation of surveillance, contact-tracing, and isolation measures, as well as management of COVID-19 cases, Moeti said.



Action for Justice in Society (AJISO) advocate Fina Michael engaged in sensitisation on Covid-19 at Kwa Mangulwa market in Rombo District, Kilimanjaro Region, earlier this week through an education project targeting markets and other public places. The initiative is funded by the Foundation for Civil Society and is implemented in Moshi and Rombo districts. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## UNECA projects Covid-19 could push 29 million Africans into extreme poverty

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has projected that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic could push 29 million people into extreme poverty across Africa.

"Africa was already witnessing the economic impact of the Covid-19 crisis even before its impact on public health and may see its growth slow down by 1.8 to 2.6 percent of GDP, which could push 29 million

people into extreme poverty," the UNECA said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

The ECA further stressed that the containment measures established in 42 African countries to protect populations from the Covid-19 pandemic "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 (SDGs) in the region."

Vera Songwe, UN Under

Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UNECA, also on Wednesday stressed the urgent need to set Covid-19 recovery milestones across the continent in an effort to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

"We are yet to know how long the Covid-19 crisis will last, but we need to set the milestones for recovery now," the ECA chief told a webinar on "Rethinking the economy and academic paradigms in post-Covid-19 Africa."

The ECA chief also elaborated on a number of issues that are critical for the development of post-Covid-19 crisis exit strategies, which include improving economic governance to ensure funds benefit those who need them the most, developing the digital economy, mitigating the impact of climate change, re-designing financial systems for better use of domestic financial resources such as African pension funds and reviving regional consumption through

the African Continental Free Trade Area.

The webinar also provided participants with an opportunity for an initial discussion on how to rebuild African economies and re-design the study of economics to make it fit for purpose to African countries.

Some African economists argued for monetary integration of the continent as a pivotal measure for moving forward.

Various challenges were discussed such as the informal sector,

where workers have been particularly negatively impacted by the crisis. Additionally, discussions touched on access to the Internet and its impact on a continent where only a minority of the 330 million children unable to go to school have been able to study online as only 20 percent of Africans have access to stable internet connectivity. Participants also called for the redistribution of value chains and the development of African pharmaceutical industries. In this regard,

panelists said it was necessary for the African diaspora to lead on technology transfer to the continent and for countries to master it.

Other topics raised during the webinar also include opportunities to digitize African economies and to rethink the architecture of African universities so that students can enjoy better access to quality education from home.

On Wednesday, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) dis-

## Coronavirus crisis could increase hunger for over 40m in southern Africa

By Guardian Reporter

AT least 40 million people in Southern Africa are at risk of increased hunger and poverty due to the double threat of the coronavirus and consecutive climatic shocks, warned Oxfam yesterday.

More than 17 million people across Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and South Africa are already food insecure due to last year's drought. Around 40% of the population in the region are already living in abject poverty as the World Food Programme warns that food prices are at a five-year high.

Zambia, which is considered the region's food basket, has already suffered climatic shocks, an energy deficit, and the highest debt in the region prior to the coronavirus pandemic. Today, nearly two million Zambians are facing acute food and water insecurity, high chronic malnutrition, livestock diseases, and crop destruction caused by dry spells and flash floods.

Monica Chime a Zambian farmer from Sinazongwe, bordering Zimbabwe said: "Life is now very difficult because we are always hungry. It is not just us, even people from Zimbabwe, they cross Kafwambila border daily to exchange their goats and cows for a small bag of maize flour. To complicate matters further, we recently experienced flash floods that destroyed our crops and homes."

The last decade has seen the region hit by consecutive climatic disasters that have left more than 35 million people food insecure. Since 2004, around 15 million people have already been facing hunger every year. In 2015, the El Nino-induced drought left nearly 40 million people without enough food. Then, in 2019, Cyclone Idai left over 8.7 million in dire need of food and water. Except for South Africa, over 60% of the people in the region depend on small-scale farming to meet their basic needs; now the coronavirus will devastate their ability to recover from five years of consecutive climate disasters.

"As a farmer, I need to move around looking for markets, interact with agriculture officers, and buy seeds and fertilizer. Now with the lockdown, it's a nightmare for most of us farmers to access markets and procure inputs for the upcoming winter cropping season," said Mary Chinembiri, a smallholder farmer from Zimbabwe.

Nellie Nyangwa, Oxfam's Southern Africa Regional Director said: "In the region, the pandemic is not only a public health issue, but it is also a food security issue as restrictions on movement within and across borders have slowed food systems and impacted supply chains. Many have also lost their jobs and with rising food prices, this means many more people will go hungry."

Most countries in the region also do not have adequate social protection in place for the most vulnerable people even before the pandemic.

Seven out of ten people across sub-Saharan Africa work in the informal sector with little or no employment benefits. Even in South Africa, which is the least dependent on the informal sector, one in six workers is informally employed.

Across the continent, only 17.8% of workers are covered by social protection schemes. Only South Africa and Zimbabwe have an Unemployment Insurance Fund and a National Social Security Fund for formal workers. Even where there are social stimulus packages in place, like South Africa's 500-billion-rand package, the most vulnerable people are left out. South Africa has more than 4 million migrants and refugees and none of them are eligible for relief under this package. Only a small percentage of working refugees have access to the Unemployment Insurance Fund.



Seller (2nd-L) and would-be buyer negotiate the price of watermelons at Dar es Salaam's Temeke Veterinary mixed-goods market yesterday, the going retail price standing at 7,000/- per piece on average. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Metrology services to be extended, says regulator

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

METROLOGY services will be extended to other areas which do not have enough equipment, the Standard Watchdog has said.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Joseph Mahilla, head of metrology laboratory at TBS said they want to expand their services into areas which do not have equipment.

He was speaking soon after commemoration of the World Metrology Day, which was marked at national level on 20th May 2020.

"We expect to increase metrology capacity in order to provide more services to a big area," he said.

Mahilla said metrology is divided into three categories namely scientific (organization and development of primary measurement standards), industrial (proper maintenance and control of industrial measurement) and legal metrology (verification of instruments used in commercial transactions).

Both scientific and industrial metrology is dealt by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

He said the organization is dealing with industrial metrology for quality control processes.

He said the third area is legal metrology which in Tanzania is under the Weights and Measures Agency (WMA). The agency is working on all measurements for consumer-trader protection. According to the Standard Act no 2 of 2009, TBS through its metrology laboratory is the custodian of all national measurement standards in Tanzania.

Citing he says WMA brings their equipment to get their measurement traceability from TBS which ensure that the agency provides reliable measurement for consumer protection example when buying a kg of meat a consumer provides money to get the service, so the agency has to ensure correct measurement are used.

Mahilla says any production must start with measurement in order to get quality product. He asks manufacturers to use the metrology laboratory which has been accredited by Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SAD-CAS). The laboratory has been accredited in dimensional, temperature, mass and small volume.

According to him, Tanzania is the fourth country to have accredited laboratory after

Kenya, South Africa and Egypt.

In order a laboratory to be accredited it must have some criteria which include official working system, skilled workers, and use of recognized methods in metrology.

Regarding response for industrialists to use metrology laboratory, Mahilla says it was big because many of them have been looking for the service. Citing he says equipment used in roads and bridges construction in the country need to be calibrated and used properly otherwise it might bring a problem.

He says many areas such as hotels are now using metrology where in the past they did not understand its importance.

They need metrology services in their daily life mentioning other areas as industries and in gas production areas where high pressure equipment is highly used.

Mahilla further says the laboratory undertakes apex level calibration of measurement standards and precision instruments in various fields of measurements such as length, mass, temperature, time intervals and rotational speed, volume (small and large), pressure, electrical measurements, force, torque and chemical metrology.

The Metrology Laboratory is already ac-

credited to ISO 17025, general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, since December 15, 2006.

"This is the first laboratory in Tanzania to reach such a step. This means the laboratory is capable to issue calibration certificates which are recognized throughout the world. I call upon the general public to utilize the services of this laboratory"

He says the laboratories were established in 1982 to support producers increase quality of their goods and services sticking to the local and international standards the main aim is to protect a consumer.

Explaining on the World Metrology Day 2020 which its theme was "Measurements for global trade", he says it was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in facilitating fair global trade, ensuring products meet standards and regulations, and satisfying customer quality expectations.

Indeed more widely metrology, the science of measurement, plays a central role in scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, in improving the quality of life and in protecting the global environment.



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SATURDAY 6 JUNE 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Kudos to WHO for enhancing global efforts on food security

FOOD safety is the absence of safe, acceptable levels of hazards in food that may harm the health of consumers. Food safety has a critical role in ensuring that food stays safe at every stage of the food chain from production to harvest, processing, storage, distribution, all the way to preparation and consumption.

In December 2018, cognizant of the urgent need to raise awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions for global food safety, the UN General Assembly designated 7 June as World Food Safety Day.

Under the theme "Food safety, everyone's business", World Food Safety Day 2020 will promote global food safety awareness and call upon countries and decision makers, the private sector, civil society, UN organisations and the general public to take action.

As markets become global, and as food production chains fragment across countries, WHO and other organisations actions to achieve food safety must be multisectoral.

Indeed we need to review the status of food safety in the world and identified new and emerging challenges. We have to highlight the need to mainstream food safety to advance public health goals, raise the profile of food safety in the governing bodies of both WHO and FAO and ensure sustainable funding for scientific advice.

Food safety has been part of the WHO Constitution since its adoption. Over the past decades, major food safety crises, such as the epidemic and outbreaks had affected many countries, have profoundly influenced or reshaped food safety policies and national food control systems.

Increasing global trade in food and

animal feed have likewise highlighted the importance of managing food safety at the international level. Member states have requested the WHO Secretariat to implement a number of activities to promote and strengthen food safety worldwide which had resulted in the WHO global strategy for food safety: safer food for better health.

As WHO attributes a large proportion of the public health burden and economic costs can be avoided by adopting preventive interventions in the food chain -from primary food production, storage and processing through to the point of final preparation and consumption -combined with improved food safety management at the national, regional and global levels, including contamination monitoring, disease and outbreak surveillance, laboratory diagnoses and food traceability and recall systems.

Some of these measures should be implemented by governments and local authorities, while others should be implemented by the private sector and consumers. Foodborne disease generally is subject to huge underreporting.

Food safety interventions contribute to attaining Sustainable Development Goals targets and improving the indicators of the Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019-2023, such as infant mortality or cancer mortality, which are multifactorial and not solely dependent on food safety.

Lack of specific indicators to measure progress and prioritize areas for action in food safety is seen as a challenge to quantifying the magnitude of the foodborne disease burden and building up the necessary investments in food safety systems.

## Africa needs comprehensive roadmap to emerge winner in energy transition

RENEWABLE energy, often referred to as clean energy, comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished. In other words, renewable energy is energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat.

Renewable energy often provides energy in four important areas: electricity generation, air and water heating/cooling, transportation, and rural (off-grid) energy services.

Africa faces an enormous energy challenge. Its growing population and economic progress has sent energy demand soaring. This calls for a rapid increase in supply on the continent, to which all forms of energy must contribute in the decades ahead. Africa therefore has a unique opportunity to pursue sustainable energy development as a basis for long-term prosperity. Africa is richly endowed with fossil-based and renewable energy sources. However, a continued reliance on oil and gas along with traditional biomass combustion for energy will bring considerable social, economic and environmental constraints.

Tackling today's energy challenge on the continent, therefore, requires a firm commitment to the accelerated use of modern renewable energy sources. Countries like Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco and South Africa are leading this effort, while some of Africa's smaller countries including Cabo Verde, Djibouti, Rwanda and Swaziland have also set ambitious renewable energy targets.

Others are following suit, and renewable energy is on the rise across the continent. It illuminates a viable path to prosperity through renewable energy development.

Africa needs to highlight possible roles for various renewable energy technologies across the five regions of Africa until 2030. Africa can deploy modern renewables to eliminate power shortages, bring electricity and develop-

ment opportunities to rural villages that have never enjoyed those benefits, spur on industrial growth, create entrepreneurs, and support increased prosperity across the continent.

Modern renewables can also facilitate a cost-effective transformation to a cleaner and more secure power sector. Some technology solutions are relatively easy to implement but require an enabling environment, with appropriate policies, regulation, governance and access to financial markets. As a promising sign of things to come, several African countries have already succeeded in making steps necessary to scale up renewables, such as adoption of support policies, investment promotion and regional collaboration. Africa 2030 builds on a large body of background studies developed in close co operation with African experts. With momentum building in support of renewable energy. By making the right decisions today, African countries can usher in a sustainable energy landscape for generations to come.

Africa has a wealth of renewable energy sources with the capacity to meet the basic economic development needs of its people. In a report released recently by the International Renewable Energy Agency (Irena) hinted that by 2030 the continent could meet about 23 per cent of the region's essential energy demand through these resources, which are abundant and prolific in almost all countries, says the text called Global Renewable Outlook 2020.

According to Irena's studies, many countries that do not border the Mediterranean Sea, known as sub-Saharan Africa, will have the highest proportion of alternative energy in their total primary energy supply.

Indeed endowed with immense natural resources, Africa has embarked on a transforming energy path and the territories located on approximately 85 per cent of its surface area have the potential to deploy programmes to exploit them in a sustainable manner, according to the international organisation.

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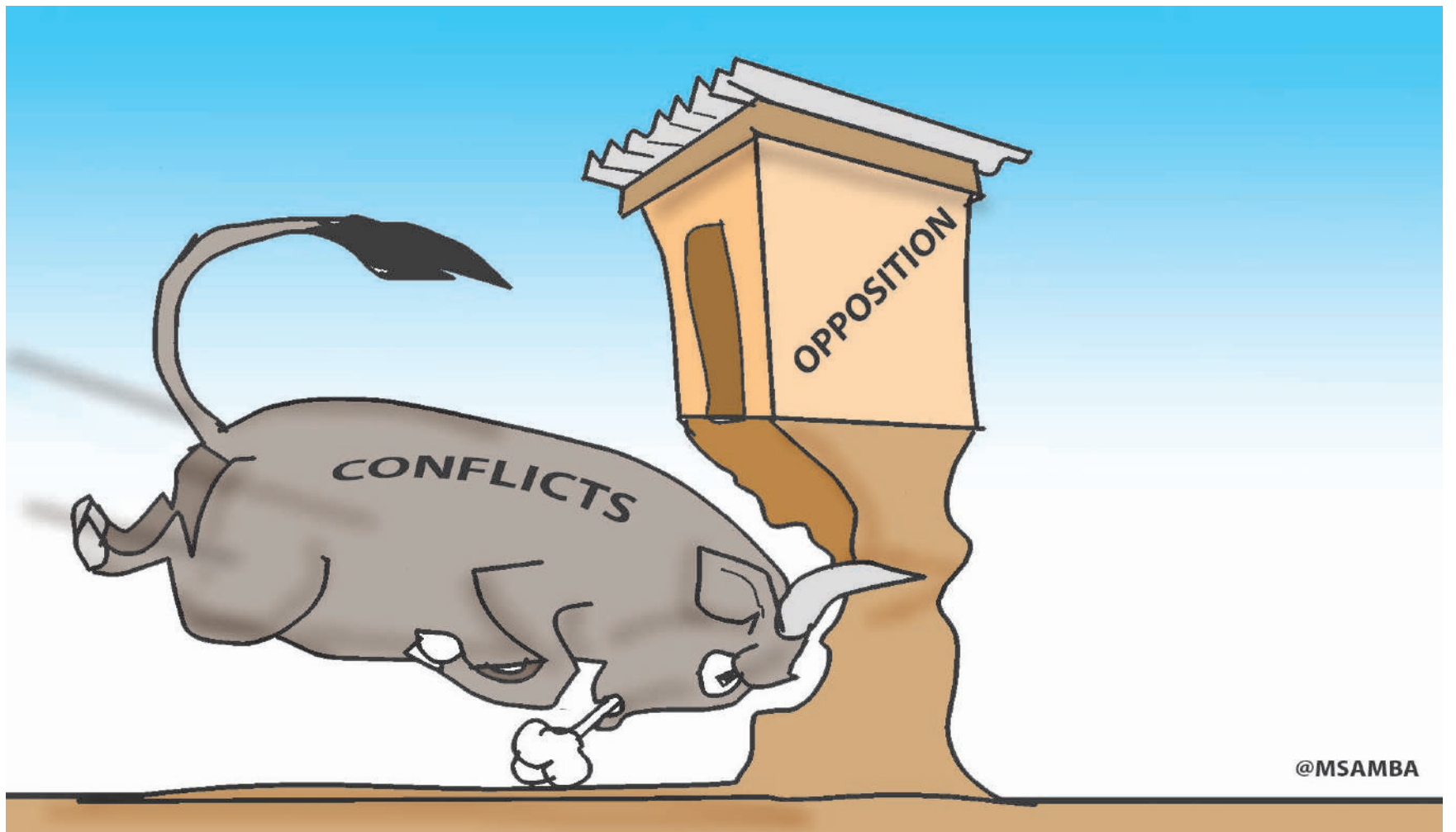
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## SA still two nations in a divided country

By Michael le Cordeur

WE were and still are an abnormal society. We were and still are two nations. Trapped in a divided country. This is visible everywhere. One group sits happily on their stoep drinking wine. Their fridges are full. The other group stands in the queue at the soup kitchen.

In the days of the Struggle (1950 to 1990), when South Africa was isolated from the international sports world, the South African Council on Sport (Sacos) had a motto, "No normal sport in an abnormal society". Those who participated in "normal" sport hated Sacos and its members.

It is 30 years later. Sacos ended its struggle when the ANC and its partners were unbanned. South Africa was already welcomed back into international sport in 1991 (before we had a democratic election). Zola Budd ran, fell and retired; Clive Rice and his team went to India, and the Springboks could gambol on the green grass of Newlands again.

Nothing has changed. From pure gratitude, everything, from the creche on the corner to universities, airports and rugby competitions, was named after Mandela: the Mandela Shield, the Freedom Cup and many others. We won the rugby World Cup and hosted the soccer World Cup. The abnormal society suddenly became normal and everybody was happy. Hip, hip, hooray!

Sport, it was generally reported, had united South Africans over divides. We certainly were united as long as the match lasted; we even sang Die Stem with a clenched fist. But a rugby match is only 80 minutes long. We were so desperate to be a nation that we started believing our own lies. In the townships, nothing had changed.

The current government had the task to address this inequality. Admittedly, this was a giant task: millions of people were either unemployed or suffered from Aids or tuberculosis. The latter disease was mostly due to the fact that people have to live in the most desperate circumstances imaginable in densely populated areas where many residents must share a tap and a toilet.

And then the Virus hit us. The president locked down the country and threw away the keys. "You will stay in your homes until the Virus departs." South Africans had three days in which



to fill their fridges. Those, at least, who still had money in their pockets and a bank account on 23 March. But the president forgot that most people in South Africa do not have a piggy bank, not to mention money in a bank account. Thirty years after Mandela was freed, we may be the world's rugby champions, but we are also the country with the most inequality.

The doors of learning also closed. The place where the children get a daily meal, mostly their only meal for the day. That is, if they even turned up for school, if they are not killed in the crossfire of gangs, or assaulted by a rapist while they must walk many kilometres on foot to get to the school. This is a country where a child is raped every three minutes and 57 people are murdered every day. Another thing at which we are the world champions.

Only when the virus struck, did the minister of water affairs become aware that there are 41,000 places in the townships where water points are urgently needed. So that people can wash their hands.

### Divided country

This is a country where the public has lost confidence in the police because the police often team up with criminals to do our country's people harm. This is a country where violence is rampant. Instead of parliamentarians focusing on solutions, they throw accusations at one another in parliament.

This is a country where 10 million people of working age don't work or study. A country where more people (17 million) live on

social grants than there are people who work (15 million). South Africa has become a welfare state. Too many still look to the state for work, where the high salary rate is one of the factors that landed us in trouble in the first place.

While most matriculants and their parents wonder how they are going to pass matric, there are schools where learners start school at 8am and learn until school closes at 2pm. Online. Because some schools in our country have access to the best technology in the world.

I am overjoyed that instruction continues in some schools, but how normal is it that, in the midst of such poverty and misery, some schools can continue as if it is business as usual? We were and still are an abnormal society. We were and still are two nations. Trapped in a divided country. This is visible everywhere, also during a state of lockdown. One group sits happily on their stoep drinking wine. Their fridges are full. The other group stands in the queue at the soup kitchen. They are hungry. So hungry they will steal; even commit murder.

If a mother has to decide between a virus and food for her children who went to bed hungry last night, she will choose her children, every time.

### French Revolution

Before the president and his Cabinet thus decide on what will happen after 30 April, he should perhaps refresh his memory on the factors which led to the French Revolution:

The king's money chest was empty. Decades of poor harvests,

terrible drought and livestock diseases and deaths caused food prices to skyrocket. The monarchy did not want to listen to the poor. They also did nothing to improve the miserable circumstances of the poor. Eventually, the poor rebelled... The monarchy was overthrown.

### Does this sound familiar?

The government is asking that every citizen pay attention to the symptoms of the Covid-19 virus. It is also time that they pay attention to the symptoms that precede any revolution.

Why has SA failed to use its natural resources to the advantage of the country and its people? Probably because we have undermined SA society through poor leadership in nearly every sphere. This extends from the school where principals were appointed on the ground of having an acquaintance in the governing body, to the government where cadre deployment is the order of the day.

Have a look at the Canadian Cabinet, where every minister has a PhD degree in the field in which he or she has been appointed. The ANC is not there yet. Poor leadership is the reason why the government has spent billions of rand on the SAA, before realising that it was all in vain. How many food packages could we buy with that money? How many classrooms could we build?

### Only the best

After this lockdown, our lives will never be the same. The economy and every sphere of society will have to overcome an enormous setback. Many businesses will close.

Thousands are going to lose their jobs. Some aspects will have to be rebuilt totally. For that, we need the best experts in our country.

The country has become aware of the expertise of Professor Salim Abdool Karim over the past weeks. We dare not underestimate his role in the good performance of the minister of health. We need not wonder any longer who will succeed Cyril Ramaphosa. In recent times a slim medical doctor has stepped forward and looks increasingly like a future leader.

Martin Luther King Jr said a good leader is not known by what he said in times of prosperity, but by what he does in times of need. President Ramaphosa now has the opportunity to establish himself as the undisputed leader of South Africa.

My message to the president is simple: When you came into power, you said during your inaugural speech: "Here I am, send me."

President Ramaphosa, out there are many people who want to say the same to you. South Africa has many excellent leaders, people with a world of expertise who love their country and want to help.

You only need to ask.



## Wanted: Govt's help in ensuring availability, affordability of sunscreen lotions for PWA

By Gaudensia Mngumi

**K**ILLINGS of persons with albinism (PWA) for trade of their body parts have been contained, but lack of lotions to prevent damage to their skins is another violent killer of the people living with albinism (PWAs).

PWA can be happy in the outdoors activities if they are not exposed to sunlight, this can be controlled by using appropriate sun screens, wearing cloths and hats that limit the ultraviolet rays (UVA) to harm their skins which later cause cancer.

Since 2006 Tanzania was considered as a hot spot for PWAs 'genocide'.

According to Under the Same Sun (UTSS) periodical reviews of people living with albinism attacks against albinos for their body parts which started in 2006 have killed 76 people, 63 survivors, one abduction while since then there have been 18 grave violations.

The PWAs were killed for witchcraft rituals and superstitious arguments that they are the sources of power in politics, riches in businesses and success in many endeavours, the beliefs that has never been proved.

"The actual number of attacks and killings is likely much higher. Many are never reported or documented..." remarks, UTSS People with Albinism and the Universal Periodic Review of Tanzania.

However, preventing sun burn damage on their skin has been a serious challenge to them as a result the number of cancer deaths among PWAs community is on the increase.

People with albinism are supposed to use sunscreens with sun protection factor (SPF) of 20 to 30.

Currently, albinos with tender age lose their lives because of skin cancer, partly due to lack of resources and knowledge to buy and apply sunscreens, the Secretary General for Tanzania Albino Society (TAS) Mussa Kibimba, says.

The national PWAs society boss, name poverty and lack of awareness on albino matters as the major factor because over 75 of the albinos are born in vulnerable and poor families mostly from the peasants and small herders.

These are the people whose works expose them under the hot sun for long hours for years hence put them under the risk of skin cancers which is said to be a major cause of deaths of young PWAs including the children.

He observes that PWAs are challenged by their body's inability to produce sufficient melanin as a result they lack pigmentation in skins, hair and eyes. In many cases it leads to eye damaging and mostly skin cancer. It is more challenging to PWAs who are exposed to the sun and for those who are working under the sun for long hours, says Kibimba.

The TAS Secretary General observes further that, many



families are not well informed about albinism condition, cancer risks among them, diagnostic procedures and also how to provide and care for the cancer patients.

"People die from diseases that can be prevented. Skin cancer kills them due to lack of medications and diagnostic services. Most of them die despite the fact that the diseases can be somehow prevented and treated. Many PWAs do not have access to drugs and most families can-

not afford to buy them," observes TAS Secretary General.

"Without access to medications particularly to skin protection lotions, PWAs are susceptible to skin cancer. So in order to serve their lives and reduce the cases of cancer deaths among them, the government should

provide for the sunscreens."

Kibimba asks the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister's to source and set aside funds for PWAs community particularly to facilitate the acquisition of anti UVA lotions.

"If the government under normal circumstances supports cancer treatments - cervical, breast, TB and HIV it can as well find ways to help in prolonging the life of PWAs when it comes to ensure availability and affordability of sunscreen lotions the most important and essential skin care commodity for our people."

Evidence from some drug shops in Dar es Salaam indicates that the price of sunscreen SPF of 20 to 30 ranges between 35,000/- to 75,000/- per piece. For that reason without essential and adequate support from the government the majority families from peasants cannot have enough money to buy them.

TAS Secretary General observes that surveys have found that around 75 per cent of the PWAs die before they attain the age of 40 due to skin cancer, adding that the mortality is higher among youths as many die at the age between 30-40 years and that is according to Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam.

On the year 2018/19, the Ocean Road Cancer Institute confirmed that 18 PWAs died in Ocean Road Hospital and the skin cancer was the major illness.

However, due to lack of medicare and cancer clinics particularly in the regional and district hospitals, some albinos are said to resort to traditional healers for skin cancer treatments the practice that is said to worsen their conditions.

"Lack of finances - the majority do not have money for transport fare, there are challenges of long distance travel to health centres, lack of education and some cultural practices all play roles inhibiting PWAs to access medicare services

in Ocean Road Cancer Institute, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre na Bugando Hospital in Mwanza for the treatments," according to Kibimba.

"I think that the main root of this problem is not just the lack of doctors, the lack of hospitals or health centres, it's mostly attributed to economic and finances challenges."

TAS chief insists that a PWA needs to have regular medical check-ups of their health conditions particularly their skin cancers which will diagnose the illness before it advances to third or fourth stages which are unmanageable.

Kibimba called upon the government to pursue investors to start up sunscreen producing industries in Tanzania, an opportunity that will benefit not only the people living with albinism but also the national export regime adding that the sunscreen lotions used in the country are imports from UK, Canada, Sweden and Holland which are extremely expensive almost 100,000/- per piece because mostly the prices range in between 35,000 to 75,000/-

Kibimba explains the way the government and TAS together have responded to the future albino health caring programme, they have collaborated with various local and international stakeholders to start up skin cancer treatment centres in regional hospitals in Lindi, Iringa, Tanga, Morogoro, Singida, Mara and Zanzibar.

Again, their synergy has facilitated the installation of equipment such as brymill dermatology, cryogun, liquid nitrogen containers, cryoplates and withdrawing tube all intended for initial skin cancer treatments in the regional hospitals.

The 2012 national sensors report indicates that Tanzania has 16,376 PWAs out of which the National Albino Society has reached 13,364 in which 6,513 are male and 6,851 females.

## The rush to find Covid treatment is exceeding that of good science

By Jesse Smith

**O**N March 27, an article appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) entitled "Treating 5 critically ill patients with Covid-19 with convalescent plasma".

The article detailed the administration of plasma - the liquid fraction of blood - from persons who had recovered from the disease to patients currently sick with the same infection.

The subjects were inpatients fighting a current Covid-19 infection, and the article concluded that administered plasma seemed to correlate with all patients' conditions improving over the following week.

A few weeks later, an NPR report about antibody tests was published. This reports details the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) effort to reign in the ballooning number of antibody tests on the market.

With such a high demand for testing to help curb the Covid-19 outbreak, the FDA had eased its standards for antibody tests, spurring what the author called a "wild west" environment.

Recognizing that many antibody tests on the market lacked the accuracy necessary for a reliable test, the FDA began to tighten the strings. They were understandably trying to slow the spread of tests that had made it to the market before being properly validated.

These two reports are symptoms of a greater issue facing the scientific community and the general public that relies on them. The issue is that the pace of research surrounding Covid-19 is moving faster than the speed limit that good science relies on.

The world was caught on its heels early this year as Covid-19 began its spread. Recognizing that the coronavirus appeared to be more transmissible than its predecessors, the scientific community scrambled to curb its spread through public health, and to seek treatment and vaccines for the disease.

Reports came out so quickly that it seemed that information regarding Covid-19 was changing by the day and, each passing day, it seemed that the world was falling farther behind in the fight.

In response, the scientific community sprang into action. Researchers began unearthing existing medications that

showed even a passing effect against viral infections. These medications hardly fit into the category of antivirals - drugs that directly stop virus infections - but instead were pulled from categories including antimalarials, blood pressure medications and antibiotics.

So too did the effort to secure a vaccine for SARS-CoV-2, the strain of coronavirus that causes Covid-19. As of last month alone, there were over 40 open clinical trials for new experimental vaccines targeting SARS-CoV-2.

At the bedside, clinicians scrambled to paint a clear picture of Covid-19 as a disease. Reports were published about the most common presentation symptoms, related risk factors and susceptible populations.

Over just a few months, Covid-19 went from being seen as a virus that more than likely caused the common cold to one that quickly sends patients into acute respiratory failure. From there, reports surfaced about uncommon symptoms including gastrointestinal issues, bleeding problems, heart complications and even strokes related to Covid-19.

Doctors were scrambling to try to gain footing, watching as death rates soared all around them. The industrious began to recognize the shortages in equipment that were hampering clinical efforts.

Some university labs transitioned into makers spaces, where makeshift mechanical ventilators were fashioned out of crude robotic devices that pump a standard hospital bag valve mask. It was obvious the need for ventilators had reached a desperate place.

The same could be said for hospital personal protective equipment (PPE). As stores of N95 masks plummeted, many pulled out their old home sewing machines and began to stitch cloth masks for themselves and their friends.

The entire scientific community was caught off guard, and was scrambling to address the rising issue. It is natural to seek any possible solution to a serious problem - essentially as the saying goes, any port in a storm. But science itself is being strained in the process.

Science, it appears, is reaching its terminal velocity. Looking back at the JAMA report on convalescent plasma, at first glance this article appears to be a glimmer of hope for an effective treatment of Covid-19.



Digging deeper, though, you'll find that this article is riddled with issues. First, the article came out before peer-review - one of the tenets on which science is built. Second, the study lacked several key components to a good reliable study, including adequate controls, methods and design.

For instance, those patients who received convalescent plasma were given it anywhere from ten to 22 days after admission to the hospital. Without controls, there is no way to know whether the plasma aided in their recovery, or if they wouldn't have just gotten better anyway.

Similarly, many of the study participants were already receiving antiviral and steroid therapies, which is an obvious confounding issue in a study.

Another question in this study's design comes down to equalising study participants. Were all participants under the same viral load when administered plasma? Did they receive plasma with the same concentration of antibodies?

The study seemed to address only some of these issues, likely because time

did not allow anything more or better.

Convalescent plasma is a treatment that dates back centuries, and continues today as a possible treatment for Covid-19 patients. The idea centres around the principle that persons who have recovered from Covid-19 possess antibodies against the virus that could be transferred in plasma to people currently infected to essentially bump-start their immune response.

The adaptive immune system is slow to produce antibodies during the first exposure to a pathogen - which is why those infections tend to make people so ill. However, if antibodies exist upon second exposure, the immune response is far more vigorous and effective.

This is, of course, more true from some viruses than others. Administering convalescent plasma would confer passive immunity to a patient, essentially quickening his or her immune response.

The issue with antibodies is that at this point we cannot conclusively say that antibodies are a reliable protection against Covid-19. There are simply not enough data to show that a person

who has recovered from Covid-19, or a person who has received their plasma, is protected against contracting the disease. The issue of antibody testing itself is in question, as the above NPR report states.

In response to pandemics, research and drug design is afforded a sort of fast track, opening the doors to the use of drugs with off-label effects, experimental vaccines and testing that has not undergone the necessary rigour to prove reliable.

In fact, many companies are producing tests that later reveal unreliable results. In response, the FDA has had no choice but to slow their production. But it is reliable testing that the US and other countries need most to begin to gain advantage in this fight.

Science is a slow process. For theories to become laws; it takes centuries for scientist to analyse, test, question and retest theories. This process is what produces refined and reliable data and understanding.

Of course, not all science has to undergo the same rigour as did the laws of Isaac Newton and Gregor Mendel. But

all science undergoes the peer review process, where data are picked apart, questioned, analysed, tested and often refuted. This produces reliable information, and reinforces the scientific process.

To their credit, JAMA published an editorial in the same issue addressing all of the issues in the original convalescent plasma article. The piece showed that this study was pushed through quickly, and had several flaws that held it back from being a reliable article.

The authors seem to recognize the flaws in the article, while also recognizing that publishing this information is necessary. They also went on to say that, all that notwithstanding, the need to accelerate various areas of treatment and testing for Covid-19 was still necessary.

For the time being, the scientific process will have to adapt to the rapid pace it is experiencing, even if it challenges its very underpinnings.

**Jesse Smith is a medical student who writes on science, medicine and business. Medium**



# Does the Sahel really need more AU troops?

BY MOHAMED M DIATTA

LAST year saw a significant resurgence of extremist violence in the Sahel, especially in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, where the United Nations (UN) recorded over 4 000 deaths. With the onset of COVID-19, terrorist attacks have not abated in the region.

African Union (AU) Commission chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat told African leaders at February's AU summit that 'the continent has not shown solidarity to its brothers and sisters in the Sahel.' As a result, the commission was tasked with developing a framework on the possible deployment of a 'force composed of the Multinational Joint Task Force and 3 000 troops for six months, in order to further degrade terrorist groups in the Sahel'.

Since February several meetings have been held involving the AU Commission and its Peace and Security Department, the Economic Community of West African States and the G5 Sahel Secretariat. These were to finalise the details of the deployment initially planned for mid-June.

Bringing order to the many initiatives in the Sahel is a huge task, but would help tremendously.

At the AU Peace and Security Council, the aim of the deployment was discussed and resulted in a directive for the AU Commission to consult with the G5 Sahel on a new concept of operations. The concept is meant to inform the composition of forces. However, according to some diplo-

rats and analysts in the region who spoke to ISS Today off the record, the presence of foreign troops in the Sahel, particularly the French, is not helping the situation and hence the need for the AU force deployment.

But is such a force the best way for the AU to bring peace in the Sahel? And what about the African Standby Force? Why have these troops never been deployed, especially when it has supposedly been fully operational since 2016? Meanwhile Africa continues to set up ad hoc military missions to respond to the very situations for which the African Standby Force was designed.

To date there has been no clear answer to these questions, particularly the thorny issue of financing. The new AU force for the Sahel is meant to be deployed for six months precisely because there is no certainty over its sustainable funding.

And the AU Peace Fund, currently endowed with around US\$150 million, has been touted to pay for less costly activities such as mediation and preventive diplomacy. The fund was meant to finance 25% of African-led peace operations but unpredictable income streams mean this isn't yet a viable option. Operational questions also remain, notably about the command of the new force and its potential integration into existing military operations.

Military operations have been ongoing for years, but terrorist attacks and casualties are on the rise. There's been a plethora of mili-



The AU could do better than adding to the plethora of military forces deployed in the region. FILE PHOTO

tary actors in the Sahel for several years, and the AU-proposed force certainly won't help bring order, coherence and unity of purpose to this overcrowded security space. Consultations on the timing and necessity of deploying yet another force to the region should have been held.

The problems in the Sahel are complex. Terrorists are embedded in many local communities and in some cases fill the gap left by the state. This is compounded by an increase in inter-communal violence, disputes over resources, and transnational organised crime that fuels terrorist networks. Given this complexity, the

AU's deployment could certainly contribute some additional firepower - but is it the best solution?

There are essentially two types of forces present in the Sahel - multilateral and individual - although some states operate at both levels. Multilateral forces include the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the Multinational Joint Task Force and the G5 Sahel force.

Then there is the French Operation Barkhane, which comprises about 5 100 soldiers. There are also United States (US), German, Belgian, British and Italian soldiers, both within MINUSMA and in the framework of bilateral agreements

with Sahel countries, where some of these countries also have military bases. It is believed that the US has around 30 military bases in Africa. US soldiers are present in Chad, Mali and Niger.

To be genuinely useful, the AU should bring order to the myriad initiatives already in place.

In January, French President Emmanuel Macron summoned regional leaders to discuss the situation in the Sahel and the deployment of French forces. This followed a surge of public criticism of French operations, particularly given the increase in attacks in the region. The meeting confirmed their cooperation, resulting in an additional

500 French soldiers being sent to the Sahel. Another operation, Takouba, involving several countries, would support Barkhane and other ongoing military operations.

If the AU wants to be genuinely useful in the Sahel, it should clean up the Sahelian quagmire by bringing order to the myriad initiatives already in place. Otherwise the planned deployment might help the situation only marginally, if at all.

Those close to decision-making circles on the ground believe that careful reflection and a clear plan are needed. Support for the plan would have to be garnered among Sahel countries, key extra-regional

actors and the regional bodies concerned, among others.

Bringing order to the many existing initiatives in the Sahel is a huge task, but would help tremendously.

The AU's efforts would be better placed there. The continental body should also use the peace and security architecture it has worked hard to establish, notably the African Standby Force. Relying on ad hoc responses makes efforts to set up long-term mechanisms obsolete. It also wastes resources, which is something the continent cannot afford.

AGENCIES

## Mitigation could indeed buy us time, but only suppression can get us to where we need to be

By Aaron E. Carroll and Ashish Jha

WHILE many have watched the coronavirus spread across the globe with disinterest for months, most of us have finally realised it will disrupt our way of life.

A recent analysis from Imperial College is now making some Americans, including many experts, panic. The report projects that 2.2 million people could die from Covid-19 in the United States.

But the analysis also provides reason for hope - suggesting a path forward to avoid the worst outcomes. We can make things better; it's not too late. But we have to be willing to act.

Let's start with the bad news. The Imperial College response team's report looked at the impact of measures we might take to flatten the curve, or reduce the rate at which people are becoming sick with Covid-19.

If we do nothing and just let the virus run its course, the team predicts, we could see three times as many deaths as we see from cardiovascular disease each year. Further, it estimated that infections would peak this mid-June. We could expect to see some 55,000 deaths - in just one day.

Of course, we are doing something, so this outcome is unlikely to occur. We're closing schools and businesses and committing to social (really, physical) distancing.

However, as the sobering charts from the analysis show, this isn't enough. Even after we do these things, the report predicts, a significant number of infections will occur - more people will need care than we can possibly provide in our hospitals, and more than 1 million could die.

Why does the Imperial College team predict this for the West when things seem to be improving in Asia? The reason is: we are taking different approaches. Asian countries have engaged in suppression; we in the US are only engaging in mitigation.

Suppression refers to a campaign to reduce the infectivity of a pandemic, what experts call RO (R-naught), to less than one. Unchecked, the RO of Covid-19 is between 2 and 3, meaning that every infected person infects, on average, two to three

others.

An RO less than 1 indicates that each infected person results in fewer than one new infection. When this happens, the outbreak will slowly grind to a halt.

To achieve this, we need to test many, many people - even those without symptoms. Testing will allow us to isolate the infected so that they can't infect others. We need to be vigilant, and willing to quarantine people with absolute diligence.

Because we failed to set up a testing infrastructure, we can't check that many people. At the moment, we can't even test everyone who is sick. Therefore, we're attempting mitigation - accepting that the epidemic will advance but trying to reduce RO as much as possible.

Our primary approach is social distancing - asking people to stay away from one another. This has meant closing schools, restaurants and bars. It's meant asking people to work from home and not meet in groups of ten or more.

Our efforts are good, temporising measures. Impeding the growth of the infection improves the chance that our healthcare system will be able to keep up.

But these efforts won't help those who are already infected. It will take up to two weeks for those infected today to show any symptoms, and some people won't show symptoms at all.

Social distancing cannot prevent these infections, as they've already happened. Therefore, things will appear to get worse for some time, even if what we're doing is making things better in the long run. The outbreak will continue to progress.

**Cautious optimism, options**

But buried in the Imperial College report is reason for optimism. The analysis finds that in the do-nothing scenario, many people die and die quickly. With serious mitigation, though, many of the measures we're taking now slow things down. By the summer, the report calculates, the number of people who become sick will eventually drop to a trickle.

On this path, though, the real horror show will begin in the autumn and crush us next winter, when Covid-19 comes back with a vengeance. This is what happened with the flu in 1918. The spring was bad. Over the summer, the numbers of sick dwindle



Stuart Malcolm, a doctor with the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic in San Francisco California on March 17, 2020. Photo: Josh Edelson/AFP via Getty Images

dled and created a false sense of security. Then, all hell broke loose. In late 1918, tens of millions of people died.

If a similar pattern holds for Covid-19, then while things are bad now, it may be nothing compared to what we face at the end of this year.

Because of this, some are now declaring that we might be on lockdown for the next 18 months. They see no alternative.

They argue that if we go back to normal the virus will run unchecked and tear through Americans in the autumn and the winter, infecting 40 to 70 per cent of us, killing millions and sending tens of millions to the hospital.

To prevent that, they recommend that we keep the world shut down, which would destroy the economy and the fabric of society.

But all of that assumes that we can't change, that the only two choices are millions of deaths or a wrecked society.

And that is just not true. We can create a third path. We can decide to meet this challenge head-on. It is absolutely within our capacity to do so.

We could develop tests that are fast, reliable and ubiquitous. If we screen everyone, and do so regularly, we can let most people return to a more normal life. We can reopen schools and places where people gather. If we can be assured that the people who congregate aren't infectious, they can socialise.

We can build healthcare facilities that do rapid screening and care for people who are infected, apart from those who are not. This will prevent transmission from one sick person to another in hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

We can even commit to housing infected peo-

ple apart from their healthy family members, to prevent transmission in households.

These steps alone still won't be enough, all right. We will need to massively strengthen our medical infrastructure. We will need to build ventilators and get more hospital beds.

We will need to train and redistribute physicians, nurses and respiratory therapists to where they are most needed. We will need to focus our factories on turning out the protective equipment - face masks, gloves, gowns and so forth - to ensure we keep our health-care workforce safe.

And, most importantly, we need to pour vast sums of intellectual and financial resources into developing a vaccine that would finally bring this nightmare to a close. An effective vaccine would end the pandemic and protect billions of people around the world.

All of the difficult actions we are taking now to flatten the curve aren't just intended to slow the rate of infection to levels that the healthcare system can manage. They're also meant to buy us time. They give us the space to create what we need to make a real difference.

**Change of mood**

Of course, it all depends on what we do with that time. The mood of the country has shifted in the last few weeks, from dismissal to one of fear and concern.

That's appropriate. This is a serious pandemic, and it's still very likely that the rate of infection will overwhelm the surge capacity in some areas of the US.

There will likely be more seriously ill people

than we have resources to care for, meaning that providers will have to make decisions about whom to treat and whom not to. They may, explicitly or implicitly, even have to decide who lives and who dies.

If we commit to social distancing, however, at some point in the next few months the rate of spread will slow. We'll be able to catch our breath. We'll be able to ease restrictions, as some early hit countries are doing. We can move towards some semblance of normalcy.

The temptation then will be to think that we have made it past the worst. We cannot give in to that temptation. That will be the time to redouble our efforts. We will need to prepare for the coming storm. We'll need to build up our stockpiles, create strategies, and get ready.

If we choose the third course, when autumn arrives, we will be ahead of a resurgence of the infection. We can keep the number of those who are exposed to a minimum, focusing our attention on those who are infected, and enacting more stringent physical distancing only when, and in locations where, that fails.

We can keep schools and businesses open as much as possible, closing them quickly when suppression fails, then opening them back up again once the infected are identified and isolated. Instead of playing defence, we could play more offence.

We need to keep time on the clock, time to find a treatment or a vaccine. The last time we faced a pandemic with this level of infectivity, that was this dangerous, for which we had no therapy or vaccine, was a 100 years ago, and it led to 50 million deaths.

The coronavirus pandemic isn't unprecedented, but it's not anything almost anyone alive has experienced before. We are, however, much more knowledgeable, much more coordinated, and much more capable today.

Some Americans are in denial, and others are feeling despair. Both sentiments are understandable. We all have a choice to make. We can look at the coming fire and let it burn. We can hunker down, and hope to wait it out - or we can work together to get through it with as little damage as possible.

This country has faced massive threats before and risen to the challenge; we can do it again. We just need to decide to make it happen.

**A syndicated dispatch from The Atlantic, which covers politics, culture, business, science, technology, health, education, global affairs, and more. Aaron E. Carroll is a professor of pediatrics at Indiana University School of Medicine. Ashish Jha is the K.T. Li Professor of Global Health at Harvard University, Dean for Global Strategy at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Director of the Harvard Global Health Institute.**



# Uranium mining firm to use safe, eco-friendly technology

By Guardian Reporter

URANIUM mining firm—Mantra Tanzania is set to use the environmental friendly—in-situ recovery (ISR) mining method in the Mkuju River project, as it increases economic potential of the project and make it even safer for the environment.

Mantra Tanzania is a subsidiary of the Uranium One Group, operating at the Mkuju River Project in Southern Tanzania.

“ISR is relatively known as the most eco-friendly mining method and it would be the best method of choice for our work in Tanzania because keeping environment safe is one of our top priorities,” Managing Director of Mantra Tanzania, Frederick Kibodya said in a statement.

He said that the testing for ISR through leaching for some part of the ore body, which is amenable to this method, is one of the

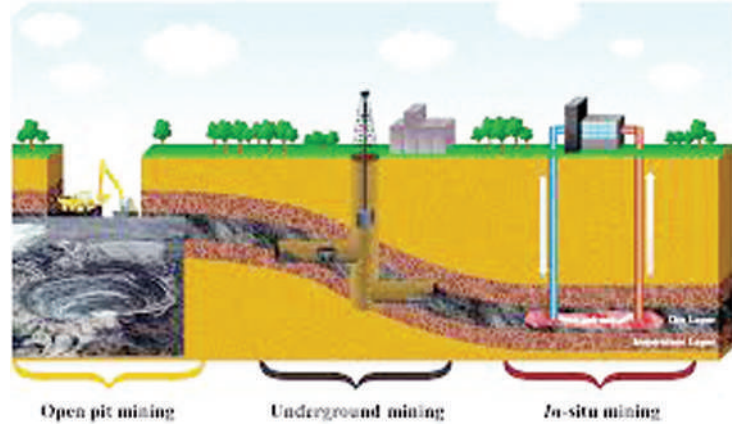
major tasks that Mantra Tanzania undertook in order to increase the efficiency of the mine.

According to him, ISR has gained traction in the exploitation of low-grade ore deposits and for its low production cost.

“Simply put the ISR technology can bring additional revenue for the country’s uranium mining sector in the future. In a broad sense, Tanzania will not only receive an advanced technology but also a positive effect on the economy of the country,” the official said in a statement.

He said: “The Mkuju River Nyota deposit’s extraction philosophy was primarily based on open cast mining. However, positive hydrological studies and Push Pull testing have led to an increasing appreciation that the ISR potential of the deposit might be greater than previously thought.”

On challenges, Kibodya further



said: “Uranium mining is a new concept to the Tanzanian mining authorities, as no ISR mining activities have been proposed in the country in the past.”

In addition, he said the project is situated within the borders of the world famous Nyerere National Park, making environmental protection a priority.

“As such, it has been and will remain important for companies

to work closely with the Tanzanian regulators. As the ISR mining proves to be more viable, it holds the potential to unlock the region as an ISR production center. The Selous Basin is highly prospective for both stratiform and roll-front type uranium deposits and Mantra is well-positioned to take advantage of this opportunity.”

He however said: “Today producing uranium in a safe and en-

vironmentally responsible manner is important for both: the world and Tanzania. Uranium mining remains controversial mainly to a legacy of environmental and health issues experienced in the very early phase of the industry.”

According to him, nowadays uranium mining is conducted under significantly different circumstances - it is the most regulated and one of the safest forms of mining in the world. Advanced mining technologies achieve outstanding results in the field of safety and environmental protection in the industry.

ISR was developed independently in both the Soviet Union and the United States in the mid-1960s and it has remained safe, proven method that accounts for about 50% of world uranium extraction. “The technology has a very important role to play in the national uranium mining in-

dustry.”

ISR mining entails low capital and operating costs. Mining by ISR technology is friendly in comparison to conventional open-pit and underground mining due to less landscape disturbances, no waste rock dumps, no tailoring storage, and aquifer self-restoration after ISR

ISR has lower capital and operational costs due to economically viable uranium recovery from low-grade ores, low power consumption, reduced labor costs per unit produced and lower restoration cost.

The expert said: “One of the most important aspects of ISR mining is that it has a much lower environmental impact than underground mining, involving very little surface disturbance and no tailings or waste rock generation.

“After ISR mining operations are completed, the quality of the

remaining groundwater is restored to a baseline standard determined as part of an environmental impact assessment and approval before the start of the operation. Upon decommissioning, wells are sealed or capped, process facilities removed, the evaporation pond is revegetated, and the land can then revert to its previous uses.”

“For health and safety reasons employees undergo regular monitoring for alpha radiation contamination and wear personal dosimeters to measure exposure to gamma radiation. Routine monitoring of air, dust and surface contamination are also undertaken.”

Tanzania is expected to become one of the biggest uranium producer on the global market. The uranium industry in Tanzania is expected to earn \$250-million a year in revenue and create about 2000 job opportunities.

## Equator Prize winners inspire the indigenous and innovative ways of coexisting with nature

NEW YORK

THE UN Development Programme (UNDP) and partners announce the winners of the 11th Equator Prize to recognize 10 local and indigenous communities from across the world. The winning organizations showcase innovative, nature-based solutions for tackling biodiversity loss and climate change.

For years, Equator Prize winners representing indigenous communities have been urging to adopt a more indigenous-inspired way of coexisting with nature, acknowledging and respecting the connection between human and planetary health. Now, they are reiterating that message in light of the coronavirus—how protection, sustainable use, and restoration of nature can secure well-being and livelihoods for communities all over the world.

“Our community of 3,000 people have swiftly responded to the impacts of COVID-19 to save people from starvation. We are providing over 7,500 people each week with basic food necessities from our own first model community-garden. The objective now is to motivate the villagers to replicate the idea. Ensuring food security by increasing our conservation efforts is vital”, says Nelson Reiyia, Director at the Nashulai Maasai Conservancy, which is one of the new Equator Prize winning organizations.

This is the first time the Equator Prize has been awarded to groups from Canada and Myanmar. Winners are also based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guate-

mala, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, and Thailand. During the ‘Super Year for Nature’, their approaches exemplify what actions can be taken to protect crucial ecosystems and biodiversity for generations to come. The achievements of the winners also show how indigenous peoples and local communities have confronted legacies of disadvantage and discrimination in support of their communities, and the world at large.

“As our natural world faces a range of unprecedented challenges, the Equator Prize lifts the curtain on a range of exceptional nature-based solutions pioneered by local communities and indigenous peoples,” says UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner. “Indeed, as countries move to build back better after the COVID-19 pandemic, these innovative ways to protect ecosystems, biodiversity and tackle climate change are more important than ever – I expect that the incredible efforts of the Equator Prize winners will have a ripple effect across the world.”

“At the same time, many of these communities are increasingly facing an erosion of their rights through land grabs, illegal mining or logging so recovery and resilience-building efforts must strive to bolster the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities,” he added.

Equator Prize winners will each receive US\$10,000 and the opportunity to join a series of special events associated with the UN General Assembly, the UN Nature Summit and the Global Climate Week in late September. They will join a network of 245 communities



In a remote part of the Congo Basin, Vie Sauvage has pioneered a holistic model for community development, conservation, and peace-building.

from 81 countries that have received the Equator Prize since its inception in 2002.

The Equator Prize has been supported by former Heads of State Gro Harlem Brundtland and Oscar Arias, Nobel Prize winners Al Gore and Elinor Ostrom, thought leaders Jane Goodall and Jeffrey Sachs, indigenous

rights leader Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, philanthropists Richard Branson and Ted Turner, and celebrities Edward Norton, Alec Baldwin, Gisele Bündchen, and many more. Partners of the Equator Initiative include the governments of Germany, Norway, and Sweden, as well as Conservation International, the Convention on Biological Diversity,

EcoAgriculture Partners, Estee Lauder Companies, Fordham University, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, The Nature Conservancy, PCI Media Impact, Rainforest Foundation Norway, Rare, UNEP, UNDP, UN Foundation, USAID, WWF, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The winners were selected from a

pool of 583 nominations from over 120 countries by an independent Technical Advisory Committee of internationally renowned experts. The selection was based on community-based approaches that provide a blueprint for replication and scaling solutions to address our biodiversity crisis.

## Safeguarding Africa’s food security in the age of Covid-19

By Pritha Mitra

FOOD security in sub-Saharan Africa is under threat. The ability of many Africans to access sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs has been disrupted by successive natural disasters and epidemics. Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, locust outbreaks in eastern Africa, and droughts in southern and eastern Africa are some examples. The COVID-19 pandemic is just the latest catastrophe to have swollen the ranks of 240 million people going hungry in the region. In some countries, over 70 percent of the population has problems accessing food.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the world’s most food-insecure region, and in the June 2020 sub-Saharan Africa Regional Economic Outlook, we show that climate change is increasing that insecurity.

The sub-Saharan is particularly vulnerable to the forces of climate change. Almost half the population lives below the poverty line and depends on rain-fed agriculture, herding, and fishing to survive. With each climate shock, whether drought, flood or cyclone, farmers suffer directly, while shortages elevate the price of food for all.

Africans are easily pushed into

food insecurity because their ability to adapt is limited by many factors, including low savings and access to finance and insurance. As a result, lives are lost, malnutrition rises, health worsens, and school enrollment drops. All this, ultimately damages the economy’s productive capacity.

During these times of COVID-19, we are seeing these challenges play out.

The measures to contain and manage the COVID-19 pandemic, while critical to saving lives, risks exacerbating food insecurity. Border closures, lockdowns, and curfews intended to slow the spread of the disease are disrupting supply chains that, even under normal circumstances, struggle to stock markets, and supply farmers with seeds and other inputs.

At this critical juncture, sub-Saharan Africa needs to prioritize policies targeted at reducing risks to food security as part of fiscal stimulus packages to counter the pandemic. Our analysis suggests these policies should focus on increasing agricultural output, and strengthening households’ ability to withstand shocks. This would have the added benefit of reducing inequalities while boosting economic growth and jobs.

Even before the pandemic, many countries in the region were proac-



tive in protecting their food supply by raising crop productivity and reducing their sensitivity to inclement weather. For example, Mozambique is the location of a global pilot for newly-developed, heat-tolerant bean seeds, while in Ethiopia, some farmers’ yields rose by up to 40 percent after the development of rust-resistant wheat varieties (rust is brought on by higher temperatures and volatile rainfall).

Maintaining this momentum calls for continued progress in improving irrigation, seeds, and erosion protection, all of which would substantially

boost production. Meanwhile raising farmers’ awareness would also accelerate implementation of these measures.

Adapting to climate change is critical to safeguarding the hard-earned progress in economic development sub-Saharan Africa has achieved in recent decades. However, adaptation will be especially challenging given countries’ limited capacity and financial resources.

The priority then should be on making progress in select, critical areas which could have an outsized impact in reducing the chances of

a family becoming food insecure when faced with shocks from climate change or epidemics.

For instance, progress in finance, telecoms, housing, and health care can reduce a family’s chance of facing food shortages by 30 percent:

Higher incomes (from diverse sources), and access to finance would help households buy food even when prices rise, allow them to invest in resilience ahead of a shock, and better cope afterwards.

Access to mobile phone networks enables people to benefit from early warning systems and gives farmers in-

formation on food prices and weather—just a single text or voice message, could help them decide when to plant or irrigate.

Better-built homes and farm buildings would protect people and food storage from climate shocks. Combined with good sanitation and drainage systems, they would also preserve people’s earning capacity by preventing injuries, and the spread of disease, while ensuring safe drinking water.

Improved health care helps people return to work quickly after a shock; and, along with education, raises their income potential and helps inform their decisions.

Social assistance also has a major impact as it is critical in compensating people for lost income and purchasing power after a shock hits. Insurance and disaster risk financing can be critical too, but the success of these programs in sub-Saharan Africa often relies on government subsidies and improvements in financial literacy.

Concentrating adaptation strategies in sub-Saharan Africa on policies that have outsized impacts, including on food security, will help reduce their costs. Implementation of these strategies will be expensive—\$30-50 billion (2-3 percent of regional GDP) each year over the next decade, according to many experts.



# Abiy helps Somalia put more facts on the ground

BY PETER FABRICIUS

ON 1 June, Somaliland's President Muse Bihi Abdi officially inaugurated the first 12 km of Berbera Corridor, a trade and transport route that connects landlocked Ethiopia to Somaliland's Port of Berbera on the Gulf of Aden.

The Addis Ababa-Berbera highway is being funded by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development. Together with the US\$442 billion expansion of the Port of Berbera by another Emirati company, Dubai's DP World, the highway will turn Berbera into a major regional trading hub.

On one level, Somaliland is merely investing in what is likely to be a lucrative commercial venture, attracting more exports and imports from its much bigger and richer neighbour. But the Berbera highway clearly also has a more strategic purpose - to put an important political fact on the ground.

That is, to make Berbera an integral part of Ethiopia's economic network - and therefore also Somaliland. To the degree that Berbera becomes indispensable for Ethiopia, to that degree is Somaliland recognised - though only implicitly of course - as an independent state.

The Berbera project is important to Ethiopia's strategic imperative of access to the sea.

Achieving such recognition has been Somaliland's eternal quest - so far with no apparent success. Neither Ethiopia nor any other country explicitly recognises it as a sovereign

nation. All officially still consider it to be a wayward province of Somalia. And there are no signs on the immediate horizon that any country is about to take the plunge and be the first to recognise the independent state of Somaliland.

Yet because of its implicit recognition of Somaliland, the Berbera Port-highway project has annoyed Somalia. Two years ago when Somaliland and DP World ceded 19% of the Berbera Port project to Ethiopia, Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo, without mentioning names, warned foreign countries and companies not to 'cross the line and put to question the sovereignty of Somalia.'

Ethiopian President Abiy Ahmed Ali's government duly pledged respect for Somalia's sovereignty a few months later. Yet Abiy, who ascended to Ethiopia's prime ministership in April 2018, has shown no signs of abandoning the Berbera project. The corridor is important to Ethiopia's strategic imperative of access to the sea. This is especially because cooling relations with Djibouti since Abiy's rapprochement with Eritrea have placed something of a question mark over Ethiopia's main maritime outlet through that country.

However Abiy, the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize winner, is also exercising diplomatic skill. In February this year he hosted a meeting between Farmaajo and Bihi in Addis Ababa to try to help them patch up their quarrel.

The Berbera highway also has a strategic purpose - to put an important political fact on the ground.

The encounter seems to have borne



What is the Ethiopian leader's interest in mediating talks between Somalia and Somaliland? File photo

some fruit as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan, told the Security Council earlier this month that 'in regard to Somalia-Somaliland' relations, we are encouraged that dialogue is ongoing at senior levels and that both sides have indicated a willingness to maintain communication and pursue further discussions.'

Abiy's intervention as mediator is intriguing. One might think it would be Somalia that would consider Ethiopia a biased referee since Addis Ababa has a material interest in the offending Berbera project. Also Ethiopia is one of only three countries - along with Djibouti and Turkey - to have opened consulates in Hargeisa, Somaliland's main city.

Conversely, though, Abiy would probably not want to see a peaceful Somaliland weakened by Mogadishu. Ethiopia shares a border with Somaliland that is almost as long as that with Somalia, and a strong Somaliland provides a buffer for Ethiopia against al-Shabaab. So Abiy is walking a delicate tightrope on this issue, it seems.

There is also a wider dimension to the Somali-Somaliland standoff. Middle East powers are pursuing proxy rivalries in the Horn, with the UAE backing Somaliland in part to counter Turkey and Qatar's courtship of Somalia.

Somaliland will likely have to settle for de facto, not de jure, independence for a long while.

What the secretive Somali-Somaliland negotiations to which Swan referred might produce is hard to envision. With Somaliland demanding complete independence and Somalia demanding complete unification, the theoretical compromise would be incorporation with a high degree of autonomy within what is already a federal Somali state. But it's difficult to see Somaliland agreeing to that, and certainly not while Somalia remains locked in its bloody, existential struggle with al-Shabaab and protracted conflicts with federal states.

Ironically in his report, Swan urged that the commitment to dialogue and cooperation exhibited by Somalia and Somaliland should be extended to relations between the So-

mali federal government in Mogadishu and the federal member states. That was a reminder that some of these states are just about as 'independent' in practice as Somaliland. Swan noted with regret that 'it has been more than a year since the President and all Federal Member State leaders have met.'

So one might think Farmaajo would want to get his own house in order before considering adding another fractious member to the family. On the other hand, despite putting more solid facts on the ground, Somaliland looks as though it will have to settle for de facto, not de jure, independence - at least for a long while.

Agencies

## Decoding virus reactivation: Some insights for Covid-19

By Shin Jie Yong

CASES of Covid-19 reactivations are rising. South Korea has reported more than 200 cases of recovered patients who were later tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 again. But the reactivated virus seems to have "little or no infectivity", says the Korea Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC).

In an April letter to the American Journal of Infection Control, Chinese physicians reported: "Seven discharged patients turning positive again for SARS-CoV-2 on quantitative RT-PCR." Common reactivated symptoms were cough and fever, and diseases were milder than the first-time infection.

Similarly, in a small China study in the Journal of Infection with 55 discharged patients, 9 per cent returned to the hospital with fever, fatigue, cough, sore throat and abnormal white blood cell count, while also testing positive again for SARS-CoV-2.

"There is currently evidence

to suggest that a proportion of recovered Covid-19 patients could reactivate," the study authors wrote.

"Few researchers think that this is actually a case of reinfection or an issue of accuracy in test kits," said the epidemiologist, Hwang Seung-sik, MD, Ph.D. at the Seoul National University, adding: "Many are looking at this more as a virus reactivation." This is not to mention that South Korea has more stringent criteria for defining Covid-19 recovery than other countries.

Kevin Roe, a semi-retired researcher at San Jose State University, detailed in a letter to Transboundary and Emerging Diseases the "Explanation for Covid-19 infection neurological damage and reactivations".

In this published paper, he provided new insights into Covid-19 reactivation by drawing connections to another bat-derived virus called the Nipah virus - known for its outbreaks in Asia - that causes respiratory and neurological symptoms.

Roe mentioned that SARS-

CoV-2 and Nipah virus are both RNA enveloped viruses of bat origin. These two viruses cause similar neurological symptoms such as headache, convulsions, seizures, muscle twitches, disorientation and brain inflammation (encephalitis).

The CDC reported that for the Nipah virus, these signs are known to re-appear in about 8 per cent of survivors "months and even years after exposure" as a result of virus reactivation in neurons. That's why scientists have started cautioning on the neurological repercussions of Covid-19 over the coming years, as evidence suggests that Covid-19 might have neuropsychiatric after-effects.

"There is a very good reason for viruses, such as Covid-19 and Nipah virus, to selectively infect neurons," Roe wrote. He said this is because neurons lack MHC proteins required for presenting a foreign molecule - like virus proteins - to alert T-cells to destroy infected cells.

So virus replication in neurons often goes undetected by



'coronaCODINGphoto'

the host immune system - hence, a perfect hiding place. That's why other neuroinvasive viruses like herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) also establish latency in neurons to evade the host immune system.

"And by this means, they can create life-long infections that can be reactivated whenever some stress weakens the host immune system," Roe remarked.

Data from animal and human brain autopsy studies also suggest that "human coronaviruses (HCoV) can be added to the growing list of viruses that persist in the central nervous system, a viral flora of the brain that could have pathological consequences in some individuals but remain subclinical".

This is according to researchers at the laboratory of neuroimmunovirology at the University of Quebec. In other words, HCoV persists in neurons with potential subclinical effects "whenever some stress weakens the immune system".

### What causes virus reactivations?

This is best understood from HSV-1 that reactivates in response to external immu-

nosuppressive stimuli. The best-known one is psychological stress that releases cortisol that, when prolonged, undermines the immune system. Prolonged or excessive cortisol also serves as a cue for HSV-1 to enter the lytic (infectious; opposite of latent) phase of its life cycle.

This explains why psychologically stressed people have a reappearance of cold sores - a sign of reactivated HSV-1. Other stressors for HSV-1 reactivation include fever, fatigue, hormonal changes, prolonged exposure to UV radiation, surgical resection, organ transplants, immunosuppressive drugs, and aging of the immune system.

This is to paraphrase Bjorn Grinde, said a Norwegian doctorate specialising in genetics and evolution - who wrote: "In most cases, reactivation does not lead to serious disease."

Fortunately, the same seems to apply to Covid-19 reactivations that have been milder than the first-time infection, as observed in Korean and Chinese cases detailed above.

In essence, the moment Covid-19 shows neurological symptoms, it provides a clear

indication that SARS-CoV-2 can infect neurons and possibly becomes latent therein, which may reactivate in later life with milder symptoms.

Inferences from other related viruses - like the Nipah virus, HSV-1, and HCoV - support this contention. Reported cases of Covid-19 reactivation could very well be the smoking gun. But whether Covid-19 infection is life-long still remains to be confirmed over the coming years, Roe stated.

Fortunately, there're ways to suppress or prevent a latent virus reaction. Physical fitness has also been shown to prevent herpes virus reactivation in astronauts experiencing long periods of social isolation. Minimising or coping with psychological stress, immunological aging, or the other immunosuppressive stimuli cited would certainly help too.

**A Medium feature. Shin Jie Yong, a postgraduate student in dementia research student in Malaysia, is a published academic author.**

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 98 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

**WORD-FIT**

3 letters: HER, ASI, YES.

4 letters: EDIT, TEEN, NILE, GAME, KALE, RIAL

5 letters: RIVER, VAULT, ENTER, LEASE, EENSY, VEERS, SAY SO, NEEDY

6 letters: REMAIN, NERVES, KARATE, LEAVES

7 letters: ENCHANT

8 letters: ONE LINER

9 letters: MOUSE DEER, INTACTING

**CROSSWORD**

**CLUES: Across**

1 to tame

6 Madrid is her Capital

7 group of people descended from a common ancestor

9 up-to-date

11 person who plant seeds

12 to smash

14 refuse to admit the truth

16 dive suddenly

18 bravo! from Spanish

19 sequence of words used to perform magic

20 Oman's Capital

**Down:**

1 twilight

2 grassland

3 a person who sings

4 Turkish Capital

5 place where Adam lived

8 an Island

9 a pattern

10 to declare to be untrue

13 Uganda is the Capital

14 death, destruction

15 a headland

16 a job

17 a person who operates something



## BUSINESS

## GENEROSITY

## SA chefs prepare thousands of meals for the needy with surplus rescued produce



Comedian Elsa Majimbo.

## INFLUENCER

## Fun, feisty and relatable, comedian Elsa Majimbo has inspired the comeback

## NAIROBI

Elsa Majimbo has taken social media by storm as she provides bursts of energy and laughter for her social media fans during what would have otherwise been a very somber time. And it helps that she's as relatable as it gets.

If you haven't seen Elsa's videos - firstly, what rock are you living under? Her style is characterised by her infectious laughter, occasional munching of potato crisps and a demeanor so at ease you want to have her perspective on life's challenges.

But besides her "It's not!" phrase, what her fans have increasingly been enjoying - particularly on Instagram - is the hairstyle that has featured in her videos. If you plait your hair before you go to sleep as a protective style or to stretch your hair overnight, you probably know the hairstyle that has now experienced what I call the Elsa Effect.

The hairstyle I'm referring to is the small to medium-sized short twists or braids that many with natural hair go to sleep with. It's also likely that some may have this style on a more permanent basis, day and night, since it's lockdown.

Black women have many protective styles that they do but one of the most prevailing is these short braids that have been spotted on Elsa enough times that they have now been dubbed the "Majimbo hair." Women have been posting on their Instagram stories daily, sharing their go-to hairstyle they have in common with this internet sensation.

"People just used to make fun of my hairstyle in videos and some started posting it and calling it 'the Majimbo

hair", Elsa says. That's when she caught wind of the fact that she'd started a trend. "People just constantly posted about it and tagging me so it caught my attention."

But the 18-year-old comedian says her hair has nothing to do with her comedy, "Not in the slightest. I do what feels right." Nonetheless, she loves that her fans are celebrating her in this way. "I like that my followers and fans are able to do things that make me feel more in touch with myself. Connecting with them really warms my heart," she adds.

If you were wondering about her hair routine or how she's been treating it of late, while laughing she says, "My hair is fine. It's grown. Keeps on growing but I need it to grow faster." Her hair routine is quite simple. "Sometimes I want to re-plait it and when I get to the afro I'm just so tired so I leave it like that," she says.

Since going viral and landing the status of a social media sensation, Elsa has spoken about working with MAC cosmetics in Kenya, being on Comedy Central and being interviewed by a number of magazines. It seems her career is set to skyrocket but she keeps a special place for the support of her followers.

"I LOVE MY FOLLOWERS! They are so amazing and have really supported me with everything. They're helping me grow and love to see me win and that kind of love is something you can never buy at any store," she says. Being the social media darling at the moment, Elsa says, "Social media has definitely helped me reach a way greater crowd than I would have been able to. I wouldn't be where I am today without it."

## JOHANNESBURG

An alliance of five local and global organisations, backed by more than 300 chefs, restaurant owners and volunteers, has stepped in to play a small part in filling the massive need for the sustainable production of meals for vulnerable communities around the country.

It has ignited a surplus-driven movement that will extend beyond Covid-19. Chefs with Compassion was born in early April, after the declaration of a state of disaster by President Cyril Ramaphosa. NOSH Food Rescue's Hanneke van Linge, in collaboration with Thava Indian Restaurant in Norwood, Johannesburg, began turning surplus rescued produce that would otherwise have gone to waste into flavoursome, nutritious curries and stews.

According to Food Loss and Waste: Facts and Futures, South Africa produces around 31 million tons of food every year. Of that, 10 million tons is wasted, 44% of which are vegetables and fruits. In its first week, what was to become known as Chefs with Compassion, consisting of three "kitchens", produced 2 355 meals for nine beneficiary organisations.

Van Linge said: "In our six years of operation, we've come to understand the vital role that the restaurant industry plays in our food systems. In a country like South Africa that is marked by both a high-calibre hospitality sector and extreme hunger, we have to find innovative ways to work together and find real solutions to our social plights."

"A project like Chefs with Compassion has long been part of our bigger picture, and the current lockdown situation realised and scaled our pilot project with chef Philippe Frydman and Thava Restaurant faster than we could ever have anticipated. We now have solid proof of concept: it is a powerful and efficient way to distribute delicious, nourishing food to where it is needed most."

## Word spread

As word spread via social media and the media, the concept of providing rescued produce to compassionate chefs and kitchens to cook for Johannesburg's vulnerable communities took root. The opportunity to expand the movement into a national initiative was realised with the formation of an alliance



SA chefs preparing food for the needy.

between NOSH Food Rescue NPC, Slow Food International, the South African Chefs Association, Slow Food Chefs Alliance SA and Strategic PR. Subsequently, Chefs with Compassion, a new not-for-profit company, was formed.

"It's miraculous." This is how the founder of food charity Ladles of Love has described the generosity of donors, and the Herculean effort by his team, to deliver almost a quarter of a million meals to the hungry.

By the first week of May, the number of beneficiary organisations had grown to 28, receiving 11 749 meals from nine kitchens. With the potential to increase the volume of rescued produce as a result of the hospitality industry being shut down, the opportunity for expansion was limited only by human resource - also in plentiful supply due to the lockdown - and a suitable facility to receive the incoming produce.

"It was at this point that the call went out for volunteers and a warehouse from which we could expand the operation. The response was overwhelming. Chefs all over the country extended their hands and their hearts to assist, and the HTA School of Culinary Art provided the space for Chefs with Compassion to grow."

## Grew production by 212%

Generous funding by the South African Chefs Association provided the boost needed and, in its fifth week, Chefs with Compassion grew production by 212.2%, from nine kitchens to 22, and from 11 749 to 36 681 meals in a single week. The restaurant pioneer that began the wave, Thava Indian Restaurant, is

today producing 1 500 meals a day.

The concept behind Chefs with Compassion is a simple one - to rescue produce, provide it to compassionate chefs and kitchens, and connect them with beneficiary organisations. The logistics behind it are more complex and, with the need growing daily, requires the intervention of an expanding network of volunteers.

The journey starts with a team of passionate food waste warriors from NOSH Food Rescue, through their relationship with farmers, retailers and produce agents at the market, rescuing a portion of the produce which would otherwise have been discarded and destroyed at the market.

From there it is transported to the warehouse, where another team of volunteers sorts the true waste from what can be utilised to feed people who would otherwise go hungry. Says Van Linge: "The supply of rescued produce is, by nature, unpredictable and subject to demand by buyers and the discretion of the agents who provide us with the surplus. This means that, for example, last week we received close to 1 700 tons of lettuce. You'd be surprised what creative chefs can concoct out of a few lettuces."

In week 7 of Chefs with Compassion, between 18 and 24 May, 24 112 tons of rescued produce was sent to 30 kitchen hubs run by compassionate owners, where volunteer chefs produced 42 220 meals.

## Nothing goes to waste

Nothing goes to waste as any produce that can't be salvaged is given to pig

farmers. And stories of compassion and success abound. In week 6, chefs Carol Osiugwe and Jeanette Maseko began cooking for beneficiaries on the Gauteng East Rand, anticipating that they would prepare 300 meals per day each. Through their network of community kitchens and their own catering operations they have collectively managed to serve over 12 000 meals in the last two weeks.

In Johannesburg, the chefs, kitchens and restaurants preparing meals as hubs in the Chefs with Compassion initiative are Alra Park Community Forum, Bizza's Lifestyle, Bun's Out, Busisiwe - B TwalaB, Carol Osiugwe, chef Mahlamola Thamae, chef Pinky Maruping and Tebogo Ramatsui of Unilever Food Solutions, chef Raynor Damons, chef Citrum Khumalo, Disoufeng Pub, Ejardini, Hospitality Cares, Jackson's Real Food Market, Jeanette Maseko, chef Lance Williamson, Love Me So, Perron, Saigon Suzy, Swiss Hotel School, Taste-Buds Cook Club, Thathimvuyo Caterers, Thava Indian Restaurant, The Curry Boss, The Local Grill, The Noble, and V8 Roadhouse.

Next stop for Chefs with Compassion: Cape Town, Pretoria, Durban and Bloemfontein, followed shortly by Vereeniging, Mookopane, Potchefstroom and Port Elizabeth. Coovashan Pillay, national project manager for Chefs with Compassion, says: "Our need in these areas is for food waste warriors to champion the rescue of produce from the markets and farmers, a warehouse facility where produce can be sorted and dispatched to kitchen hubs, and volunteers in the form of chefs to cook in the hubs and hands to fulfil the warehouse and sorting functions."

## Transport needed

Nationally, Chefs with Compassion's greatest need is four-ton trucks to transport the produce from markets to the warehouses and to collect donations of staple ingredients. In Johannesburg alone, the cost of a vehicle for the market run five days a week is around R5 000.

"Our funding will quickly run out without the vehicles to make the entire chain work, and we're calling on logistics companies, truck rental companies, and suppliers who have vehicles that are currently not being used to assist us in ensuring the sustainability of this initiative," says Pillay.

## CONTROVERSY

## You say women are slow shoppers? That's stereotype I'm happy to take advantage of

## OSAKA

Ichiro Matsui might just have waved goodbye to his Saturday afternoons. The mayor of Osaka, Japan's third-largest city, has landed himself in hot water with critics - and, perhaps, his own wife - after suggesting women should no longer do the grocery shopping.

And thus potentially signing himself up to a lifetime of weekends spent at his local supermarket. The politician made the incendiary comments on Thursday, as part of a press conference discussing the city's coronavirus response.

As part of social distancing measures, Matsui appealed for couples to refrain from grocery shopping together, suggesting that only one member of the household need pick up the essentials. That member, he sagely asserted, should be a man.

"When a woman goes ... it will take a long time," Matsui said. "They browse around and hesitate about this and that. Men can snap up things they are told [to buy] and go ... that avoids close contact with others," he added.

His sweeping, gender-biased comments have, understandably, resulted in a widespread backlash. Among Matsui's critics is Japanese journalist Shoko Egawa, who subsequently tweeted that "people who know nothing about daily life shouldn't make comments". Indeed, suggesting women would be



According to Osaka's mayor, women are too indecisive when it comes to grocery shopping.

more likely to perpetuate the spread of Covid-19 through stereotypical, sexist assumptions is out of touch, out of date, and out of line. As of Friday morning, Osaka has recorded more than 1 400 confirmed cases of coronavirus. To infer that a rise could be spurred by women keeping their families fed, particu-

larly single mothers with no other option, is belligerent, derogatory and a worrying example of scare-mongering by a figure in power.

However, before we all get too up in arms about Matsui's blatant lack of chauvinism and discrimination, how about we let this one slide? After all, according to the

Japan Times in July 2019, "women do five times more unpaid tasks such as housework, household care and other activities than men."

Furthermore, according to the EU's Gender Equality Index, 79 per cent of European women do housework or cook for at least one hour every day, compared to 34

per cent of men. In the US, Pew Research Centre released a survey in 2019 in which 80 per cent of female respondents said they did the majority of meal preparations and grocery shopping.

Could Matsui's self-sabotaging comments be the fuel that fires a rise in women deservedly putting their feet up more often? Handing over the weekly food shop to their husbands and getting those percentages closer to 50 / 50?

If the mayor wants to peddle obsolete viewpoints, why waste time and energy getting riled up when we can try to use them to our advantage. I, for one, will happily let my husband contend with the frantic aisles of my local Carrefour. If he believes I dawdle hanging out the laundry, or dither scrubbing down the shower, he can also take those tasks off my hands.

To wit, when challenged by a reporter, the 56-year-old mayor acknowledged that his remarks might be archaic, according to AFP, but said they rang true in his household. Well played, Mrs Matsui.



## CHOICES

# 'Outdoor exercises have done me good'

NAIROBI

For nearly nine years, Nancy Ocheo has exercised about six times a week at a gym. Her preferred workouts were steps aerobics, a high-intensity cardio exercise that involves stepping up and down a block, and lifting weights to sculpt her body and gain strength.

But with coronavirus leading to the closure of gyms and forcing fitness enthusiasts to social-distance, she has developed a new liking for outdoor exercises. "Initially it was difficult to train at home since I'm used to working out in the gym but I realised that I was always anxious and fatigued. I resorted to exercising outdoors, at least five days a week for one hour or one and a half hours," she says.

The experience of outdoor exercises is pretty raw, just you, the grass and trees, and a few other fitness enthusiasts. Exercising outdoors is advantageous than indoors because breaking a sweat in a breeze and lush greenery



Nancy Ocheo has developed a liking for outdoor exercises following the closure of gyms.

makes the workout somewhat less strenuous and one is not confined to small spaces.

"Previously, I never enjoyed working outdoors except for activities like hiking and occasional boot camps. However, with Covid-19, I have realised that working outdoors is very exciting. Exercising in the house is very challenging because I'm not able to focus fully with the children in the house," she says.

Her weight has yo-yoed over the years just like most women. "After I got my firstborn, I lost 13kgs and now after my second baby, I've shed 15kgs," Nancy says. For Nancy, exercising is as important as working because it has immense benefits. She says she realised that she is happier when she exercises and also sleeps better since her body is tired after a workout.

"When Kenya reported its first coronavirus case on March 13, I had just travelled back from the UAE. I did the mandatory 14-day quarantine. The idleness and lack of movement made me anxious that I ended up going to the hospital twice. Then I started overeating to beat boredom. Of course, I wasn't eating healthy meals, so I gained three kilos. But I have since shed them off," she says.

So how does her weekly outdoor workout schedule look like? "Initially, I was jogging, skipping a rope, and brisk-walking, in addition to High-Intensity Training (HIT) workouts. With time, I got a personal trainer who tailor-makes exercises that work on areas of my body that need to be worked on," she says.

Most career women struggle with consistency, but Nancy says what drives her is seeing herself fit perfectly in "a LBD - a little black dress - be energetic and healthy." To better juggle the balls of working both from home and the office, motherhood, and exercises, she plans.

"If you're an early riser, set aside one hour in the morning before starting the day or for those who prefer evenings, do the same. Also, involve your partner. I'm lucky that my husband encourages me to exercise and takes care of the children when I need to do my workouts," says Nancy.

For her outdoor exercises, she has had to invest in a skipping rope, dumbbells, and a yoga mat. "Prioritising health and safety, wear comfortable outdoor workout shoes because the surface outdoor is different from an indoor gym. Don't forget a jacket, a mask, and sanitiser," she says.

## INDUSTRIOUS

# Non-profit spends 50 hours of labour and up to 6 months to make each wig

JOHANNESBURG

Most people are familiar with the idea of hair donation but don't know the labour-intensive and expensive process behind making a real-hair wig.

Of all the ponytails donated, not all will be made into wigs. In fact, many get eliminated at the beginning of the wig-making process. So how do they decide which ponytails to keep and which to toss?

Cutting the hair is only the first step of the process and perhaps the easiest. From there, workers perform over 50 hours of manual labour to transform single ponytails into full-fledged wigs. This can take four to six months. Hair We Share is a non-profit organisation that provides free wigs to people with hair loss due to a medical condition.

Suzanne Chimera, co-founder of Hair We Share, says: "So most people when they think hair loss they think cancer, we're way more than that. In the last month, we've serviced a motorcycle accident, domestic violence and two burn victims."

The co-founders enlist the help of 20 volunteers to sort through the donations at their New York headquarters. The donated hair is sorted in categories of colour, texture and length. Sorters measure the hair to make sure it reaches the minimum length of eight inches (20.32cm), otherwise it can't be used.

In addition to hair that is too short, a lot of other things disqualify donated hair, like hair that is highlighted, tangled or hair that has unnatural colours. "When we can't use hair, unfortunately, we discard it. We have tried to find companies that will use it to clean up oil spills and many of the companies we've contacted have said that they're getting too much hair," says Suzanne.

The hair is sorted into eight colours, from black to light blonde to shades of grey. "When I look at hair I see 40 colours, I don't see eight hair colours. Once the hair is all mixed together, you're not going to know if it's light brown or medium brown and we all have more than one colour in our hair so it's perfectly fine."

It takes six to nine ponytails to make a single wig. Those of similar colour, texture and length are packaged together and sent to Hair We Share's manufacturer. There, the ponytails go through a hackle to evenly trim the hair and remove any uneven or weak strands. During this stage anywhere from 10 percent to 60 percent of the hair could be lost, depending on the strength and health. But what is left is smooth blended hair.

The freshly heckled hair is then pressed to a holding card with tiny metal pins to ensure it doesn't get tangled again. Part of the hair is sewn into wax, which are then sewn onto the side and back of the wig cap. The rest of the hair strands are ventilated by hand - this is what makes the wigs look realistic.

Small strands of hair are pulled through a cap with a hook one by one. This is an extremely meticulous process that can take up to 10 hours per wig. After the last strand is ventilated, manufacturers send the finished wig back to Hair We Share where it's washed and styled.

But not all of the donated ponytails are guaranteed to make to the manufacturer, even if they are perfectly usable. Co-founder of Hair We Share, Dean Riskin, says, "The ponytails cost us nothing because they're shipped to us. It's all labour intensive. Unless we have the financial donations this year we won't have enough money to create 3 700 wigs. Those ponytails have to sit in inventory until they're sponsored or funded."

But for the hair that does get made into wigs, it finds a new purpose with a recipient. "I got used to being bald but honestly putting the wig on and having that beautiful... just this hair, makes me feel a little bit like my old self. It's a blessing," says Kristen Berggren, one of the wig recipients.

## COMPETITIVENESS

# How mother of three defied odds to start taxi business



Marie Claire Niyotwagira with one of her taxis.

KIGALI

Upon completing her construction course eight years ago, Marie Claire Niyotwagira started working in the sector aware it's not what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

Having studied construction at school, she worked hard on different sites to accomplish her dream, which was to own a car that will see her operate a taxi business. A mother of three also said she saw the need to challenge the male domination.

## Working towards her dream

Niyotwagira who is now working with YEGO cab based in Kimironko market alongside her male colleagues said it all started with passion and determination. In 2012 after acquiring some basic knowledge in the construction field from Work Development Authority (WDA), alongside her husband, she started working as an ordinary worker on different construction sites.

Their construction sites were based in Remera, where she worked with her husband, taking home a minimum of Rwf 5,000 each daily. The money she said, they would

spend less and save more, and that in many occasions, she will pursue 'side hustles', just to ensure she achieves what she wanted.

According to her, this was not what she wanted in life; her aspiration was to join the taxi industry, with the construction job acting as a stepping stone to her dream job. While working in construction sites, Niyotwagira was also taking driving classes whenever she would get a chance to, with the aim of acquiring a driving license to enable her enter the taxi business.

"For a period of three years, we managed to save RWF 1.5 Million, which I used to buy a second-hand car (Corona brand)," she said. In 2015, she started her taxi business with the car she bought with savings from construction work.

## Inspiration

Since this was her dream job, Niyotwagira chose taxi-driving ignoring biases such as it was dominated by the male. From her view point, there was a lot of potential and there were clients to be served.

She noted that where many people go wrong is that they tend to perceive fields

dominated by men to be the hardest area to thrive as a woman, yet in the real sense, if one knows what they are doing, there are many opportunities than in any other area. "Before, I would walk around and in at least every taxi parking lot, and wouldn't fail to find a customer inquiring for a taxi, this also motivated me to join the field," she narrated.

## Achievements/challenges

Through taxi operating, Niyotwagira has managed to buy a new car which she also uses for her business. Additionally, with the help of the husband, they have built their own four-bedroom modern house in Ndera, Kigali where they live.

Besides, she uses the same car to drop off her husband at the workplace. Before the COVID 19 pandemic, she would also use it to drop her children to school before heading to her work station. So far, in this field, Niyotwagira said there are few challenges compared to where she used to work before.

"My male counterparts respect my work and in many situations, they always look out for me where needed," she added.

In fact, she said that most of them are inspired by her because of the hard-working spirit she has. For the setbacks, she said at times it becomes challenging when driving people late at night as some of them can be drunk and disorderly.

However, she said that she endeavours to treat clients with respect to avoid any unpleasant incidences. Her dream, she said considering the many people seeking employment, she is hoping to acquire more cars and employ young people seeking work.

Her advice to couples, she said they should be supportive to each other, provide a conducive environment for their partners to grow, work hard and that when this is done, it's easier to accomplish other plans. To the mothers, she said they shouldn't sit in their comfort zone and wait to be fed by their husbands, instead, try out new opportunities and always be ready to learn new things.



Suzanne Chimera, co-founder of Hair We Share.



CREATIVITY

# US labour market unexpectedly improves, but recovery expected to be a slog

WASHINGTON

The U.S. economy unexpectedly added jobs in May after suffering record losses in the prior month, offering the clearest signal yet that the downturn triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic was probably over, though the road to recovery could be long.

The Labor Department's closely watched employment report yesterday also showed the jobless rate falling to 13.3% last month from 14.7% in April, a post World War Two high.

It followed on the heels of surveys showing consumer confidence, manufacturing and services industries stabilizing. Economic conditions have significantly improved as businesses reopened after shuttering in mid-March to slow the spread of COVID-19.

"The country has turned the corner from the pandemic and the recession it

created for now, but all the workers who lost their paychecks will find it difficult to regain their place in society as many of these jobs are gone forever," said Chris Rupkey, chief economist at MUFJ in New York.

"It took years for the economy to grow enough to find jobs for those unemployed in the last recession, and it will take years again this time to do the same."

Nonfarm payrolls rose by 2.5 million jobs last month after a record plunge of 20.7 million in April. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls falling by 8 million jobs in May and the unemployment rate jumping to 19.8%.

Stocks on Wall Street rallied on the report. The dollar rose against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury prices fell.

Despite last month's surprise increase, payrolls are nearly 20 million below



their pre-COVID-19 level. The unemployment rate has risen 9.8 percentage points and the number of unemployed is up 15.2 million since February.

The Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics, which compiles the employment report, also noted a continuing problem with misclassification by respondents, which lowered

the unemployment rate last month. A large number of people classified themselves as being "employed on temporary layoff" instead of "unemployed on temporary layoff."

Without the misclassification, the May unemployment rate would have been about 16%.

Still, May's surprise turn in the labor market could offer a respite for President Donald Trump, who is seeking re-election. The Trump administration has been severely criticized for its handling of the pandemic.

This week, Trump came under fire for his response to demonstrators protesting the death in police custody of George Floyd, a black man. Though many economists expect the unemployment rate to peak in May, it is forecast to be above 10% when Americans head to the polls on Nov. 3.

Employment in May was boosted by restaurants and bars, which added 1.4 million jobs after losing 5.4 million jobs in April and 633,000 jobs in March. But payrolls continued to decline in the accommodation industry in May, with an additional 148,000 jobs lost.

Hiring in the construction industry increased by 464,000 jobs last month, recouping about half of April's decline. There were also gains in employment in education and health services, retail trade, manufacturing, professional and business services, financial activities and wholesale trade.



UV-D Robots and GoBe Robots at work.

TECHNOLOGY

## Rise of machines: How robots could lead the way in decontaminating shared spaces

LONDON

Technology is at the forefront of helping people globally adjust as we all navigate the new normal. Nexmed Healthcare Solutions, the strategic partner to UV-D Robots and GoBe Robots for sub-Saharan Africa, is bringing some of the most cutting edge of these new technologies here.

Among those that have arrived is the UV-D Robot. It is able to decontaminate 18 000m<sup>2</sup> in two-and-a-half hours - that's two-and-a-half football pitches in less time than it takes to play two football matches.

With the current pandemic severely overstretching hospitals and making our shared spaces no-go areas, an intervention such as this is a game-changer. Jonathan Burger, Nexmed's Chief Executive Officer, says: "We manage the entire process end to end - from importation, to delivery, to training, installation, testing and commissioning. With the current pandemic and lockdown, we have successfully completed autonomous installations.

A short history of Nexmed's robots UV-D Robots ApS was founded in 2016 by Blue Ocean Robotics with the objective of globally commercialising robots based on UV disinfection solutions for hospitals, hence the name. The incorporation of the company followed a private-public innovation project starting in 2014, where Blue Ocean Robotics and the Odense University Hospital (OUH), in partnership with other hospitals in Denmark, developed the first prototype of the UV-Disinfection Robot (UV-D Robot), with the objective of preventing hospital acquired infections (HAIs) for the benefit of patients, hospital staff and associated healthcare costs.

"The UV-D Robots are highly effective in destroying pathogens, including the coronavirus and is thus a highly effective instrument in decontaminating hospitals up to 99.999%. This assists, not only now with the coronavirus pandemic, but post-Covid-19 with a host of other serious superbugs such as MRSA, VRE, CRE, Candida, C Diff, Pseudomonas and more."

How does it work?

The robots are equipped with UVC light which is germicidal. This means it deactivates the DNA of bacteria, virus and other pathogens and thus destroys their ability to multiply and cause disease. In short, when the organism tries to replicate, it dies.

To put it into perspective the robot, once programmed with the layout of, say, a surgical theatre, can decontaminate it autonomously in just over eight minutes. This means, there is no need for workers to endanger themselves by going into a potentially contaminated area and the process has a significant impact on the reduction of hospital acquired infections (HAI) with some international counterparts seeing between a 40% and 80% reduction in HAIs, says Burger.

Consider this, according to a new study led by researchers at the University of Birmingham in the UK and the University of Cape Town (UCT), in SA around 146 000 surgeries will be cancelled - including 12 000 oncology procedures - due to the pandemic.

"Each additional week of disruption to hospital services results in an additional 12 000 surgeries being cancelled," wrote Professor Bruce Biccard, second chair in the department of anaesthesia and perioperative medicine at the UCT in a recent article. Its applications for a time such as this - and beyond - are legion.

Says Burger: "The main objectives of the UV-D Robot is to drastically reduce harmful pathogens in a particular area, thereby actively contributing significantly to a safer environment for the people, whether this is in a hospital setting, or commercial setting, or a school, a hotel or an airport. There is no limit to where the UV-D Robot can be used, provided proper safety is adhered to." A robot cleans up a supermarket aisle.



## ISIDÍNGÓ MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	CAPITAL
<p><b>MONDAY 01 June</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 Habari</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera News</p> <p>12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Ewura</p> <p>13:00 Mjue Zaidi</p> <p>13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt</p> <p>14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:10 Aibu yako rpt</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:45 Kesho leo</p> <p>19:00 Afya ya Jamii</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Dakika 45</p> <p>21:45 Kipindi Maalum: Utawala bora na utumishi</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 Al Jazeera</p> <p>02:00 DWTV</p>	<p><b>Mon 01 June</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt</p> <p>17:00 Eco@Africa rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 The Décor rpt</p> <p>19:30 Shamba lulu</p> <p>20:00 Series: Itohan</p> <p>20:45 The Monday Agenda</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Kipima Joto</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p>
<p><b>TUESDAY 02 June</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 Habari</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>10:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt</p> <p>11:00 The Base rpt</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt</p> <p>13:00 Kipindi maalum: TMDA na Jamii</p> <p>13:30 Shika Bamba rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>15:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:10 Yu wapi</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi rpt</p> <p>18:30 Uchumi na biashara</p> <p>19:00 Jarida la wanawake</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Tanzania Yetu</p> <p>21:30 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 DWTV</p>	<p><b>Tues 02 June</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 Capchat rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Innovation</p> <p>19:30 Jagina rpt</p> <p>20:00 Series: Itohan</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime</p> <p>22:30 Turning the spotlight rpt</p> <p>23:00 Eco@Africa</p> <p>23:00 Al Jazeera</p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY 03 June</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p>	<p><b>Wed 03 June</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 Culinary delight rpt</p> <p>17:00 Innovation rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza Huru</p> <p>19:00 Sports Gazette</p> <p>19:30 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>20:00 Series: Itohan</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Dakika 45</p> <p>22:45 The Décor</p> <p>23:15 Al Jazeera</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY 04 June</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p> <p>8:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo</p> <p>9:30 Isidingo</p> <p>9:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>10:00 Watoto</p> <p>10:30 Shamba lulu rpt</p> <p>10:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>11:00 The Base rpt</p> <p>11:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>12:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>12:30 ljeu Sheria</p> <p>12:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>13:00 Kipindi maalum: Uongozi rpt</p> <p>13:30 Tanzania yetu rpt</p> <p>13:55 Habari za saa</p> <p>14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p> <p>15:00 Meza huru</p> <p>16:30 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>17:00 The Base</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Jagina</p> <p>19:00 Usafiri wako</p> <p>19:30 Isidingo</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Malumbano ya hoja</p> <p>23:00 Habari</p> <p>23:30 The Base</p> <p>00:30 DWTV</p>	<p><b>THURS 04 June</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 Innovation rpt</p> <p>17:00 Meza Huru</p> <p>19:00 Sports Gazette</p> <p>19:30 Chetu ni chetu</p> <p>20:00 Series: Itohan</p> <p>20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny</p> <p>21:30 Capital Prime News</p> <p>22:00 Dakika 45</p> <p>22:45 The Décor</p> <p>23:15 Al Jazeera</p>
<p><b>FRIDAY 05 June</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:30 HABARI</p> <p>8:00 Kumekucha Michezo</p>	<p><b>Friday 05 June</b></p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)</p> <p>13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny</p> <p>14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)</p> <p>16:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>16:30 Business edition rpt</p> <p>17:00 In good shape</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Turning the spotlight</p>
<p><b>SATURDAY 06 June</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto wetu</p> <p>10:00 Shika Bamba 5</p> <p>10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt</p> <p>11:15 The Base rpt</p> <p>11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk</p> <p>12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt</p> <p>13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p> <p>15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito</p> <p>16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe</p> <p>16:20 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>17:00 Shansham za Pwani</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>19:00 Jungu Kuu</p> <p>19:30 Shika Bamba</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:00 Art and lifestyle</p> <p>21:30 Habavumi lakini wamo</p> <p>22:15 Kesho leo rpt</p> <p>22:45 Isidingo rpt</p> <p>01:30 DWTV</p>	<p><b>SAT 06 June</b></p> <p>08:00 CNN International</p> <p>09:00 Drive It rpt</p> <p>09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt</p> <p>10:00 Culinary delight rpt</p> <p>10:30 Innovation rpt</p> <p>11:00 Out'n'about rpt</p> <p>11:30 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>12:00 Usafiri wako rpt</p> <p>12:30 Eco@Africa rpt</p> <p>13:00 Business edition rpt</p> <p>13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family</p> <p>14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny</p> <p>17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt</p> <p>17:45 Bundesliga kick off</p> <p>18:15 Capchat rpt</p> <p>19:30 Mizengwe</p> <p>20:00 The Decor</p> <p>20:00 Korean Drama: Kimchi Family</p> <p>21:00 Out 'n' About</p> <p>21:30 Movie: Disaster zone</p> <p>23:00 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>01:00 Al Jazeera</p>
<p><b>SUNDAY 07 June</b></p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi</p> <p>6:00 HABARI</p> <p>6:40 Kumekucha</p> <p>7:00 Habari</p> <p>8:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>9:00 Watoto Wetu</p> <p>10:00 Isidingo</p> <p>11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:</p> <p>14:00 Tamasha la Michezo</p> <p>15:00 Mwangaza</p> <p>16:00 The Great queen Seonduk</p> <p>16:45 ITV Top 10</p> <p>17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo</p> <p>18:00 Jiji Letu</p> <p>18:15 Mapishi</p> <p>18:30 Matukio ya wiki</p> <p>19:30 Igizo: Mtego</p> <p>20:00 Habari</p> <p>21:05 Mizengwe</p> <p>21:20 Mjue Zaidi</p> <p>22:05 Bongo Movie:</p> <p>23:35 ITV Top 10</p> <p>00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p>	<p><b>SUN 07 June</b></p> <p>08:00 CNN International</p> <p>09:00 In good shape</p> <p>10:00 Capchat rpt</p> <p>11:00 Sports Gazette rpt</p> <p>11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family</p> <p>12:00 Jagina rpt</p> <p>12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt</p> <p>13:00 In good shape rpt</p> <p>13:30 Series rpt: Itohan</p> <p>15:15 Aibu yako</p> <p>15:30 Drive it rpt</p> <p>16:00 Dakika 45 rpt</p> <p>16:45 Mizengwe rpt</p> <p>17:00 The Decor rpt</p> <p>17:30 Meza huru</p> <p>19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt</p> <p>19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights</p> <p>20:00 Korean Drama: Kimchi Family</p> <p>21:00 Shift</p> <p>21:15 Capchat live</p> <p>22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny</p> <p>00:00 Al Jazeera</p>



## WORLD

## Chinese premier stresses COVID-19 vaccines must be accessible, affordable

BEIJING

CHINESE Premier Li Keqiang said on Thursday that China will continue to support the core role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in coordinating vaccine research, while making its contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

Li made the remarks in a speech at a virtual global vaccine summit, which was held to raise funds for the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), with a view to ensuring vaccine accessibility worldwide. In particular, funds will be directed to accelerating research, development, production and distribution of a vaccine for the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Leaders from more than 30 countries and heads of international organ-

izations, including the United Nations and the WHO, attended the summit.

Li said that, in dealing with the COVID-19 infection, China has put people's lives first, effectively containing the epidemic by making arduous efforts.

However, the pandemic is not over, said Li, adding that no country is immune from the virus, and that the health and safety of the various populations are closely connected.

Li said that, at the opening of the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) last month, China proposed building a global community of health for all, and put forward suggestions and measures to promote global cooperation in COVID-19 response. He added that China would continue to provide assistance, within its capacity, to help with COVID-19 response and social and economic recovery in affected countries, especially develop-

ing nations.

Li said that the challenges remain severe, with vaccines representing a strong shield to defend against the virus. He pointed out that China will continue to promote clinical trials in multiple centers, and facilitate market entrance as soon as possible, once the goals of research and development have been accomplished, so as to provide the world with a safe, effective and high-quality global public good.

Noting that China has been stepping up scientific research on COVID-19 vaccines, medicines, and testing reagents, Li said China attaches great importance to international cooperation in vaccine research and development.

China recently participated in the European Union (EU) COVID-19 online pledging conference, and is willing to continue to strengthen relevant cooperation with all parties, Li said.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivers a speech at a virtual global vaccine summit on Thursday. (Xinhua)

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GAVI has maintained good cooperation with China and has invested in supporting China's vaccination and international applications, said Li. He expressed the Chinese government's willingness to contribute to GAVI's funding cycle, encourage China's R&D institutions and vaccine manufacturers to strengthen collaboration with the GAVI, and support GAVI's important role in promoting the use of vaccines.

"We hope to work together to overcome the epidemic as soon as possible," Li said.

Xinhua

## Moscow says expanding G7 summit 'step in the right direction' but China's presence needed

MOSCOW

US President Donald Trump's initiative to hold an expanded G7 summit, involving Russia and some other countries, is a step in the right direction. However, it will not ensure universal representation without China's participation, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Tuesday.

"The idea of an expanded G7 meeting is a step in the right direction, but it does not provide a truly universal representation. It is obvious, for example, that it is hardly possible to implement serious un-

dertakings of global significance without China's participation," the diplomat stressed.

According to Zakharova (pictured), Moscow took note of the US president's remarks that he considers the G7 in its current form "a very outdated group of countries," which does not properly represent "what's going on in the world." "We agree with this approach," she noted. "Our stance on that score is well known. It is impossible to tackle global political and economic issues within exclusive clubs of Western countries. This is objective reality."

She pointed to such an effective



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Trump said earlier that Russia could be invited to the G7 summit. During the June 1 phone call, Trump informed Russian President Vladimir Putin about that idea. The US leader postponed the planned G7 summit until September, planning to also invite South Korea, Australia and India to attend the event.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said earlier on Tuesday that Russia was going to obtain more information about the upcoming G7 summit through diplomatic channels, since there is no clarity on many things at the moment.

Agencies

## Iran frees American, US allows dual citizen to visit Iran in deal

WASHINGTON

A US Navy veteran who said he contracted the coronavirus while detained in Iran since 2018 was freed on Thursday as part of a deal in which the United States allowed an Iranian-American physician to visit Iran, his lawyer and a US official said.

Iran's decision to release American Michael White and the US move to let dual citizen Majid Taheri visit Iran, both of which were confirmed by Iran's foreign minister, appeared to be a rare instance of US-Iranian cooperation.

A White House spokesman expressed hope that White's release could lead to an opening in the bitter relationship.

The two nations are at odds on a host of issues including the US decision to abandon a deal to curb Iran's nuclear program and impose crippling economic sanctions on Tehran, as well as their jockeying for influence across the Middle East.

White had been released from an Iranian prison in mid-March after being sentenced in 2019 for an unspecified offense, but had remained in Iran in the custody of Switzerland, which represents US interests in Iran since the two cut diplomatic ties shortly after Iran's 1979 Islamic

Revolution.

"I'm improving. I did contract coronavirus in the Mashhad central prison prior to going out on furlough. But I'm recovering pretty decently," White told Fox News Channel on the tarmac of Zurich airport, adding he had been "in poor shape."

"I feel all right, and happy to be back," White said, thanking President Donald Trump "for his efforts both diplomatically and otherwise, making America great again." He also thanked the Swiss Embassy in Tehran.

"I just got off the phone with former American hostage Michael White, who is now in Zurich after being released from Iran. He will be on a US plane shortly, and is COMING HOME," Trump said on Twitter.

"Thank you to Iran, it shows a deal is possible!" Trump added.

The Swiss Foreign Ministry confirmed it played a role in what it called "the humanitarian gesture" on White and Taheri and said it "stands ready" to help further.

The negotiations to get White released followed several months of discussions with Iran, said a person familiar with the matter, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Taheri's lawyer said Taheri would visit family in Iran and seek medical



In this image provided by the US State Department, Michael White holds an American flag as he poses for a photo, on Thursday, with US special envoy for Iran Brian Hook at the Zurich, Switzerland, airport after White's release from Iran. (AP)

treatment before returning to the United States. He has pleaded guilty to violating US sanctions, the lawyer added.

## Rare bright spot

The deal is a rare bright spot in an otherwise deeply frayed relationship that has grown more hostile since Trump took office in 2017.

Asked whether White's release could be an opening in terms of

US-Iranian relations, White House spokesman Hogan Gidley told Fox News Channel: "Hopefully so."

US-Iranian relations have been bitter since the Islamic Revolution toppled the US-backed Shah of Iran in 1979 and Iranian revolutionaries stormed the US Embassy in Tehran and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

Tensions flared after Trump pulled out of the 2015 Iran nuclear

deal in 2018 and reimposed US sanctions, and worsened after a Jan 3 US drone strike in Iraq killed Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force.

Both nations have called for the release of prisoners due to the novel coronavirus outbreak. Iran is one of the worst-hit countries in the Middle East, while the United States has reported the world's highest number of deaths and infections.

READ MORE: Iran says US blacklisting of 2 nuclear scientists 'desperate' attempt

White's release came two days after the United States deported Siyous Asgari, an Iranian professor imprisoned in the United States despite being acquitted on charges of stealing trade secrets. Iranian media reported his arrival on Wednesday.

The US State Department and Iranian officials have denied Asgari was part of a swap with White or anyone else, calling his case separate.

Last December, Washington and Tehran worked on a prisoner exchange in which Iran freed US citizen Xiyue Wang, who had been held for three years on spying charges, and the United States freed Iranian Massoud Soleimani, who faced charges of violating US sanctions on Iran.

Agencies

## South African govt to appeal court ruling invalidating some lockdown regulations

CAPE TOWN

THE South African government announced on Thursday that it has decided to appeal a court ruling which declares some of its COVID-19 lockdown regulations invalid and unconstitutional.

The government will ask that its appeal be heard on an urgent basis so that it can obtain certainty on the regulations, spokesperson Phumla Williams said in a statement after a virtual cabinet meeting in Pretoria.

The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (pictured) will be joined in this appeal by President Cyril Ramaphosa and Health Minister Zweli Mkhize, according to Williams.

The cabinet wishes to assure the nation that all interventions introduced since the declaration of a state of national disaster in March 2020 by Ramaphosa have been directed primarily at saving lives, Williams said.

In implementing these interventions, the government has consistently consulted all sectors of society, as the fight against COVID-19 is a national effort that requires unity in action between the government and all South Africans, said Williams.

On Tuesday, the North Gauteng High Court ruled against the COVID-19 lockdown regulations in the country.

"Some of the regulations promulgated by the government simply did not meet the rationality test in preventing the spread of COVID-19," the court said in its ruling.

The court suspended the declaration of invalidity for a period of 14 days, meaning that the current Alert Level Three regulations remain in operation for now so as to allow Dlamini-Zuma, in consultation with relevant ministers, to review, amend and republish the regulations with "due consideration to the limitation each regulation has on the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights."

Williams said that after obtaining legal advice and listening to numerous comments made by members of the legal fraternity in reaction to the judgement, "we are of the view that another court might come to a different conclusion on the matter."

"While government appeals the court judgment, current regulations remain in force and we appeal and urge all our people to observe all the health protocols that have been put in place including washing of hands, social distancing, wearing of masks in public as well as screening and referral for testing where necessary," Williams said.

She said the cabinet has approved the extension of the National State of Disaster by another month from June 15 to July 15.

The law allows for the National State of Disaster to last for 90 days which necessitates the extension, Williams said.

Xinhua

## Yemen women will die, doctors warn, as maternity services close

AMMAN

WOMEN in Yemen are already dying in childbirth and thousands more will be put at risk as UN funding cuts force reproductive health services to close, doctors and aid workers have warned.

The United Nations is the main provider of reproductive health services in Yemen, where a long-running conflict has left 80% of people reliant on aid, but it has been forced to cut back its operations due to a funding shortfall.

Last month the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) stopped providing reproductive services in most of the 180 facilities it supports in Yemen, leaving about 320,000 pregnant women without care.

Since then, at least two women whose local maternity facilities closed have died in childbirth, said Nestor Owomuhangi, deputy representative of the UNFPA in Yemen.

"Complications cannot be handled at home, they have to be attended by a skilled health worker," Owomuhangi told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

"Where you have no specialized care to at least check the dangerous signs of pregnancies, that's our worry."

His comments came after the head of the UNFPA Natalia Kanem urged international donors at a conference on Tuesday to give more to fund its operations, saying Yemeni women "cannot afford to wait".

The agency said it had received only 41% of the US\$100.5 million it needs to find its operations this year, even as it grapples with the impact of the coronavirus on a population weakened by malnutrition after five years of conflict.

The conflict between a Saudi-led coalition and the Iran-aligned Houthi group has displaced 3.6 million people, and health care services are collapsing.

Jan Egeland, who heads the Norwegian Refugee Council, said millions of Yemenis were "staring down the double barrel of starvation and a global pandemic".

At least two reproductive health specialists and six midwives have died of the virus in Aden, said deputy health minister Eshraq al-Sebaai.

Agencies

The novel coronavirus being of natural origin is universally recognized by scientists worldwide, as the World Health Organization (WHO) showed there were some 15,000 full genome sequences of the novel coronavirus available to prove this.

Yet the COVID-19 pandemic has turned the public attention to biological laboratories as never before, as more and more people wonder whether lab security measures are effective and whether their presence poses a threat to human security.

The White House's recent "Chinese lab theory" has been widely rejected, and even US allies have distanced themselves from the groundless slander, de-

## US should make bio-labs more transparent

spite US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has changed his tone, admitting the US cannot be certain the coronavirus outbreak originated in a Wuhan lab.

China is opposed to a culpability investigation that frames any laboratory in the world with groundless accusations. But we are calling for a global laboratory safety inspection, with the WHO acting as supervisor.

The US, which has one of the world's largest biotechnology industries with extensive research realms, is outside a 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) protocol, approved

by some member-states to the Convention, to increase the transparency of treaty-relevant biological facilities and activities. The US should respond to the international community's call for lab transparency.

Global concerns rose after the US CDC restored full operating capability to all US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) labs at Fort Detrick, Maryland at the end of March after a shutdown in July 2019 out of safety concerns.

US media quoted the CDC as saying the lab was suspended because it had

no "sufficient systems in place to decontaminate wastewater" from its highest-security labs. At least the claim reflects how the safety of the US laboratory is in serious danger.

From 2006 to 2013, labs notified federal regulators of about 1,500 incidents with select agent pathogens, and 15 people contracted laboratory-acquired infections, according to US newspaper USA Today.

As a country with the strongest scientific strength in the world, the US has more power to set the agenda around laboratory safety issues, and has a ten-

dency to use this power for geopolitical purposes. The US ramped efforts in accusing laboratories in other countries, but ignored domestic loopholes.

Washington has taken advantage of the scientific resources and political vacuum left by the collapsed former Soviet Union to set up biological laboratories in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries around Russia that, some suspect, are performing riskier experiments than those in the US.

Research carried out by those laboratories and their safety should be the focus of international attention.

The COVID-19 pandemic reveals the dysfunctional governance system of the US, where some of the key capabilities once considered world-leading have proven woefully inadequate.

It is reasonable to be highly suspicious that the security at the US' vast biological laboratories is substandard, and that there are a lot of "dirty tricks" going on inside for fear that the outside world will find out.

Through this ongoing outbreak, the international community should truly regulate biological research in the US and urge it to reach the basic level of transparency.

Global Times





A farmer transplants early rice with a rice transplanter in Renhe village, Xiaodukou town, Lixian county, Hunan province on April 22. Photo by Bai Yipu/People's Daily Online

## Young people return to hometown to vitalise farmlands in central China's Hunan

"Despite the impacts of the novel coronavirus epidemic, we still managed to achieve this year's goal of planting high-quality rice on 1,533 hectares of farmland," said Yin Hongdao excitedly.

The 29-year-old grain farmer, who is from Yangban village, Xiumei town, Linli county in central China's Hunan province, was once a deputy general manager in charge of human resources of an electronics company in Dongguan, south China's Guangdong province.

Although Yin led a free life when working in Dongguan, he was far away from his family. When he came back home for the Spring Festival in 2016, he found his father had aged a lot, with all his hair going white. His father Yin Fuyuan has engaged in grain processing for over three decades.

Yin Hongdao, who decided to work in the village after the Spring Festival, found the equipment too old and the barns too small.

For this reason, many farmers had to travel over 10 kilometers to sell their grain. Besides, large grain enterprises prefer working with companies with standard barns.

Then he came up with the idea of setting up a standard barn, which would cost 4.5 million yuan (\$0.63 million).

Although opposed by many, including his father, he built the barn with his own savings. The new barn could store 17,000 tons of grains, more than twice the capacity of the old one.

This allowed his company to cooperate with China Grain Reserves Group Ltd. Company in the same year, and his business to cover grain farmers in four towns nearby.

But here came another problem - the grain's varieties and quality varied greatly, so the products could not be sold at a good price. He decided to promote high-quality rice, through

People's Daily

## UN Security Council extends mandate of Darfur mission, sets up follow-on presence

### UNITED NATIONS

THE Security Council on Thursday announced the adoption of two separate resolutions to extend the mandate of the United Nations-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) for two months, and to set up a follow-on presence in Sudan.

Resolution 2525 decides to extend UNAMID's mandate till Dec. 31, 2020, and further decides that UNAMID shall maintain its current troop and police ceiling during this period.

The Security Council intends to decide by Dec. 31, 2020, courses of action regarding the responsible drawdown and exit of UNAMID. It requests the UN secretary-general and the chairperson of the African Union Commission to provide the Security Council with a special report no later than Oct. 31, 2020, which includes an assessment of the situation on the ground and recommendations on the appropriate course of action regarding the drawdown of UNAMID, taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Xinhua

## Trump finds himself isolated among allies - US media

### WASHINGTON

AFTER having experienced years of American unilateralism, U.S. allies in Europe no longer believe that President Donald Trump will offer them much, reported The New York Times.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision earlier this week of declining to attend the Group of Seven (G7) Summit that initially scheduled at the White House later this month was the most obvious evidence, said an article published Tuesday in the newspaper.

Merkel cited the unabated pandemic as the reason, but a senior German official noted that it was not the case, said the article.

"She believed that proper dip-



lomatic preparations had not been made; she did not want to be part of an anti-China display; she opposed Trump's idea of inviting the Russian president, Vladimir V. Putin; she did not want to be seen as interfering in American domestic politics," the official was quoted as saying, adding the chancellor was shocked by Trump's unilateral decision to pull out of the World Health Organization.

Likewise, French President Emmanuel Macron, said the article, believed that Trump had damaged European

security through his unilateral abandonment of the Iran nuclear deal and nearly every arms control agreement with Russia.

"As so often in the past, on issues like unilateral American withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal or the Paris climate accord or the Open Skies treaty or the sudden ban on air travel from Europe, Mr. Trump ignored the views of allies or did not consult them at all," it said.

Trump's opposition to all these international institutions and agreements is "outrageous for Europeans like Merkel and Macron who have multilateralism in their DNA," the article quoted William Drozdiak, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Brookings Institution, as saying.

Xinhua

## Floyd's family attorney highlights 'pandemic of racism' at memorial



George Floyd's casket is moved from the memorial to the hearse at North Central University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the United States, on Thursday. (Xinhua)

### WASHINGTON

BENJAMIN Crump, attorney for the family of George Floyd, who was suffocated to death while under police custody, said Thursday that it was the "pandemic of racism" that killed the black man.

"It was not the coronavirus pandemic that killed George Floyd," Crump said during the first memorial for Floyd since his brutal killing.

"The other pandemic that we're far too familiar with in America, the pandemic of racism and discrimination that killed George Floyd."

In a packed auditorium at North Central University in downtown Minneapolis - the city in which Floyd was killed by four former police officers - the Floyd family, civil rights advocates, Minnesota state officials, and federal lawmakers including Senator Amy Klobuchar and Representative Ilhan Omar, as well as celebrities, gathered together to memorialize yet another victim of racial injustice in the country.

"We don't want two justice systems

in America. One for black and one for white," Crump said, echoing his own words a day earlier ahead of the announcement of charges against the cops involved. "What we endeavor to achieve is equal gestures for the United States of America."

Prior to the memorial, hundreds of Minneapolis residents paid their tribute to Floyd by laying wreaths at a makeshift memorial site near the store where Floyd died. "All these people came to see my brother."

And that is amazing to me that he touched so many people's hearts," Floyd's brother Philonise Floyd said at the memorial. "Everybody wants justice, we want justice for George. He's going to get it. He's going to get it," he said.

Floyd's death has instigated nationwide protests against police abuse and racial discrimination at a time when the nation is still grappling with the spread of the coronavirus.

Although violent rioting has by and large subsided, peaceful demonstrations continued following Wednesday's announcement that Derek Chau-

vin, the one who kept kneeling on Floyd's neck even as he lost consciousness, was charged with second-degree murder, and that the three others received charges of aiding and abetting murder.

"I'm proud of the protests, but I'm not proud of the destruction. My brother wasn't about that," Terrace Floyd, another brother of Floyd's, said in Brooklyn, New York, where a memorial service was being held simultaneously.

At the Minneapolis memorial, civil rights activist Alfred Sharpton said the reason African Americans have been marginalized is that the country kept its "knee on our necks."

"We had creative skills, we could do whatever anybody else could do, but we couldn't get your knee off our neck," he said.

"What happened to Floyd happens every day in this country, in education, in health services, and in every area of American life. It is time for us to stand up in George's name and say, get your knee off our necks."

Xinhua

## Russian embassy slams Sweden's double standards in human rights protection

### STOCKHOLM

DOUBLE standards in human rights, particularly when reviewing actions of authorities in different countries taken to crack down on unrest, are twice as detrimental, the Russian embassy in Sweden blasted Stockholm's reaction to mass protests against police impunity in the United States. Swedish reporter Nina Svanberg was injured in the protests when covering them for Sweden's Expressen newspaper.

"When the local public (facing administrative punishment risks for violating well-known coronavirus restrictions) holds mass demonstrations in front of the American embassy in Stockholm's central square, this establishment still only addresses Washington with harmless friendly reassurances.

And this is happening when Swedish journalist Nina Svanberg was among those injured in the US protests," the embassy said via its Facebook account. "We can only guess where all this proverbial human rights protection pathos is, which Swedish officials use to furiously attack some countries in case demonstrators clash with law enforcement officers there."

On May 30, Svanberg was covering a protest in Minneapolis when the police shot a rubber bullet at her which led to an injury.

"Double standards are always bad. Meanwhile, double standards in human rights protection are twice as detrimental. It is a shame that Stockholm is evidently yet to come to this simple conclusion. Well, it is much easier to lecture others how to behave than to be a true political tuning fork, not a fake one," the embassy noted.

Widespread unrest has engulfed many US states over the death of an African American Minneapolis man named George Floyd, who died after a police officer knelt on his neck and choked him to death during his arrest. On May 26, all officers involved in the deadly arrest were fired.

On May 29, the policeman in question, Derek Chauvin, was arrested on third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter charges. However, on June 3, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison upped the charge against Chauvin to second-degree murder.

The three other officers involved in the fatal incident were arrested as well and are now facing charges of aiding and abetting second-degree murder.

To counter the riots, local law enforcement is often supported by the National Guard. So far, 40 cities, including New York, have enacted a curfew.

Agencies



**Double standards are always bad. Meanwhile, double standards in human rights protection are twice as detrimental. It is a shame that Stockholm is evidently yet to come to**

## Unimpeded logistics supports e-commerce development in China's rural areas

THANKS to efforts to smoothen the "last miles" of logistics services in China's rural areas, villagers can now buy and sell products through e-commerce platforms more easily.

In the past, villagers had to go to towns to pick up and send parcels. With the establishment of logistics centers, now they could prepare for orders placed by buyers after receiving them and then send the products via the convenient logistics system at any time.

E-commerce platform has emerged as an important channel to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on agricultural produce in China. Recently, quite a lot of government officials took to livestreaming to promote local specialties.

"Ripe papaya has a natural

fragrance and sweet taste just like that in the pleasant smell of fresh grass and trees after rain." "The ones with big belly taste the best." Head of Hekou Yao autonomous county, southwest China's Yunnan province introduced local papayas during a livestreaming show.

The show attracted more than 650,000 viewers within half an hour and helped sell out 80 tons of papayas.

The Chinese officials have achieved remarkable results in livestreaming shows. Head of Dangshan county in east China's Anhui province sold 70,000 kilograms of pears via livestreaming, while deputy head of Leye county in south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region sold 20,000 kilograms of citrus fruits within

two hours during a livestreaming show.

According to statistics, Chinese mayors and heads of county have sold more than 4 million kilograms of agricultural produce within one month via the livestreaming platform of China's Pinduoduo, an online e-commerce platform famous for offering group buying deals with big discounts.

While e-commerce is helpful in promoting sales of agricultural produce, it has not worked effectively for every household in the country's rural areas from the start.

Although it seems simple to promote and sell local products via livestreaming show, online transactions would have been impossible and delivery of products laborious without im-

proved transportation, logistics and information services.

Logistics services in many rural areas often involve huge bulk, great weight, low unit price, small number of orders, low frequency, and scattered locations for collection and distribution of parcels, which caused many courier companies to only set up logistics centers in town-level areas rather than villages to save cost.

To solve problems with the "last miles" of logistics network, China's State Post Bureau issued a three-year action plan, specifying that basically all China's administrative villages are expected to enjoy delivery services by 2022.

The action plan has led to the establishment of an increasing number of e-commerce service

centers and express delivery outlets in villages nationwide.

Last year, an e-commerce service station was established in Jinmi village, Zhashui county, northwest China's Shaanxi province. Now, the village has both an e-commerce service station and a livestreaming room to promote sales of agricultural products.

At present, all of the townships in Zhashui county have e-commerce service centers and all the villages and townships across the county are basically covered by a logistics service system with a county-level distribution center.

Not long ago, an independently developed smart logistics track network was put into a trial run in Huazhou city, Maoming, south China's Guang-

dong province.

The track, which took six years to develop, mainly serves the needs for transshipment of local express services, poverty alleviation industrial bases, and delivery of goods.

Consisting of base stations, lower cableways, shuttle robots, and a storehouse, and a distribution system, the smart logistics track can help deliver goods to destinations within an hour.

After farmers sending a parcel from a village base station, a shuttle robot, which is powered by lithium batteries, automatically takes the parcel along the lower cableway to a town-level base station at low cost. Parcels of online orders sent from across the country can be delivered to villagers in the same

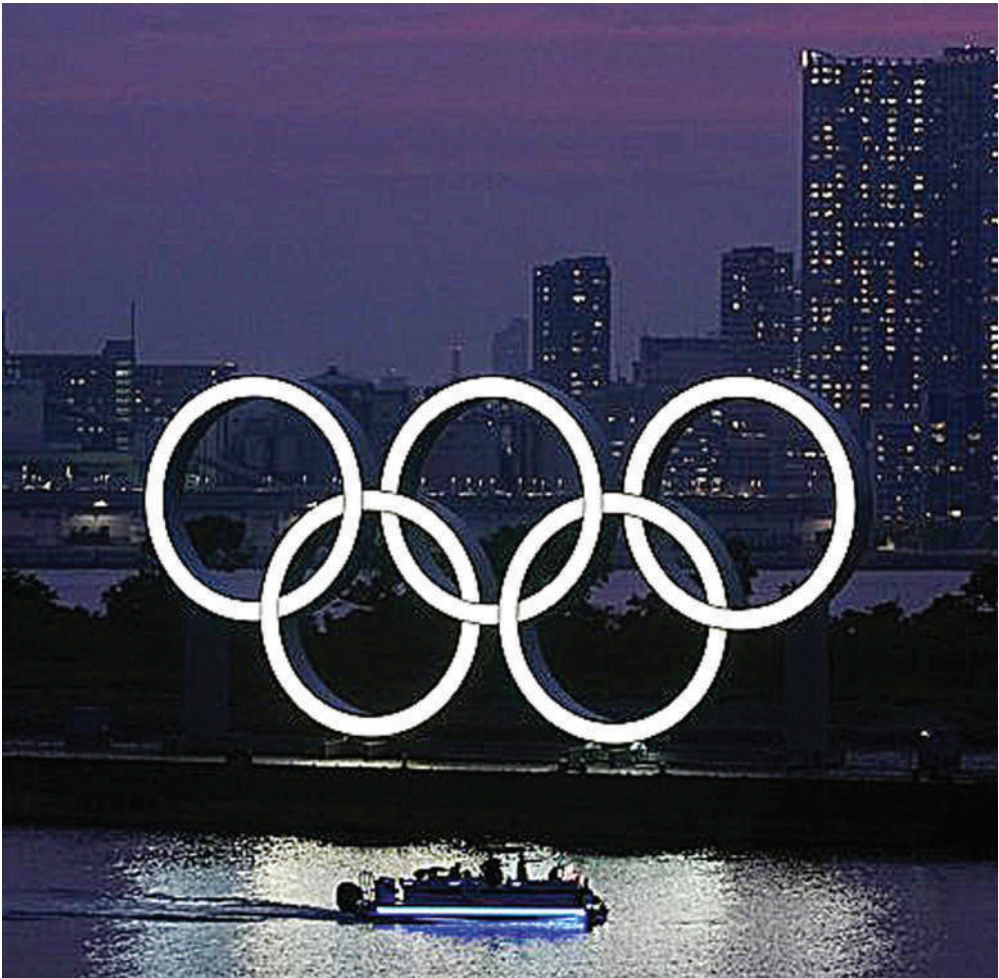
way. Such smart and lightweight logistics track which features low cost, fast construction, fewer resources, low volume, and high frequency enjoys certain operating conditions in rural areas.

Besides, advance technologies such as big data and cloud computing can also help boost efficiency of the logistics system in these areas, thus ensuring that products sent from and to villages can be handled on time at low cost.

Smoothing the "last miles" of logistics service for rural areas is an inevitable requirement for China's endeavors to free its impoverished population from poverty and revitalize rural areas.

People's Daily





In this June 3, 2020, photo, the Olympic rings float in the water at sunset in the Odaiba section in Tokyo. The Japanese public is being prepared for the reality of next year's postponed Olympics where athletes are likely to face quarantines, spectators will be fewer, and the delay will cost taxpayers billions of dollars. In the last several weeks, IOC President Thomas Bach has given selected interviews outside Japan and hinted at empty stadiums, quarantines and virus testing. (AP Photo)

## Postponed Tokyo Olympics could be downsized and simplified

TOBY

THE Japanese public is being prepared for the reality of next year's postponed Olympics, where athletes are likely to face quarantines, spectators will be fewer, and the delay will cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

In the last several weeks, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach has given selected interviews outside Japan and hinted at empty stadiums, quarantines and virus testing.

IOC member John Coates, who oversees Tokyo preparations, said a few weeks ago in Australia that the Tokyo Olympics face "real problems," partially because of the numbers involved: 15,400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes to start with, and then staff, officials, media and up to 80,000 volunteers.

The stark message about a very different, reduced Olympics is now being floated in Japan by politicians, and in unsourced news stories. The themes include the possibility of reduced seating at the Olympics – if any fans at all – tests for all athletes, fans and staff, and a quarantine-like situation at the Athletes Village.

In the hours before an online news conference on Thursday with Tokyo Olympics spokesman Masa Takaya, Japanese media published several versions of virtually the same story citing unnamed sources: Next year's Olympics will be "downsized," "simplified," or "very different."

Tokyo CEO Toshiro Muto has been open about slashing costs and "reducing service levels."

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, in Thursday newscasts, sounded the same tune.

"We will move ahead with the items that should be streamlined and simplified," she said, giving no details on the downsizing and adding that the public would be consulted.

"First of all we need to gain the understanding of Tokyo residents and the Japanese people," she said.

But in the news conference, Takaya did not substantiate any of the leaked information and said it did not come directly from him.

One typical report said Olympic seating could be reduced, leaving in limbo the disposition of millions of tickets already sold.

"We want to brush away these concerns," Takaya said, speaking to worried ticket holders.

However, he offered nothing concrete except to say that "countermeasures" against COVID-19 will not be determined until this fall. That would include plans for fans, quarantines and so forth.

Tickets are going to be a battle ground. The organizing committee has budgeted income of at least \$800 million from ticket sales, and may be reluctant to return it. The tickets carry a "force majeure" clause, which may permit organizers to avoid refunds.

"We understand that countermeasures for COVID-19 next year, particularly during games time, is one of the biggest things to address in preparing for the games next year," Takaya said. "But once again these countermeasures will be discussed in more depth from this autumn onward."

Like many countries, Japan is headed into a recession brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. Meanwhile, Olympic costs have soared. The cost of the delay in Japan has been estimated at \$2 billion to \$6 billion. Neither the IOC nor organizers have given a figure for the costs to Japan, or who will pay for them.

Before the postponement, organizers said they were spending \$12.6 billion to put on the games. But a government audit last year said the figure was twice that, and all but \$5.6 billion is public money.

When Tokyo was awarded the games in 2013, it said the cost would be \$7.3 billion.

There is also talk of combining the opening and closing ceremony for both the Olympics and Paralympics.

"Many discussions are ongoing covering various areas, including the ceremonies," Craig Spence, a spokesman for the Paralympic Games, said in an email. "A lot of things are still at a discussion stage and therefore it's not appropriate to provide comment on things until they are finalized."

Olympic Minister Seiko Hashimoto acknowledged costs must be cut, but said safety for athletes could drive them up.

"Unless safety and security are ensured, there will be uncertainty for the athletes-first point of view," she said Thursday. "We must study measures including virus testing in order to ensure safety and security."

AP

## World Environment Day has sports dimension to reflect upon

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

AN online write up says the World Environment Day is celebrated on 5th June every year, and is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of our environment. It is one of the most acknowledged of international days for specific purposes, as it ranks among key preoccupations of most countries on a day to day basis, as even the current Covid-19 threat worldwide is an environmental issue, tied with meat sources in different cultures. There are other issues that have been raised in relation to sport and environment, especially sports hunting like killing lions.

Much of what goes into tourism is a sort of sport, like climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, an experience that could be widened to include peaks like Mount Meru and other volcanic peaks in the northern zone. May be in this regard the service providers aren't numerous enough, or the customer base isn't in demand of significant variation from set activities like climbing the mountain, other than viewing beasts or taking a sun bath on the coastline. All these are forms of sport as beach holidays involve plenty of swimming, etc.

Environmental activism has clashed with sports development and professionalization from time to time, for instance in the past there were disputes about golf grounds, that the 'sanitizing' of the grass and the chemicals used drain into the surface and water systems around. It is likely such situations would have been rectified by appropriate regulation, but the spirit of disputing such developments would not entirely die out. Some people also opposed the use of a tartan pitch or artificial grass in soccer, saying there was an innate relationship between the persons and the game, that it be played in its natural environment, first.

Most of these arguments aren't



Junior tennis player, Isando John, hits a backhand return to an opponent in the boys' singles' event of this year's BQ Open tournament which took place at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's courts recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

being heard now and definitely they weren't localized, but as we have all these games, they had a resonance with various aspects of sport mobilization and facilitation. When there are campaigns about this or that sport in relation to the wider environment, this sets a limit to chances of development of that sport as sporting activity needs sponsors, who need to feel that they doing the public a positive turn in such investment. If there is opprobrium about financing a golf course, no one will do it.

At times the reduction of venues of sports and recreation is a major or noticeable environmental issue in evaluating development projects, and it would also appear the scale of protest relates less to the space involved than to the nature of the project, or owners. The image of an industry or enterprise has at times to do with its owner, where clear preferences are noticed at the public and activist levels, but don't often carry the day with higher authorities. They seek to keenly balance concerns of environment with growth.

One such instance in the past was the construction of a top

tourist hotel in the city centre, at that time known as Sheraton Hotel and has since passed to different hands several times each with a change of name as it becomes part of another hotel group. There was a spacious golf area and for other games in the space bordering Ocean Road (renamed Obama Road after the first black US president visited the country in July 2013); the amount of activity that centered on opposition to the hotel being built was astonishing. Still there remained substantial space for golf activities and other sports, such that a person unaware that the whole area was reserved for sports wouldn't know that the nearby hotel was considered to be totally unacceptable in the area, as an intrusion that makes sports activity unfeasible or dwindled. It wasn't so and the area has remained a thriving city centre sports zone since then, and activism faded into oblivion.

There is an aspect of environmental use which we as a country have failed to utilize while our Kenyan neighbours and their Ethiopian next door neighbours made excellent progress

over the decades, while our situation tended to dwindle with time. It is ability to use Rift Valley areas as sports for nurturing talent in athletics, especially long distance running, which we admirably exploited during the 1960s to 1980s and gradually this ability fizzled out. We still have some talent in the marathon and other long distances from the zone, whose major window for the world to see is in a sense the Kilimanjaro Marathon as it is held annually, and the range of inclusion of participants or competitors is wide. They don't make outside often.

This raises an issue of what really is environment-based and what other factors shape this ability, as there is no possible shift in genetic heritage that has taken place since the 1970s in Tanzania as compared to the two performing nations in world athletics, but our fortunes have sharply declined. It is easier to think of this situation as principally economic, that nutritional levels are poorer, which is a reflection of poverty and the higher scale of inflation in the 1980s. It depressed wages and undervalued the currency for keeps.

## NBA approves plan to resume season in July at Disney World

NEW YORK

THE NBA's Board of Governors have approved a plan to restart the suspended season with a tentative July 31 start at Disney World in Florida amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the league said on Thursday.

The plan would see 22 of the NBA's 30 teams play eight seeding games to determine a 16-team playoff field that would follow the traditional post-season format with four best-of-seven series that would crown a champion no later than Oct. 12.

"While the COVID-19 pandemic presents formidable challenges, we are hopeful of finishing the season in a safe and responsible manner based on strict protocols now being finalized with public health officials and medical experts," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a news release.

The league said approval from its Board of Governors, which came on the day originally scheduled for the start of the NBA Finals, is the first formal step among the many required to resume the season.

According to ESPN, the vote on the format was 29-1, with the Portland Trail Blazers voting against the proposal.

All games, practices and housing would be at the ESPN Wide World of Sports



FILE PHOTO: The NBA logo is displayed as people pass by the NBA Store in New York City, U.S., October 7, 2019. REUTERS

Complex which is inside the Orlando resort and has multiple hotels and arenas, and would allow the league to limit outside exposure.

The NBA was the first North American sports league to suspend its season due to the COVID-19 pandemic after one of its players tested positive for the new coronavirus in mid-March with five weeks remaining in the 82-game regular season.

The 22 returning teams would be comprised of the eight teams from each of the two conferences currently in playoff positions plus the six clubs that are six games or fewer behind the eighth seed in their respective conferences.

At the conclusion of the seeding games, the seven teams in each conference with the best combined records across regular-season games and seeding games would qualify for the playoffs.

A play-in tournament would be used to determine the final playoff seed in each conference if the team with the eighth-best combined record is four games or fewer ahead of the team with the ninth-best combined record in the same conference.

The Minnesota Timberwolves, one of the teams excluded from the NBA's return-to-play plan because of their record, expressed disappointment at not being able to play more games but said they understood and accepted the decision.

"It is important that we be a good team mate not only to the NBA, but to the other 29 teams to support the efforts to complete this season and prepare for next season in a healthy and safe manner," the Timberwolves said in a statement.

If everything goes according to plan, the NBA said the 2020-21 season would begin on Dec. 1.

The league also said it plans to hold its 2020 NBA Draft Lottery to determine the order of the first 14 selections on Aug. 25. Lottery teams would be comprised of the eight clubs that do not participate in the restart and the six that go to Florida but do not qualify for the playoffs.

The actual NBA Draft, typically held in June, is now scheduled for Oct. 15.

Meanwhile, after initially saying that older coaches might not be able to return to the bench this summer due to the coronavirus pandemic, NBA commissioner Adam Silver reversed course Thursday night.

Health experts have stated that people age 65 and older are most vulnerable to COVID-19, and the NBA has three head coaches in that category: the San Antonio Spurs' Gregg Popovich, 71; the Houston Rockets' Mike D'Antoni, 69; and the New Orleans Pelicans' Alvin Gentry, 65.

Silver initially said in an interview with TNT on Thursday, "There are people involved in this league, particularly coaches, who are obviously older people. ... We're going to have to work through protocols, for example, and it may be certain coaches may not be able to be the bench coach

REUTERS



## Barca transfer budget ruined by virus - sources

BARCELONA

BARCELONA will only be able to use money from sales of players to make other signings this summer, sources at the club have told ESPN.

In each summer since 2015, president Josep Maria Bartomeu has designated between €60 and €75 million to be spent on new players, in addition to any money generated by departures.

However, sources have confirmed that amount has been reduced to zero this year because of the losses accumulated by the coronavirus pandemic. Vice president Jordi Cardoner told ESPN in May that €140m had already been lost.

Instead, the club will look to exchange deals to help land their transfer targets.

Barca have been one of Europe's most active clubs on the transfer market since the 2017 sale of Neymar. Last year, they invested around €250m on Frenkie de Jong, Antoine Griezmann, Junior Firpo and Neto as part of a revamp of their squad.

A similar restructure had been planned for this summer. Before the coronavirus crisis, the Catalan club were working on deals for Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez, Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar, a midfielder, a right-back and a centre-back who could become long term substitute for Gerard Pique, who is 33.

They have now been forced to change those plans although sources at the club have told ESPN that despite the lack of capital, they hope to make some signings with the money they believe they will bring in or via swap deals.

Lautaro has emerged as their No. 1 target, ahead of Neymar, with the club acknowledging that signing

both is now practically impossible.

Sources have told ESPN that Lautaro is keen to link up with Argentina teammate Lionel Messi at Camp Nou, but Barca have no plans to spend the striker's €111m release clause that will be activated at the start of July.

However, the clause only lasts until July 15 and Barca hope that after that date Inter will be obliged to sit down and listen to other offers. Barca remain intent on including players in the deal as a means of bringing the cost down.

Juventus midfielder Miralem Pjanic is another target but sources have said Arthur Melo's reluctance to move the other way as a make-weight has complicated any possible deal.

Talks are ongoing with Juve and Barca are prepared to use other players as bait -- such as Arturo Vidal, Ivan Rakitic, Junior Firpo or Rafinha Alcantara -- but the Italians were particularly keen on Arthur.

Barcelona are open to negotiating for any of the players in their squad, with only three deemed untouchable: Messi, De Jong and Marc ter Stegen.

Regardless of any signings, Barca need to bring in around €70m before June 30 to balance their accounts. Their €1 billion budget for the year was based on €124m being made in player sales. So far Malcom, who left for around €40m, has been their only major sale.

The delay to the culmination of the season, as caused by the coronavirus, has also complicated the club's need to sell.

There is an awareness that any sales before the end of June could be counterproductive with La Liga and the Champions League still to be concluded.

(Agencies)

## Neymar mistakenly approved for \$120 virus welfare payment - report

RIO DE JANEIRO

NEYMAR, the world's most expensive footballer, was approved to receive a \$120 welfare payment meant for low-paid Brazilian workers affected by the coronavirus pandemic, in an apparent case of identity theft, a report said Thursday.

The Paris Saint-Germain star's name, date of birth and Brazilian ID number were used to register for the 600-real stimulus payment from the federal government, news site UOL reported.

The emergency payments are meant to help Brazilians employed in the informal sector -- such as cleaners or cooks -- whose jobs and incomes have evaporated with stay-at-home measures to contain the virus.

With a contract at PSG, estimated earnings of \$95.5 million this year and the record for most expensive football transfer in history, at 222 million euros, Neymar

does not qualify.

Yet according to UOL, the application in his name "was initially approved and scheduled for payment... before being frozen and placed 'under evaluation' due to indications it failed to meet the requirements."

The striker's communications staff did not immediately respond to a request for comment from AFP.

UOL reported his staff said Neymar "obviously never applied for this benefit, and does not know who would have done so."

Brazil is one of the countries hit hardest by the coronavirus pandemic. It has the third-highest death toll globally, at more than 34,000, behind only the US and Britain.

Neymar, 28, is riding out the pandemic at his luxury villa in Mangaratiba, a resort town outside Rio de Janeiro.

AFP

## Benfica bus stoned after first game back, two players injured

LISBON

A BUS carrying the Benfica soccer team was stoned on Thursday, breaking the glass and injuring two players, after they had played their first game since the novel coronavirus halted the season, Benfica football club said in a statement.

German midfielder Julian Weigl, 24, and Serbian winger Andrija Zivkovic, 23, were hit with shrapnel and taken to the Hospital da Luz in Lisbon to be treated as a precaution, Benfica said.

The attack on a major motorway between the club's Estadio da Luz and training ground followed Benfica's first game in three months after the season was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Sport Lisboa and Benfica denounce and lament the criminal stoning of the bus of its players was

victim to," the statement read.

"We guarantee total collaboration with authorities to whom we appeal for the greatest effort to be made in identifying the delinquents responsible for these criminal acts."

Portuguese champions Benfica missed the chance to move clear of title rivals Porto at the top of the table after being held to a 0-0 draw by lowly Tondela. The top two are now level on 60 points with nine rounds of matches remaining. [L8N2DH6YC]

Fans had gathered outside the gates of Benfica's stadium in Lisbon to support the team because restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus outbreak prevented them entering the ground.

Benfica could not immediately be reached for comment.

REUTERS

# Growing calls for anti-racism protests as Bayern scent Bundesliga title

BERLIN

BAYERN Munich face one of the final obstacles in their hunt for an eighth consecutive Bundesliga title this weekend as players in Germany contemplate staging collective protests following the death of George Floyd in the United States.

The German FA said on Wednesday footballers including Jadon Sancho who paid tributes to Floyd during last week's games would not be punished, with calls since growing from several Bayern players for further action.

"Sport always was and is able to share the power, to try to show to the world we are a community and that we are strong together," said Bayern forward Thomas Mueller, ahead of Saturday's game with Bayer Leverkusen.

"We have so many different people in the sport, it doesn't matter the colour. Sports have the power to bring people together to speak with one tongue."

Joshua Kimmich revealed Bayern players have talked about using their platform to reinforce their stance against racism, while World Cup winner Jerome Boateng urged more famous white sportspeople to add their voices to the chorus of outrage over Floyd's death.

Floyd, a black American man, died after a white policeman knelt on his neck for several minutes. His death has sparked several days of protests in US cities, some of which have turned violent amid accusations of further police brutality used against demonstrators.

"We can do much more" - "Our voices carry, we have a platform and we touch many people," Boateng, whose father is from Ghana, told Deutsche Welle radio.

"All white sportspeople who don't speak out are obviously not racists,



Jadon Sancho calls for justice following the death of George Floyd in the United States (AFP Photo)

but of course it is desirable that they also use their notoriety for this cause. Many do it, but I think we can do much more."

With five games remaining Bayern hold a seven-point lead over Borussia Dortmund, whose players took a knee during Thursday's training session in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Dortmund coach Lucien Favre said he "stood 100 percent behind" Sancho's call for justice although a number of players including the England winger courted controversy after they were pictured with-

out masks alongside a hairdresser.

At the other end of the table, Werder Bremen have slipped back deep into relegation trouble after a 3-0 defeat to Eintracht Frankfurt on Wednesday greatly complicated the task of maintaining their top-flight status.

The loss was all the more disappointing for the four-time champions after a 1-0 win at Freiburg on May 23 had given them hope. Werder are now three points from safety and need a positive result at home against Wolfsburg on Sunday.

"That was a setback but definitely not a knockout," Werder coach Florian Kohfeldt said after the Eintracht defeat. "It has become harder but it's not impossible. We all knew that it would be hard, but we're going to give it a go."

One to watch: Marcus Thuram

The Borussia Mönchengladbach striker has scored four times in as many games since the Bundesliga resumed last month to reach double digits in his debut season in Germany.

Thuram, the son of 1998 World Cup winner and

anti-racism activist Lilian, made a statement of his own in last Sunday's 4-1 win over Union Berlin, kneeling and bowing his head after scoring the first of his two goals, in a gesture reminiscent of past protests by NFL players in the US against racism and police brutality.

Gladbach return to action on Friday at Freiburg as they jostle with RB Leipzig and Leverkusen for Champions League qualification.

Key stats  
86 - Bayern's league goals this season. No team has ever scored as many times through 29 games of a Bundesliga campaign.

17 - seconds Stefan Illsanker was on the field before scoring against Werder Bremen. The Austria international struck twice in Wednesday's 3-0 victory after coming on as a late substitute.

308 - Bundesliga appearances made by Japan's Makoto Hasebe, an Asian record he shares with South Korean great Cha Bum-kun.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today  
RB Leipzig v Paderborn, Bayer Leverkusen v Bayern Munich, Eintracht Frankfurt v Mainz, Fortuna Düsseldorf v Hoffenheim (all 1330), Borussia Dortmund v Hertha Berlin (1630)

Tomorrow  
Werder Bremen v Wolfsburg (1130), Union Berlin v Schalke (1330), Augsburg v Cologne (1600)

AFP

## 'I didn't have a clue what to do' - Adjusting to football's new reality

PARIS

DAILY medical questionnaires, frequent temperature checks, weekly testing, face masks in the changing room and showers at home only. Not to mention trying to work out how to celebrate goals.

Such is the reality for footballers in leagues returning from the coronavirus shutdown.

Poland was among the first European countries to start playing again as its league returned last weekend.

Games are behind closed doors for now, and adjusting to this new way of life is the challenge facing Tom Hateley.

The son of former AC Milan, Monaco, Rangers and England striker Mark Hateley, he plays for Piast Gliwice, the unheralded club who resumed their defence of the Polish Ekstraklasa title with a 4-0 mauling of Wisla Krakow.

After all that time without a game, they were 2-0 up inside 11 minutes, but -- having witnessed social distancing at goal celebrations in the Bundesliga -- Hateley had to check himself each time the ball went in.

"I didn't have a clue what to do. We sort of all high-fived and that was that," he laughs while speaking to AFP.

"I saw in Germany with Dortmund in their first game back, they were celebrating two metres apart. We weren't like that, for us it was just a little fist bump and on we go."

Hateley's story is a reminder of the difficulties, even in a country like Poland which has suffered comparatively little in the pandemic, with just over 1,000 deaths for a population of 38 million.

"In Poland you had to wear masks out and about, which they have just stopped now this week. They have started to open shops, restrictions have been eased," says the 30-year-old.

- All about the money -  
"As for the Ekstraklasa, 50 people from each club had to go into isolation for two weeks before anybody was allowed to train.



A man in a protective suit stands pitchside in Poznan before the restart of the Polish season last weekend following the coronavirus shutdown (AFP Photo)

"We had our temperature taken in the morning and at night and then we had to fill out a questionnaire every night for the doctor, which we are still doing now."

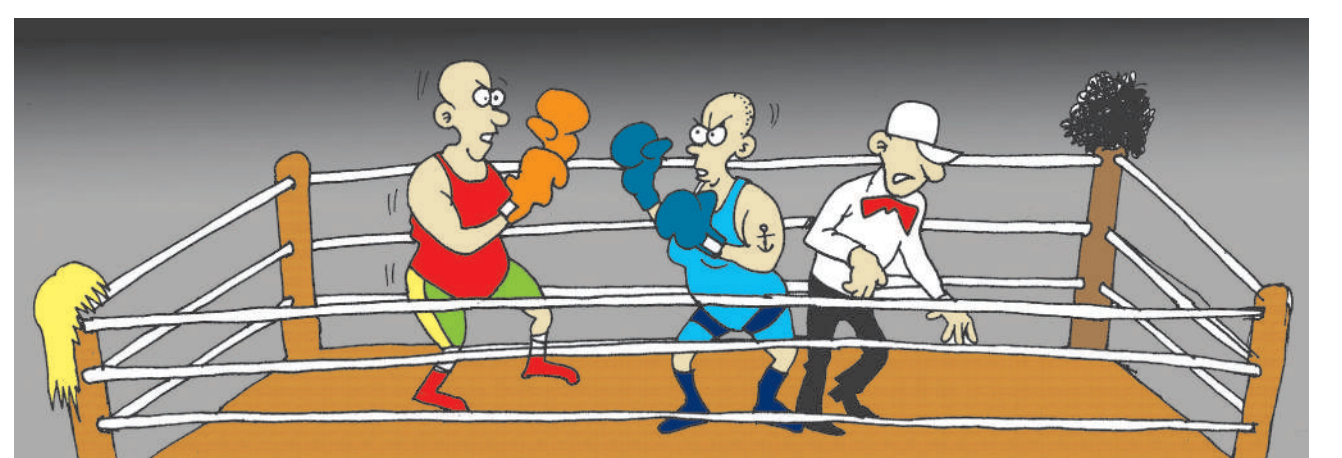
Individual training began in early May and teams then went into three-week training camps to prepare for the resumption. Players undergo blood tests once a week to check for virus antibodies.

"We have to wear face masks at the club, any time we are in the stadium, in the changing rooms we have to have a mask on. The gyms are all closed. It is only when you go on the pitch that the masks come off," says Hateley, shortly before departing for a night in a secure, specially-assigned hotel to prepare for his team's next game.

It is a "strange situation".

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# Mwadui FC optimistic of avoiding relegation to FDL

## SPORT

Growing calls for anti-racism protests as Bayern scent Bundesliga title

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Mwadui FC players in a group photo prior to a kick off of the outfit's recent Mainland Premier League clash, held at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MAHMOUD ZUBEIRY

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**M**WADUI FC head coach, Khalid Adam, has said he is confident that his outfit will avoid relegation to the next season's First Division League (FDL).

The Shinyanga-based team are currently placed 12th in the Vodacom Premier League with 34 points from 28 games.

They have won eight games, registered draw in 10 and also lost 10 games in the 20-team league.

But in an interview, coach Adam, who is famed for helping domestic top flight side, Ntanda FC of Mtwara, avoid relegation to the FDL last season, said Mwadui FC will work hard to remain in the Premier League.

"Everyone in our

side knows the importance of remaining in the Premier League, the management and supporters are all with us to ensure that we remain in the league, it will not be easy but we are determined to remain in the league," he said.

The coach said his confidence derives from the fact that before the suspension of the domestic top flight and other sporting activities due to Coronavirus spread, his side had won five games in a row.

"Before the league was suspended due to Coronavirus outbreak, we had recorded five wins

in a row and I'm sure we will start from where we stopped," Adam noted.

"Yes, the players were not training together for a long time, but I'm sure when the league resumes next week they will be in good shape and ready to fight," he said.

Commenting on his side's next week match against Young Africans SC (Yanga), he said his charges have started preparations for the match as the aim is to collect all three points.

He said Yanga are one of the best sides on the land, but insisted Mwadui FC will come out flat

to fight for points.

"We have played Yanga before, they are a good side but our aim is to collect all three points," he said.

"We respect them but the mission is to win the game," he said. Mwadui FC will host third-placed Yanga at Kambarage Stadium in Shinyanga on Saturday in a match which promises to be entertaining and competitive.

Yanga have 51 points from 27 games. They have won 14 matches, recorded draw in nine and lost four.

On Thursday, Yanga information officer Hassan Bumbuli said

his club is preparing well for the game against Mwadui FC.

He maintained Yanga's aim is to collect maximum points in the clash.

"The team is undergoing training under the tutelage of assistant coach, Charles Boniface Mkwasa, who is taking care of the team in the absence of head coach Luc Eymael," he disclosed.

"Eymael is expected in the country on Saturday (today). The good thing is that all players are in camp, we will go to Shinyanga with the aim of collecting maximum points," he said.

**5 EATV MONDAY**  
**TONIGHT @ 9:00**  
**UJENZI**  
 11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
 14:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
 14:30 Bongo Hits  
 15:00 Funyaka  
 15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)  
 16:00 Akili & Me (r)  
 16:30 #HASHTAG  
 17:00 SSelekt  
 17:55 Kurasa  
 18:00 eNews  
 18:30 Music/Soap  
 19:00 EATV SAA I  
 19:45 MJADALA  
 20:00 DADAZ (r)  
 21:00 UJENZI  
 21:30 5SPORTS LIVE  
 22:30 Bongo Hits  
 Tonight on EATV find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor  
 And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus  
 It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

**eastafrica RADIO**  
 04:00 Supa Breakfast  
 10:00 MAMAMIA  
 12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
 13:00 Planet Bongo  
 16:00 EA Drive  
 20:00 Kipenga  
 21:00 The Cruise  
**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Dar online chess tournaments start today

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE grand prix online chess competitions, organized by Dar es Salaam clubs, Don Bosco and Rising Star, start in the city today.

Kara Louis, the events organizer, said the grand prix system tournaments will be played every week and the points accumulated through the course of the week will be added up at the end of the month to determine the grand prix winners.

He said the competitions, namely Don Bosco Arena and Rising Star Arena, have two categories, Open for professional players and U-14 rated category for junior players.

He disclosed that at the moment the Don Bosco Arena competition is on its 10th edition while Rising Star Arena competition is on the 24th edition.

Louis said in the 10th edition of the Don Bosco Arena, Aadiya Bhattbhatt emerged as the Open category winner after notching 25 points.

Mugema Arthur finished second with 22 points and the third spot went to Cleophas Charles with 19 points.

The brilliance award in the category went to Sai Nishith and an upcoming player award was won by Glen Golding.

In the tournament's U-14 rated category, Salim Tboat, despite tying with Viva Pujari on 16 points, emerged as the winner, leaving the latter to take the second position. Sriansh S took the third spot with 12 points.

The category's brilliance award went to Rian Patel and an upcoming player award was won by Sai Vedansh.

Louis said the 22nd edition of the Rising Star Arena's Open category was won by Charles, Haruna Mohamed finished second while Louis took the third place.

The U-14 category had Samridh emerging as the winner followed by Maryam Panya in the second spot, Mugema Duval finished third.

In the 23rd edition of the competition, which was played in a blitz format, Mugema Arthur won it with 37 points followed by Charles with 36 points, Nishith settled for the third place with 32 points.

In the U-14 category Reyansh Varakam emerged as the winner with 20 points, the second position went to Kartikey Goel with 18 points and the third place was won by Maryam with 12 points.

The category's brilliance award went to Yash Panjwani and an upcoming award went to Aarrush Bhattbhatt.

Louis said the weekend was closed with the 24th edition of the Rising Star Arena which was also won by Charles with 38 points.

Louis settled for the second place with 33 points and Sai Sriansh took the third place with 22 points.

The U-14 category of the event was won by Tanaya Sheth with 12 points, the second place went to Mahek Desai with 10 points and the third place went to Samridh with nine points.

"Since last March we have been holding in-house online tournaments on lichess.org, this has given our chess players an opportunity to practice and enjoy chess in these social distancing times," Louis stated.

"We have been handing over virtual awards but for this month we shall be awarding real trophies, medals and certificates to the players," he said.

## TPLB offers financial assistance to FDL, SDL clubs

By Correspondent Joseph

Mchekadona

TANZANIA Premier League Board (TPLB) has presented 1m/- to each of the First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL) clubs to cushion them from negative financial impact of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

The TPBL had on Thursday announced the news through their online social media platforms.

The board said all 24 FDL outfits and 24 SDL sides have been presented with 1m/- each to help them meet some of their financial needs in preparation for the resumption of the games.

The board disclosed that it understands the negative impact caused by Covid-19 as most teams do not have reliable sources of income.

"Tanzania Premier League Board has presented money amounting to 1m/- to each of the FDL and SDL clubs," the board said in the statement.

"The money is to help the teams meet some costs



African Lyon players participate in training at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the 2019/20 First Division League (FDL). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

while preparing for the resumption of the games mid this month."

The TPLB chairman, Stephen Mguto, in a moni-

tored radio interview, confirmed that the body has disbursed the money to FDL and SDL outfits.

"It is true we have pre-

sented money to all FDL and SDL teams to help them meet some of their needs while preparing for the resumption of games,"

Mguto disclosed.

"It may not be enough money but we are sure that the money will help alleviate some of the economic

problems brought by the suspension of football activities due to the coronavirus," he said.

The FDL and SDL have no sponsors, which means the participating squads are compelled to cover all costs including transport to and from match centers across the country.

Many FDL and SDL outfits in the country are, in the process, on the brink of extinction as they do not have stable sponsorship.

The sides mostly depend on gate collections and contributions from well-wishers.

Games involving FDL teams and even those of SDL outfits, in most cases, do not attract many spectators.

The teams in the two leagues get little cash from gate collections.

Recently, the board also handed over 23m/- to each of the Premier League teams.

The cash, presented by the league sponsors, was meant to cushion the teams from the effects caused by suspension of the league due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

