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TANZANIA

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## Tanzania now sixth and not fourth world 'unhappiest country'

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has been ranked the sixth unhappiest country in the world, a two steps improvement from the fourth position it recorded in two previous indexes.

The UN World Happiness Index 2020 released yesterday also show that Tanzania is the third unhappiest country within the East African Community (EAC) block.

The rankings put Tanzania 148th country out of 153 surveyed, beating only the Central African Republic, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Afghanistan which is at the bottom.

Kenya tops the EAC at 121 position followed by Uganda at 126 and Burundi at 140. Ironically, war-ravaged Libya has emerged the happiest country in Africa, sitting at number 80 worldwide.

Ivory Coast (85), Benin (86) and the Republic of Congo (88) are the happiest nations in sub-Saharan Africa.

South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and the Central African Republic (CAR) are amongst the unhappiest countries in the world, according to the UN's World Happiness Index

Finland has been named the world's happiest country for the third year

**Ivory Coast (85), Benin (86) and the Republic of Congo (88) are the happiest nations in sub-Saharan Africa**

running. It is followed by Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland and Norway in the top five.

Nordic countries make up four of the top five places with the authors saying the happiest places are those where people feel a sense of belonging, and trust their fellow citizens and institutions.

The researchers asked people around the world to assess their own levels of happiness, as well as taking account of factors such as national income and levels of corruption.

The report reviews the science of measuring and understanding subjective well-being, and to use survey measures of life satisfaction to track the quality of lives as they are being lived in more than 150 countries.

The authors note that the variables used are GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity and absence of corruption.

"As already noted, our happiness rankings are not based on any index of

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# Mandatory isolation as Covid-19 cases rise to 12



President John Magufuli addresses the nation after attending prayers at St Paul Church in Dodoma city yesterday, the thrust of his remarks being on what Tanzanians ought to do in the wake of the global spread of Covid-19 infections. Photo: State House

By Guardian Reporter

ALL people arriving from countries affected by coronavirus will undergo mandatory individual isolation for 14 days at their own cost starting today, President John Magufuli announced yesterday.

This follows the doubling of cases from six as of mid last week to 12 at the weekend as announced by the president. This applies to foreigners as well as returning Tanzanians coming from affected countries, he said.

"Of the 12 cases, four are foreigners and eight are Tanzanians," the president said in a televised address from Dodoma.

Eleven of the confirmed positive cases had arrived in Tanzania from affected countries except one person, implying that this was the first local transmission to have been registered.

President Magufuli said other containment measures include strengthening of the national Covid-19 response committee which will now be under the Prime Minister's Office.

"Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa will be assisted by the minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ummu Mwalimu and other officials to be appointed (by the premier) based on their expertise," he said.

There was no Covid-19 fatality in the country so far and all the patients were fairing well, he said.

In another measure, Dr Magufuli said no travel permits will be issued to government officials to countries affected by Covid-19, appealing to the private sector to also avoid non essential travels.

**Of the 12 cases, four are foreigners and eight are Tanzanians, the president said in a televised address from Dodoma**

These measures come in addition to those announced last week after the first case was confirmed on Monday, namely the closure of schools and colleges, for 30 days as authorities put in place containment measures.

Entertainment activities including music bonanzas and sports were also suspended to stop the further spread of the disease.

Non essential travels and flights have been cancelled whereas social gatherings have been discouraged.

President Magufuli appealed to Tanzanians to tone down their talk about coronavirus which he said was creating unnecessary panic among the people.

Speaking after attending a church service in Dodoma, he said the messages being spread about the disease painted a picture of it as the leading killer monster while it has not claimed a single life in Tanzania.

The president acknowledged that the disease is indeed deadly and called on everyone to take laid down preventive measures. The magnitude of the problem in the country was being blown out of proportion, he declared.

"We are scaring each other as if there are no other deadly diseases but coronavirus. Aids, cancer and malaria kill a lot of people alongside road accidents. But the talk is all about Covid-19 which has not killed a single person," he said.

President Magufuli appealed especially to those using social media platforms to post

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## Relief as patients report recovering from Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

TWO patients who tested positive for Coronavirus in the country last week and isolated have reportedly received a clean bill of health.

The duo is Tanzanian national Isabella Mwampamba—the first case announced on Monday last week after reporting to hospital upon arrival at the Kilimanjaro International Airport from Belgium, and a Ghanaian national who was confirmed on Tuesday after landing in Zanzibar from Germany.

This is in addition to rapper Khamis Mwinjuma alias Mwana FA who last week revealed that he was amongst patients who were quarantined

**Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, the Minister for Information, Tourism and Heritage, told reporters in Zanzibar that said there hasn't been new cases of the disease**

after testing positive for Covid-19 upon arrival from abroad but was "doing very well, not sick anymore."

Speaking in Dodoma yesterday, President John Magufuli said that Mwampamba who checked herself into isolation upon arrival had since gone through several COVID-19 tests which all came out negative.

The Ghanaian patient was isolated at a quarantine centre at Kidimni in Unguja Central District and had entered the country on May 11th from Germany.

Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, the Minister for Information, Tourism and Heritage, told

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## Covid-19 hits 300,000 cases globally, over 1,000 in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE number of cases of coronavirus around the world surpassed 300,000 as of yesterday, with those recorded in Africa going past 1,000.

There were 307,000 confirmed cases globally with 92,000 recoveries and 13,000 deaths, on the basis of data by the Johns Hopkins University



which monitors the pandemic.

There were 1,198 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Africa, announced the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Texas.

Uganda reported its first case on Saturday night after testing a passenger who had returned home from Dubai.

The confirmation came hours after President Yoweri Museveni (pictured) had announced several crowd control measures including banning of all flight operations starting midnight on Sunday.

In neighbouring Rwanda, the government announced that it could extend its 14-day

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## Mandatory isolation as Covid-19 cases rise to 12

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information about Covid-19 to watch their messages before posting to avoid causing panic.

He expressed hope that the pandemic will come to pass, urging Tanzanians

to continue with their day-to-day economic activities while protecting themselves against the disease.

"Let's stop scaring one another. It may just pass like a wind in our country and it is my hope it will be that way," he added.

## Covid-19 hits 300,000 cases globally, over 1,000 in Africa

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lockdown which was imposed last week on Thursday.

Rwanda has so far recorded 17 cases of Covid-19, the highest so far in the East Africa region.

The Democratic Republic of Congo recorded its first Covid-19 related death after a doctor who had returned from France and succumbed to the disease died.

CDC also announced 108 patients in Africa had recovered after contracting the virus.

The situation became increasingly grim in Italy where the death toll spiked to more than 4,800 at the weekend, representing over a third of the global total.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte directed the closure of all non-essential factories in a late-night TV address on Saturday.

The Mediterranean nation of 60 million people is now the epicentre of the disease, which first emerged in central China late last year before

Marching out to the rest of the world.

Italy has now reported more deaths than Mainland China and third-placed Iran combined, and it has a death rate of 8.6 per cent among confirmed Covid-19 infections - significantly higher than in most other countries.

Spanish authorities reported 394 new virus-related deaths since yesterday, bringing the national total to 1,720. The rise compares with 324 new deaths on Saturday.

Over 3,600 new cases have also been confirmed. Officials say 28,572 have been infected since the outbreak began, with 2,575 people having recovered.

Behind Italy and China, Spain has reported the highest number of coronavirus cases in the world. The majority of deaths have been reported in the capital, Madrid.

Across the Atlantic, more than a third of Americans were adjusting to life in various phases of lockdown, including in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles - the three biggest US cities. Other parts of the United States were expected to ramp up restrictions as well.



Industries and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (2nd-L) checks the prices of sanitisers at Nakiete Pharmacy in Dar es Salaam's Mwenge suburb at the weekend. He said he found foolproof evidence of overpricing, subsequently the Fair Competition Commission and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards to make immediate inspections at pharmacies across the country and ensure that wrongdoers face the full wrath of the law. Photo: Romana Mallya

## ATU issues guidelines and recommendations on combating the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Telecommunications Union (ATU) has issued a number of guidelines and recommendations that member states should implement to assist in combating the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

In statement yesterday, ATU wants member countries through their regulatory bodies implement Activation of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), Collaborative Practical Measures, Streamline Regulation Processes and practice Multi-stakeholder collaboration as add up to measures already taken to control the viral disease.

The Nairobi-based African Union Agency said that activating (CAP) will enable authorities to effectively prevent and mitigate the spread of Covid-19. The CAP involves the use of multiple modes of communication to educate members of the public including vulnerable groups about the disease as well as the preventive measures.

Africa has so far recorded relatively few coronavirus cases compared to the rest of the world. Twenty-seven African countries have recorded over 357 coronavirus cases, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Governments across the continent

are taking no chances as they race to stop the spread of the virus by sensitizing their citizens about the pandemic and the various ways to combat the disease.

ATU secretary-general, John Omo said fixed and mobile telephone providers should implement and enable the emergency numbers, for example 119, for voice messaging and promote short message service (SMS) as an alternative to telephone communications during this period.

He also called upon the regulators to streamline the process to allow telecom/ICT services to be available as soon as possible.

He said during the period, calls to

emergency numbers should be free whereby local and long-distance backbone providers must have redundancy networks to handle traffic from other providers that experience difficulties.

"Regulators should establish priority call routing on both mobile and fixed networks for people engaged in Covid-19 response as well as other entities and institutions involved in such activities because during such times, networks could fail to provide service for different reasons, one of them being overload thus delaying or altogether preventing critical communication," said Omo.



Bishop Dr Alex Mkumbo (R, in glasses) of the Central Tanzania Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania attends a meeting in Singida municipality at the weekend at which Singida Regional Medical Officer Victoria Ludovick outlined the basic precautions against the spread of Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Jumbo Ismailly

By Samuel Gebre and David Herbling

## Coronavirus slowing desert locust response in E. Africa

THE coronavirus pandemic is hampering the fight against locusts in East Africa as the delivery of pesticides and equipment is delayed, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization said.

As airlines ground planes and borders are closed because of the coronavirus, "the fight against an already critical desert locust outbreak is getting harder," said Cyril Ferrand, the Eastern Africa Resilience Team Leader for the Food and Agriculture

Organization.

The infestation in East Africa continues to present an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods, especially as the cropping season begins, the FAO said.

The outbreak is the worst Kenya has

experienced in 70 years. It has also impacted Ethiopia, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The FAO is appealing for \$153 million to help fight the locusts. So far around \$107 million has been pledged or received from donors.

Economic growth in Africa is already projected to slow to 1.8% this year from 3.2% as global supply chains are disrupted and investments drop on coronavirus, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

## Relief as patients report recovering from Covid-19

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reporters in Zanzibar that there hasn't been any new cases of the disease.

He said the condition of the patient who entered Zanzibar with his spouse is now normal and can do his chores through laptop and communicate with other people via mobile phone.

Doctors were still making follow ups at all areas the patient went since his arrival in Zanzibar to identify people who came into contact with, greeted or sat together with him, he said.

He said examination of 28 people in various areas he passed including the airport, taxis, hotel and others had not yielded any case of virus transmission.

Meanwhile Kombo said beginning Friday March 20 the government had stopped all airlines coming into the Isles with tourists, while tourists from Italy were already banned from the

Isles.

"All visitors arriving in Zanzibar will be quarantined for 14 days at own cost and all related institutions have been informed.

However, despite the ban, there will be one plane from Russia that will come to collect its citizens.

Dr Fadhil Mohammed Abdallah, the Director of Prevention Services in the Ministry of Health called upon Zanzibar residents to stop giving misleading information on the disease as in so doing they will be causing unnecessary panic among the people.

There has been a global call for young people not to physically interact with the elderly since fatality rates have shown that senior citizens and those with compromised immune systems succumb more easily from the disease than young, healthy people.

## Tanzania sixth, not fourth world unhappiest country

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these six factors - the scores are instead based on individuals' own assessments of their lives, as revealed by their answers to the Cantril ladder question that invites survey participants to imagine their current position on a ladder with steps numbered from 0 to 10, where the top represents the best possible life for themselves, reads the report.

Apart from country rankings, this year the World Happiness Report focuses especially on the environment

- social, urban and natural. It also measured four different aspects of the social environment: having someone to count on, having a sense of freedom to make key life decisions, generosity and trust.

For the first time, the index authors looked at the happiness of city life across the world, both comparing cities with other cities and looking at how happy city dwellers are on average, compared to others living in the same country.

This year's report was compiled before the coronavirus pandemic.



Cervical cancer vaccination targeting schoolgirls gets under way at a Tengeru hospital in Arumeru District at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

# Foundation to organise series of events to mark the first anniversary of Dr Mengi's May 2 death

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dr Reginald Mengi Foundation (DRMF) has organised a series of events in remembrance of IPP Executive Chairman Dr Reginald Abraham Mengi, who died in Dubai on May 2 last year.

"Dr Mengi's Persons with Disabilities Foundation is preparing to hold various events this May in the memory of its founder because it will be exactly one year since his passing on May 2, 2019, because his birthday falls on May 29 and because DRMF was registered on May 18," DRMF Managing Director Shimimana Ntuyabaliwe said in a statement issued yesterday.

She said that during the commemoration, which has been christened 'Ubuntu', they will underline to Tanzanians the importance of the spirit of volunteerism and supporting their communities.

She said Dr Mengi was widely acknowledged for volunteering and supporting various groups in the society, and hence the need to emulate the spirit.

'Ubuntu' is often translated as "I am because we are" or "humanity towards others" but is often used in a more philosophical sense to mean "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity".

Ntuyabaliwe said DRMF believes that engaging 'ubuntu' is enough to honour Dr Mengi, adding: "Dr Mengi selflessly and tirelessly offered himself to do many things for the community. He always did so happily and indeed touched the lives of many Tanzanians."

She meanwhile conveyed consolation to President John Magufuli and Tanzanians for the trying times the country is facing in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

She called on Tanzanians to assist the communities around them through the participation of institutions, companies, community groups and individuals in the events and activities DRMF has lined up for the memorial occasion.

The events would include community sports for school children, blood donations, tree planting and charity walks, she noted.

Ntuyabaliwe said a sports bonanza organised

jointly with COPE and Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park would bring together over 1,000 primary school pupils from Dar es Salaam. It is scheduled to be held on May 7, involving both full able-bodied pupils and those with disabilities.

She said the foundation has asked Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly & Children minister Ummu Mwalimu to grace a blood donation event at suburban Dar es Salaam's Mbagala Zakhem grounds on May 8, pleading with members of the public including people with disabilities to save lives by donating blood.

Ntuyabaliwe also noted that the foundation would plant trees in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam regions, this in remembrance of Dr Mengi's decades of dedicated service as "a conservationist who embarked on various environment conservation initiatives including the planting of 24,000,000 tree surrounding Mount Kilimanjaro to protect the natural vegetation there". "We call upon Tanzanians to continue planting trees in their localities to protect the natural vegetation and more generally to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change," said the DRMF executive.

She as well made a special appeal to the media, saying Dr Mengi was among the founders of the private media in Tanzania "who played a crucial role in developing the sector - including nurturing and enhancing professionalism in the media and always coming to the defence of the interests of the media and media practitioners whenever necessary".

"The commemoration will climax with sports events on May 31, and the foundation has organised a memorial Dr Reginald Mengi Inclusive Walkathon. This will bring together various societal groups, among them people with disabilities," revealed Ntuyabaliwe.

She said Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has been asked to grace the event, which is expected to take place at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam. "This particular event is mainly meant for the raising of funds to support the maintenance of a computer room at the vocational school for people with disabilities located at Yombo on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam," she noted.

## Lands ministry to take to court 847 hardcore land rent defaulters

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development will from today start dragging to court all hardcore land rent defaulters in various areas of the country as part of the ministry's efforts to ensure all land owners pay land rents in accordance with the law.

The decision was arrived at following failure of the hardcore defaulters to pay up despite being urged to do so within two weeks.

The ministry's target for 2019/2020 financial year was to collect 180bn/- from various sources from incomes from land including

land rents, surveying fees, title deeds registration and other fees charged by district land tribunals.

In the past two weeks ministry officials in collaboration with their regional and district counterparts have been gearing up for the special operations to send demand notices to all hardcore land rent defaulters.

Speaking in a special interview yesterday in Dodoma, the ministry's head of rent department Denis Msami said today a total of 847 cases will be referred at various district land tribunals in Dar es Salaama, Mwanza and Lindi regions. He said of the 847 cases, Mwanza has 450 cases, Lindi (121), Ilala (200)

and Temeke (76).

Msami said the exercise of taking them to court the defaulters is sustainable and called upon all those who received demand notices for payments to do so as the tribunals decisions include auctioning of the defaulters assets to recover the rents in arrears. When launching the ministry's special strategies to increase government revenues via land rents at a meeting held in Dodoma recently, the Commissioner for Lands Nathaniel Nhone told city, district and municipal council officials that the ministry will start taking them to court all land rent defaulters countrywide.

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DCB Commercial Bank Plc marketing and communications director Rahma Ngassa (L) has a word with Education, Science and Technology deputy minister William Tate Olenasha (R) in Dar es Salaam at the weekend during the just-ended Innovation Week exhibition. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Road closed again after part of bridge over Lupa river damaged by floods

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

OFFICIALS in Chunya district, Mbeya Region have barred all motor vehicles to pass over the Lupa River bridge along the road linking Chunya district headquarters and Makongolosi town after part of the bridge was swept away by floods.

The bridge, located in Matundasi ward along the main Mbeya, Tabora road, has broken down for the second time. It was first swept away in September, last year, leading to its closure.

Speaking to residents of Matundasi ward and to stranded passengers coming from Tabora, Chunya district commissioner, Maryprisca Mahundi said currently people are only allowed to cross the river on foot and not using motor vehicles.

She said section of the bridge was swept away by floods and the entire bridge was submerged over flowing river water.

She said the vehicles will be allowed after Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) in the region assures the government that the bridge is safe both

for people and vehicles.

"As of now, TANROADS in collaboration with the contractor had tried to restore road communication for pedestrians and vehicles to ensure smooth travel," DC Mahundi said. Lupa river had burst its banks its banks more than was normal.

On his part the TANROADS manager for Mbeya region Mwita Mageza said as of now they are continuing with the work of strengthening the broken part of the bridge in order to restore communication.

He said the contractor is also continuing to construct a permanent bridge which is yet to be completed hence they will work on temporarily bridge until the Chunya-Makongolosi road is completed.

Some of the stranded passengers said they have been stuck for over two days with some of them with their children from schools that had recently been closed by the government.

Lawena Nsonda, a stranded passenger thanked the government in the district for its step to prevent vehicles crossing bridge as it was still dangerous and unsafe to do so.

## Minister appoints two Twiga Minerals Corporation Limited board members

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCE and Planning Minister Dr Philp Mpango yesterday appointed two board members who will represent the government in meetings of the board of directors of the recently established Twiga Minerals Corporation Limited.

A statement released in Dar es Salaam by the ministry named the appointees

as Casmir Sumba Kyuki and Michael Jonathan Kambi. The decision follows agreement between the government and Barrick Gold Corporation signed on January 24, this year.

With the signing the Tanzania government own 16 per cent holding in three operating gold mines whose combined output is Tanzania's biggest export earners.

The Twiga Minerals Corporation Limited will supervise mining operations in three gold mines—Buzwagi, North Mara and Bulyanhulu where Barrick Gold Cooperation owns 84 per cent shares

The government and Barrick, according to the agreement, will split economic benefits on a 50/50 basis in the new company after operational

costs. The government will own 16 per cent free carry interest. The president said Tanzania was still a better place to invest.

He welcomed more investors and appealed to them to ignore claims that his administration had created bad investment environment.

Following the agreement, Barrick Corporation later issued a statement

highlighting some of its expected contributions, among them, investing \$40 million (92bn/-) to upgrade the road between Bulyanhulu and Mwanza as well as constructing a housing estate and related infrastructure.

The company will also partner with the University of Dar es Salaam and commit up to \$10 million (23bn/-) in funding over a 10-year period for

training and skills development in the mining industry.

"Reflecting our confidence in the potential of this highly prospective gold region, we have budgeted \$50 million for brown and green fields exploration here in 2020 alone and are looking at various opportunities to sustain and expand our operations," Bristow said in the statement.

## Youth told to join forces to help tackle plastic waste with enhanced recycling technologies

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Mussa Zungu has called on young people countrywide to rise to the opportunity and collect plastic bottles now that they have a ready market.

Zungu said collecting bottle would clean the environment and be an economic activity of collectors.

Zungu made the call over the weekend when he visited a Dar es Salaam-based A-One Products & Bottlers Company that deals with recycling plastic bottles and producing raw

material for manufacturers in other countries.

Apart from lauding the firm on that success, the minister called on Tanzanians to use emerging opportunities to employ themselves.

"The government is creating a conducive environment for investment and doing business. We find a lot of consolation and comfort when we visit and witness successful investors like you," the minister told his audience at the factory premises in Mbagala area, Temeke District.

Zungu said rumours were rife in streets that black and blue plastic bottles littering the environment could not be recycled. "This visit

has a purpose. As the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) we want to satisfy ourselves that these bottles are being recycled by your factory, contrary to rampant rumours out there. We also want to be sure if the law is being observed," the minister said.

The minister said the government would work closely with recycling firms to ensure the Environmental Management Act, 2004 and particularly the 2009 Regulations on Control and Management of Solid Waste were strictly adhered to.

The company's Chief Executive Officer, C. B. Reddy assured the minister that the firm recycles used blue and black plastic bottles, producing a raw material that is exported to African and Arab countries.

Reddy said: "Our company has the latest expertise in recycling plastic bottles and producing raw material for manufacturers in Namibia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. We would be exporting to Italy if it had not been for the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic."

He told the minister that the collection of plastic blue and black bottles had created a side-line economic activity for enterprising Dar es Salaam residents and others in upcountry regions. In Dar es Salaam collectors are depositing bottles at Mbezi Jogoo centre in Ubungo District and at Shekilango centre in Kinondoni District.

NEMC Director General Samuel Gwamaka said the council supported all initiatives that aimed at making Tanzania's environment clean and safe and called on people to organize themselves and collect used plastic bottles for sale. "A kilogramme of a used bottle is sold at 400/- . An entrepreneur who will deposit to the factory premises a tonne of used bottles will be given transportation fee up to 35,000/-," Dr Gwamaka said.

The ministerial delegation included NEMC officials, environment stakeholder Neema Clarence and Ilala CCM District Publicity Secretary, Sultani Saidi.



Beata Gabriel of Minjingu ward in Babati District, Manyara Region, at her basket-making and selling spot near Minjingu Police Station yesterday. She hinted that the business has for long earned her enough money for various basic needs, including paying her children's school fees. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## Angola, Eritrea, Uganda confirm first cases as coronavirus spreads in Africa

JOHANNESBURG

ANGOLA, Eritrea and Uganda confirmed their first cases of coronavirus, while Mauritius recorded its first death as the virus spreads across Africa despite measures by governments to hold it back.

Two male residents who flew back from Portugal on March 17-18 have tested positive, Angolan Health Minister Silvia Lutucuta said on Saturday, while Eritrea said its first case was a 39-year-old national who had arrived from Norway.

Uganda's first case was announced early on Sunday by Health Minister Jane Ruth Aceng. She said the man flew in to the country from Dubai on Saturday and was in stable condition.

More than 1,000 cases have now been reported across Africa, according to the World Health Organisation.

There are concerns that the continent will not be able to handle a surge in cases without the depth of medical facilities available in more developed economies.

Zimbabwe reported its first case on Friday, and a second on Saturday, while the island of Mauritius, with 14 cases, reported its first death, a person who had travelled from Belgium via Dubai.

Many African countries have already shut their borders, closed schools and universities and barred large public gatherings.

In South Africa, which has the most cases in sub-Saharan Africa, more citizens have taken to wearing masks and gloves in public as the number of confirmed cases rose on Saturday to 240.

Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, plans to close its two main international airports in the cities of Lagos and Abuja from Monday night.

The number of reported cases there rose to 22 on Saturday.

Rwanda, which has 17 confirmed cases, stepped up preventive measures on Saturday, banning travel between towns and other parts of the country for two weeks, closing all bars, and requiring all government and private employees to work from home.

Both Rwanda and Uganda on Saturday announced they would close their borders.

Reporting by George Obulutsa and Ayenat Mersie in Nairobi and Tanisha Heiberg in Johannesburg, Paul Carstens in Abuja, MacDonald Dzirutwe in Zimbabwe, additional reporting by Clement Uwiringiyimana in Kigali and Alexandra Zavis in Johannesburg, Elias Biryabarema in Kampala; Writing by Tanisha Heiberg; Editing by Kevin Liffey, Jason Neely and Daniel Wallis

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# 'Revoke licences of pharmacies hiking prices of sanitisers'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has embarked on steps to ensure protective products against the Coronavirus disease are adequately available in the market and instructed the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) and Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to shut down and revoke licences of all dealers who are hiking prices for the sanitizers.

Similarly, in the same operation to be conducted round the clock countrywide, they have been directed to hunt down all those who are hoarding the protective gear to create 'fake' shortage demands thereof so as to hike prices.

Minister for Industry and Trade Innocent Bashungwa issued the instructions on Saturday during his impromptu visit to producers and dealers of the products and realized high prices for the items in shops compared to their actual production costs.

During his visit at Nakiete pharmacy he found sanitizers being sold at much higher prices as compared to the price they bought from the factory: "A 250 ml bottle at government Medical Stores Department (MSD) is sold at 5,500/- but here at Nakiete it is sold at 20,000/-; 60ml bottle is sold at 2,500/- and at this pharmacy the price is 8,000/- -- the government cannot tolerate this, as we said Coronavirus is an emergency and no one should capitalize on it to make profits, hence the licences for these dealers must be revoked," he said.

He said these items are currently produced by three factories in the country but in the streets dealers hike the prices thereof several times.

At Mansoor Daya chemical factory along Mandela Express Highway Bashungwa found the ex-factory price for 60ml bottle of sanitizer was 2,500/-, 250ml bottle was 3,500/- and one litre bottle was 16,000/-, which in the pharmacies is sold at 80,000/-.

On the issue of industrial alcohol,

Bashungwa directed Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO) to come out and look for markets from factories as they are manufacturing the same.

"On Monday we will sit together with officials from sugar factories so that the molasses should be used to make alcohol as it is currently in great demand in manufacturing the sanitizer. Factory owners have been importing industrial alcohol from foreign countries, but as of now, because of the epidemic in many countries, the demand has gone up, hence we should also strengthen our own factories," Bashungwa said.

Mansoor Daya, owner of Mansoor Daya pharmaceutical factory said the major challenge they are facing was intermittent power outages to which minister Bashungwa pledged to work on the issue in consultation with the relevant ministry.

He cited another challenge as the raw materials, saying the countries from which they were importing have also been hit by the epidemic; hence they were looking for local sources. The director of Tarmal Industries, Zain Bharmal said the production of sanitizer has gone up but were failing to catch up with demand and also cited power cuts and availability of raw materials.

He said his factory can produce over 10,000 litres of sanitizer per day.

FCC director general Dr John Mduma said they have received instructions from minister Bashungwa and will work on them and added that among their duties is to ensure goods that enter the market are adequately available and at affordable prices.

Acting TIRDO director Humphrey Ndosu said the quantity of alcohol in the sanitizer that is able to kill the Corona virus should be between 60 and 70 per cent. MSD procurement director, Abdul Mwanja said the distribution of the item to various pharmacies and hospitals was going on well and abide by the laid down prices.



Zanzibar Trade and Industries minister Amina Salum Ali (R) fields questions from journalists relating to the state of food supply in the Isles in the next six months. Next to her is her Health counterpart, Hamad Rashid Mohamed. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

## TCCIA launches eCOs staff training programme

THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA) has launched training programme aims at building internal capacity for staff on issuance of electronic Certificate of Origin (eCOs) for all export goods manufactured and processed in the country.

Upon completion of the training, TCCIA staffs will be able to process the certificates of origin electronically through computers, or mobile devices (including tablets and smartphones) replacing the current manual processing of documents for goods exportation.

According to TCCIA president Paul Koyi the online-based issuance of electronic certificates of origin was officially launched in February 2014, however, this initiative was not implemented due to lack of knowledge

among TCCIA's staff on how to offer such services.

Koyi said the current manual issuance of the export documents, among other challenges, consumes the business community's time by physically moving between different offices collecting documents and to obtain necessary approvals.

Again, under the current manual system, the business community incurs extra costs in doing businesses attributed to manual processing of export documents in terms of administrative bureaucracy and transportation costs.

TCCIA has started training its staff in lake zone regions and Kigoma.

"The training will be conducted across the country in order to ensure our staffs had the capacity to issue electronic certificates of origin to business persons," said Koyi during

his official tour of southern highlands last Saturday whereby he held talks with TCCIA's members including farmers and business persons on various issues related to trade and investment.

The TCCIA boss further expressed optimism that proposed initiative will provide unique innovative means of saving time and reducing costs in the issuance of CO to the business community in the country.

Moreover, the business community has welcomed this innovation and said it would help them in conducting their businesses with traceable records and at reduced costs.

Last year, deputy minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Dr Damas Ndumbaro urged business community to make use of the certificate of origin to grab markets within East Africa.

He said the EAC rules of origin helps differentiate between goods produced within the EAC region and those from outside to ensure favourable custom duties and tariffs for goods produced within the bloc.

According to him, partner states ratified the protocols to enhance businesses as well as boost development. He said it is the responsibility of Tanzanian farmers to meet the criteria set out in the Rules of Origin and acquire EAC Certificate of Origin to be able to purchase and sell products within the community.

According to him, most local manufacturers and farmers fail to sell their goods within the EAC due to some laxity in export processes.

He said identification of good produced in the EAC becomes easy when a product is wholly manufactured or obtained in one country.

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## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Position Details

<b>Job title:</b>	<b>Director of Operation</b>
<b>Reporting to:</b>	<b>Country Director</b>
<b>Dotted Line Manager:</b>	<b>Regional Director of Operations</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Dar es Salaam</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Full Time</b>
<b>Direct Reports :</b>	<b>Associate Director of Operations, Senior HR Manager, Senior Finance Manager, Senior Procurement Manager, Senior IT Manager, Senior Grants Manager, Senior office &amp; Administration Manager, Field Operations Manager</b>

*\*Must be legally authorized to work in Tanzania*

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is a global leader in the fight against pediatric HIV and AIDS, working in 16 countries and at over 5,000 sites around the world to prevent the transmission of HIV to children, and to help those already infected. Today, because of the highly successful work of the Foundation and its partners, pediatric AIDS has been virtually eliminated in the United States. With a growing global staff of over 3,100 — nine of 10 who work in the field — the Foundation's global mission is to implement prevention, care, and treatment; further advance innovative research; and to execute strategic and targeted global advocacy activities to bring dramatic change to the lives of millions of women, children, and families worldwide.

### Job Summary

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is seeking a Director of Operations to support the attainment of the Foundation's overall goals by providing operational and administrative support to the Tanzania EGPAF program. Reporting to the Country Director, this position oversees the operations department, which is comprised of finance, contracts and grants, IT, human resources, finance and accounting, field operations and administration functions. The Director of Operations is an integral member of EGPAF Tanzania's Senior Leadership Team (Tanzania SLT) and Senior Management Team (Tanzania SMT). S/he will be responsible for enabling a culture of excellence in all operations functions at EGPAF Tanzania. S/he will enhance the efficiency of the operations department by ensuring that optimal operations staffing, processes and infrastructure are in place. The Director of Operations will be responsible for identifying, mitigating and managing risks and enhancing cross-departmental collaborations (including with global office)

### Accounting & Finance

- Oversees the budget development process and develops systems to ensure activities are implemented in line with approved budgets;
- Ensures that all uses of the Foundation's funds are properly prepared, reviewed, approved, and documented, in line with all appropriate policies, procedures, authority levels, and local laws, and ensures that this information is properly entered into the accounting system;
- Oversees the month end accounting closing processes and coordinates the preparation of financial reports, analyzes and interprets financial data, and participates in strategic planning efforts.
- Serves as the country business official with key donors — and makes financial presentations with strategic stakeholders such as USAID, MOH, Other Implementing Partners, etc.
- Ensures that all required donor financial reports are completed and submitted on time

### Sub-Award Management

- Oversees the management of complex sub-recipients (local NGOs, CBOs, FBOs and INGOs and government entities)
- Oversees the implementation of the annual sub-recipient monitoring and support plans
- Implements systems to monitor the operational management, performance and compliance of these sub-recipients;
- Ensures all documentation regarding the management of these agreements is complete and well organized and liaises with the Washington DC office regarding all applicable agreement matters — including the closeout of these agreements.
- Ensures prompt escalation to the Country Director and Washington D.C Office on sub-recipient non-compliance e.g. on potentially disallowed costs, etc.

### Procurement and Logistics

- Supports the project managers to develop procurement plans in line with approved budgets
- Oversees the execution of the procurement plans by the procurement department, ensuring that all procurements are in strict compliance with Foundation and Donor Policies
- Ensures all procurement activities are properly documented and all appropriate prior approvals are obtained;
- Ensures that sound inventory, fleet and property management procedures are in place and being adhered to at all times

### Human Resources

- With the HR Manager, oversees the implementation of the performance management and compensation systems in coordination with International HR;
- Ensures the HR team has up-to-date employee contracts, personnel files, and all other applicable documentation for the HR function;
- Oversees the recruitment process, management of leave, staff development, and training, as well as the regular review of the country's Staff Handbook, job descriptions, and the accurate and timely submission of all HR reports;
- With the senior management, implement and manage a team-building program for country staff, including formal training, personal and professional peer support, mentoring and professional development.
- Ensures an accurate and up-to-date Business Continuity Plan is in place, as well as on-boarding and exiting procedures for all staff;
- Oversees work visa application and renewal processes as applicable.

### Information Technology

- Ensures all appropriate IT equipment and infrastructure is in place, well maintained, safeguarded, and properly functioning with minimal downtime,
- Ensures continuous training for staff on all IT-related systems, policies, and procedures.
- Ensures that the Foundation's back up architecture is adequate and routinely tested

### Administration

- Oversees the general maintenance, security, and use of the Foundation's office premise(s), equipment, and supplies and ensures that appropriate procedures are in place for receiving visitors and external phone calls.

### Audit, Risk and Compliance

- Ensures that a "culture of compliance" is adopted in accordance to all Donor, Foundation, and In-Country policies and procedures (including all applicable local laws) by providing clear guidance to all staff, maintaining up-to-date knowledge of all applicable rules and regulations, and developing and monitoring systems to ensure all activities are implemented and documented in accordance with these policies.

- Takes the lead in preparing for and facilitating the auditing activities of the Foundation's internal auditor, as well as any operational review on behalf of a donor, external auditor, or in-country governmental organization. This position proactively takes the lead in addressing any issues identified
- Protects the interests of the Foundation by ensuring full compliance with statutory requirements in all applicable areas, including health and safety laws, labor and immigration laws, tax laws and other country and local laws and regulations.
- Ensures appropriate registration and certification of the Foundation as required under the NGO act / company act and all other applicable statutory bodies e.g. social security
- Monitors all new and pending laws, regulations, codes of practice and court rulings that could have an impact on the Foundation's operations, advises SMT accordingly, and proactively implements any necessary changes.
- Directs the preparation and submission of legal / statutory / taxation returns and other information required in compliance with legal requirements, including requirements under local tax laws.
- Serves as the primary contact with the Foundation's legal advisors (attorney, labor lawyer, tax advisor etc.), and ensures the Foundation has ready access to, and established partnerships with, competent legal counsel always.
- Proactively notifies the SMT and relevant DC office department of legal risks or challenges such as lawsuits, engages legal advice where necessary, and works collaboratively to resolve such issues in the best interests of the Foundation. Where legal responsibilities are delegated to other staff, closely manages delegated tasks and ensures these are clearly defined and included in work-plans and job descriptions

### Other Responsibilities

- Ensures that Field Operations units are adequately supported, supervised and that compliance standards between the central office and field offices are maintained at the same level
- Spearheads the adoption of the project management initiatives including facilitating capacity building for operations managers on project management for development (PMDPRO) initiatives, customization and roll out of project management tools as RACI Matrix, GANTT Charts and other relevant project management resources
- Influences innovative approaches to Operations management in order to achieve organizational effectiveness. This entails promoting a culture of curiosity, facilitating channels for best practice identification and adoption from within and outside EGPAF, and making strategic decisions on where to allocate/prioritize scarce resources for maximum impact
- Other duties as may be assigned by the Country Director

### Required Qualifications

- A Master's degree in business Management, Operations or any other relevant field is required.
- Professional qualification in Finance or Accounting e.g. CPA, or ACCA is required and 5 years' of post certification experience.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite is required
- Ten years' experience in a Senior Level Finance or Accounting role
- Excellent knowledge of donor regulations including CDC/PEPFAR USAID, Global Fund and other major international donors with different reporting requirements and demands
- Experience managing complex USG projects with annual budgets exceeding USD 20 Million per year
- Demonstrated financial management experience including preparing, managing and monitoring budgets, contracts and negotiations.
- Demonstrated ability to exercise financial and administrative oversight of complex sub-grant programs.
- Proven leadership capabilities and solid experience managing, mentoring and developing staff.
- Experience in developing and managing the implementation of procurement and logistics policies and procedures.
- Solid experience managing operations teams in dispersed geographic settings
- Experience working and collaborating with HQ and Regional based support teams
- Proven excellent technical, analytical and diplomatic skills with clear experience in the provision of advice and support to local government e.g. MOH and other stakeholders, as well as to the Executive /Senior Leadership Team in large international organizations
- Working knowledge of project management principles and tools will be an added advantage
- Understanding of and experience in HIV/AIDS management is an added advantage
- Good understanding of and experience in the international development sector.
- Ability to perform and prioritize multiple tasks.

### Competencies

The Foundation expects all employees to possess the fundamental competencies of interpersonal skills, communication, accountability, continual learning, and driving results. The ideal candidate will be either proficient or advanced in the following set of competencies, specific to this position's level of Director:

- Collaboration** — Develops networks and builds alliances; collaborates across boundaries to build strategic relationships and achieve common goals.
- Creativity/Innovation** — Develops new insights into situations; questions conventional approaches; encourages new ideas and innovations; designs and implements new or cutting edge programs/processes.
- Influencing/Negotiation** — Persuades others; builds consensus through give and take; gains cooperation from others to obtain information and accomplish goals.

### HOW TO APPLY

- EGPAF is an equal opportunities employer and the position is open to all. Qualified candidates should submit a CV, cover letter and relevant certificates explaining how the experience detailed in the CV will contribute to the requirements of the position and references to EGPAF.

### Submissions to be sent to:

**Senior Human Resource Manager,  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation,  
P.O. BOX 1628,  
395 Ursino Park, Mwai Kibaki Road, Morocco.  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.  
Or e-mail: [recruitment.tanzania@pedaids.org](mailto:recruitment.tanzania@pedaids.org)**

**Closing date: March 30th 2020**

**Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

The Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) provides equal employment opportunities to all applicants for employment without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, disability, or genetics. EGPAF complies with all applicable laws governing non-discrimination in employment in every location in which the Foundation works. EGPAF does not charge any fees at any stage of the recruitment process. If you are asked to pay a fee at any stage of this recruitment, please report to [fraud@pedaids.org](mailto:fraud@pedaids.org)

## 250 left homeless as floodwaters hit Kilombero village

By Guardian Reporter

FOLLOWING heavy rains and floods that left over 250 households homeless at Msolwa Stesheni ward in Nyange village, Kilombero district, the disaster management committee has been tasked to conduct evaluation on how the calamity has destroyed people's properties and infrastructures.

The other affected wards are Mbanane and Kichangani where nearly 350 people have been displaced due to countrywide ongoing 'Masika' rains.

Director of disaster management department in the Prime Minister's Office, Colonel Jimmy Matamwe gave the directive shortly after he inspected the houses in Kilombero district. He insisted that conducting evaluations earlier would provide enough time for the government to resolve on rescue measures.

"As per Section 7 of the Disaster Management Act, 2015, committees for disaster management from village to national level are responsible of finding alternative resources for management of disasters at specific areas. The committee is entitled to coordinate all disaster management activities including evaluation exercise which will give us a picture of how bad the rains have destructed properties as well as other

infrastructures", said Colonel Matamwe.

Earlier, Kilombero district commissioner James Ihunyo said the committee has until March 20th 2020 managed to rescue 350 people who have been provided with temporary alternative shelters at Nyange secondary school.

"We are grateful to the government for providing us with support throughout the time, we also appreciate the guidance and advices we received from the Prime Minister's Office Disaster Management Department on how to handle flood victims. The various items you have donated here today blankets in particular will help people currently sheltering at schools", said the district commissioner.

Ihuyo noted that among the flood victims, 172 are male, 178 females and 30 children.

In its weather forecast for March-May Masika rains in February, the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) showed the likelihood of normal to above-normal rains in most parts of the country which may impact the livelihoods.

The meteorologist mentioned some of the regions which are likely to receive the rains starting today as Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Iringa, Njombe, Tanga, Morogoro, Coast, Unguja and Pemba Islands.

## Heifer International Tz gives goat, cow breeds to farmers in Longido

By Guardian Correspondent,

Longido

HEIFER International Tanzania has donated quality dairy breeds to farmers in Longido District, Arusha Region as part of efforts to combat hunger as well as poverty eradication.

Speaking during a function to handover the goat breeds to the Maasai villagers, Heifer International Tanzania Coordinator Dr Kapela Lazaro said the organisation has so far donated a total of 1,280 goats in Longido district.

According to Dr Lazaro, they have also provided 70 cow breeds and 2,560 local chickens to boost poultry business. He said they also support villagers to establish beekeeping projects whereas the organization provided 50 bee hives worth 514,108/-.

"We offer the dairy breeds through a specific arrangement where farmers are required to form groups. When the goats reproduce they are given to other group members until they all have the quality breeds. We have 64 groups of dairy framers in Longido district and each have been given the hybrid goat breeds", said Dr Lazaro adding the new breeds can produce enough meat and milk compare to local breeds that farmers have been keeping for years.

He added that the organization has been assisting farmers through trainings on how to keep the domestic animals as well as extension services and cleaning of cattle dips.

He however noted that despite the progress,

farmers face various challenges including lack of proper knowledge to keep the animals and lack of experts to train them.

Farmers have failed to achieve their production targets due to diseases since most of them do not how to control them.

District commissioner for Longido Frank Mwaisumbe (pictured) said the problem becomes bigger because the area had limited number of extension officers as most of them prefer working in urban areas.

The DC used the opportunity to call upon the extension officers to train the farmers on how to keep the donated hybrid dairy breeds so they reproduce and divided them to other farmers. He was optimistic that livestock keeping would help villagers to improve their livelihoods and contribute to the country's economic growth.

The distribution of the seeds is an implementation of Hifer International, based in New York, United in collaboration with the Belgium fund for Security.

The company has since 2015 offered seeds to various countries including Tanzania through 'maisha bora' programme.





THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION  
**TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY**



COMMEMORATING THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY (WMD) ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2020



HON. ENG. ISACK ALOYCE KAMWELWE (MP)  
MINISTER FOR WORKS, TRANSPORT AND  
COMMUNICATION,



Dkt. Agnes L. Kijazi,  
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY (TMA)

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, TRANSPORT  
AND COMMUNICATION, HONOURABLE ENG. ISACK  
ALOYCE KAMWELWE (MP), ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY, 23 MARCH, 2020**

Today the Meteorological Community all over the world commemorates the World Meteorological Day (WMD). On this day the world commemorates the entry into force of the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 23rd March 1950. Tanzania as a member of the WMO thus joins other 192 Member States and the worldwide meteorological community to celebrate the World Meteorological Day. This day also highlights the significant contribution that National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) such as Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) make to the wellbeing of our society; human safety and protection of properties through early warnings of expected hazardous weather and climate conditions.

It has become a tradition for the World Meteorological Day to focus its annual celebration around a relevant theme. This year's theme is "Climate and Water" which aligns with the theme of the world water day 2020, that focuses on climate change and water. The theme echo the important role that, climate plays in the distribution of water in space and time, and the quality of water required by most sectors of the economy, including Agriculture, Energy, Livestock, and Fisheries development. In the context of climate change and its associated links with water, climate change induces extreme weather events, hence the increased variability in the water circle, and reduced predictability of water availability and quality.

In that context, The United Republic of Tanzania, like other WMO Member States is obliged to monitor the climate system and issue weather and climate forecasts to safeguard sustainability of water resources in support of National economic development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 7 (Climate Action) and biodiversity. Tanzania continues to fulfill her obligations including strengthening institutional capacity of the country in monitoring the climate and provision of early warning information that is required for National, Regional and International use by all sectors including the water sector. In the year 2019 the Government transformed the Tanzania Meteorological Agency into an Authority through the Tanzania Meteorological Authority Act No. 2 of 2019. The legislation enable the newly established Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) to carry out its National, Regional and International responsibilities and address the climate services challenge that the community is facing, particularly the climate change. The new Act mandates the Authority to regulate meteorological services and recover cost for the services provided for commercial use. Furthermore, the Authority is expected to improve the provision of weather and climate services in the country. Thus, the Act ensures the representation, participation, behavioral change and accountability of all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society.

In order to ensure that TMA carries out its mandate effectively for the benefit of the socio-economic wellbeing of the nation, the Government continues to build the capacity of TMA to enhance weather forecasting, monitor climate for further evidence of climate change and variability. This information is of paramount importance for decision making and adaptation strategies. Information products and services based on climate prediction strengthens our ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change as well as to pursue sustainable development thus making us better prepared to face water related disasters such as floods and droughts. The Good example of the impact of flooding is recent disruption of road infrastructure including bridges along Dodoma – Morogoro road and also part of TAZARA and Central Railway Line wash-away. The services provided therefore help users to better plan their activities, which include planning for urban water services, agriculture, livestock keeping, fisheries development, energy generation, construction of transport infrastructure such as road, railway and bridges; and Disaster Risk Reduction among other sectors.

In enhancing climate services in the country, the Government continues to support TMA to improve the National observation network in order to improve availability of weather and climate data and accuracy of forecasts. The Government continues to enhance the capacity of TMA to monitor and forecast weather and climate for national informed decision-making in various socio-economic sectors. The investment of the Government on weather monitoring and forecasting includes three modern weather Radar and other weather and climate monitoring systems. The Radars have been procured and will be installed in Mtwara, Mbeya and Kigoma regions by the end of 2020.

Furthermore, considering the advancement of technology and its need in the science of meteorology, the Government commends TMA for embracing innovation and application of technology in improving its services. In recognizing the efforts made by the Government led by His Excellence President of the United Republic of Tanzania Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli that has led to significant improvement in quality of services that TMA is providing, we need to utilize the meteorological services issued by TMA and work together for future improvements. Further noting the increasing demand of climate services, as well as the challenges of climate change that needs to be addressed, the Government will continue to invest so as to improve hydrometeorological data and services, through capacity development in both human and infrastructure as well as to encourage knowledge sharing across sectors working on Weather and Water for further improvement of the livelihood of our people.

Taking note of the significant improvement of weather and climate services such as the level of accuracy of TMA weather and climate predictions and information, we have more confidence in using the services across all sectors in planning and execution of national projects such as road construction, hydropower development and operations, Agriculture and Water just to mention a few. The public are the witnesses to the forecasts issued by TMA that have greatly improved to the extent that the community is benefiting a lot from these services and products. The government wishes to further direct TMA to continue to work even harder to improve climate services to ensure that the needs of the general public and all stakeholders are well met and addressed. Particularly, focus should be given to the climate change risk assessment in the context of the National industrial development.

In celebrating this year's World Meteorological Day, I call upon all climate sensitive sectors and other stakeholders whose activities are affected by or benefits from climate, to engage in understanding climate information for social and economic development of the Country. I encourage everyone to effectively use the climate services provided by TMA for planning and decision making so as to make a vital contribution to the safety and well being of this Nation. Climate sensitive sectors should make use of climate services provided by TMA to plan for Urban Water Supply and Sewerage services, energy production especially Hydro-Electric Power Generation, Agriculture, and Livestock for efficiency in these sectors among others. Furthermore, I would like to urge all stakeholders of climate services to continue working together and support TMA to further improve the provision and uptake of weather and climate services in the Country.

I wish you joyous and fruitful celebrations in commemorating this year's World Meteorological Day.  
"Climate and Water"

World Meteorological Day-2020

Let us always be "Weather-Ready and Climate-Smart"

**STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TANZANIA  
METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY (TMA) AND THE THIRD VICE  
PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION  
(WMO), DR. AGNES KIJAZI ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL DAY, 23 MARCH, 2020**

Today is the World Meteorological Day (WMD). It is the day that the entire Meteorological Community all over the world commemorates the entry into force of the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), on 23rd March 1950. Traditionally, the World Meteorological Day is normally commemorated at National level under coordination of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of respective WMO Member States. The NMHSs which are designated National Authorities to provide weather and climate services in respective countries, use this day to showcase the weather and climate services they provide to the society which are key in safeguarding human lives and protection of properties for sustainable development.

Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) is the Government Authority established in 2019 by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority Act No. 2 of 2019 before then TMA was semi autonomous Agency. Tanzania Meteorological Authority is a designated National Meteorological Authority under the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication. The Authority is entrusted with the task of providing and regulating weather and climate services in the United Republic of Tanzania. TMA being among 192 National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) affiliated to WMO is joining the global community to celebrate the World Meteorological Day.

In order to emphasize the importance of climate information in planning and decision making of socio-economic activities, the celebration of WMD focuses around a relevant theme. This year's theme is "Climate and Water". This theme aligns with the theme of the world water day 2020, which focuses on climate change and water. This theme highlights the fact that, climate plays a central role in spatial and temporal distribution and quality of water required by all socio-economic sectors. Furthermore, it is worth highlighting that, in the United Nations (UN) circles, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) have been mandated to conduct systematic observations of meteorological and hydrological elements and make analyses to provide the national climatic and hydrological indicators/indices for UN Climate Change related decisions during meetings such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (UNFCCC-COP).

Water in its various forms is always on the move, in a complex process known as the water cycle. The process involves movement of water through the land, ocean, atmosphere and all its associated features. Global warming that is attributed to climate change has directly affected this patterns be in form of atmospheric and Ocean circulation patterns and stream flow patterns, which are all related to the water cycle. The climate change has already had a measurable effect on the water cycle, that include altering the amount, distribution, timing, and quality of available water. Water users ranging from communities, industries and ecosystems are in turn affected by climate change as their activities and functions depend either directly or indirect on water.

With climate change, the water cycle has undergone significant change. For example, a warmer climate causes more water to evaporate from oceans, lakes, soil and plants; in turn, a warmer atmosphere can hold more water vapor roughly four percent more water for every 1°C rise in temperature causing more intense rainstorms.

These changes in temperature have led to specific, and in many cases negative, consequences. Some parts of the world are getting increased precipitation and runoff, leading to increased flooding whereas other parts are getting less precipitation leading to increased frequency and intensity of droughts. Further rise in temperatures increases evaporation and causes soils to further dry out and harden. As it rains on drier and hard soils, much of the water runs off the hard ground into rivers and streams, while the soil remains dry. The result is more evaporation from the soil and an increased risk of drought declining water availability and quality. The effects of warmer air temperature, for example, will generally cause rise of water temperature in streams, lakes, and reservoirs. This tends to lower levels of dissolved oxygen in water, hence more stress on the fish and other aquatic animals that rely on oxygen. As more and more intense precipitation leads to increased runoff in certain regions, we can also expect more pollution to be washed into our waterways. Naturally, the pollution load in streams and rivers will tend to be carried to larger bodies of water downstream lakes and the coastal ocean where one of the more dramatic consequences of heavy runoff can be bloom of harmful algae and bacteria. These contaminants make it more expensive to clean the water to drinking standards, particularly due to increasing concentrations of sediments and contaminants after heavy precipitation. These conditions could have implications for the fishing industry as well.

Furthermore, one of the direct effects of climate change is the anticipated rise in sea level worldwide. This occurs for two main reasons: Firstly, the expansions of the ocean as it warms, and secondly, the increased melt from ice sheets, ice caps and glaciers. Along with alarming threats to coastal communities, infrastructure, economies and ecosystems, this rise has implications for available freshwater, as rising sea levels drive saltwater into freshwater aquifers. To be useful for drinking or irrigating, more water from our aquifers, then, would need to be treated, usually by energy-intensive processes. Given the wide range of human activities that depend directly or indirectly on water, future climate-driven changes in water resources will affect many aspects of our lives. It is evident that climate plays a fundamental role in the distribution of water in space and time, as well as the water quality required for socio-economic activities and sustainable development of the nation.

For the part of our country, we may recall, the severe weather events that occurred in 2019. The March to May 2019 season was characterized by late onset and false starts. The month of May was the wettest month of the March to May 2019 season. The October to December 2019 seasonal rains (Vuli rains) started early as predicted and the season was very wet particularly in the months of October and December 2019.

Among other events, occurrence of tropical cyclones such as Tropical Cyclone Idai and Kenneth in 2019 reminds us of the severity of impacts that can be brought by climate variability and change. For the case of 2020, the ongoing Maska season is associated with increased frequency of extreme wet events and We have witnessed flooding in various parts of the country including the recent devastating flood in Lindi region. All these may be associated with climate change, hence the importance of this year's World Meteorological Day theme that link climate with water.

In view of climate projections, frequency and severity of climate and weather-related risks and disasters is likely to increase impacting key sectors such as water, energy, transportation and agriculture.

Despite the observed changes in the climate system and its impacts on the water cycle, including water availability and quality, adequate knowledge about the climate, including rainfall climatology, trends and projections could help climate sensitive sectors to plan their activities and projects accordingly. Reliable meteorological information and informed application are therefore crucial for various economic sectors.

In ensuring availability, accessibility and applicability of climate services for planning of water related socio-economic activities and attain sustainable development, there are various initiatives by the meteorological community from global to National level to enhance climate services. At global level, The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) through Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) is leading international efforts to enhance the quality, quantity and application of climate information and products in support of socio-economic planning and decision-making. Water sector is one of the focus areas for Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). In sustaining the global initiatives at country level, TMA is implementing the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS), which has the objective of enhancing climate services for decision making such as allocation of water resources among competing water uses and other vulnerable sectors.

In responding to user needs as well as implementing the NFCS, TMA makes systematic weather observations and monitoring of weather and climate parameters. The products resulting from the analyses of the observed parameters are interpreted and used for decision-making in various climate sensitive socio-economic sectors. TMA conducts observations through the network of weather observation available all over the country, including ground, marine, and upper air observation stations. Precipitation measurements for instance are essential for decision-makers in the water, agriculture, livestock, construction and energy industry.

Furthermore, TMA issues weather forecasts to aid planning of socio-economic activities. Weather forecasts provided by TMA include daily weather forecasts (24-hours forecasts), five days forecast, dekadal (10 days) forecasts, monthly forecasts, seasonal forecasts and severe weather warnings and alerts. The weather forecasts are for the general public and sector-specific including the water sector; energy sector; agriculture sector (crop, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors); construction industry; tourism sector; health sector; and Disaster Risk Reduction among others.

Climate information and products provided by the Authority including forecasts are disseminated through various channels such as TMA website (www.meteo.go.tz), radios, televisions, social media (facebook, twitter, WhatsApp and Youtube), newspapers and mobile phone based system (FarmSMS).

TMA has made several achievements in implementing its strategic plan, including maintenance of the Quality Management System (QMS) and its subsequent ISO Certification (ISO 9001:2015) for service provision to the aviation sector, which has been sustained for the past 10 years. The Authority participated in managing its regional and international obligations in weather and climate services. TMA has also achieved significant improvement in the area of dissemination of weather and climate forecasts, advisories and Warnings to a wider community base. 30% increase in the number of community radio subscription to air weather forecasts. In 2019 TMA also launched a quarterly Weather Newsletter to provide information related to weather and climate to stakeholders and public at large.

In the area of equipment, TMA continues to replace mercury to non-mercury based instruments in all its meteorological observing stations all over the country inline with Minamata convention, which burns use of mercury by the end of this year. To ensure that the TMA stays focused in addressing issues of climate change, research papers related to weather and climate change are being published in international peer reviewed research journals.

In celebrating this year's World Meteorological Day, I call upon all climate stakeholders from all climate sensitive sectors, to engage in understanding and effectively use weather and climate information and services issued by TMA, including rainfall climatological data and analyses, for planning their socio-economic activities for sustainable development of our country. I also urge all stakeholders to join us in implementing the National Framework for Climate Services in order to enhance climate services thus reduce the climate risks for the vulnerable communities and sectors.

Finally, I wish everyone in Tanzania delightful celebrations in commemorating the 2020 World Meteorological Day with a theme "Climate and Water"

# The Guardian

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MONDAY 23 MARCH 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Why has end of TB long seemed so near but yet it remains far off?

WORLD Tuberculosis Day, observed on March 24 each year, is mainly meant to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. In 2012, 8.6 million people fell ill with TB, and 1.3 million died from the disease, mostly in the Third World.

World TB Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organisation (WHO), along with World Health Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Immunisation Week, World Malaria Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Hepatitis Day and World AIDS Day.

March 24 commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch astounded the scientific community by announcing to a small group of scientists at the University of Berlin's Institute of Hygiene that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. According to Koch's colleague, Paul Ehrlich, "At this memorable session, Koch appeared before the public with an announcement which marked a turning-point in the story of a virulent human infectious disease. In clear, simple words Koch explained the aetiology of tuberculosis with convincing force, presenting many of his microscope slides and other pieces of evidence." At the time of Koch's announcement in Berlin, TB was raging through Europe and the Americas, causing the death of one out of every seven people. Koch's discovery opened the way toward diagnosing and curing tuberculosis.

In 1982, on the one-hundredth anniversary of Robert Koch's presentation, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) proposed that 24 March be proclaimed an official World TB Day.

This was part of a year-long centennial effort by the IUATLD and the World Health Organisation under the theme "Defeat TB: Now and Forever." World TB Day was not officially recognised as an annual occurrence by WHO's World Health Assembly and the United Nations until over a decade later.

Fewer people fell ill and died from tuberculosis (TB) last year but countries are still not doing enough to end TB by 2030, warns the World Health Organization (WHO). Although global efforts have averted an estimated 54 million TB deaths since 2000, TB remains the world's deadliest infectious disease.

WHO's 2018 Global TB Report, released in New York today, calls for an unprecedented mobilization of national and international commitments. It urges political leaders gathering next week for the first-ever United Nations High-level Meeting on TB to take decisive action, building on recent moves by the leaders of India, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, and South Africa. To meet the global target of ending TB by 2030, countries need to urgently accelerate their response - including by increasing domestic and international funding to fight the disease. The WHO report provides an overview of status of the epidemic and the challenges and opportunities countries face in responding to it.

Former US President Bill Clinton marked World TB Day 2000 by administering the WHO-recommended Directly Observed Therapy, Short-Course (DOTS) treatment to patients at the Mahavir Hospital in Hyderabad, India. According to Clinton, "These are human tragedies, economic calamities, and far more than crises for you, they are crises for the world. The spread of disease is the one global problem for which... no nation is immune."

## Celebration of international day for right to truth must make more sense

HUMAN rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.

International human rights law lays down the obligations of governments to act in certain ways or to refrain from certain acts, in order to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals or groups.

One of the great achievements of the United Nations is the creation of a comprehensive body of human rights law—a universal and internationally protected code to which all nations can subscribe and all people aspire. The United Nations has defined a broad range of internationally accepted rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. It has also established mechanisms to promote and protect these rights and to assist states in carrying out their responsibilities.

On 21 December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 24 as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.

The date was chosen because on 24 March 1980, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero of El Salvador was assassinated, after denouncing violations of human rights.

In a study conducted in 2006 the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights concluded that the right to the truth about gross human rights violations and serious violations of human rights law is an inalienable and autonomous right, linked to the duty and obligation of the state to protect and guarantee human rights,

to conduct effective investigations and to guarantee effective remedy and reparations.

The study affirms that the right to the truth implies knowing the full and complete truth as to the events that transpired, their specific circumstances, and who participated in them, including knowing the circumstances in which the violations took place, as well as the reasons for them.

The Commission on the Truth for El Salvador was established in accordance with the Mexico Agreements of 27 April 1991 to investigate serious acts of violence that had occurred since 1980 and whose impact on society was deemed to require an urgent public knowledge of the truth. In its report of 15 March 1993, the Commission documented the facts of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero by pro-government forces, the so-called 'death squads'. He was shot dead by an assassin as he celebrated mass on 24 March 1980.

In the same vein, the United Nations Human Rights Council in October 2011 at its meeting in Geneva completed a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the human rights situation in Tanzania. At this UPR, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and several countries addressed various problems in Tanzania.

National reviews and assessments of equality between men and women have identified a range of challenges which continue to prevail. These include the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women; inequalities in arrangements for productive activities and in access to resources; inequalities in the sharing of power and decision-making; lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women; and inequalities in managing natural resources and safeguarding the environment.

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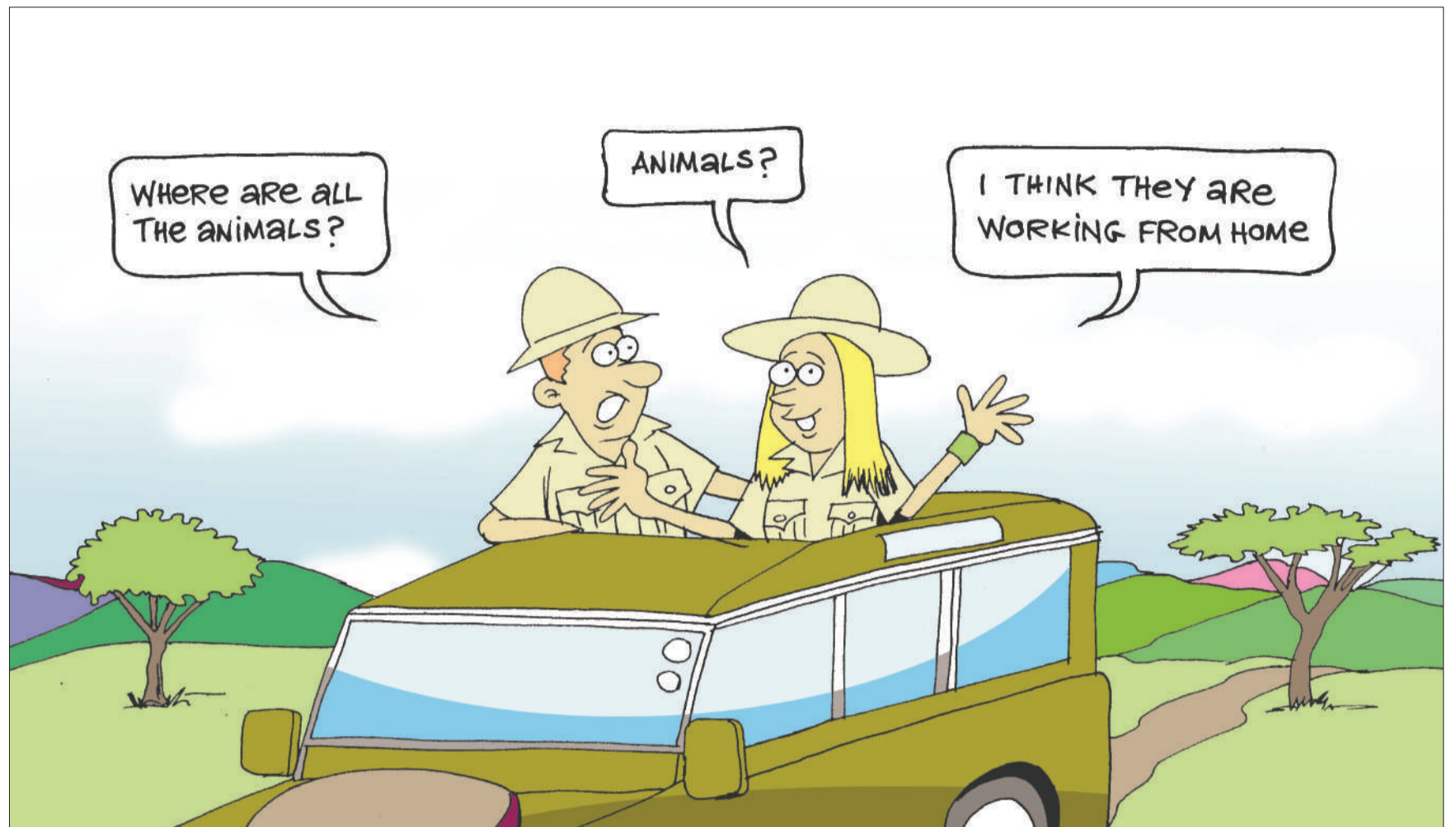
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## Cyril Ramaphosa should revive SA's human rights agenda

By Dewa Mavhinga

IN the face of growing inequality, high unemployment and corruption, many South Africans are unable to realise their rights, or to live with dignity. Extreme poverty restricts access to already inadequate education and health services, while the country remains divided by racial tensions and plagued by perennial waves of xenophobic violence.

This month South Africa celebrates its progressive Constitution which reaffirms fundamental rights and freedoms in its Bill of Rights, and reflects on past injustices under the apartheid system.

South Africa's Human Rights Day on 21 March commemorates the events of Sharpeville in 1960, when the apartheid police fired on and killed 69 people in a peaceful crowd protesting oppressive "pass" laws - which restricted the movement of black people in urban areas. Human rights, enshrined in the Bill of Rights in the 1996 Constitution, are an important means of protection for everyone, especially those made vulnerable by poverty, abuse, and neglect.

After the first democratic elections in 1994, when Nelson Mandela became president, South Africa signed on to several regional and international treaties demonstrating its commitment to embrace shared values of human

rights and dignity for everyone. The government took on the responsibility to protect, promote, and fulfil the rights contained in the constitutional Bill of Rights and under international law.

But the reality is that today, in the face of growing inequality, high unemployment, and corruption, many South Africans are unable to realise their rights, or to live with dignity. Extreme poverty restricts access to already inadequate education and health services, while the country remains divided by racial tensions and plagued by perennial waves of xenophobic violence.

South Africa has taken important regional and global leadership positions and is currently in its second year as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council as the nominee of both the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU). Regionally, South Africa is chair of the African Union for 2020. The question is whether South Africa is leveraging these leadership positions for respect for human rights across Africa.

South Africa has had an inconsistent approach to human rights abuses on the continent. The country may have started off well in 1994 with a vibrant human rights agenda when Mandela declared that "human rights will be the light that guides our foreign policy".

But as another Human Rights Day rolls in, it is a good time for President Cyril Ramaphosa to press the reset button on its domestic and international relations and return the country to the moral high ground that Mandela set for it as a global leader and beacon for human rights in Africa. Ramaphosa should make a public pledge to set out an action plan to protect and promote human rights to address current human rights issues plaguing the country.

Ramaphosa's administration should prioritise enacting measures to help end endemic violence against women, including by improving systems for women to report violence without fear of retribution and by enhancing the capacity and quality of investigations and prosecutions. Last year South Africa was rocked by nationwide protests following a number of killings of women and increased cases of gender-based violence. Protesters called for declaring a national emergency and expressed anger over the government's failure to protect women.

Since at least 2007, South Africa has experienced perennial waves of violence against foreign nationals, mostly from other African countries. In early 2019, the government created a National Action Plan to combat xenophobia, racism, and discrimination, an important step toward addressing the widespread human rights abuses arising from these attacks. But a lot

still needs to be done to end xenophobic violence and discrimination against foreign nationals, including holding those responsible for violent attacks to account in fair, credible trials and by sanctioning public officials who propagate inciting rhetoric against foreign nationals.

Another pressing human rights issue is lack of access to free and inclusive education for children with disabilities. Ramaphosa has acknowledged that South Africa has "not achieved nearly enough" regarding the rights of people with disabilities. Education in South Africa is not yet free for the majority of children with disabilities. South Africa's laws do not automatically guarantee the right to free education. But most children who attend public schools do not pay school fees, while most children with disabilities attending mainstream schools are charged additional fees that children without disabilities do not have to pay.

A pledge and action plan to revive South Africa's human rights agenda in its foreign policy should start with addressing the serious human rights issues at home. Only then would a human rights-centred approach to international relations help improve South Africa's regional and international standing. This would be a fitting tribute to the legacy of Nelson Mandela.

## ... It has to move away from the liberation mode of politics

By Imraan Buccus

THERE needs to be a realignment within the ANC to break the paralysis that has manifested from the 'broad church' composition of its liberation era. The realignment should extend beyond the ANC where party politics is organised along ideological lines.

India won its independence in 1947. Ghana won its independence in 1957. Algeria followed in 1962. Freedom came later to the settler colonies in southern Africa. Mozambique won its end to colonial rule in 1975 and in Zimbabwe, independence finally came in 1980.

South Africa was an outlier, finally winning an end to apartheid in 1994. In countries like India, Ghana and Algeria, the political movements that led the struggle for independence lost their sheen, and their hold on state power, many years ago.

But in southern Africa, where independence came later, ZanuPF still rules Zimbabwe, Frelimo still rules Mozambique and the MPLA still rules Angola. In all these countries, the ruling party continues to be perceived as the movement that led the fight for freedom, and some people continue to view other parties with deep suspicion. This means that in these countries, the ruling parties' claim to represent the people rests on a claim about history, a claim that is sometimes given more weight than

(sometimes rigged), elections, and their pitiful performance in government.

In South Africa, we are in a similar situation. It would seem that the ANC has failed, sometimes spectacularly, to run an effective state and inequality, as well as poverty, are both getting worse. Crime is at devastating levels and state schools, and hospitals are often a disaster. The kleptocratic element in the party does not even try to hide its predatory relation to society. It assumes that the association between the ANC and the struggle for freedom is so deep that people will continue to vote for the ANC despite the massacre at Marikana, rampant looting and the collapse of much of the state.

When the moral crisis in the ANC reached its apogee during Jacob Zuma's disastrous rule, there was no credible alternative for the electorate to turn to. The solution to the moral crisis in the ANC was perceived to be a return to what were held up as the "true" and "original" values of the ANC.

Today, the ANC is locked into paralysis - a paralysis that is rapidly dragging the economy and country down. It is true that part of that paralysis is due to the fact that Cyril Ramaphosa is a weak leader, a leader who will probably go down in history as a failed president.

But that is not the whole story. The paralysis in the ANC is also due, to a large extent, to the fact that the party continues to be a "broad church", including authoritarian nationalists committed

to kleptocracy, neoliberals like Tito Mboweni and the remains of the party's left huddled together in the South African Communist Party (SACP), and Cosatu.

Ramaphosa's own inclinations are neoliberal, but he can't continue to rule without the left, or the kleptocrats with the result that there is a permanent political stalemate, accompanied by permanent policy paralysis. This logjam will not be broken by furious opinion pieces, or the media turning, as it has, against Ramaphosa.

The only way to break the stalemate is to realign our politics in a way that moves it away from the national liberation mode and organises party politics along ideological lines. There should be three main parties contesting elections.

On the right, there should be a neoliberal party. This should be the natural home of ANC figures like Mboweni and Ramaphosa, along with people like Herman Mashaba and Mmusi Maimane, and those DA members and voters who reject the party's dramatic turn to the right following its capture by the Institute for Race Relations.

As much as we may loathe the kleptocrats, and their authoritarian nationalism, which sometimes leans towards fascism in certain cases, it makes no sense for one faction of the kleptocrats to be located in the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), and the other to be located in the ANC. The faction of the ANC that used to be led by Zuma, and which is now

led by Ace Magashule, should join the EFF. The left in the ANC needs to make common cause with the left outside of the ruling party. This means that the left that remains in Cosatu and the SACP, needs to link up with the left in Saftu, and Abahlali baseMjondolo, the shack dwellers' movement. A united left would easily be able to draw in progressive intellectuals located in universities and NGOs.

Of course, not all voters and politicians would be comfortable in this arrangement. There would continue to be some smaller and largely irrelevant parties. The DA's right-wing politicians and voters should make common cause with the Vryheidsfront Plus. But there is no prospect of such an alliance doing anything other than shrieking from the margins of society.

If we had a neoliberal party, a left party and a party of kleptocrats, voters would have a clear set of choices, and parties could act decisively along clear ideological lines. Of course, it is true that given our proportional representation system we would be governed by coalitions, which raises all kinds of problems of its own. But, at least each party could pursue its objectives in a straightforward way.

If this realignment does not happen, the ANC will continue to rule while simultaneously continuing to be unable to rule effectively. We will remain in a state of paralysis, while our economy declines, the middle classes flee and the suffering of the poor worsens.



# Chinese data reveals: 81 per cent of COVID-19 patients only develop mild symptoms like cough

BEIJING

**M**ORE than 80 per cent of coronavirus patients only get mild symptoms, like a cough and fever, and most recover quickly from their infections, Chinese data reveals

- Data published by the Chinese CDC suggest that 81 per cent of COVID-19 patients only develop mild symptoms like cough, fever and aches

- Coronavirus became severe in 15 percent of cases and critical in five percent

- On the whole, 2.3 percent of infected people died and most were over age 80

- In the US, however, 20% of hospitalized patients are between ages 20 and 44

- More than 255,000 people have been infected worldwide, including more than 14,000 in the US

- Coronavirus symptoms: what are they and should you see a doctor?

Most people who catch coronavirus will only get mild symptoms and recover, recent data from China suggests.

Researchers there found that more than 80 percent of people diagnosed with the disease sweeping the globe only developed fever, cough and some aches and pains

It's cause for some optimism as deaths in the US surpass 200 and the case count creeps toward 15,000.

In China, 87 percent of more than 80,000 people sickened have recovered from COVID-19, and some studies suggest people become 'low risk' for the

transmitting virus within just 10 days of starting to feel sick.

But the Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) team warns the high rate of people with only mild or no symptoms might mean that many simply aren't getting diagnosed.

New infection rates in China surged last month (pictured) but more than 80 percent of people who caught coronavirus only developed mild symptoms, data from its CDC show

More than 14,000 people in the US have coronavirus and more than 200 have died, but the Chinese data suggests that the vast majority of patients will only have mild symptoms

At the peak of China's outbreak, nearly 4,000 people were diagnosed with coronavirus in a single day (red). In the US, where infections began later, nearly 5,000 new cases were diagnosed Thursday (blue)

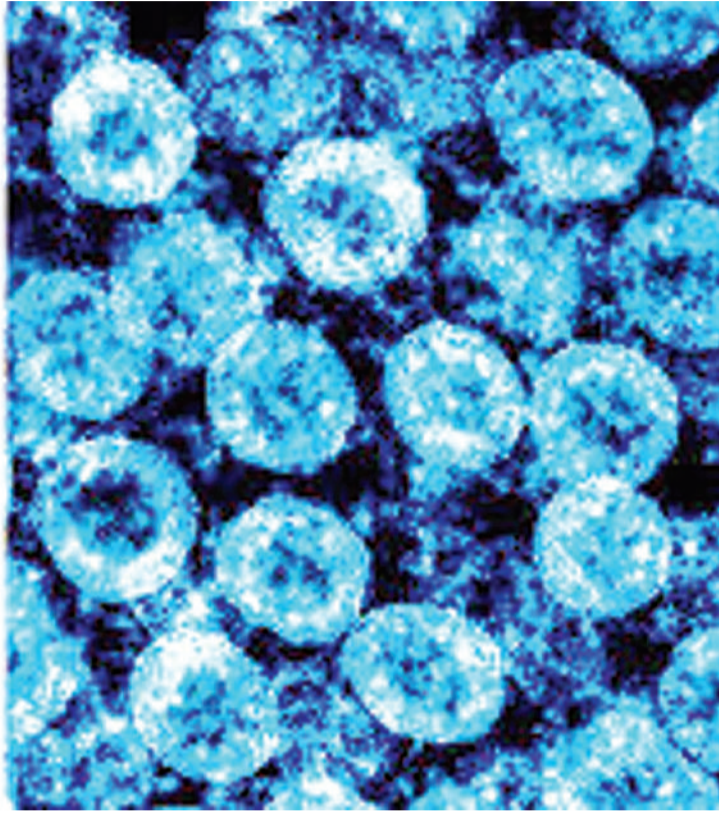
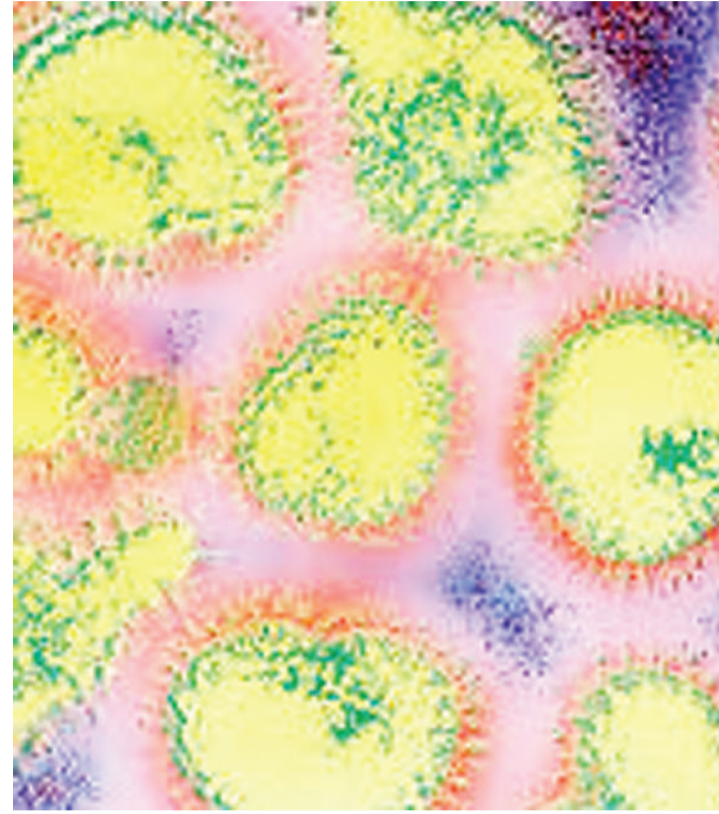
Global health experts are cautiously hopeful that China, where COVID-19 first emerged, has passed the peak of its suffering from the pandemic.

Nearly 81,000 people there have been infected with coronavirus since the outbreak began there in December.

But Thursday, China reported no new cases of the disease from local transmission (although officials there are now concerned that travelers coming into the country may spread the infection new).

Reaching this encouraging point has come at a great cost to the country of more than 1.4 billion people.

More than 3,200 people have died, and at the peak of the



outbreak 3,892 new infections were reported in a single day.

New cases in the US - which has a fraction of China's population, at some 330 million - yesterday reached 4,940 in a single 24-hour period, far outpacing the height of China's outbreak.

But the death rate remains low, relatively speaking, and Chinese CDC's data, published last month, suggests that most people will not develop life-threatening illness.

The researchers analyzed data on 44,672 confirmed coronavirus patients.

Of those, the vast majority - 87 per cent - were between ages 30 and 79, three percent were over 80, eight percent were in their 20s and children and

teenagers accounted for one percent of cases each. Across all of those age groups 2.3 percent died, five percent became critically ill - meaning their condition was life-threatening - and 14 percent became severely ill - meaning they developed pneumonia, dangerous form of lung inflammation.

But 81 percent only ever developed mild symptoms.

Coronavirus is not to be dismissed as no worse than a cold or flu, but at its mildest, its symptoms are comparable.

'Mild infection starts normally with a fever, although it may take a couple of days to get a fever,' explained Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, of the World Health Organization's Health Emergencies Program during a March 9 press briefing.

'You will have some respiratory

symptoms; you have some aches and pains. You'll have a dry cough. This is what the majority of individuals will have.'

Celebrities like Tom Hanks and Kevin Durant have contracted the virus, but report feeling fairly well in spite of their infections.

American celebrities diagnosed with coronavirus, including Kevin Durant (left) and Tom Hanks (right) have tested positive for coronavirus but have had only mild symptoms so far

And nearly 90 percent of patients in China have recovered from the infection. Attempts to estimate how long the virus lasts in the body and how quickly people recover have returned mixed results.

German scientists suggested that people were at 'low risk' of transmitting the virus within just 10 days of

falling ill.

But a Chinese study found that those who were critically ill still had virus living in their respiratory tracts an average of 24 days after they were diagnosed, and the infection persisted in one patient's body for 37 days.

Still, this applies to the sickest patient, suggesting that the majority of patients, who only have mild symptoms, may get better much faster.

Coronavirus is a respiratory infection, entering most likely through the nose, and perhaps through the mouth and eyes as well.

It attacks the upper respiratory tract - the nose, throat and cells that line the upper portion of the lungs - first.

Many people first feel the infection at the back of their throats, as it triggers a dry cough, then shortness of breath from the virus's attacks on their lungs.

Fever and aches come on as the body's immune system mounts a defense against the pathogen.

Some reports have suggested that an upset stomach, nausea and gastrointestinal symptoms may also be triggered by the infection, and could be some of the earliest signs of it, though they're not the most common.

Coronavirus turns dangerous as it moves deeper in to the lungs.

This progression turned the disease severe in 14 percent of cases in the Chinese CDC's report, and critical in five percent.

Lower respiratory infection can trigger pneumonia, which is marked by inflammation in the tiny air sacs responsible for the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the lungs. These may fill with fluid or pus.

Some young people can recover from pneumonia on their own, but it can be life-threatening for older people and those with underlying conditions, who account for the majority of severe and fatal cases of coronavirus.

In the Chinese study 2.3 percent of all cases turned fatal. Deaths were most common among people over 80, of whom 15 percent died. Eight percent of the fatalities were in people between 70 and 79.

But younger people, too, should take the virus seriously, as recent data found that 38 percent of cases in China were among people

## Covid-19: One simple thing the health department needs to do urgently

By Special Correspondent

**C**OMMUNICATION from the national health department has been pretty good since the outbreak of Covid-19. Lwazi Manzi, the Minister of Health's media person, has been superb. She has been running a WhatsApp group for reporters in which she's updated us regularly, kept her cool in the face of many pesky questions, tried to be as transparent as possible, and worked very hard.

Since the first confirmed cases, there have been daily updates from Minister Zweli Mkhize. On Thursday there was a bit of a gaffe when the first case of local transmission was announced (in a statement that was borderline xenophobic, blaming the transmission to a Free State man on a Chinese businessman). Later in the day Minister Mkhize retracted this announcement - the Free State man didn't have Covid-19 - and apologised. In a swift-moving crisis stuff like this will happen; no big deal. And it was good that an unconditional apology was swiftly made.

But there is a big problem.

The health department's website is a mess. The Covid-19 page is incoherent. The daily updates may be on the site, but we can't find them. It's all very well that they're in the reporters' WhatsApp group, but (1) finding past posts in a busy WhatsApp group is nightmarish and (2) the public, not only journalists, should have easy access on an official webpage to everything the government is saying about Covid-19.

For example we found out about Minister Mkhize's retraction of the local transmission case from another news site. We still haven't found an official confirmation of this (but we trust the website we read it on).

In the 2000s websites on the gov.za portal were generally good: ministerial and department pages were easy to find, easy to read and easy to navigate. Since about the 2010s this has changed; they've become increasingly poorly designed and impenetrable.

The health department probably can't fix its website anytime soon, but it could very quickly, over the com-



ing weekend, set up a special Covid-19 website or webpage. It doesn't need to be fancy; in fact it shouldn't be. All it should be is a repository of statements and information, simply organised. Official statements should be released on this website rather than on WhatsApp. (In any case, a private platform owned by Facebook should not be the first place that official state communication is published. Nor should Facebook itself or Twitter be the first official places of communication.) The main health department webpage should then have a bright bold front page link to this new site.

This is easy to do and should cost next to nothing (we'd be glad to help at no charge).

Beyond negative economic implications, Coronavirus is a human tragedy

Today, it is Coronavirus, neither Ebola nor SARS was able to spread as fast as COVID19. As of March 9th 2020, according to WHO, the total confirmed cases are over 100,000, with a 3.4 per cent mortality rate, and over 80 countries reported with cases. According to

the United States Center for Disease Control(CDC) what makes COVID19 highly contagious is its mode of transmission. It can be transmitted person to person, or via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. COVID19's death rate is 3.4% which is not high compared to SARS(9.8%), and Ebola(50%) however, its transmission rate is much higher than either of the two. Given its high transmission rate we have already seen, it's only a matter of time before it is declared a global pandemic. Whether coronavirus is declared a global pandemic or not, it will inevitably have a catastrophic effect on the global economy especial the low- and middle-income countries.

In the World Economic Outlook that was published in January 2020, IMF projected Global growth to rise from an estimated 2.9% in 2019 to 3.3% in 2020.

However, under current conditions, it is very foreseeable that the projected growth is going to be downward revised to reflect the impacts of corona-

virus among other global risks.

In 2003, SARS outbreak that originated from China cost the Global economy roughly \$40 billion at a time China's economy accounted for roughly 4% of the World GDP, and was the 6th largest economy by average GDP, following US, Japan, Germany, France and UK. 17 years later, China's economy accounts for roughly 17% of the global economy and it is the second-largest economy. Therefore, basing the calculations on the economic impact of SARS, Coronavirus undeniably might cost the world more than four times what SARS virus cost the Global economy in 2003.

Lately, the risks of coronavirus have increased significantly as more cases are reported in the US, Italy, Iran, Japan and South Korea. Paul Donovan, the chief economist of UBS Global Wealth Management, warned that because economic growth is mainly supported by consumer spending, this is where fear and risks from coronavirus could do the most damage. The fear of infection would mostly hit production as well as consumer spending as resi-

dents of affected countries are advised to stay indoors, hence less economic activity.

Last week, following new outbreaks in Italy, Iran and a deteriorating situation in South Korea, the stock markets tumbled, with S&P 500 declining by 3.35%, Dow Jones Industrial Average by 3.56%, and the Nasdaq Composite by 3.71%, leading to a loss of \$1 trillion off the market value of global equities. It is important to point out that the stock market is not necessarily a predictor of a good or bad economy but it is a good indicator of how major investors are going to react to different shocks in the economy. Also, global commodities have been significantly impacted, crude oil prices dropped for a fourth consecutive session, making it one of the worst-performing commodities to this point in 2020.

Globally, beyond a disruption in the integrated international supply chains, different sectors such as; tourism, manufacturing and transportation have been heavily impacted. In addition to the distress of these sectors, and an increase in supply disruption from China - the largest exporter of intermediate manufactured goods and other major exporters, transport and import costs are also expected to rise, leading to high prices of goods globally.

Currently, cases of Coronavirus have been reported in 9 African countries: Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia.

A few weeks ago, before the first cases were reported in Africa, the continent was already affected mainly due to its close ties with China, so the arrival of the virus only exacerbates an already fragile situation. On the onset of COVID19 outbreak, six of the eight major African airlines suspended their flights to and from China.

The economic impact of the suspension is almost unmeasurable because it doesn't only stop business people to do trade, it stopped students attending school, puts family reunions on hold, but mostly hindered existing and well-established supply chain routes for both essential and non-essential goods between Africa and China.

Given that China is one of the biggest trade partners with Africa, this is going to halt the economic progress Africa has enjoyed over the past few years. Research from ODI shows that should Chinese demand fall by 1% due to the Coronavirus outbreak, low- and middle- income countries would lose \$4 billion worth export goods and \$0.6 billion of tourism receipts.

If oil prices fall by 5% amidst lower global demand following the outbreak, Sub-Saharan African countries would face a \$3 billion cut on its mineral fuel export revenues.

The second and probably even more disastrous economic impact of the COVID19 pandemic on Africa is on health.

The most obvious implication is the loss of life from the disease. But even if there was a vaccine or treatment discovered in the next few months which is unlikely, a mass outbreak on the continent can potentially overwhelm and possibly break the health care systems due to a high number of sick people.

According to the WHO, Africa has only an average of 2.3 health workers (all categories combined) per 1000 population, compared to 18.9 and 24.8 for Europe and America respectively. Given the lack of enough health care workers and the already fragile health care system, one can see a scenario in which such pandemic can lead to an economic collapse of some countries if proper measures are not taken ahead of time.

As of now, the question is not if the Global growth is going to be downward revised, but rather if an economic rebound could happen soon following a decline in the expected global growth. According to an analyst by Bloomberg economists, even in a containment scenario, China's first-quarter GDP growth may slip to 4.5% year-on-year, a drop from 6% in the final quarter 2019, and the lowest since 1992.

Therefore, even in the best-case scenario that the outbreak is contained we should expect a decline in global growth. I can only hope this is not another Global recession on the way, though it will depend on how soon the outbreak is contained.

# Running away from our own shadows

By Special Correspondent

**N**KRUMAH once said, "I am not an African because I was born in Africa, but because Africa was born in me". Today, inferiority complex is almost synonymous to Africans.

The black race has been so stigmatised of being inferior that it has affected the mentalities and perceptions about ourselves to the extent that anything foreign, in respect to skin, dresses, movies, food, names and even ideas of other people become superior.

Using or buying African produce comes with a lot of suspicion and doubt because Africans have lost their pride by placing others first and this is a fact that cannot be denied.

According to Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, "Africa is a paradox which illustrates and highlights neo-colonialism. Her earth is rich, yet the products that come from above and below the soil continues to enrich not Africans predominantly, but groups and individuals who operate to Africa's impoverishment".

Our demeaning nature of always thinking and feeling that things done by Africans are of low quality and sub-standard led Africans to forget that most of these refined and processed goods imported into our countries are gotten from our very own resources we export to these foreign countries.

A typical example of what I am talking about is when my hairdresser once came back from USA. It was as though she had golden hands. People who never patronised her before, flocked to her shop to do their hair as if anything from the US is superior.

In Ghana, we can boast of people like Apostle Kwadwo Safo Kantanka who manufactures engines, vehicles, aircrafts, heavy duty machines among many other things.

Growing up, we have been made to believe in foreigners and to put our own down through negative orientations and mental enslavement particularly through the media.

Suit and tie has become a dress which gives people an inflated sense of self importance and our local attire and delicacies sidelined for continental dishes in our homes and restaurants.

The few Africans who strive to put their ideas into action by inventing things from our own resources are either, discouraged or not patronised. Inferiority complex makes us run away from ourselves, from our

God-given endowments and embrace other people's attributes.

We mimic foreigners especially the European and American because we feel we are not human enough.

In spite of all the above, what has become of the African? Have we accomplished all we seek?

There is no great feeling like being yourself, there is no place like home, AFRICA would remain our home. Lets come together to make it a better place for all.

We must strive to become a producing continent rather than a consuming one. Our governments should improve our educational systems and not be the ones which would be supporting the foreign ones. We must also hold our leaders accountable and encourage them to provide quality leadership for our great nations.

No one can better appreciate us than ourselves. This is who we are AFRICANS

Krumah (21 September 1909 - 27 April 1972) was a Ghanaian politician and revolutionary. He was the first Prime Minister and President of Ghana, having led the Gold Coast to independence from Britain in 1957. An influential advocate of pan-Africanism, Nkrumah was a founding member of the Organization of African Unity and winner of the Lenin Peace Prize in 1962.

After twelve years abroad pursuing higher education, developing his political philosophy and organizing with other diasporic pan-Africanists, Nkrumah returned to the Gold Coast to begin his political career as an advocate of national independence. He formed the Convention People's Party, which achieved rapid success through its unprecedented appeal to the common voter. He became Prime Minister in 1952 and retained the position when Ghana declared independence from Britain in 1957. In 1960, Ghanaians approved a new constitution and elected Nkrumah President.

His administration was both nationalist and socialist. Thus, it funded national industrial and energy projects, developed a strong national education system and promoted a national and pan-African culture. Under Nkrumah, Ghana played a leading role in African international relations during the decolonization period.

In 1964, a constitutional amendment made Ghana a One-party state, with Nkrumah as president for life of both nation and party. Nkrumah was deposed in 1966 by the National Liberation Council which under the supervision of international financial institutions privatized many of the country's state corporations. Nkrumah lived the rest of his life in Guinea, of which he was named honorary co-president.

Kwame Nkrumah was born on 21 September 1909[1][a] in Nkroful, Gold Coast (now in Ghana)[3] to a poor and illiterate family.[4] Nkroful was a small village in the Nzema area,[5] in the far southwest of the Gold Coast, close to the frontier with the French colony of the Ivory Coast. His father did not live with the family, but worked in Half Assini where he pursued his goldsmith business



until his death. Kwame Nkrumah was raised by his mother and his extended family, who lived together in traditional fashion, with more distant relatives often visiting. He lived a carefree childhood, spent in the village, in the bush, and on the nearby sea. By the naming customs of the Akan people, he was given the name Kwame, the name given to males born on a Saturday. During his years as a student in the United States, though, he was known as Francis Nwia Kofi Nkrumah, Kofi being the name given to males born on Friday. He later changed his name to Kwame Nkrumah in 1945 in the UK, preferring the name "Kwame". According to Ebenezer Obiri Addo in his study of the future president, the name "Nkrumah", a name traditionally given to a ninth child, indicates that Kwame likely held that place in the house of his father, who had several wives.

His father, Opanyin Kofi Nwiana Ngolomah, came from Nkroful, belonging to the Akan tribe of the Asona clan. Sources indicated that Ngolomah

stayed at Tarkwa-Nsuam and dealt in goldsmith business. In addition, Ngolomah was respected for his wise counsel by those who sought his advice on traditional issues and domestic affairs. He died in 1927.

Kwame was the only child of his mother. Nkrumah's mother sent him to the elementary school run by a Catholic mission at Half Assini, where he proved an adept student. A German Roman Catholic priest by the name of George Fischer was said to have profoundly influenced his elementary school education. Although his mother, whose name was Elizabeth Nyanibah (1876/77-1979), stated his year of birth was 1912, Nkrumah wrote that he was born on 21 September 1909. Nyanibah, who hailed from Nsuam and belongs to the Agona family, was a fishmonger and petty trader when she married his father. Eight days after his birth, his father named him as Francis Nwia-Kofi after a relative but later his parents named him as Francis Kwame Ngolomah. He progressed

through the ten-year elementary programme in eight years. By about 1925 he was a student-teacher in the school, and had been baptized into the Catholic faith. While at the school, he was noticed by the Reverend Alec Garden Fraser, principal of the Government Training College (soon to become Achimota School) in the Gold Coast's capital, Accra. Fraser arranged for Nkrumah to train as a teacher at his school. Here, Columbia-educated deputy headmaster Kwegyir Aggrey exposed him to the ideas of Marcus Garvey and W. E. B. Du Bois. Aggrey, Fraser, and others at Achimota taught that there should be close co-operation between the races in governing the Gold Coast, but Nkrumah, echoing Garvey, soon came to believe that only when the black race governed itself could there be harmony between the races.

After obtaining his teacher's certificate from the Prince of Wales' College at Achimota in 1930, Nkrumah was given a teaching post at the Roman Catholic primary school in Elmina in 1931, and after a year there, was made headmaster of the school at Axim. In Axim, he started to get involved in politics and founded the Nzima Literary Society. In 1933, he was appointed a teacher at the Catholic seminary at Amissano. Although the life there was strict, he liked it, and considered becoming a Jesuit. Nkrumah had heard journalist and future Nigerian president Nnamdi Azikiwe speak while a student at Achimota; the two men met and Azikiwe's influence increased Nkrumah's interest in black nationalism. The young teacher decided to further his education. Azikiwe had attended Lincoln University, a historically black college in Chester County, Pennsylvania, west of Philadelphia, and he advised Nkrumah to enroll there. Nkrumah, who had failed the entrance examination for London University, gained funds for the trip and his education from relatives. He traveled by way of Britain, where he learned, to his outrage, of Italy's invasion of Ethiopia, one of the few independent African nations. He arrived in the United States, in October 1935.

## Former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo at 83

By Akin Osuntokun

**O**NE of the more dramatic political developments in contemporary Nigeria is the review and reexamination, former President Olusegun Obasanjo felt compelled to undertake on the fundamentals of Nigerian politics. It is an indication of the extremist politics of incumbent major political actors- who have invited the rest of us to see Nigeria in all its ugly nakedness and dare us not to come to terms with it. In the process he has had to stake political positions and make pronouncements with the unintended consequence of hurting or bringing out the worst in otherwise admirable compatriots. I have dignified personalities like Malam Ahmed Joda in mind. I believed so much in Joda that I opened myself to the degenerate possibility of getting into fisticuffs in his defence as Pan Nigerian Northerner. My antagonist swore on the evidence he garnered from his friendship with Joda's son that Joda is as Northern irredentist as they come. The latter soon provided the evidence in his heartfelt rejoinder to the 'Fulanisation' debate sparked by his close friend and associate, in and out of government namely Chief Olusegun Obasanjo.

According to Joda, "there is sufficient evidence that the much-touted Fulani political domination is mere hallucination with political motives designed to achieve certain objectives. That is why I cannot understand how this dying clan can fulanise not only Nigeria but the whole of the West African sub region". I was quite taken aback not so much at his protest as the malicious language he employed in serving the notice. I don't know how much damage this turn of events had dealt their close and fruitful relationship after this exchange but I got an indication indirectly from Obasanjo. In one way or another, his publicised controversial visit to Kaduna recently had to do with Joda who couldn't fulfill his obligation as the Chancellor of Bells University (to chair the graduation ceremony-Obasanjo is the proprietor of Bells University) on account

of acute ill-health. I extracted the Joda quote from a long extenuating missive on how the Fulani in Nigeria are more sinned against than sinning.

My disappointment at Joda is that nowhere is it indicated in his long essay that action and reaction may be equal and opposite; that Nigeria has endured enough provocation since 2015 and it is time to call the bluff of the agent provocateur. In vain do we search for any self-critical acknowledgement that perhaps, the current Fulani personification in Nigeria is negatively spotlighting the Fulani identity as never before; that this action will dialectically generate the antithetical equal and opposite reaction. It is this self-indulgent attitude and entitlement syndrome that has been the bane of the escapist defenders of the indefensible. Where my clan members are implicated, it is see no evil, hear no evil and say no evil. The point I want to make is Obasanjo's preparedness to make sacrifice including sacrifice of personal relations, in pursuit of the goal he believes in-and none more so, now, than the admission (and willingness to confront it) that the constitutional article of the potentially disintegrative political structure of Nigeria is not etched in concrete.

Were he to be less offensive, adamant and truculent in pushing his radically conservative ideological standpoint, many of his critics down South would have been proportionally more inclined to lend him a sympathetic hearing. Like we all are, he is a product of his unique history. And that history is rooted in the baptism he received from the politics of the coup and counter coup of 1966. The fate that spared him of implication in the Nzeogwu coup was the same fate that birthed him in the embrace and sanctuary of Northern hegemony politics.

"Hassan Katsina had made a prophetic statement about Obasanjo. We must do everything to protect Obasanjo from harm. Nigeria will need him in future." "... Obasanjo was always in touch with Hassan Katsina. Then Hassan asked us to prepare to move to Maiduguri. We left our house for the Kaduna air base



in a car protected by three armoured cars in front and another three behind," rendered his wife.

The same logic that persuaded the Chief Obafemi Awolowo-led Yoruba political establishment to team up with the Northern controlled federal military government in the civil war was the same logic that informed his adoption of the vision that views Nigeria from pro-Northern lenses.

And in this vision, he has been confirmed and vindicated by the providential role he played in the civil war. Whoever receives the surrender of Biafra should be excused for a near fanatical commitment to the unity of Nigeria. Whichever Yoruba became military head of state in the circumstances in which Obasanjo did in 1976 is the least likely to warm up to the idea of rocking the boat of Nigeria's political status quo.

Fate seemed to have grounded and handed him over in silent conspiracy with the status quo powers. As it has been benevolent to him, so has he been of indispensable utility to the heirs of British colonialism. As captured by his former deputy "No living Nigerian has given as much to Nigeria in peacetime and in war as you have".

The open secret of the success of Northern hegemony is knowing when

to coopt and when to go into recessive and elusive mode. It was this strategic thinking that informed the adoption of General Yakubu Gowon as the cross cutting Northern face of the civil war.

"Faced with the threat of an alliance between the Yoruba West and the Igbo East, the Northern-controlled Federal Military Government became visibly alarmed... Gowon studiously drew Chief Awolowo closer to himself... By this act, the East-West alliance foreshadowed by U.P.G.A. was destroyed, and a new North-West alliance was born, lamented Ralph Uwechue.

Equally, this was the strategic mindset behind the projection of Obasanjo as the provisional Principal of Northern hegemony-the vaunted Nigerian unity being Northern hegemony writ large.

And as I have argued elsewhere, there would have been little wrong with the hegemony were it not for the cardinal sin and double jeopardy of its ruinous incompetence- standing in the way of the cultivation of productivity driven development ethic as of national essence.

In the notion rather than actual existence of a Kaduna Mafia (the fabled personification of Northern hegemony), he has been both the mentor and protege. In the crude but effective in-

tervention of Buhari, this minimally tolerable status quo is under siege and the resolution of the crisis it has spawned, one way or another, will determine the future of Nigeria.

Obasanjo has been a soft target for many wannabe Yoruba nationalists and Nigerian progressives.

Yet, howsoever you want to judge him and his political history, he was the one who gave concrete meaning to the opposition against the relentless excesses of the Buhari government and the ominous direction the country is being driven.

If he was willing to lend himself to this role in full awareness of its potential consequences especially the tragic Abacha precedent, then he merits a respite and positive salutation. Contrast this with his traducers, especially the idle California domiciled lions and tigers of the social media stratosphere who have nothing to lose beyond being called to order on the penchant for beer parlour criticism.

The theory of the step he has taken going forward is as follows: He has come to terms with the knowledge that predicating the formula for the viability of Nigeria on the right leadership tantamounts to waiting for godot. Anticipating the emergence of the elusive good leadership as the panacea to the problems of Nigeria is the best case scenario- but science is predicated on the worst not the best case scenario.

The worst case scenario anticipates all that can go wrong including bad leadership and proceeds to recommend a (near fullproof) formula with an inbuilt mechanism to limit the damage that bad leadership can wreak on society. In Nigeria, this perhaps is the most important practical purpose federalism would serve- limiting the capacity, to the irreducible minimum, of the leader at the centre (in Abuja) to violate the country.

The most amenable analogy to this theory is the design of the aeroplane- which proceeds from the premise of anticipating all that can go wrong. And in the words of Professor Wole Soyinka "Centralisation, in short, has

been the bane of the nation - on any level you choose - and nothing will answer the necessity of a harmonious relationship and development of its parts other than a severe curtailment of the control of the Centre over the functioning of its parts".

Thus I responded to his (Obasanjo) exasperation with the relentless sinking of Nigeria- when he posed the question-

"Now what do you really believe is the way forward for Nigeria and you never mind my preferences?. Well, better late than never. I concluded with the considered opinion of Oye Ibidapo Obe-who was old and perceptive enough to know "It is clear that we were individually and collectively happier prior to 1966 than now".

If this assertion is true, it is an indication that the departure point for the downward spiral of Nigeria was the abrogation of the independence constitution.

The last I saw him, he left me with this resolve 'If the assumptions we have held on Nigeria in the past 60 years is now being questioned, then it is time to take a look at the political structure of the country. And one of those critical assumptions is that that the headship of the three tiers of government- the executive, the judiciary and the legislature must not come from one section of the country

By way of my mundane obligation towards wishing him a happy birthday, I adopt the sentiments of an admirer

"What is more instructive about the retired General's unsuccessful run for the office of the chief executive of the world body is the fact that he did not withdraw into self abnegation or pity, but decided to retool himself in the tiny details of international diplomacy".

"Perhaps it is on account of his abiding love for the youth as the leaders of tomorrow that life has favoured Obasanjo with enormous grace, such that he remains young in heart and body, never aging and refusing to be caged by adversities or vicissitudes of daily living".

# How to keep your business alive for coming 100 years

By Grace Agada

THE Year 2120 is 100 years from now. In another 100 years, you will be dead. Your current consumers will also be dead. Your business will be serving its third generation if it survives. And one of your own blood will seat at the helm of affairs. If bloodline succession succeeds. But if bloodline succession fails. Your business will also be dead or be in the hands of a total stranger.

I don't know what may happen to your business. But what I know for sure is this. If your business fails to change. It will bleed to death. But surpassing your business survives.

Will the consumers of 2120 still recognize your business or would they see your business as a business that serves the needs of dead men? What your business will be. And whether it will survive or not. You are already deciding today. To live 100 years from now and serve the consumers of 2120. Your business must remain relevant for many generations.

Relevance is the degree of usefulness of a business to its current and active consumers. It is the ability of a business to become more useful and valuable.

Far ahead of competitors and the conscious needs of consumers. Busi-

nesses that are relevant are businesses that borrow ideas from the future. Ideas that occupy a central position in the hearts of consumers. And execute those ideas today. There are able to bring into existence.

Solutions that benefit consumers over a long period of time. To maintain business relevance businesses must develop three abilities. The first is the ability to travel into the future ahead of everybody else. The second is the ability to discover a need in that future that consumers will appreciate today. And to be the first to do so.

The third is the ability to change and redesign a business to deliver that value today. It is the ability of a business to change in a timely and progressive manner. Based on certain consumer insights that make a business relevant for many generations. Business relevance is thus all about progressive change.

Progressive change is the ability of a business to deliver superior value to its consumers. It is also the ability of a business to raise its bar of value. And inspire consumers to raise their expectations of what is possible and acceptable.

Change that is beneficial is the change that aligns with the needs of consumers. It also the type of change



that increases consumer awareness of what is acceptable as new normal. Businesses that drive this type of change. Set themselves apart and attract massive wealth.

As consumers become inspired to accept and raise their expectations of value. Other businesses that remain at lower levels of value bleed. These businesses lose market share and eventually die.

To prevent businesses from dying. Business owners must move ahead of time and the needs of consumers. Moving ahead of time means driving change rather than reacting to change. To drive change there are three areas a business needs to focus on. These three areas are the three sources of change in a business.

The first area is consumer interest. The second area is Personal Interest. And the third area is Competitor's Interest. Consumer interest facilitated change is change that results from consumer's own pain, disgust, needs, and awareness. It is

also the type of change that make consumer demand for a higher standard of value. Due to certain new knowledge and information. Businesses undergo consumer interest change. When there move from one generation to the other.

And within the same generation. To maintain relevance in the face of changing consumer interest. Business owners must predict change. There must also develop solutions that meet the ever-changing interests of the consumer. Because consumer facilitated change originates from the consumer. They lack a certain surprise factor. And have a little and short-lived impact on long-term business relevance.

Personal change is the type of change driven by a business owner's own pain, disgust or aspirations.

These include dissatisfaction in existing structures. And a move away from the status quo. Personal change carries the greatest impact on business relevance. This is because it moves beyond

the consciousness of the consumers. And carry a certain surprise and appreciation value.

Consumers appreciate proactive and beneficial change that did not originate from them. It shows them that a business is ahead in its thinking and can meet their needs and desires. Personal changes are effective because they break existing value standards.

Challenge the status quo and drive consumer's interests and expectations. Businesses that occupy personal changes enjoy three advantages. First, they occupy an uncontested first position in the mind of consumers.

Consumers attach the change or innovation to their name. This increases business profit and brand reputation. Second, they enjoy long-term business relevance. As long as the change they initiated is unsurpassed. Businesses that initiates change remains relevant to the consumers.

Throughout the validity of the change. Third businesses that imitates change are successful businesses. They are rewarded with the wealth and profit from the change they initiate before other businesses are given a chance. These three advantages make personal driven change the most effective for long-term relevance.

The third area of Change is Competitor change. Competitor change is the change initiated by a related, complementary or competing business. That impact on the ability of a business to generate revenue.

And make a certain profit. Competitive change carries the greatest risk for businesses. Especially those businesses reacting to the change. It carries great risk because businesses reacting to this kind of change.

Are at the mercy of the business driving the change. Sometimes they understand and can adapt to the change. Other times the resources, times and skills needed to change are out of their reach.

Competitor facilitated change is thus the fastest way to kill a business. Businesses that are affected by competitor change must find ways to act swiftly and adapt to change or risk becoming obsolete. To remain relevant in business for many generations. Business owners must embrace change and continuously meet changing consumer needs.

Grace Agada is the First indigenous Family Business Longevity and Legacy Expert. With unique expertise in helping Self Made Business Men Transition from Vanishing Mortals to Men with Indestructible Name and Legacy. Grace's philosophy is simple. Successful Family Business Men do a lot of good in the world.

## In a time of hate speech, eternal vigilance is the price of freedom

By Mary Kluk

WE are currently witnessing one of the largest humanitarian crises in human history, with more than 70 million refugees fleeing persecution and violence. South Africa's Jewish community has a past generation who have first-hand knowledge of being refugees, finding themselves in a foreign environment searching for safety.

On Friday 20 March 2020, refugee groups from all over Johannesburg will be meeting to enjoy the first-ever International Refugee Shabbat dinner in South Africa. It's being organised under the auspices - and inspired by the work of - the US-based Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), set up in 1881 to help Jews flee the pogroms in Eastern Europe.

The dinner will be held at Hill-brow's iconic Temple Israel, a meeting place in the melting pot of the financial capital of the con-

tinental where people can come together to discuss inter-faith matters and indeed issues of humanity. Shabbat, or the Sabbath, is an important time in the Jewish week, allowing us not just time to pray and observe our faith but to come together as families and as a community to break bread and discuss things that are close to our hearts, things that need to be resolved.

It's an auspicious time; the eve of South Africa's own Human Rights Day commemorating one of the most appalling betrayals of those very rights in Sharpeville 60 years ago this year. It's an opportune moment to remind us all of our common humanity through speakers of the calibre of Rwandan refugee Gabriel Herstis, who will give first-hand testimony of life as a refugee in South Africa, and Bishop Henry De Nett near Ramaphosa informal settlement near Ekurhuleni's Reiger Park, where Mozambican Er-

nesto Nhamuave was infamously burnt to death in 2008.

As Jews, refugees have a particular resonance with us far more than the biblical injunction to welcome strangers into our homes; for much of our history we have been refugees ourselves. We know all too well the pain of people searching for safety, especially in places they would consider their homes yet find themselves being victimised, made to be the "other". There have been many occasions when Jews have been refugees; since the sacking of the Temple in Jerusalem all the way through to the Holocaust itself.

Today we have become witness to one of the largest humanitarian crises in human history, with more than 70 million people who have been forced to flee their homes because of persecution and violence - and yet the world remains largely blind to their plight and deaf to their

pleas. South Africa's Jewish community has a past generation who have first-hand knowledge of what it is like to leave the comfort of what they think is their home, only to find themselves in a foreign environment searching for safety.

Here in South Africa, we are all too aware of refugees who have fled political violence or food insecurity in the countries to our north.

Cape Town has been the site of an ongoing and still unresolved protest by refugees since last October, traversing from the UN-HCR to the CBD itself. The bitter irony for refugees to this country is that they could be forgiven for thinking that given our country's own tortured history that they would have been met with empathy. Nothing could be further from the truth, as the horrific outbreaks of xenophobia have all too clearly demonstrated, overlaid by the callousness and

often downright indifference of officialdom.

There are many civil society groups doing a great job to provide physical aid to these refugees, from legal advice to food kitchens and shelter, but what we want to achieve through this dinner is to convey to South Africans the importance of the manner of how we treat refugees and, in an era of increasingly strident identity politics, how we treat each other.

I am already involved in this work wearing my other hat as the founder and director of the Durban Holocaust and Genocide Centre.

I firmly believe that the outbreak of violence and trajectory to genocide begins with how we speak to, and about, one another. South Africans need to be sensitised as to what can happen when bigoted rhetoric is left unchecked, when it becomes normalised for some human beings

to be regarded as less and others as more. We shouldn't have to in view of our own past where so many of us middle-aged and older South Africans were indoctrinated to understand that skin colour reflects our capacity as human beings, but sadly we do.

The good news is that there has been a change in the way people speak in this country thanks to the successful prosecution of some of the most hateful utterances on social media. People are starting to think before they speak which is a very pleasing evolution, because they have been made aware of the toxic effect of their utterances the hard way - through criminal sanction; fines and even jail terms.

Much more work still needs to be done; there has to be a limit to the concept of the right to freedom of expression when it comes to spewing evil and whipping up racial hatred. We have to be eternally vigilant, especially

of social media platforms which extremists use for their own ends to propagate their bile and even live-stream their atrocities as we saw in the shootings in a New Zealand mosque and in a German synagogue last year - when a terrorist even opted to vlog in English to ensure his message would have a wider audience, even though he himself was a native German speaker.

The only way to fight discrimination and prejudice is through dialogue and solidarity, through which we re-affirm our common humanity.

On 20 March, we do this as South Africans, Africans and as human beings, confirming our commitment to one another. The situation in our country is already incredibly tough; from political rhetoric to economic recession, how much more so must it be for people who regard South Africa as their haven - but don't feel welcome, or safe?

## Reasons for optimism, during Covid-19 crisis

By Yariv Cohen

THE last few weeks have caused distress all over the world. Since the coronavirus burst into our lives without notice, the reality we live in seems to surpass even the craziest science fiction movies; And as the number of patients continues to climb exponentially, stock markets plummet, fear of a global recession is increasing every day, a cure or vaccine is still a far away dream, and people everywhere are consuming negative updates 24/7.

Not detracting from the severity of the situation, we have to remember that there is always a little light at the end of the tunnel. Indeed, even in the most severe crisis that humanity has known in the past, there were small bright-spots and reasons for optimism. When the virus is contained, we will all go back to normal, with hard earned lessons that will have the potential to lead humanity towards a better future.

These are the main lessons that give me a little bit of optimism throughout these difficult days:

Making our world cleaner is possible. Except for some who still choose to ignore the consequences of global warming, most people today agree that the climate crisis is real, dangerous - and requires real action. But alongside growing worldwide acceptance of the need for action, there is always this feeling that no matter what step we take, its impact on the situation will be minimal.

The last few weeks are proving the opposite is true. Since the Corona crisis erupted, many pollutants have been drastically reduced: the number of flights in the world has plummeted, private consumption has declined, and many polluting plants have been

suspending operations. It's enough to take a quick look at the NASA satellite imagery, which shows a "drastic drop" in air pollution levels in China since the epidemic began. A few days ago, NASA released more imagery, this time from Northern Italy (the world's leading outbreak point of the virus), with pollution levels dropping significantly as well.

The challenges of dealing with the spread of the Coronavirus are vast and negative in most cases, but they also prove that in an emergency, humanity can dramatically reduce the levels of pollution. If we realize that the climate crisis is also a real danger to the lives of millions, we can harness this lesson for the future: reduce the number of flights, encourage work from home (and reduce car travel), lower consumption levels, and lead the world to a greener future.

We can work together. Despite prosperous globalization, recent years have shown little global collaboration. Despite large-scale acute problems, many countries chose not to cooperate with each other, leaving many problems unsolved.

The current crisis is forcing humanity to join hands in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus: Scientists from all over the world are working closely to find vaccine and cure, while national differences are being ignored, all in order to fight the common enemy.

Worldwide collaboration is also critical to the fight against other mega-challenges. Just like the Coronavirus, so does the fight against global warming constitutes for global collaboration: If we continue to collaborate, the chances of success will increase significantly.

Medical technology is the most effective solution



for large-scale problems. The main reason for the severity of the current crisis and the difficulty of fighting the coronavirus is numerical: the number of available medical staff, hospital beds and respirators is much lower than the number of severely ill patients. In order to bridge the gap, there is a need for a technological solution that will allow for the collection of samples, indices and even basic treatment for large numbers of people, without the need for human medical teams. Such a solution could have enabled the treatment and diagnosis of large scale, thus significantly reducing the spread of the virus. It would also reduce the risk of infecting medical teams, allow treat-

ment and diagnosis in remote areas, and more.

A holistic, technological solution will probably not be available in the near future, but the obvious need is likely to highlight the field of medical technology and its importance. This is good news for the entire world - and especially for Africa, where millions seek diagnosis or medical treatment (regardless of the Coronavirus), while the number of medical teams per-resident is the lowest in the world. Advanced medical technology will allow for better handling of outbreaks in the future, but for Africa, it could save the lives of many.

Opportunities, innovation, and a new global focus. Every crisis throughout history has brought

with it quite a few opportunities for change and innovation. For example, the global economic crisis in 2008, which caused serious damage to markets, companies, and investors all over the world, also constituted the opening shot for continuous years of increases in the stock markets, as well as technological innovation and breakthrough ideas. It is enough to look at 2009, when tech giants such as Airbnb, Github, Pinterest, Slack, Square, Stripe, Uber, WhatsApp, and many others were formed. These companies were not just established immediately after the crisis: They identified new opportunities in the changing market (such as the rise of the "sharing economy")



## FRUSTRATION

## COVID-19 protective gear manufacturers frustrated by Tanesco, Dar es Salaam port

By Francis Kajubi

FREQUENT power outages and bureaucracy in cargo clearance at Dar es Salaam Port have been singled out as obstacles facing coronavirus protective gear manufacturers in the country.

Briefing Minister of Trade and Industry, Innocent Bashungwa who visited the manufacturers in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Mansoor Daya Chemicals Limited's CEO, Mansoor Daya, Tarmala Industries Limited's Managing Director, Zain Bharmal said regular power cuts and delays in clearing raw materials at the port are affecting the process of increasing production of sanitizers, masks and gloves.

"We urge Tanesco to give us reliable power supply but also for authorities to ease cargo clearance procedures at the port of Dar es Salaam so that we can have smooth production at the factory to meet the growing demand in the country," Daya told Bashungwa.

Daya said that his factory has been producing 5,000 liters of sanitizer a day that it sales directly to Medical Stores Department (MSD) but needs stable power supply to increase production. His remarks were backed by Bharmal who requested Bashungwa to intervene.

The Industry and Trade Minister who was accompanied by officials from Fair Competition Commission, Medical Stores Department, Tanzania Bureau of Standards and Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organization, was informed by MSD's Director of Procurement, Abdul Mwanja that the country needs more COVID-19 protective gear.

Mwanja said that the country needs at least 350,000 liters of hand sanitizers to protect the public against the virus. "The three industries that are producing and supplying us with the products directly are Keko Pharmaceutical Limited, Mansoor Daya Chemicals Limited and Tarmal Industries Limited which have capacity of between 1,500 liters and 5,000 liters a day," he noted. Mwanja asserted that MSD sells the sanitizers to the public at between 5,500/- for a quarter liter bottle and 85,000/- for a five liters bottle.

Explaining to the minister on how price increases of the products are being addressed in the market, Fair Competition Commission's Director General, Dr John Mduma said illegal manufacturers and suppliers are being taken care of by the commission. He said apart from hiked prices, the FCC is keenly tracing counterfeits and sub-standards protective gear being supplied in the market.



Mansoor Daya Chemicals Limited's CEO, Mansoor Daya

## GENEROSITY

## Jack Ma 'ready' to donate over 1 million coronavirus kits to Asia and Africa

BEIJING

ALIBABA co-founder Jack Ma has promised to donate 1.8 million face masks and 210,000 coronavirus test kits to some of Asia's poorest nations, which have seen a rise in Covid-19 cases.

On Twitter on Saturday, Ma (pictured) said Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka would receive face masks and test kits, as well as protective suits, ventilators and thermometers to assist their fight against the virus.

The announcement follows another tweet on Monday, in which Mr Ma pledged to donate more than a million coronavirus testing kits to Africa, as more African nations reported their first cases of the disease. At least 30 countries now have confirmed cases.

"We cannot ignore the potential risk to Africa and assume this continent of 1.3 billion people will blissfully escape the crisis. The world cannot afford the unthinkable consequences of a Covid-19 pandemic in Africa," Mr Ma's private foundation said in a statement.

The foundation will send 1.1 million testing kits, six million masks and 60,000 protective suits and face shields to Ethiopia for distribution to Africa's 54 nations, it said. Last week, the Jack Ma Foundation and the Alibaba Foundation announced they have prepared 500,000 testing kits and a million masks to be sent to the US, adding to those already donated to other affected countries including Japan, South Korea, Italy, Iran and Spain.

After joining Twitter, Mr Ma posted for the first time on Monday with photos of a China Eastern Airlines plane with boxes of the test kits and face masks slated to be shipped and donated to the US. "All the best to our friends in America," he wrote



in the tweet.

Mr Ma had previously announced on his Weibo account that he would donate 100 million yuan through his foundation to support medical research efforts and disease prevention. Mr Ma reclaimed the title of Asia's richest man this month, after the collapse of oil prices and global stocks left Indian energy tycoon Mukesh Ambani \$5.8 billion poorer. Mr Ma has a current net worth of \$41bn, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, about \$4.7bn more than Mr Ambani.

Bill Gates said he is stepping down from the board of Microsoft, the company he co-founded in 1975 and built into the

world's largest software maker, to devote more time to philanthropy. Mr Gates, 64, has been scaling back his involvement in the company for more than a decade. Most recently he had been serving as an adviser to chief executive Satya Nadella on technology areas including productivity, health software and artificial intelligence, and he will continue to do so.

"Microsoft will always be an important part of my life's work and I will continue to be engaged with Satya and the technical leadership to help shape the vision and achieve the company's ambitious goals," Mr Gates wrote in a blog post on March 13. "I feel more optimistic than ever

about the progress the company is making and how it can continue to benefit the world."

Mr Gates has not been active in a day-to-day role since 2008, Microsoft said. That is when he switched to devoting the majority of his time to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The billionaire now wants to spend more time working on global health, education and tackling climate change. He served as chief executive of Microsoft until 2000, the same year his foundation was started, and was chairman of the company until February 2014.

Mr Gates will also exit the board of Berkshire Hathaway, the company run by his longtime friend Warren Buffett. Mr Gates joined Berkshire's board in late 2004 and the pair deepened their ties in 2006, when Mr Buffett said he would plan to give away the bulk of his fortune to charitable groups including the Gates Foundation. Both Mr Buffett and Mr Gates have continued to push for more philanthropic efforts among the wealthiest, with initiatives such as "The Giving Pledge".

Last month, the Gates Foundation committed \$100m to the global Covid-19 response. Mr Gates is the world's second

richest person with a current net worth of around \$92bn, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Berkshire Hathaway Chairman Warren Buffett at the company's annual shareholder meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, last May. Mr Buffett has barred shareholders from attending this year's meeting amid growing fears about the spread of the coronavirus. Photo: Reuters

Berkshire Hathaway Chairman Warren Buffett at the company's annual shareholder meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, last May. Mr Buffett has barred shareholders from attending this year's meeting amid growing fears about the spread of the coronavirus. Photo: Reuters

### Warren Buffett

Warren Buffett has barred shareholders from attending Berkshire Hathaway's annual meeting in May amid growing fears about the spread of the coronavirus. The meeting, which generally draws thousands to his home town of Omaha, Nebraska, will still be held, but attendance will be limited to Mr Buffett, possibly his business partner Charlie Munger and several Berkshire

employees who will deliver proxy votes, Berkshire said on March 13. The meeting will be streamed by Yahoo.

"I very much regret this action," Mr Buffett said. "For many decades the annual meeting has been a high point of the year for me and my partner, Charlie Munger." Berkshire's annual meeting floods the city with shareholders and employees, many of whom spend hours on a Saturday listening to Mr Buffett and Mr Munger speak. The company had warned earlier in March that while the meeting, scheduled for May 2, would still happen, the scope of the event could change.

"It is now clear, however, that large gatherings can pose a health threat to the participants and the greater community," Mr Buffett said. "We won't ask this of our employees and we won't expose Omaha to the possibility of becoming a 'hot spot' in the current pandemic."

Mr Buffett encouraged investors to send questions to select journalists, who then will ask Mr Buffett and Mr Munger about the topics - though he said he is deferring a decision on whether one or more of those journalists will be present at the meeting.

## INVESTMENT

## Most buyers of Fumba Town houses are locals, Diaspora people

By Francis Kajubi

LOCALS have bought 50 percent of the 500 apartments and stand alone units sold by Fumba Town developers in Zanzibar.

Corporate Property Solutions' Chief Operating Officer Tobias Dietzold said that another 50 percent of the property has been acquired by the Diaspora and foreign nationals.

Dietzold said on Friday that the project whose construction work started in December 2016 has been selling its finished property since 2018 at between US\$17,900 (over 41.17m/-) and US\$199,900 (over 457.7m/-) each depending on size and location.

He said the company has actu-

ally sold over 550 properties so far of which about 280 are apartments while the rest are stand alone townhouses or seafront units.

"Tanzanians are the majority of our customers while foreign buyers are a mixture of Diaspora and foreigners," Dietzold said while noting that many foreign buyers come from Gulf states, Kenya and Tanzanians in the Diaspora. Most tenants are people living and working in Zanzibar on short and long term periods," he noted.

Apartments and houses let at Fumba Town fetch between US\$250 a month while hotels charge between US\$1,200 and US\$1,500 per month for similar structures.

"Soon we expect to have more af-



Corporate Property Solutions' chief operating officer, Tobias Dietzold.

fordable units starting at roughly US\$100 and US\$120 per month as rent," the CPS COO noted.

Fumba Town project targets at constructing 3,000 houses and apartments ranging from three to five bedroom with four to six floors respectively within the next five years. The project is being implemented jointly between Volks House and CPS.

The project is been built at an area covering 600,000 acres along the beach front in Zanzibar and the developers plan to construct more 3,000 apartments and single unit houses with 99 year lease agreement with the Spice islands government.



**Tanzanians are the majority of our customers while foreign buyers are a mixture of Diaspora and foreigners," Dietzold said while noting that many foreign buyers come from Gulf states, Kenya and Tanzanians in the Diaspora. Most tenants are people**

## COMMITMENT

# Telecom commits to bettering digital connection as COVID-19 hits Africa

By Guardian Reporter

CUSTOMERS in Africa have been assured of continued better digital communication services by Liquid Telecom as coronavirus continues to spread across the continent.

In a statement, the company said its top priority is to help protect the health, well-being

and safety of staff, customers, partners and the public while maintaining business continuity at all levels. The statement added that the company believes that 'every individual on the African continent has the right to be connected in the midst of coronavirus outbreak.'

"Our thoughts go out to the many people who have been

affected by this unprecedented event. We are planning for all eventualities to ensure we do everything possible to support our employees, customers, partners and public," said Liquid Telecom Group CEO, Nic Rudnick said.

Rudnick said the company has implemented robust contingency planning across the busi-

ness to protect the health of its people and those with whom it serves.

The measures taken includes, but not limited to, implementing the advice of authorities, particularly World Health Organisation.

"To ensure business continuity, most of our personnel can work and collaborate from re-

mote sites utilizing Microsoft Teams and other tools. Where possible, we are also helping our customers to maintain operations as close as is possible to normal using similar applications," said the Liquid Telecom Group CEO.

Liquid Telecom's focus today is the same as every day: We're committed to ensuring our cus-

tomers have access to the most reliable network and digital solutions—now and in the weeks and months to come, the statement added.

As a strategic supplier to the market, the company continues to execute plans to ensure network and system continuity as the situation evolves over time. "We have remote working

capability in place for all key processes and systems for our key personnel, and this capability has been subject to readiness testing during the past few weeks.

All personnel are able to work remotely at short notice when necessary while maintaining full business functionality," Rudnick added.



Liquid Telecom Group CEO, Nic Rudnick said.

## PENALTY

## MTN Uganda agrees to fork out US\$100m for licence renewal

KAMPALA

UNDER pressure, MTN Uganda has agreed to pay US\$100-million for the renewal of its operating licence that expired in October 2018.

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has granted the company temporary extensions pending the renewal of the licence, and initially approved an amount of US\$58-million for renewal.

However, this amount was questioned by the country's president Yoweri Museveni which prompted the regulator to reverse its decision.

Museveni directed UCC and the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology to explain

why the amount was reduced from the US\$100-million that was agreed by Cabinet.

Museveni said that in the 20-year period of operation, MTN had "reaped vast profits." Since then, UCC and MTN have been in negotiations regarding the final amount.

The secretary to the Treasury and Finance Ministry Permanent Secretary Keith Muhakanizi confirmed the latest development and said: "Government has negotiated US\$100-million and they have agreed they are going to pay."

UCC spokesperson Ibrahim Bosa also confirmed the development and was quoted by the local Daily Monitor newspaper as saying: "We are waiting for them to make the

payment for the process of the licence renewal to be kick started."

ICT Minister Peter Ogwang said the money will be paid in two instalments of US\$50-million, with the first instalment in March, the second in April 2020. MTN did not respond to ITWeb Africa's request for comment at the time of publishing.

Andrew Makanya, a telecom analyst at Computer Association of Zambia said,

"The US\$100-million licence fee is by far the most expensive licence in East Africa considering that Safaricom paid US\$27-million to the Communications Authority of Kenya for its 10 year operating licence in 2014."

## CONCERNS

## Absa hints at supporting SME growth with new funding lines

NAIROBI

ABSA Bank Kenya has signalled its intention to shake up the banking market through its revamped SME proposition which offers up to Sh10 million unsecured loans to entrepreneurs.

Under the new proposition, known as Wezesha Biashara, entrepreneurs can also access LPO financing of up to Sh12 million, unsecured invoice discounting of up to Sh50 million and unsecured bid bonds of up to Sh10 million. The lender is targeting to play a bigger role in the development of the SME sector which is the main driver of the Kenya's economic growth.

"Kenya's thrive on innovation and that spirit is very present within the SME sector. As a brand we are inspired by this spirit and have taken it as our responsibility to connect these dreams and aspirations to the financial resources needed to accomplish them," Absa Managing Director Jeremy Awori said. "That is why we have tailored our products to suit the needs of SMEs, where they can access unsecured loans payable for a longer period of time."

The lender has also cut the time it takes to secure smaller ticket loans for SMEs to 48 hours. Under this proposition, businesses will secure loans of up to Sh3 million within two days of application.

During the launch at Absa Nkrumah branch in Mombasa,



Absa Kenya MD Jeremy Awori

the director of business banking at Absa Bank Kenya, Elizabeth Wasunna, said the bank had relaxed the process of application to its customers and through the

Timiza mobile App, SMEs can access loans through mobile phones. "I have been banking with Barclays before it rebranded to Absa Bank Kenya and I have con-

tacted one of the sales executives after they launched the product last week who assured me I qualify for the loan. I am in the process of making my business plan be-

fore getting the money to expand my business by opening an outlet in North Coast," said Mrs Halima Njore, a cosmetic supplier in Mombasa.

Women entrepreneurs stand an even bigger chance to benefit after Absa announced a Sh10 billion fund for women-owned businesses.

The money will be availed to the women through existing banking products including unsecured and secured loans, trade finance, asset finance, property finance and working capital facilities.

The bank said it startups and upcoming businesses can access financing through Timiza, its virtual banking platform which has nearly five million customers.

The app, which offers a variety of services from savings, deposits, withdrawals and loans, is part of the bank's strategy to connect with its customers following its change of brand to Absa.

Timiza, which won a Marketing Society of Kenya Award for its innovative marketing campaign, also offers the bank's customers a goal-based mobile savings option with a return of five percent per annum. Savers can start with as little as Sh100.

The platform, with a capability of transferring upto Sh250,000 from one individual to another at no cost, is available to smart phone users as well as feature phones through the USSD code \*848#.

Other add-ons to the app include the ability of users to order for taxi services, buy airtime and pay utility bills at the click of a button.

Timiza was also the first such product in the market to offer a personal accident cover of upto Sh100,000 and last expense cover of upto Sh50,000 for customers who pay sign up to pay the Sh42 monthly premium.

## RESISTANCE

## Ethiopia under pressure to cancel flights to China amid virus outbreak

ADDIS ABABA

AS Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's most profitable carrier, reluctantly suspends flights to Milan and Bahrain over the spread of the Covid-19 virus, it is business as usual to its Chinese destinations.

Other regional carriers, including Kenyan Airways, paused all flights to China more than a month ago. The airline has received high-profile calls to suspend its flights to China, one of which came from Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, as deaths linked to the virus increased worldwide.

Ahmed Kellow, a former chief executive of Ethiopian Airlines, said: "The airlines should not take a huge risk by flying to countries like China which are highly affected by the virus."

Earlier this month, Tewolde GebreMariam, the airline's current chief executive, downplayed the risk of flying to the South Asian nation, to which it operates 35 weekly flights, and said



Ethiopian Airlines CEO, Tewolde GebreMariam.

cancelling flights there would not slow the spread of the highly contagious virus.

"This is because passengers from China can travel to African countries including Ethiopia through various other hubs," he said. "That's what the interconnected world means."

In recent weeks, passenger numbers on the government-

owned airline have dropped by 20 per cent; its cargo business has also dipped. Ethiopia has officially reported nine confirmed cases of the virus, among them in Japanese citizens and one British person.

Thirty-four people have been quarantined while they wait for their results and 992 people have been asked to self-isolate.

In response to the virus, the East African nation has banned mass gatherings, public events and suspended school.

National exams have also been postponed. The nation has allocated \$10 million to combat the virus for a population of more than 100 million.

"The African airline industry is facing the 'perfect storm'. The virus is causing tourism travel to Africa to decline very significantly,"

Zemedeneh Negatu, the chairman of investment firm Fairfax Africa Fund said. Mr Negatu is a strategic adviser to some of the largest African airlines, including Ethiopian Airlines.

"Meanwhile, business travel, too, is declining as the demand for Africa's main commodity exports such as oil has collapsed, resulting in fewer trade and investment transactions and, therefore, less business travel."

The epidemic has so far affected Ethiopia's booming economy, including the filling of the dam, which is under construction in the midst of a dispute with Egypt and is expected to be delayed by a shortage of raw materials that were to have been imported from China.

Figures from the Central Bank of Ethiopia show the country imported close to \$4 billion worth of goods from China last year, while its annual exports to the world's most populous country were about \$250m.

Ethiopia has accumulated overwhelming debts linked to big construction projects including railways, airports and national industrial parks.

PESSIMISM

# With Europe the centre of the pandemic, how scared should investors be?

FRANKFURT

HOW do investors approach a problem like Europe? While every economy across the globe has been shaken by the Covid-19 storm, the continent looks particularly vulnerable, because it is still battling to recover from the 2008 financial crisis.

Right now, Europe finds itself at the centre of the coronavirus pandemic that has infected more than 307,000 people and killed 13,049, according to Johns Hopkins University which is tracking the outbreak. More than 92,300 people have recovered. On Saturday evening, Italian officials recorded 793 dead and 6,557 new cases in just one day. Italy's total death toll has now surpassed China, with the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases now more than 53,000.

Spain has more than 25,000 cases, the world's third highest after China, with latest figures showing the death toll jumping 300 in a day. In France, the death toll jumped by 112 to more than 560, while and Germany has seen 84 deaths so far. All these numbers are expected to rise sharply.

Unsurprisingly, share prices are crashing, like everywhere else. Year-to-date, the Euro Stoxx 50 index has fallen around 32 per cent, closing at 2,548 on Friday evening. So should investors abandon Europe - or view this as a buying opportunity?

Even before the coronavirus outbreak, Europe was on a slow-growth, with gross domestic product growing just 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2019, according to estimates by Eurostat, the EU's statistical office. This was the slowest since 2013, trailing a relatively healthy 0.5 per cent in the US. Germany was flat, Italy fell 0.3 per cent, while France slipped 0.1 per cent.

Europe has political problems too, with the sovereign debt crisis and refugee numbers fuelling populism, and Brexit adding to its woes. The EU single currency remains an arguably flawed project, as Portugal, Italy, Greece and Spain struggle with an overvalued currency. Now Europe finds itself in the eye of the Covid-19 storm.

Its initial response was underwhelming. European ideals seem to be under threat, with individual companies closing borders, going against the Schengen free travel area, while Germany's move to block the export of medical masks and protective gear to Italy made a mockery of the single market.

The European Central Bank's initial stimulus attempt on March 12 was seen as inadequate, as it held interest rates at minus 0.5 per cent, rather than pushing them deeper into negative territory. The Euro Stoxx 600 index responded by

falling 11 per cent, its worst day on record. Germany's DAX and France's CAC 40 plunged more than 12 per cent.

ECB president Christine Lagarde initially made a bad situation worse by saying the central bank was "not here to close spreads" between the borrowing costs of member states. Italian bond yields soared while the Milan stock exchange fell 17 per cent. Ms Lagarde subsequently apologised, insisting that the ECB was "fully committed to avoid any fragmentation in a difficult moment for the euro area."

John Greenwood, chief economist at Invesco, says the initial ECB response was timid and trivial, but last week saw a sea change in official thinking. "It has seemingly overcome many of the legalistic restraints and the intellectual orthodoxy by which it has been trapped over the past decade," he says. Wednesday's massive €750 billion Pandemic Emergency Purchase Plan looks like the real deal, equivalent to 16 per cent of the



European Central Bank president Christine Lagarde reacts as she addresses a news conference on the outcome of the meeting of the Governing Council in Frankfurt.

ECB's balance sheet, he says. "ECB leadership has grasped the scale of the task, as business, social and sporting events shutdown, supply and payment chains are interrupted."

Europe must now follow China's lead and enforce lockdown measures to reduce infection rates, Mr Greenwood adds: "We are already seeing signs that the Chinese economy is starting to recover. There is no reason why Europe should not be able to replicate the same pattern over the next few weeks."

David Zahn, head of European fixed income at Franklin Templeton, says the ECB is rebuilding its credibility while individual countries are also taking action, with Germany committing up to €550bn, equivalent to 15 per cent of the country's GDP, France launching a €300bn stimulus package, and Spain pledging €200bn.

The sudden stop of European economies will nonetheless inflict "a sizeable hit to GDP", Mr Zahn adds, as nobody

knows how long the lockdown will last. Even if it does solve the crisis, Europe will still have troubles. Economists at Dutch bank ING predict the growth rate will slow to a crawl, as average EU growth of 1.4 per cent a year over the last decade falls to a meagre 1 per cent. Italian stagnation is set to be far worse than Japan, which has endured two lost decades.

Making matters worse, Europe also has poor demographics, with a relatively elderly population and low birth rates. The hope is that the coronavirus crisis will spur the authorities into much-needed reforms, and will get the country's stock markets moving again. After the initial retreat within individual country borders, European countries have taken co-ordinated action to quell the pandemic, says Antonio Serpico, European fixed-income specialist at fund manager Neuberger Berman, and the ECB is pulling out all the stops. "Total stimulus is equivalent to 9 per cent of European GDP, against just 4 per cent currently in the US," he adds.



CRISIS

## One million jobs being lost daily as coronavirus strikes tourism industry

GENEVA

As many as one million jobs are being lost every day in the travel and tourism sector due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

"While the priority for governments is to keep people safe, this global health catastrophe means a million people a day in the travel & tourism industry alone are losing their jobs and facing potential ruin due to the disastrous impact of the coronavirus pandemic," said Gloria Guevara, president & chief executive of WTTC in a statement on Friday.

Coronavirus, the biggest challenge to the global economy since the 2008 financial crisis, has disrupted trade, the travel industry and rattled investors. At least \$17tn has been wiped from stock markets worldwide.

"Businesses large and small are being forced to rip up their three-year plans and focus on a three-month fight for survival on a daily basis, while people's jobs are wiped out hour by hour. We fear this situation will only deteriorate unless more action is taken immediately by governments to address it," she said.

WTTC announced a three-point plan for governments to tackle the problem including protecting the salaries, income and jobs of people

who are at risk and extending interest free loans to provide liquidity to large and small travel and tourism businesses. It also suggested waiving or removing all dues, taxes or fiscal charges for 12 months that affect the cash flow of businesses.

"While some governments have been quick to respond with promises of help, the majority of businesses still have no idea how to access these potentially life-saving loans and tax breaks," added Ms Guevara. The travel body also said up to 50 million jobs throughout the world are at immediate risk, with up to 320 million jobs facing the impact of the dramatic loss of business due to the current situation.

Small and medium sized businesses at every level within travel and tourism, such as tour operators, travel agents and sole-traders, are especially vulnerable, it added. Earlier this week, International Labour Organisation (ILO) predicted coronavirus could claim up to 24.7 million jobs worldwide. Based on different scenarios for the impact of Covid-19 on global gross domestic product, the ILO estimates indicated a rise in global unemployment of between 5.3 million in a low scenario and 24.7m in a high scenario from a base level of 188m in 2019.



Gloria Guevara, president & chief executive of WTTC.

ITV PGM SCHEDULE

<b>SATURDAY 21 March</b>	17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Abu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV	18:30 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 19:00 Ijue Sheria 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata weve? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum 22:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV	23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV	<b>SATURDAY 28 March</b>	21:30 Movie: Fangs 23:00 Series rpt: The family holiday 01:00 Al Jazeera		
<b>SUNDAY 22 March</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt 11:45 Mapishi rpt 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 15:15 Igizo: Kibafute 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba 19:00 Art and lifestyle 19:25 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:10 Kesho leo rpt 22:40 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV	<b>TUESDAY 24 March</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa	<b>THURSDAY 26 March</b>	<b>SUNDAY 29 March</b>		
<b>MONDAY 23 March</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamsam za pwani 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Shamsam za pwani 11:20 Shangweka rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi maalum: KTMDA 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Tanzania yetu 21:35 Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV	<b>WEDNESDAY 25 March</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:20 Uchumi na biashara rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	<b>FRIDAY 27 March</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:30 Ibadaya ya kiislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari	<b>SUNDAY 29 March</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Seondok 16:45 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko 21:10 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: 23:45 ITV Top 10 00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

CAPITAL

Sat 21 March

08:00 CNN International 09:00 Drive II rpt 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n' about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ijijamae 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Korean Drama: 21:00 Out n' About	08:00 CNN International 09:00 Drive II rpt 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n' about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ijijamae 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Korean Drama: 21:00 Out n' About	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: The Secret 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Innovation rpt 19:30 Jagina rpt 20:00 Series: The Secret 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 21:30 Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera	<b>Wed 25 March</b> 06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: The Secret 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:30 Innovation rpt 17:00 Meza Huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Series: The Secret 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45:
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## WORLD

## Trump's slur against China earns global censure

BEIJING

UNITED States President Donald Trump's recent labeling of the novel coronavirus pneumonia pandemic as originating from a "Chinese virus" has triggered widespread backlash from the international community.

Officials and commentators worldwide used words like "racist" and "xenophobic" to describe the term and said it is part of Washington's attempt to shift blame to China for its delayed, inefficient response to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Instead of terms such as "COVID-19" or "coronavirus", the US top leader used the term in both his Wednesday and Thursday news conferences at the White House as well as in some recent tweets, and he publicly rejected reporters' questions about whether the term was racist.

The World Health Organization gave the name COVID-19 to novel coronavirus pneumonia on Feb 11, when WHO's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan said it was both for scientific purposes and also to "avoid a number of different stigmatizing or other forms of confusing names".

US Democrats have slammed Trump and other Republicans for us-

ing "Chinese" or "Wuhan" when referring to the virus in public statements and social media posts.

Former US vice-president Joe Biden on Wednesday condemned Trump's comments and urged him to "take responsibility" for his actions.

"Stop the xenophobic fearmongering. Be honest. Take responsibility. Do your job," he wrote on Twitter.

Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton also tweeted on Wednesday that Trump was attempting to distract people from his administration's slow response to the pandemic.

"The president is turning to racist rhetoric to distract from his failures to take the coronavirus seriously early on, make tests widely available and adequately prepare the country for a period of crisis," she tweeted. "Don't fall for it. Don't let your friends and family fall for it."

Josep Borrell, high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs and security policy, said on Thursday that viruses don't have a nationality and don't care about borders.

"COVID-19 is not a Chinese virus, as the Spanish flu was not Spanish," he tweeted. "We all face a massive threat that requires global cooperation and all of us working hand in hand."



President Donald Trump

Sadiq Khan, mayor of London, said on Thursday: "COVID-19 is COVID-19." He said trying to link a nation to the illness "is disgraceful."

The term used by Trump is "the sort of language which leads to incitement and hatred toward people of Chinese origin", Khan said when answering questions from members of the London Assembly about the pandemic.

"We are a city which celebrates our diversity and we think it is a strength, not a weakness. It's really important that we do not fall into the trap of some to use this virus as an excuse to denigrate, demean and humiliate people," the mayor added.

Pascal Lamy, former director-general of the World Trade Organization, said that the COVID-19 crisis is testing first and foremost the resilience of national governance, as the capacity to fight the virus lies in the quality of health systems and in collective disciplines such as social distancing.

But there is also a second order international dimension in cooperation to provide medical equipment, liquidity for economies or signals for concerted action, Lamy said.

"In this respect, I very much agree with the WHO that 'my country first' or 'blame the foreigners' political proclamations are dangerously counterproductive, including when they target China," he said.

Canadian experts and officials also stressed that using the term that Trump did does not help bring the whole world together to respond to this common threat. Only through global collaboration can the war against the virus eventually be won.

Thomas Bernes, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation, said that the terms being used by Trump are "highly regrettable and inappropriate".

"This is a global threat that requires global cooperation to defeat the virus and respond to the global economic challenge," said Bernes. "Trump's go-it-alone approach can only fail, and his language can only exacerbate problems and make global cooperation more difficult."

Toronto Councilor Jim Karygiannis said it is time for the US president to acknowledge that the term is racist and apologize for using it.

"The president continually has demonstrated that he reacts before he thinks. In this case, he is using China as a scapegoat for his country not being ready to fight the COVID-19 threat," said Karygiannis.

Leading media have also criticized the use of the term.

Amanda Walker, US correspondent of Sky News, wrote on Thursday that Trump "has recently and very purposefully ramped up his reference to 'Chinese virus'".

She noted that "there has been another recent change in Mr Trump's tone" as Trump is now "taking this public health crisis seriously" and he "accepted it could cause a recession and its grip on America could last well into the summer, which is just a couple of months from November's election."

"If millions of Americans die, it will be on his watch," Walker wrote. She said using an insulting term "is a way of deflecting blame".

The New York Times said on Thursday that Trump is "ignoring a growing chorus of criticism that it is racist and anti-Chinese".

Agencies

## Zimbabwe hails China's efforts in curbing COVID-19 spread

BY LU WENAO

Zimbabwe declared the coronavirus pandemic a state of national disaster on Wednesday, as the African country, though yet to have a confirmed case, makes efforts to prevent the virus outbreak in the country, the Embassy of Zimbabwe in China told the Global Times on Wednesday.

"It would allow the government to redirect its efforts and resources toward fighting this scourge which is threatening humanity," the Embassy said in an email statement to the Global Times.

The state of national disaster also means Zimbabwe will postpone its 40th independence anniversary celebrations scheduled for April 18.

"While Zimbabwe has not recorded any infections, apart from a few suspected cases under observation, it shall continue to seek the assistance of its strategic partner in taking robust and fact-based preventive measures that would also include necessary equipment in preparation for any possible outbreak," it noted.

China's success story in the fight against the virus is there for everyone to see as vindicated by the number of countries seeking its technical advice and material support, the Embassy said.

"The epidemic has demonstrated that no nation is immune regardless of how weak or strong it is, thus it is our hope that the experience gained by China in containing the virus will certainly benefit countries, like Zimbabwe."

The Chinese government has also pledged to upgrade Zimbabwe's main isolation center for suspected coronavirus patients in the capital Harare, according to a Xinhua News Agency report on March 6.

"COVID-19 has once again reinforced the need to forge ahead with the promotion and protection of multilateralism which benefits from our collective wisdom and shared experiences," the Embassy said.

"A community of shared future for mankind is certainly under threat and Zimbabwe will make its modest contribution toward its preservation."

Zimbabwe is set to receive 20,000 test kits, 100,000 masks and 1,000 medical-use protective suits and face shields from Chinese billionaire Jack Ma.

The donation is part of 1.1 million testing kits, over 6 million masks and 60,000 hazmat suits and face shields that Ma pledged to 54 African countries, including Zimbabwe, in a statement issued on Monday.

Global Times

## What has caused the high COVID-19 mortality rate in Italy?

ROME

ITALY has been the hardest-hit country since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Europe, with the highest mortality rate and the most confirmed cases in the region. Local medical analysts say there are multiple factors behind the tragic data.

On Friday, 627 patients died of COVID-19 in a 24-hour span in Italy, the highest leap in fatalities in a single day in the country, bringing its COVID-19 death toll to 4,032, according to official statistics from Italy's Civil Protection Department. In the previous 24-hour span, 427 people had died in the country.

The current COVID-19 mortality rate in Italy stands at about 8 percent, which is higher than the global average. According to the World Health Organization, as of midnight Thursday, there were 209,839 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 8,778 deaths worldwide, with the global average mortality rate standing at some 4



A paramedic works in a tent outside the Brescia Civilians Hospital in Brescia, Italy, March 3, 2020. (Xinhua)

percent.

Local medical experts told Xinhua that factors such as untested mild cases and a high proportion of the elderly population are among the factors behind the high mortality rate in Italy.

Fabrizio Pregliasco, a researcher at Department of Biomedical Sciences for Health at the University of Milan, said that many mild or non-symptomatic cases have

not been confirmed due to the insufficient diagnostic capacity in the early stage of the coronavirus outbreak.

He said that if the number of unconfirmed cases is included in the cumulative number of confirmed cases, the mortality rate in Italy may be close to that of elsewhere.

Currently, Italy has been intensifying its testing capacity steadily. According to the Italian Min-

istry of Health, the country had performed more than 180,000 tests nationwide as of Thursday, which are among the highest in the world.

Silvio Paone, a viral disease researcher at Rome's La Sapienza University, agreed with Pregliasco, saying another factor is the larger elderly population in Italy.

According to a report released by the Italian National Bureau of Statistics in February 2019, Italy's total population was about 60.39 million as of January 2019, and the population aged over 65 was 13.8 million, accounting for 22.8 percent of the total population. Italy ranks the second in the world in terms of aging, only behind Japan, according to the World Bank data for 2018.

Italy's Civil Protection Department chief Angelo Borrelli repeatedly stressed at regular press conferences held in Italy that the majority of deaths were among the elderly. He provided a report on March 9, saying that about 31 percent of the deaths were aged

70-79, about 44 percent aged 80-89, and about 14 percent aged over 90.

In another report published by Italy's Superior Institute of Health (ISS) on March 13, the statistics on deaths from the coronavirus showed that the average age of deaths in Italy was 80.

If considered by age, the mortality rate of Italian patients infected with coronavirus would not be higher than that of other countries. In addition, the ISS report said that 46 percent to 47 percent of those deaths had two to three or more other diseases.

The institute pointed out that among those deaths, most cases had suffered hypertension, ischemic heart disease or diabetes before.

Director of the ISS Silvio Brusaferrero said that research confirmed that the elderly and the people with other diseases are more vulnerable to COVID-19, and should be the focus of the coronavirus prevention and control effort.

Xinhua

## Most coronavirus-infected patients recover completely, says expert

MOSCOW

MOST patients infected with the novel coronavirus recover completely, while those who experienced the severe form of the disease may suffer from certain unfavorable effects, such as pulmonary fibrosis, the director of the National Medical Research Center for Preventive Medicine, Oksana Drapkina, has said.

"Most patients recover completely, but those who developed

pneumonia or experienced the severe form of the disease may have to brace for some adverse effects, pulmonary fibrosis being the worst of all. The bronchi and lungs deserve the closest attention," Drapkina said in a live broadcast on the portal Future of Russia. National Projects, operated by TASS.

Drapkina said that in such cases patients should turn to specialists for advice and recommendations as to how to pro-

ceed with medical treatment. "The doctor will decide when the lungs should be scanned again or whether an X-ray examination is advisable. The doctor's advice is to be followed by all means," she said.

People with chronic diseases of the lungs, asthma and others should certainly take precautions to avoid aggravations.

"Any aggravation harms the immune system and makes the human body more vulnerable to

infection," Drapkina said.

"I've come across some quite alarming information about re-infected patients, although recoveries are many. Such people are back to work and there have been no relapses. We still lack the time to assess immunity. The clinical picture is changing very fast and some consequences are still not very well known to us," she said.

An outbreak of the novel coronavirus-related disease in

central China late last year has spread to more than 140 countries.

The World Health Organization has declared a pandemic. According to the latest statistics, more than 230,000 people have contracted the virus around the world. The disease has claimed 10,000 lives. According to the anti-coronavirus center, 199 cases of COVID-19 infection have been registered in Russia.

Agencies

## ECMO machines sent to Hubei from across China to fight COVID-19

DOZENS of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machines, also known as artificial heart-lung machines, were purchased for and sent to Hubei province and its capital Wuhan where a surging number of patients in severe and critical conditions were experiencing an extreme short supply of the live-saving devices after the outbreak of the COVID-19.

The efforts were made by the material support team of the central working group guiding COVID-19 control under the assistance from relevant ministries and departments, as well as enterprises and hospitals across the country. These machines played a very important role in saving the lives of patients in severe

and critical conditions and lowering the mortality rate of the disease.

A COVID-19 patient surnamed Li transferred to the department of critical care at Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital after developing respiratory failure was one of the many that benefited from the efforts. He was brought back to life with an ECMO machine and the timely treatment by Shang You, deputy director of the department, and his team.

According to preliminary estimates, 80 percent of the severely and critically ill patients who used ECMO machines were saved, which is a medical miracle, said Zhang Zongjiu, a member of the treatment team with the central working group guiding COVID-19 control and

head of the Bureau of Medical Administration at the National Health Commission (NHC).

In the wee hours of Feb. 23, the material support team with the central working group guiding COVID-19 control notified the National Development and Reform Commission to dispatch the first batch of ECMO machines to Wuhan.

Upon receiving the order, the First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University in northwest China's Shaanxi province immediately started preparing the machines. By 9 a.m. the next day, an ECMO machine, 30 sets of consumable materials, 30 sets of arterial and venous cannulas and 30 anesthesia puncture kits were packed and headed

for Wuhan.

It took the hospital only 18 hours to test, maintain, and pack the ECMO equipment and relevant facilities. Behind the high efficiency was the hard work of the doctors, including Yan Yang, deputy director of the department of cardiovascular medicine at the hospital, and his 11 colleagues.

Yang and his colleagues donated 30 sets of consumable materials out of the hospital's total stock of 35 sets, saying "We want to offer as much as we could to help treat COVID-patients in the epicenter."

On Feb. 26, the material support team issued a second notice, asking hospitals around the country to send another

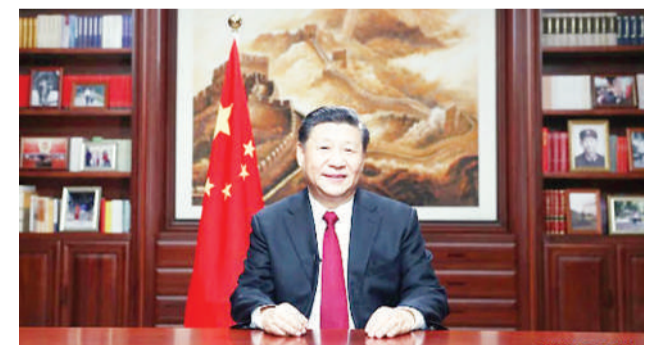
batch of ECMO machines to Wuhan while ensuring their own demand was satisfied.

As of the morning of Feb. 27, the Second Affiliated Hospital with Zhengzhou University in central China's Henan province sent 5 ECMO machines to Wuhan, becoming the largest contributor in the second batch of assistance.

Liu Xiaojun, director of the department of critical care at the hospital, made a long list to detailed information of the ECMO machine, including the hardware, the consumable materials, pictures of the machine parts and the contact information of his hospital in case the recipient hospitals needed instruction.

ECMO devices are high-precision machines that need high-standard transportation and packing. Therefore, Liu Qilin, director of the equipment support department of West China Hospital of Sichuan University in southwest China's Sichuan province made a thorough and meticulous plan to send their 2 ECMO machines to Wuhan.

Liu and his team customized 8 wooden boxes respectively for packing the machines, blood pumps, water tanks, accessories, and consumable materials, and each box was well cushioned. The hospital also employed a chartered airplane as the batteries of the machines were not allowed to be transported by logistics companies. *People's Daily*



Xinhua





Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei delivers a televised speech on the occasion of the Iranian New Year Nowruz, in Tehran, Iran on Friday. REUTERS

## Iran's Khamenei rejects US help offer, vows to defeat coronavirus

DUBAI

THE United States' offer to help Iran in its fight against the new coronavirus pandemic is strange, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a televised speech yesterday, describing U.S. leaders as "charlatans and liars".

Washington has offered humanitarian assistance to its longtime foe, the Middle Eastern country most affected by the coronavirus, with 1,685 deaths and 21,638 people infected.

Tensions between the two countries have been running high since 2018, when U.S. President Donald Trump exited Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with six world powers and reimposed sanctions that have crippled the Iranian economy.

"Several times Americans have offered to help us to fight the pandemic. That is strange because you face shortages in America. Also you are accused of creating this virus," said Khamenei, an anti-U.S. hardliner who has the final say in Iran.

"I do not know whether it is true. But when there is such an allegation, can a wise man trust you and accept your help offer? ... You could be giving medicines to Iran that spread the virus or cause it to remain permanently."

Frictions increased when Trump ordered a U.S. drone strike that killed the top commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Qassem Soleimani, on Jan. 3. Iran retaliated by hitting U.S. targets in Iraq on Jan. 8.

"Our number one enemy is America. It is the most wicked, sinister ene-

my of Iran ... its leaders are terrorists ... Liars and charlatans," said Khamenei.

Iranian authorities have blamed U.S. sanctions for hampering its efforts to curb the outbreak and President Hassan Rouhani has urged Americans to call on their government to lift sanctions as Iran fights the coronavirus.

China, a party to Iran's nuclear deal, has urged the United States to lift sanctions on Iran immediately amid Tehran's response to the coronavirus outbreak.

But the United States sent Iran a blunt message this week: the spread of the virus will not save it from U.S. sanctions that are choking off its oil revenues and isolating its economy.

Khamenei, who canceled his annual speech for Persian new year from the holy Shi'ite Muslim city of Mashhad on March 20 because of the outbreak, said Iran would triumph over the virus.

"The Islamic Republic has the capability to overcome any kind of crisis and challenges, including the coronavirus outbreak," said Khamenei, who called on people to stay at home.

While many Iranians avoided traveling during the Persian new year holiday, police said millions have defied warnings issued by officials to avoid unnecessary trips aimed at curbing the spread of the virus.

The office of Tehran's governor said all shopping centers will be closed in the capital from Sunday.

"Only pharmacies and shops that provide essential goods will remain open in Tehran," Iranian state TV reported.

## Russian businessman seeks criminal proceedings against Obama over unlawful prosecution

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin demanded that criminal proceedings be initiated against former US President Barack Obama, as well as a number of US congressmen, senators and officials because of the illegal prosecution of his Concord company and him personally.

The businessman's letter to US Attorney General William Barr was published by the Concord Press Service on Thursday.

"By this letter, I demand that a criminal case be initiated against a group of individuals, including former US President Barack Obama, senior officials from the US Department of Justice, members of the US Congress and Senate, who, by entering into collusion, taking illegal actions, falsifying documents and evidence managed to institute 'the United States against Concord' criminal proceedings to defame Concord, me personally, and the Russian Federation," Prigozhin said in a letter.

In another letter addressed to Barr, the businessman demands that the case against Concord, which was terminated on Wednesday, be returned to the court.

According to him, the trial was terminated at the request of the prosecutor's office because the prosecution fears "to present false evidence in open jury, on the basis of which a criminal case against Concord was framed and considered for more than two years."

takes and stop the groundless accusation against China.

Viruses are a common challenge faced by the entire human race. To associate a virus with specific countries goes against the principles of international organizations. The World Health Organization (WHO) reiterated that the origin of the novel coronavirus has not been confirmed yet, and the world needs to focus on how to curb the virus and avoid stigmatization.

By naming the disease as COVID-19, the WHO hopes to not associate the term with any region or country, and the names of certain contagious diseases had once led to stigmatization and

## Russia to expand blacklist of EU officials in retaliation - diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has taken the decision to expand the list of nationals of the European Union countries banned from entering Russia in retaliation for action taken by Brussels, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a briefing on Thursday.

"The Russian side has taken a decision to expand the retaliatory list. Regrettably we have to do this," Zakharova (pictured) said, adding that this is "a matter of parity."

She reiterated that in January sanctions were slapped on seven more Russian nationals - representatives of state bodies and the election commission of Crimea and Sevastopol.

"We consider it as an unfriendly move to maintain and further expand such blacklists, which without the slightest grounds restricts our fellow countrymen in their legitimate rights," the diplomat added.



"Of course, we will retaliate proportionally," she stressed.

Late in January, the European Union officially announced its decision to blacklist seven Crimean politicians - Acting Governor of Sevastopol Mikhail Razvozhayev, Crimea's Chairman of the Council of Ministers Yuri Gotsanyuk, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of Sevastopol Vladimir Nemtsev, Russia's Federation Council (upper house) member for Sevastopol, Yekaterina Altabayeva and three heads of electoral commissions

of Crimea and Sevastopol.

In 2014, the European Union sanctioned against Russia relating to the events in Ukraine and Crimea's reunification, which it continues to expand and prolong.

The talks on the visa-free regime and the new basic agreement on cooperation were suspended, a number of Russian officials were prohibited from entering EU countries, with their assets being frozen, and restrictive trade, financial and military measures were adopted.

The EU blacklist in response to the crisis in Ukraine contains 175 people, including Russian and Ukrainian nationals, and 44 legal entities. Almost all legal entities on the list are authoritative bodies and state and military institutions of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Lugansk people's republics.

On March 13, the EU prolonged individual sanctions against Russian citizens for another six months.

Agencies

## South Africa economy silence contrasts with drastic virus steps

By Bloomberg

SOUTH Africa's government won praise for taking swift action to contain the coronavirus outbreak. It's said little on how it plans to protect the economy.

With just 61 infections on March 15, President Cyril Ramaphosa imposed travel bans, instructed schools to close and outlawed large gatherings. He followed up with restrictions on restaurants and effectively closed bars, beating many worse-afflicted countries to the move.

The central bank cut interest rates by the most in more than a decade at its scheduled policy meeting and boosted liquidity in local markets.

The National Treasury is yet to announce whether the government will support affected businesses and households.

Ramaphosa was "firm, clear and decisive," Fani Titi, the chief executive officer of Investec Ltd, said in an interview. "Where we have been slower has been in trying to support the economy."

Usually packed malls have emptied and many restaurants and bars leave apology signs on shut doors after dark. City streets and highways flow freely in "rush hour" as firms send their staff home, while hotels and lodges are struggling to fill rooms.

The rand slid to a record low against the dollar and bond yields surged amid a global rout. The central bank forecast the first annual economic contraction since 2009, and small companies now face an uncertain future in a country where unemployment is already 29 percent.

South Africa's Treasury is severely constrained. Finance Minister Tito Mboweni last month proposed sweeping spending cuts to trim a fiscal deficit projected to widen to an almost three-decade high. Bailouts to rescue collapsing state companies has seen debt surge and put the nation's last investment-grade rating in jeopardy.

Dry Powder

"The budget has been fundamen-



Customers wearing masks to protect themselves from coronavirus infection walk toward a washing facility at Mall of Africa in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Friday where washing points have been installed at each entrance. (AFP)

tally undermined," said Martin Kingston, vice chairman of Business Unity South Africa, the biggest corporate lobby group. "They can't reset until they know what the trajectory" of the outbreak is likely to be, he said.

"There is an argument for keeping one's powder dry," Kingston said.

In a series of Tweets on March 19, the Treasury said provincial budgets will be refocused toward tackling the pandemic and that it will put together an economic response package.

"We are unable to give you a date, but shortly," the Treasury said in response to questions on when the plan would be released. A tweet on Saturday showed officials from the Treasury and central bank meeting to discuss the response to the outbreak, and Ramaphosa's spokeswoman Khuleka Diko said the National Command Council on the virus planned to meet Sunday.

South Africa could take its cue for what has been done in countries such as the UK, where the authorities have agreed to guarantee some loans made to companies under pressure, said the CEO of Investec, a lender with operations in South Africa and the UK.

Deferred Payments

The Congress of South African Trade Unions, the nation's biggest labor federation, called for commercial banks to defer loan payments by up

to three months. It also wants lenders to cut interest rates on mortgages by more than the one percentage point the Reserve Bank reduced its rate by.

Cosatu also wants state lenders, such as the Industrial Development Corp and the Development Bank of Southern Africa, to work with the government worker pension fund manager and private retirement funds to pay for stimulus for vulnerable sectors, said Matthew Parks, the group's parliamentary coordinator.

The state could offer guarantees as "the easiest way to support banks doing the heavy lifting," said Peter Attard Montalto, head of capital markets research at Intellidex. "In reality, we see National Treasury offering very little support."

For now, the banks are not even able to meet as they are prohibited from doing so by competition laws, according to Cas Coovadia, managing director of the Banking Association of South Africa. "Until I get the exemption notice unfortunately I can't bring people around the table," he said. "There has been progress. The notice has been drafted and the minister spoke to me. I am hoping that by Monday we get the notice and we can get going."

So, as the government has won praise for the measures it has put in place to contain the pandemic, fears are rising about the economic pain to come.

Agencies



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un

## North Korea says Trump offered virus cooperation in letter to Kim

WASHINGTON

NORTH Korea on Saturday welcomed what it said was a letter from U.S. President Donald Trump to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, saying it was a sign of "the special and very firm personal relations" between the two leaders despite recent frictions.

A senior Trump administration official confirmed Trump sent the letter and said it was "consistent with his efforts to engage global leaders during the ongoing pandemic."

The president looks forward to continued communications with Chairman Kim, the official said.

Since Trump held a third summit with Kim last June and briefly stepped into North Korea from the demilitarized zone with South Korea, no progress has been made on the U.S. president's bid to get Pyongyang to give up its nuclear and missile programs.

North Korea has attempted a series of missile launches, including the launch of two apparent short-range missiles in the last day or so, as it tries to pressure the United States and its allies to lift economic sanctions.

North Korea state media KCNA said Kim had received a letter from Trump in which the U.S. president said he was impressed by the North Korean leader's efforts to defend his people from the coronavirus.

Trump "expressed his intent to render cooperation in the anti-epidemic work, saying that he was impressed by the efforts made by the Chairman to defend his people from the serious threat of the epidemic," KCNA reported in a statement carried by Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong. It did not say when the letter was received.

The letter said that despite good personal relations between the leaders, "if impartiality and balance are not provided and unilateral and greedy intention is not taken away, the bilateral relations will continue to aggravate."

The report came after North Korea's missile test on Saturday, which prompted South Korea to urge an immediate halt of "inappropriate action" in the face of the global pandemic.

In a separate dispatch on Sunday, KCNA said it was a test of a new tactical guided weapon, overseen by Kim Jong Un.

The test "clearly proved the characters of different flight trajectories and falling angles, accuracy of guided shells and their power", KCNA said.



**The letter said that despite good personal relations between the leaders, "if impartiality and balance are not provided"**

## Stigmatization of China over coronavirus must be stopped

THE exacerbating COVID-19 pandemic around the world calls for joint efforts from global countries.

However, some U.S. politicians are showing ill mentalities and intentionally associating the pandemic with China, stigmatizing the country by calling the pandemic "Wuhan pneumonia" and "Chinese virus." Such practice is extremely irresponsible and immoral, which will not only do nothing good to the epidemic control in the U.S., but also seriously impede international solidarity in the battle against the virus. China firmly opposes and condemns such smears, and urges the U.S. to correct its mis-

other unfavorable results. The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) emerged in some Middle East countries in 2012 triggered broad controversy because it was named after the region. Base on such experiences and lessons, the WHO and other institutions proposed in 2015 a guiding principle on naming newly discovered contagious diseases, advocating to name them with neutral and general terms.

However, such principle is neglected by some U.S. politicians who only spread stigmatization and create panic, which just reveals the dark side of their mind. The origin of the virus is a

scientific issue, and to discover it calls for scientific and professional researches. Now relevant tracing work is still underway, and no conclusion has been reached yet on the origin of the virus.

"I think it's also important in terms of looking at the emergence of any disease; disease can emerge anywhere. Coronaviruses are a global phenomenon; they exist on a global basis," said Michael Ryan, Executive Director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme at a press conference. "It's really important that we don't start to ascribe blame to geographic origin and that we look at this in terms of how we

respond, how we contain and how we stop this virus."

Daniel Lucey, an adjunct Professor of Medicine-Infectious Diseases at Georgetown University Medical Center noted that first human infections must have occurred in November 2019-if not earlier-because there is an incubation time between infection and symptoms surfacing.

However, the U.S. politicians have already started the blame game and smearing, and are preventing fact-based discussion, when the origin of the virus is not confirmed yet. What do they want?

The world must use science to conquer stupidity and conduct

cooperation to eliminate prejudices, especially when global public health security is facing severe challenges. "This is a time for prudence, not panic. Science, not stigma. Facts, not fear," counselled UN chief António Guterres.

However, certain U.S. politicians are totally brainless and unscrupulous. They don't care about facts, and what they do is just repeating the ridiculous prejudices that have long taken roots in their mind.

Even after Robert Redfield, the director of the American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention admitted some Americans who seemingly died

from influenza were tested positive for the novel coronavirus in the posthumous diagnosis, and agreed it was "absolutely wrong" to label the COVID-19 as the "China Virus", the U.S. politicians are still covering the facts and smearing China in almost a crazy way.

The pandemic is a test for countries' governance capability, and also reflects their performance in international cooperation. The preoccupied problems of the U.S. in politics and health care have been exposed, and the country must face up to them and fill the shortages to safeguard the health of its people.

People's Daily



Kenny Rogers

## Henley, Tucker, Cyrus and others mourn the death of Rogers

By The Associated Press

SOME reactions from the world of music and beyond to the passing of Kenny Rogers, who died Friday night at age 81.

"In addition to his tremendous talent, Kenny was a generous and caring man, a wise mentor to so many of us. He loved his friends, his family, his fellow musicians and his fans, and they loved him, right back. Fifty years ago, The Gambler took a gamble on me and my first band from small-town Texas, and his big-hearted support launched many careers, including mine. He also gave me some of the best career advice I ever got: 'You'd better be nice to the people you meet on the way up, because you're going to meet those same people on the way back down.' – Don Henley

"What a career, what a talent, what a legacy. Now this world is left with a big shadow, center stage where Kenny Rogers stood. No one else can take his place. Now he's taken his place amongst the Heavenly stars. It's a very sad day for all of us. But God is smiling. Rest easy my friend. –Tanya Tucker

"No one bridged the gap between country and pop more often and better than K.R. He will be missed but his music and diverse style of storytelling will live on forever." – Billy Ray Cyrus

"I loved Kenny with all my heart and my heart is broken and a big ole chunk of it is gone with him today." – Dolly Parton

"The world has lost a great artist and interpreter of songs. I had the honor of announcing his election to the Country Music Hall of Fame, and was thrilled when I realized how much it meant to him. Even after all the other honors he had won, he was truly excited about this one. His accomplishments will live forever." – Bill Anderson

"I'm so sad to see Kenny Rogers go. He did so much for me as a young songwriter and we stayed friends for over 30 years. I'll really miss him. May he rest easy." – Richard Marx.

"Going back to the late 70s and early 80s, we played a lot of dates together. He was one

of the first artists to have a stage in the round, in the middle of the arena. He was also an accomplished photographer, and he shot some portraits of Howard and me. We really got to know Kenny through the years and are thankful for the memories. Love and prayers to his family." – David Bellamy, Bellamy Brothers

"Not just my hero, but my friend. Thank you for your guidance my brother. The world has lost the greatest storyteller." – Phil Vassar

"Hearing Kenny Rogers' magnificent voice singing MY lyrics, my music, to 'I'm Missing You,' that was definitely a highlight! When KR sang that song, he OWNED it. What a talent and what a sweet man. Kenny, you certainly made this world a better place. Rest In Peace my friend." – Steve Wariner

"Kenny was one of those legendary smoky tenors. I was fortunate to have him be a mentor on 'American Idol.' He had such wise words for another aspiring whiskey tenor. Thanks Kenny for 'Believing in me.' My condolences to his family, Ken Jr and also the Butlers for helping him create such great music." – Taylor Hicks

"The world and country music just lost a true treasure. Though I never met Kenny Rogers I was a big fan and one of my favorite recent songs of his was 'You Can't Make Old Friends' – another classic duet he did with Dolly. I think that's what we all feel like in the country music community... like we all lost an old friend." – Jenée Fleenor

"An icon that will be missed by so many. He was an inspiration to me, I loved the way he delivered a song and crossed over so many genres. 'The Gambler' was my favorite song and feel blessed to have whiteness him being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He will live on in our hearts and with his music." – Lucas Hoge

"As one of the first artists to successfully master the country/pop crossover, Rogers touched the lives of millions worldwide and led the way for many notable artists who followed. This is a great loss for the music industry, but his influence and legacy will continue." – Harvey Mason Jr., chair and interim president/CEO of the Recording Academy.

## NBA's Adam Silver seeking answers, which are in short supply

By TIM REYNOLDS

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver finds himself almost constantly looking at financial numbers and projections. And like the rest of a world that is dealing with the seismic effects of the coronavirus pandemic, he still isn't sure how bad things will get.

Silver said Saturday the league is considering all options – best-case, worst-case and countless ideas in between – as it tries to come to grips with this new normal. But definitive answers on any front are in short supply.

"It's too soon to tell what the economic impact will be," Silver said. "We've been analyzing multiple scenarios on a daily if not hourly basis and we'll continue to review the financial implications. Obviously, it's not a pretty picture but everyone, regardless of what industry they work in, is in the same boat." Saturday marked the 10th full day of the NBA's shutdown, a stoppage that has cost the league 75 games and counting so far, a total that will reach triple digits on Wednesday and will eventually get to 259 on April 15 – the day the regular season was supposed to end. Play isn't going to resume by then. The financial losses will be massive and will obviously just keep growing if this season cannot resume or if next season is affected.

"Adam is obviously cautious, cautiously optimistic," Cleveland forward Kevin Love said earlier in the week. "We don't know what the future holds but the NBA has been through a lot, we've seen a lot and I think we'll be incredibly resilient. It just might take time."

Players who are due to get their next paycheck on April 1 will get them. Whether those players will get their April 15 check is in some question; the league can exercise a clause in the Collective Bargaining Agreement that allows it to take back 1.08% of each player's salary for each game missed in certain times – like war, or in this case, a pandemic.

That clause has not been exercised yet since, officially anyway, no game has been canceled.

"We're exploring all options to resume our season if and when it is safe to do so," Silver said. "Nothing is off the table." Besides, there are other bridges to cross first. The NBA – which was the first major U.S. pro league to say it would play games without fans and the first league to suspend its season once All-Star center Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz tested positive – has been extremely vocal in trying to get its massive fan base to take social distancing and other preventative measures seriously.

AP

# 'Dear Mama' and imitation modes of Bongo Flava since 2000

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

A striking feature about Bongo Flava – but which is now diminishing in the way it has sort of dominated the teenage music field for nearly 20 years is the preference for frontal talk and other theatrics, instead of actually singing. Quite often musicians virtually labour to talk at their loudest and virtually at their most provocative, and it becomes difficult to figure out what sort of music copy or model they took from. Surprisingly, they believe they have impeccable sources.

Bongo Flava was the result of a technological and a social phenomenon, in the sense that their social role model is United States 'rap' music that is known as 'hip hop' and scarcely ever the long form of the shortening.

The key voice in the US context was the late Tupac Shakur whose single (or album eventually) titled 'Dear Mama,' a monologue or reminiscences about his mother (perhaps being a lost boy in the streets, in the alleys of crime ridden New York suburbs), revolutionized youth music in the US. Evidently this was among black youths there, as rap has never been a predilection of other sections of US society, slightly unlike reggae.

The second source of Bongo Flava was the introduction of 24 hour music television as IPP Media diversified, which gave talented youths the much desired exposure to US rap music, more than they could bring up via recorded music as such. This shift came about in year 2000 and ignited a whole new field not just of music but of the media as well. Keeping track of local music and enabling the fans to socialize with their entertainment stars is a major industry downtown Dar es Salaam in particular.

Looking at the traditional style of Bongo Flava – and it has largely remained true to these origins though its predominance is waning – is that what it took from 'Dear Mama'



Musician Judith Wambura, nicknamed 'Lady Jaydee'.

and such other hits of the classical hip hop period was the talking, not the beat. Listening to Tupac, and even acolytes like 'Snoopy Doggy Dog' or 'Dr Dre' what one finds isn't a talking shop of shouting to those at the front standing places in a music hall. It is a soliloquy of profound moral meditation and self-defence, but then the sort of sentiment expressed in Bongo Flava is more intensely tied to attack.

The reason perhaps is that they do not too often speak audible English, and tended to notice the speaking, conducted in a rather energetic manner at times – and then the dancing which makes Michael Jackson's moves take a different note, even a little of gymnastics for a change – and thought this was the real thing. They expend energy in talking and muscled dancing as if it is a music-mingled body building showpiece, and have little idea of the sort of ethics that 'Tupac raised in the classical hit. The reason again is the social theme of music is local, never

imported.

Looking at the background to Bongo Flava, one finds plenty of weaknesses in the so-called dance music of old, as at any rate had so many branches and individual efforts especially with emerging themes during the early hip hop or 'rhythm and blues' period. There was also the solo performance orientation of Congolese music in the post classical era with its emphasis on bands and each member holding an instrument. East of music recording had DJs starting to masquerade as musicians because of a good voice and making 'musical speeches' to crowds, as was for most of the 1990s the way some bands, like Twanga Pepeta, performed.

The key failing that the teenage music of the past two decades took over from remodeled 'dance music' and even earlier performers in the proper classical age was that strictly speaking, unlike the 'Zaireans' old, the balance was poor in local music. There was a tendency at privileging

the singing and instruments sort of come later, a problem that was to an extent avoided by expatriate bands which tended to live up to the basic ethos of Congolese music, despite variations thereof. Some succeeded at guarding the serenity of the beat in Congolese music while some tended to come over, not just slightly, to Bongo music, where the beat is lost.

It is this difference which made local artistes envy their Congolese counterparts on the note that people tended to favor that music though they did not quite grasp what was being said if they were singing in Lingala. But the point is that music is about the beat, and for reasons of show off and lack of cultivation of producers or band managers or the owners, the failing continued. The talking version worsened this imbalance in large measure – and it can also be said that women artistes helped to reset the balance as they do not have the typical macho outlook, a teenage failing.

## Exclusive: Tokyo organisers quietly plan for potential Olympic delay, sources say

TOKYO

TOKYO 2020 organisers have started drafting possible alternatives to holding the Olympics this summer, two sources familiar with the talks said, in contrast to the Japanese government's stance that postponement is not an option.

While the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted sports events around the world, Japan has been steadfast in saying that the Games will go on. The top government spokesman on Wednesday said Tokyo wasn't preparing for postponement.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has staked his legacy as Japan's longest-serving premier on the Games and is hoping for a boom in tourism and consumer spending. At risk is more than \$3 billion in domestic sponsorship, an Olympic record, and some \$12 billion spent on preparations.

"Finally, we have been asked to make a simulation in case of a postponement," said one of the sources, an official close to the organising committee who is involved in drafting the scenarios.

Both sources spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

"We are making alternative plans – plan B, C, D – looking at different postponement time-frames," said the official, adding the scenarios included cost estimates for different delays.

Neither Tokyo 2020 organisers nor the International Olympic Committee (IOC) immediately responded to a request for comment. The government of Japan could not be reached for comment.

The options, which include scaling back the Games or holding them without spectators, would be debated by the organising committee at the end of March, the official said.

The second source, who is also close to the Tokyo 2020 organising committee, confirmed that postponement was being discussed, including delays of one or two years.

Some organising staff were holding out hope for a delay of a month or 45 days, said the official involved in drafting the scenarios.

A final decision on postponement will have to come from the IOC but Japan's stance also matters.

**BOARD CONCERNS**

The IOC and its powerful chief, Thomas Bach, say the Games will go ahead as planned, drawing fire from athletes who say that could be a health risk.

Two other insiders, both senior members of the Tokyo 2020 organising committee, echoed those concerns. One of them, a board member of the organising committee, said the decision to postpone should be made quickly.

"The more they push the decision away ... more and more preparations have to be made – this will cause cancellation fees to go through the roof," the board member said.

Bach recently appeared to shift his tone, saying the IOC was "considering different scenarios".

Japan's Nikkei newspaper said in a report on its website on Sunday that the IOC will hold a board meeting this week, as calls from sporting organisations for the event to be postponed gathered pace.

The official involved in drafting scenarios said a long delay could spark complaints from older athletes and require keeping sponsors on board for longer. Another headache is the Olympic village, due to be converted to flats after the Games.

The summer 2021 calendar is already crowded while 2022 will see the soccer World Cup and the Beijing Winter Olympics.

Japanese sponsors are nervous, company representatives have said privately. Major sponsors include Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) and Panasonic Corp (6752.T).

"Of course companies are individually discussing what to do," said a representative of one of the more than 60 sponsors. "No one wants



Fake blood is seen in test tubes labelled with coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in front of a displayed Tokyo 2020 Olympics logo in this illustration taken March 19, 2020. REUTERS

to be the first to say anything about the possibility of a postponement."

Japan Airlines Co (9201.T) discussed that there was an 80% chance the Olympics would not be held as scheduled on a recent internal conference call, a person briefed on the call said.

A JAL spokesman said: "Our preparations are underway for the Games to open as scheduled".

In Tokyo, there is a sense delay may be inevitable. Finance Minister Taro Aso has compared Tokyo 2020 to the 1940 Olympics cancelled by World War II, and the boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games.

"It's a problem that's happened every 40 years," he said. "It's the cursed Olympics – and that's a fact."

Meanwhile, USA Track and Field (USATF), the governing body of American athletics, on Saturday called for a postponement of the Tokyo Olympics.

The federation, in a letter to United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) chief executive Sarah Hirshland, asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to postpone the Games, which are scheduled to run from July 24 to Aug. 9.

"We certainly understand the ramifications of this request, and the realities of trying to coordinate the logistics of a postponed Olympic Games around the schedules of other athletes, sport federations, key stakeholders etc, but the alternative of moving forward in light of the current global situation would not be in the best interest of our athletes (as difficult as that decision might be)," USATF chief executive Max Siegel said in the letter. The U.S. track and field federation joined another leading U.S. Olympic sport body, USA Swimming, in seeking a delay to the Games.

Neither U.S. Olympic officials nor the IOC were available for comment on USATF's request.

**VIRTUAL TOWN HALL**

Athlete representatives of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) hosted a virtual town hall on Saturday night of nearly 300 prospective Olympians.

Athletes were invited to share their thoughts on how the coronavirus was affecting their training and whether they thought the Olympics should proceed as scheduled, or be postponed or cancelled.

REUTERS

## Brazil greets wish jailed Ronaldinho happy 40th

RIO DE JANEIRO

SEVERAL Brazilian football greats took to social media to wish Ronaldinho a happy 40th birthday as the former Ballon d'Or winner remains behind bars at a maximum security prison in Paraguay.

Among the legends who wished Ronaldinho a happy birthday were Ronaldo, Rivaldo, and Roberto Carlos – all players who formed part of the Brazil squad that won the 2002 World Cup, the country's last of its five championships.

"Congratulations my friend. May you overcome this difficult moment in your life with happiness you always show," said Ronaldo.

Ronaldinho played for Paris Saint-Germain, Barcelona and AC Milan. He won league titles for Barcelona and a UEFA Champions League, in addition to the 1999 Copa America and the 2002 World Cup with Brazil. The man from Porto Alegre was awarded the Balon d'Or in 2005, given to the world's best player.

"Congratulations my friend, it was very easy to play at your side. I will never forget those moments and may God bless you and give you the strength to pass this difficult moment. I'm praying for you," wrote ex-Barca teammate Rivaldo, using an image of the two kissing the World Cup trophy.

Roberto Carlos, who played at La Liga rivals Real Madrid, also bid his compatriot a happy birthday, wrote on Instagram: "Many congratula-

tions to my friend for his 40 years."

Several of Ronaldinho's former clubs like Milan and Brazil's Atletico Mineiro also expressed their warm wishes to Ronaldinho.

Ronaldinho and his brother, Roberto Assis (who is also his business manager), entered the country on March 4 with falsified passports, even though residents of Brazil do not need passports to enter their landlocked neighbour. Although not initially arrested, they were told to remain in their hotel suite in Asuncion while authorities investigated the matter. Two days later they were in jail, with a judge denying them bail and refusing to release them into house arrest, saying the brothers posed a flight risk.

The probe into the falsified passports has expanded into an investigation into possible money laundering.

Sources have told ESPN that he's "loved" by his fellow prisoners, where he spends most of his time in a cell with his daily activities divided between playing football with the inmates and the employees, as well as attending a carpentry course. Sources added that Ronaldinho, he's "relaxed" in prison, although he's missing the ability to play music, one of his beloved hobbies.

Hearings into Ronaldinho's case have been delayed, his lawyer Sergio Queiroz explained this week, because of the coronavirus outbreak that has occurred worldwide.

(Agencies)

## Dybala and Maldini test positive for coronavirus

ROME

ARGENTINA striker Paulo Dybala said Saturday that he has become the third Juventus player to test positive for coronavirus while former AC Milan defender Paolo Maldini revealed that he and his son have also been infected.

"Hi everyone. I just wanted to let you know that we have received the Covid-19 test results and that Oriana (Sabatini, his girlfriend) and I are positive," the 26-year-old Dybala tweeted.

"Fortunately, we are perfectly fine. Thank you for your messages."

Italian champions Juventus said that Dybala had been self-isolating since Wednesday.

"He will continue to be monitored. He is well and is asymptomatic," said the club in a statement.

Later Saturday, the club said Maldini, now the technical director at

Milan, and his 18-year-old son Daniel, a youth team player, were also battling the disease.

"Paolo and Daniel are both well and have already completed two weeks at home without contact with others," said a statement from AC Milan.

"They will now remain in quarantine until clinically recovered, as per the medical protocols outlined by the health authorities."

Maldini, 51, is considered one of the greatest defenders of all time.

He won five Champions Leagues with Milan and appeared in 647 matches.

Juventus teammates Daniele Rugani and Blaise Matuidi have also tested positive for the disease which claimed almost 800 more lives on Saturday, bringing the total in Italy to 4,825.

AFP

## Former Real Madrid president dies from coronavirus

MADRID

FORMER Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz, who was hospitalised with coronavirus, died on Saturday at the age of 76, his son announced.

Sanz (pictured) was in charge of the Spanish giants from 1995-2000, overseeing two Champions League titles.

"My father has just passed away. He did not deserve this ending and in this way," tweeted his son, Lorenzo Sanz junior.

"One of the best, bravest and hardest-working people I have ever seen. His family and Real Madrid were his passions."

Three days ago, Sanz Jr., a former professional basketball player, said that his father had been admitted to a Madrid hospital after suffering the symptoms of the coronavirus which has killed more than 1,320 people in Spain.

Sanz claimed a place on the Real Madrid board in the mid-1980s, when the president was Ramon Mendoza.

He replaced Mendoza as president in 1995. With Jupp Heynckes as coach and star players such as Davor Suker, Roberto Carlos, Clarence Seedorf, Fernando Hierro and Raul, Real won the Champions League in 1998 by beating Juventus in the final. It was their seventh European Cup but first in 32 years.



Two years later, in Paris, Real claimed an eighth by beating Valencia in the final.

However, that same year, Sanz was ousted as president by Florentino Perez, who opened a new era at the club, adding five more Champions Leagues in two decades.

Current club captain and Spanish international Sergio Ramos, who with teammates is in quarantine after one of the club's basketball players tested positive for the virus, hailed Sanz.

"Very sad day for Real Madrid. Lorenzo Sanz connected yesterday and today with two numbers for history – 7 and 8," tweeted Ramos in reference to the key Champions League titles.

"His death saddens us even more in these difficult days in which we find ourselves. My deep condolences to his family and friends. Rest in peace."

AFP

# In coronavirus-quarantined Spain, Saul Niguez and other stars want to help

By Sid Lowe, ESPN Spain writer

"BLOODY hell," Saul Niguez says from the other end of the line, "the battery on my phone keeps going. This never used to happen, but now I'm having to charge up it up again and again. I'm on it all the time."

Like everyone else in Spain, the Atletico Madrid midfielder is quarantined because of coronavirus, but he might even be busier than before. He always talked fast, a determination in what he says; today, Day 7 since lockdown began, he is flying. There is, after all, a lot to do. He is not sure what yet – he is still working all that out, along with the growing group of people around him – but he is going to do it. And the ideas tumble out quickly.

"It was the second or maybe the third day of the quarantine and I was talking to my agent on the phone, watching the news: China, Italy, here..." Saul says. "I was watching that and thinking about friends and family and the people who are being hit hard. Some of them couldn't go to work. Some of them had to, even if that's irresponsible; they're at risk of getting ill or spreading the virus. There were people losing their jobs, people who are going to have a bad time of it. Health comes first, but there's more too – and the need to get back to normal when we come out of this, which is going to be a long time – and I said to him: 'Let's help them.'"

"He said: 'It's not as simple as that.'"

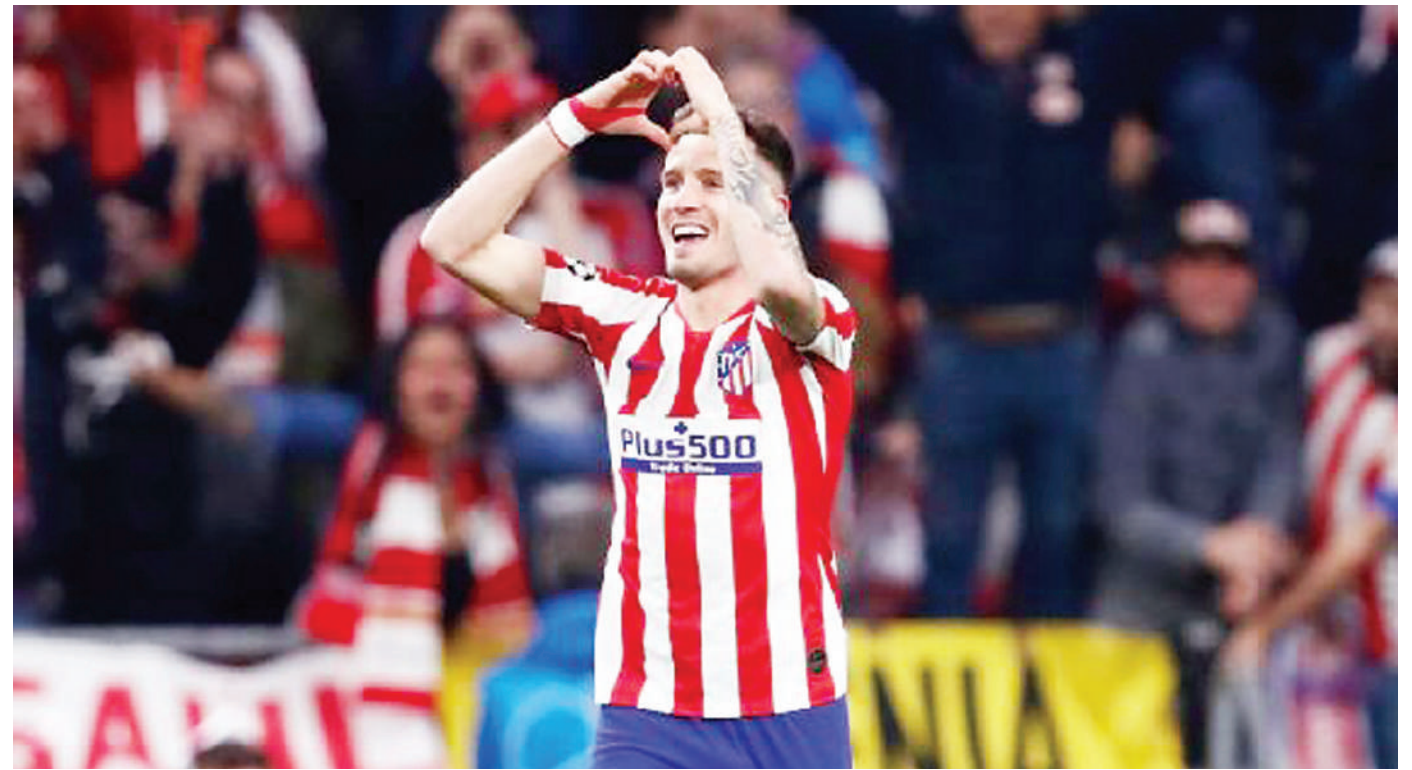
"But there's something we can do, right? I replied. We discussed some ideas, the ways we could have an impact. He had a look into it, and came back and said: 'Saul, let's do it.'"

Saul got on the phone and has hardly gotten off it since. Sergio Busquets, Oliver Torres, Alvaro Morata and Miguel-Angel Moya are among the footballers already on board with a movement called "Saldremos Juntos" – we'll come through this together – but, as Saul explains, they are only the public faces of a growing project.

"There are so many people, working day and night on top of their actual jobs, which they're all doing from home now: replying to emails, contacting people and businesses, setting things up, handling the logistics, people who know. I'm so grateful to them."

"The aim," Saul continues, "is to help PYMES [small business], autonomos [the self-employed], and health workers who are doing hours and hours and hours for everyone else, because they're especially affected by this and the sooner we can get back to some sort of normality the better for everyone."

Those who need the help can register directly on the Saldremos Juntos website, which was designed and launched in a day. Assistance takes many forms: The plan is to set up a fund via donations to



Saul Niguez

help, but it's not just about economic support; it's also about providing expertise and advice, material, ideas and visibility.

Then there is the impact that players can have in helping businesses back onto their feet, including donating match tickets, experiences like training with a professional, or memorabilia that appeals to the customers of small businesses: Buy two pairs at "Santi's Sock Shop" and get the chance to win two tickets to the Metropolitan. Have the chance to win a signed, match-worn Morata shirt if you spend a certain amount at "Juan's Hams." Employ Pedro the painter to do your house.

Footballers have reach and "publicity" is a word Saul uses often, so maybe soon there will be adverts for your local hairdresser starring some of the most famous players, for free. It is not an idea that has been fully fleshed out, but nor is it one that he discards.

Every player involved will help in a way they can, he says, and will do what they are comfortable with: "It might be that some think it is good for them, even if economically there's nothing in it."

More players are getting involved, celebrities too, while bigger business and

institutions have been targeted to contribute financially or with support. The chase for collaborators is going well in what Saul says is still a "sign-up stage" and there will be announcements soon, big ones. But this is about everyone.

"We're still trying to build the strategy, coordinate it all, but it's about helping, about people contributing with whatever they can," Saul says. "When we come out of this, maybe I join with the team and we go and meet an autonomo or some local business, spend 30, 40 minutes with them, ask them how we can help, study a strategy with them. We have lots of different types of people working with us, people who know business, law, and so on. I can take two, three hours and go with them and see four or five people at a time, a couple of times a week."

"Or maybe it's publicity," he continues. "Or boots, tickets, a prize, something. There are things people can donate, relationships they can draw on. There's the public as well: maybe someone can only give €5, but that helps."

Or maybe they have some of the materials, or the knowhow, a small business needs. And if people want to help us too, then we're delighted: if they can do

things that we need, send a CV. I mean, I wouldn't get my dad to deal with the emails; he can hardly use a computer! But people have all sorts of skills, ways of contributing."

Saul admits that this will not solve all the problems or save every small business, but he is determined to help people in need to restart.

"For the government so far it's health, health, health and that's what really matters now," Saul says, "but we can help in other ways, when it comes to recuperating some normality."

And it's good to think big. Even beyond Spain. Italy, the UK ... no, I'm not saying we'll go there, but let them copy this idea if it works. People with a public profile have the ability to help, so let's help. Let them help, do something. Not with this necessarily, but in some way. There are players – I know Sergio Canales and Betis are working [with food banks] in Seville, for example – who are helping in other ways.

"And that's the point: helping. Help your neighbour, the people around you. It's time to think about other people. If we're going to come out of this, we have to do it together."

## The biggest unsolved questions as shutdown goes on - 2

By Bill Connelly, ESPN Staff Writer

### 5. How will the Hertha soap opera end?

IF you haven't been following the Hertha Berlin story this season, you've been missing out. Mind you, you haven't missed anything good: on the contrary, Hertha is on pace for its worst finish since 2015, when the club avoided relegation by a single point.

No, what you're missing is some serious, all-caps DRAMA.

Stuck in 15th place in the 18-team Bundesliga, Hertha hired former U.S. men's national team head coach Jurgen Klinsmann as caretaker manager in late November. For a minute, it seemed like the move might work out pretty well: after losing his debut match (the team's fifth straight league loss), Hertha collected 12 points from their next seven matches, a pace easily good enough to avoid relegation. But then Klinsmann abruptly quit in mid-February, claiming he wasn't getting enough front-office support.

A couple of weeks later, a 22-page diary Klinsmann kept during his time with the club was leaked to the press. Not surprisingly, it was amazingly self-serving and scathing toward the club. Hertha proceeded to lose its first post-leak match 5-0. FC Koln, then fell behind 16th place Fortuna Dusseldorf 3-0 before rallying for a draw. They salvaged a 2-2 home draw against 17th-place Werder Bremen and remain six points out of the relegation zone. But the season has been teetering for a while, and among Hertha's final nine matches are road trips to RB Leipzig, Borussia Dortmund and Borussia Monchengladbach. We might not have seen the last plot twist.

### Serie A

### 6. Can Lazio win its first Serie A title in 20 years?

It feels particularly ominous talking about a completed Serie A season since matches have been canceled in Italy until at least early April. If it does resume, however, we'll have quite a race to follow: Juventus vs. Lazio.

Juventus aren't used to having much competition for the Serie A title. The Bianconeri have won eight championships in a row and the runner-up has been within eight or fewer points only twice in the past seven years. Lazio haven't finished closer than 18 points of the champs during this span of domination and



Jurgen Klinsmann

yet, with 12 league matches to go for both teams, Juve have 63 points with a plus-26 goal differential, and Lazio are at 62 points/plus-37.

After a stirring run of success in the late 1990s and early 2000s (which included both Serie A and Coppa Italia wins in 2000), Lazio have managed only two top-three league finishes since 2001. The Biancocelesti didn't exactly come roaring out of the gates this season either, earning only 12

points (and falling 10 behind Juve) in their first eight matches. But they've dropped only four points since Oct. 22, giving up fewer goals than anyone in that span while scoring more than everyone except the impossibly prolific Atalanta. While they were surprisingly eliminated from the Europa League in the group stage, they haven't suffered a Serie A loss since September. They are scheduled, for now, to visit Juventus on April 26. That might end up be-

ing the deciding fixture in this surprisingly tight race.

### 7. Can any goal scorers catch Ciro?

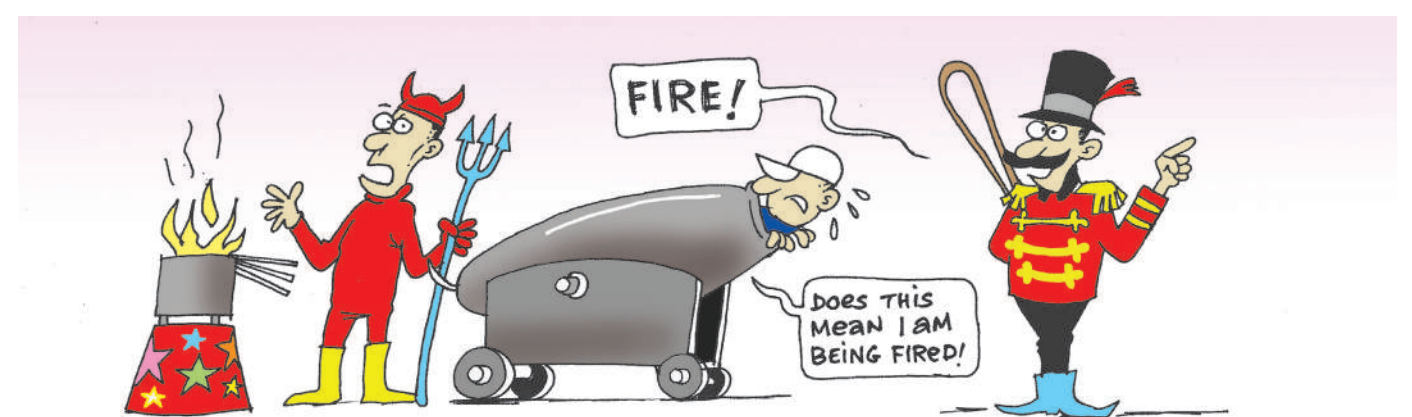
Less tight at the moment: Ciro Immobile's Golden Boot lead. For more than 50 years, the boot has been given to Europe's best league goal scorer, with players in the top leagues giving a weighted edge since 1997. As you would probably expect, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have dominated, winning 10 of the past 12 boots. But both are looking up in the standings at the moment.

Goals in the top five leagues are worth two points, while goals in lesser leagues carry less weight. So Lazio's Immobile basically has a two-goal lead over the injured Lewandowski and a six-goal lead over the cluster of Werner, Ronaldo and Haaland. Messi is eight goals back.

Immobile, 30, is an incredible comeback story. After scoring 22 goals for Torino in 2013-14, he signed with Dortmund but struggled. Loans to Sevilla and back to Torino weren't particularly fruitful either, but he resurrected his career at Lazio. He scored 29 goals in 2017-18 and will almost certainly top that this spring. But some awfully big names are on his trail.

To be continues

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

In coronavirus-quarantined Spain, Saul Niguez and other stars want to help

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Kagera Sugar fullback, David Luhende.

## Kagera Sugar defender features every minute for squad

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Vodacom Premier League season has been suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic which gives much needed rest for some players who have played every minute since the start of the campaign.

Considering the tight schedule teams have with the league and the Azam Sports Federation Cup, playing every minute of every game across 29 matches is a considerable feat.

Going through the league record there is one player who stands out.

If there is a player from Kagera Sugar that coach Mecky Mexime has full confidence then the player can only be David Luhende.

Kagera Sugar are 29 matches into this season, and Luhende, a left fullback, has played every single minute.

Luhende has been absolutely wonderful and irreplaceable for the team and has played every single minute of their season so far.

This means that, since the beginning of the competition in August, Luhende has played at the heart of Kagera Sugar defence without being replaced in all 29 matches and 2610 minutes.

In addition to playing all the Vodacom Premier League games, the 31-year-old has played throughout three Azam Sports Federation Cup games, whereas other Premier League coaches have rested their players in some cup matches.

A leader at the back, Luhende has been one of Mexime's most relied upon players.

He has repaid every ounce of confidence Mexime has placed in him with numerous resounding performances since last season when he joined from Mwadui FC.

A former Young Africans SC (Yanga) player, Luhende is a strong presence capable of putting in clattering tackles and is very good in the air.

He has four assists to his name, making him one of the best this season.

Admittedly Kagera Sugar have shipped in 31 goals so far but this does not take anything away from Luhende who has been solid as always at the back and has continued to be so.

The fact that he has been playing consistently in a league, with too many games spaced very closely and the long distance needed to travel between match venues, makes his record of not having missed even a single minute of action in the Vodacom Premier League even more spectacular.

## Lack of modern facilities frustrates acquisition of club licensing - TPLB

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Premier League board (TPLB) has said lack of modern infrastructure is the main obstacle which many clubs in the country are facing in meeting requirements for getting club licensing.

Almasi Kasongo, TPLB Chief Executive Officer, issued the statement after head met officials of Premier League, First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL) clubs based in Mbeya.

He said by the start of 2020/21 football league season, all elite Premier League, FDL and SDL clubs are required to meet all of the requirements for getting club licensing.

But he observed that the great challenge is lack of infrastructure as many clubs do not own grounds and instead they depend on venues owned by other sports stakeholders.

He said the few venues, which are under clubs' ownership, are substandard.

"We were in Mbeya where we met leaders of Premier League, FDL and SDL teams, the aim was to appreciate their achievements and know challenges they are facing before we fully start to implement club licensing in the 2020/21 season," he noted.

"The main problem is that many of them do not own grounds, we will come again to see where have they reached," he said.

On his remarks, Lucas Kuboja, Mbeya Regional Football Association Secretary General, hailed TPLB for touring the region.

He conceded that the biggest challenge his region is facing in implementing club licensing is lack of modern stadia.

He however said they are doing their utmost to see to it that the challenge is being addressed.

"We have the problem of our clubs lacking their own grounds, this is the biggest problem facing the development of football in the region, the regional association is working closely with clubs to see how we can solve this challenge," he said.

Many Mbeya football clubs depend on Chama Chamapinduzi (CCM)-owned Sokoine Memorial Stadium for their assignments.

Lack of either venues or stadia does not only affect Mbeya clubs, but also other clubs in the country.

Club licensing was defined in 2006 by FIFA during its congress, which took place in Munich, Germany and came into force two years later.



Biashara United head coach, Francis Baraza.

## 2019/20 Premier League suspension worries Biashara United head coach

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

BEFORE last Tuesday's decision by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to suspend all football fixtures due to the Coronavirus outbreak in the country, Biashara United looked to be doing well in the 2019/20 Vodacom Premier League campaign.

The Musoma-based side are 10th on the league table with 40 points, seven points safe from the relegation zone after 29 outings.

They had won eight consecutive home games while losing only two of their last 15 outings under new coach, Francis Baraza, who helped them out of the relegation and believes top five is a realistic goal this season.

Baraza, who joined Biashara United in mid November last year, agrees with the decision to suspend all football fixtures but is worried it could kill off his team's momentum after resumption of the league.

"I was on a good run, this Coronavirus pandemic would cause our team to drop because our squad had gelled together. I was not afraid of facing any team, I was confident of taking off points from any side," he said.

"It would be difficult for my boys who had gelled together. If you look at the away games we have played, we were solid. Against Namungo FC and Mtibwa Sugar for example, I would say I actually won those games," he added.

He revealed that following Tuesday's

statement they have suspended their training sessions for two weeks and allowed players to go home.

"This Coronavirus pandemic will really hurt us because we had built chemistry. We have given them a 14-day break, however, if they follow the training instructions we have issued them, I think it will mitigate the consequence of starting from scratch," he said.

Baraza has been impressed by in-form Mtibwa Sugar striker Jaffary Kibaya, JKT Tanzania forward Danny Lyanga and Young Africans SC (Yanga)'s Bernard Morrison.

But the Kenyan coach says Morrison, who joined Yanga in the December-January transfer window, has so far impressed him the most.

**TONIGHT @ 9:30**

**EATV Sports**

**MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)  
16:00 Akili & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSelekt  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE  
22:30 Bongo Hits

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**eastAfrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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## Flexibles by David Chikoko



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