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Zanzibar to refurbish historical buildings



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Sustainable fish fillet export market



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Impact analysis of COVID-19 on businesses



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EACJ strikes out appeal notice in 'Mseto' banning

By Guardian Correspondent

THE East African Court of Justice has struck out a notice of appeal the Tanzanian government had filed to challenge a ruling by the court in favour of Mseto, a Kiswahili weekly newspaper.

The government had also requested more time to appeal after the expiry of the set period, but the court declined.

The ruling by the Arusha-based court was made yesterday through a video conference.

The applicants were the newspaper and its publisher, both legal persons under Tanzania's laws, and were represented in the case by their managing director, Saed Kubenea.

The applicants had sought the striking out of a notice of intention to appeal filed on August 19, 2018 by the Attorney General against a decision by the court's First Instance Division as delivered on June 21, 2018.

The applicants challenged the notice, submitting that it was filed after the said decision was made and that until February 19, 2020 neither was the appeal filed nor was justification for delay given.

They further argued that an application by the respondent - the AG - seeking leave

Swiss travel agents out scouting, Ethiopian airplane lands at KIA



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla (in goggles) and Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollel (to his left) field questions from journalists at the Kilimanjaro International Airport on Monday shortly after the first passenger aircraft landed there after a three-month interruption linked to the spread of Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE first commercial airliner to land in Tanzania after over three months of global Covid-19 airspace closure brought into the country's northern tourism circuit a couple of travel agents from Switzerland.

Led by Hansruedi Buchi, a tour operator specialising in hiking, mountaineering and landscape biking, the agents said that they are here to map new routes for their clients' future travels in Tanzania after the global lockdown.

An Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737-800 landed at the Kilimanjaro International Airport, the country's portal into major tourism sites in the northern circuit. The plane was received by the usual 'water salute' befitting airliners in their maiden voyages.

Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla received the airliner, stating that the plane was the first among five airlines lining up to connect Tanzania to overseas destinations. The coronavirus global lockdown is slowly but surely being lifted, he said.

The Royal Dutch Airline (KLM) which used to have daily flights to Kilimanjaro and Dar es Salaam will be the next to bring aircrafts into Tanzania, he said.

United Nations World Travel Organization (UNWTO) Secretary General Zurab Pololikashvili said elsewhere that the global travel industry is now slowly opening up though great caution still needs to be taken.

"Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, which brought the entire world to a standstill,

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The newspaper was banned for allegedly publishing incitements and false news

to file an appeal out of time was filed immediately after the applicants had filed their application to strike out the notice appeal.

Accordingly, the applicants prayed that the court order the striking out of the notice of appeal to allow them to enjoy the fruits of the decision by court's First Instance Division.

The First Instance Division ruled that an August 10, 2016 order by the former Information, Culture, Arts and Sports minister banning the publication amounted to an infringement of press freedom and therefore violated the respondent's state obligation under Articles 6 (d) and 7 (2) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

The newspaper was banned for allegedly publishing incitements and false news.

The respondent stood against the application, submitting that the delay was occasioned by a restructuring in the AG's Office - which was shifting from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma at the material time - and that this is what made the respondent file the application for extension of time.

The respondent had also submitted that

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PCCB holds ex-MSD head, bails CCM rogue aspirants

By Guardian Reporters

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) is holding the former Director General of the Medical Stores Department (MSD), Laurean Bwanakunu, after investigating claims of misuse of office, embezzlement of public funds and suspicions of corruption.

The bureau has also arrested the agency's acting director of logistics, Byekwaso Tabura, in the wake of its investigations.

PCCB public relations officer Doreen Kapwani said in a statement yesterday that the suspects are remanded by the bureau as investigations into the matter continue.

"Both suspects have been arrested and are facing various allegations, including misuse of power commissioning the loss of the government funds. The suspects violated the country's Anti-Corruption Act No. 11 of 2007," she said.

Bwanakunu's appointment was revoked early last month and Brigadier General Gabriel Mhizize, until then head of the Lugalo Military Hospital in Dar es Salaam, was appointed to replace him.

Meanwhile, the bureau has reported holding 18 CCM members in Mtwara Region for allegedly bribing voters ahead of later this year's General Election.

It is also holding Muhaji Mrope, an officer with the Tanzania Revenue Authority

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Lake Nyasa registers record level in April

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE water level in Lake Nyasa had reached 477.68 meters by late April this year - the highest recorded in the past four decades.

A statement by the Lake Nyasa Basin Water Board says this was shown in a study conducted between January and April.

Alice Engelbert, a water expert with the board, attributed the situation to above normal rains experienced this year in the southern highland regions of Mbeya,

Songwe and Njombe.

In January the water level at the lake was 476.45 meters, increasing slightly to 476.78 meters in February and to 477.25 meters March.

The lake has for many years recorded much lower water levels until this year's massive rains.

Lake Nyasa recorded high water levels in 1974 with 477.57 meters, when its level increased to 478.25 meters, the official noted.

Higher water levels have caused no

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (L) pictured at Iyumbu in Dodoma city yesterday symbolically handing over to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa 103 houses worth 5.6 billion/- built by the National Housing Corporation for the Immigration Department. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Swiss travel agents out scouting, Ethiopian airplane lands at KIA

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UNWTO has been emphasizing the importance of putting public health first," he said in the latest update on

Monday.

Tanzania has reinforced safety and health precautions in the northern tourism circuit with specially

designated treatment centres in Arusha, Karatu and Serengeti.

There is also a new system of handling visitors at airports and other

entry points, placing on standby ambulances and medical insurance cover, like airlifting foreign visitors who may fall sick after arriving.

Lake Nyasa registers record level in April

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damage to people living near the lakeshore, as farming is not allowed too close to the shore.

"We will continue monitoring water levels at the lake as well as ensure regular visits to people living near water sources," she said.

The possibility of increased siltation in the lake as a result of environmental degradation of water sources was unlikely as it is deep and not easy to get it filled.

She said there was no study as yet carried out on siltation in the lake. "What I can say is that more studies need to be done on the lake and its water flow sources," she said.

Kyela District environmental officer James Mbaga said a study carried out 13 years ago determined that 117,000 tonnes of sand were getting into the lake, the second deepest lake in Africa after Lake Tanganyika.

"But since then no study has been conducted in the lake to know how environmental degradation was affecting the water body," he said.

The district council has been working to ensure that the lake remains free from environmental degradation, in most cases caused by anthropogenic factors such as poor farming methods or wanton tree felling on water sources.

Mbaga said the district council has been working with different environmental NGOs in conserving catchment areas as well as the lakeshore ecology.

Through the Sustainable Land Management of Lake Nyasa Catchment project, Kyela district educates villagers on the importance of environmental conservation in saving the eighth

largest lake in the world.

Salum Kilanga, environmental officer for Rungwe District, cited environmental degradation in the catchment areas as among challenges facing the area despite that people are informed on the negative impacts of poor farming methods.

"The district council has been encouraging people to plant trees in their respective areas and along river banks to address environment degradation as it poses negative impacts downstream," he explained.

"We also seek to ensure that people adhere to the country's environmental regulations prohibiting economic activities within 60 meters of river edge, or destroying vegetation on river banks.

Lake Nyasa is shared by Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. It is home to more than 1,000 fish species with around 600 of its fish species not found elsewhere in the world.

Lake Nyasa has not been affected by soil erosion caused by human activities. Research conducted by the board showed that such activities affected water levels at Songwe, Kiwira and Mbaka rivers.

Lake Nyasa receives water from a number of rivers including Ruhuhu, Lufilyo, Mbaka, Kiwira and Songwe.



What I can say is that more studies need to be done on the lake and its water flow sources



Energy ministry permanent secretary Zena Said touches a pipe used in transporting natural gas while on a just-ended visit to a gas project in Lindi Region. Photo: Correspondent Zuwena Msuya

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government has said it is committed towards refurbishing heritage buildings to ensure tourists visiting the Isles are well informed on the colonial and administrative history of the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Information, Culture, and Sports minister Mahmoud Thabit Kombo in the House of Representatives on the efforts by the government of Oman on improving Zanzibar's cultural heritage.

Kombo said the government of Oman took the task to strengthen and renovate cultural buildings to allow academicians from various countries to learn Zanzibar's history.

"We commend the Oman

Z'bar to refurbish historical buildings to bolster tourism

government for taking up this task especially in renovating the Beit- Al-Jaib located at Stone Town together with the document house at Kilimani," he said.

He added that the document house at Kilimani has been installed with document storage machines which will make the important booklets to stay longer.

He said the Oman government has issued 13bn/- for the construction

Former MSD chief in PCCB hands, as 'aspirants' get bail

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(TRA) who has already shown interest in contesting the Ndanda constituency seat.

Mrope and the other suspects are alleged to have started convening meetings with voters, which is contrary to election procedures set out by the ruling party.

Mtwara regional PCCB commander Enock Ngailo said his office had received information on plans by the suspects to conduct two meetings on Monday (June 1).

He said the first meeting was indeed held on Monday morning at the residence of the party's publicity secretary for Mlingula ward and the second at around 11 a.m. the same day.

"All these meetings were intended to bribe voters who will take part in party primaries in Ndanda constituency, Msasi District," said the commander.

Party primaries are used by party members to select their preferred candidate for each election constituency.

Ngailo stated that the publicity secretary in Mlingula ward, Martine Chinemba and the party chairman in Mlingula ward, Hussein Bwanali were used by Mrope to bribe voters participating in CCM opinion polls.

"Our officers from Masasi District camped at Bwanali's residence before the other 16 members including leaders arrived. They were later arrested and remanded at the Masasi police station," Ngailo stated.

The 16 arrested members were released on bail on Monday while two

ward party leaders and Mrope were released yesterday.

"Our officers are still investigating the matter," the PCCB official noted.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CCM ideology and publicity secretary, Humphrey Polepole said that the party would inaugurate election procedures soon after the current Budget session of Parliament ends June 19.

Polepole said this year's procedures for party primaries will be completely different from those applied during the general elections in 2015.

"After party primaries, top officials at district, regional and the central committee will meet to review the process as well as conduct vetting of selected candidates. The National Executive Committee (NEC) will be responsible for picking names of candidates for each constituency," he added.



All these meetings were intended to bribe voters who will take part in party primaries in Ndanda constituency, Msasi District

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a new law in place in Tanzania - the Media Services Act, 2016 - provides for a procedure to be followed by any person seeking to renew his or her

licence and that the applicants have a duty to follow the procedure.

The respondent had prayed for the dismissal of the application with costs and, subsequently, for the court to allow the appeal to be filed.



Members of a pastoralist community at Nadosoito in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, captured earlier this week drawing water from public shallow wells for their livestock. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Ministers, RCs call for sustainable export markets for Tanzania fish

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

CABINET ministers and regional commissioners from the Lake Zone regions yesterday met to formulate a joint strategy to ensure foreign market sustainability for the fish fillet trade.

The meeting convened in Mwanza was attended by the Minister for Works, Transport and Communications Isack Kamwelwe, the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Luhaga Mpina and the Minister for Industry and Trade Innocent Bashungwa, their Permanent Secretaries including the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry for Livestock and Fisheries Rashid Tamatah, and Regional Commissioner from Mwanza, Kagera and Mara regions.

Speaking when opening the meeting, Works transport and communications minister Isack Kamwelwe said the aim of the meeting was to draw a joint strategy that would sustain the fish fillet export trade that began May 12 this year.

He said the plan will inspire economic growth for the people of the Lake Zone and the nation in general as those who will directly benefit from the whole chain of the trade are the fishermen and institutions that will earn incomes through various taxes and levies.

He said the institutions include Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA), Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA), and Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).

He said if possible the scope should be widened as to include other products for such as livestock products.

"I am therefore directing my ministry's

Permanent Secretary to discuss with his counterparts to assess and advise on how to cooperate in areas involved to make the fish fillet export trade from Mwanza airport sustainable," Kamwelwe said.

He also used the occasion to explain that since the fish fillet export trade began, four plane had transported the product from Mwanza Airport, out of which three were by RwandAir and one by Ethiopian Airline.

He said the trips raised various challenges that were submitted by the airlines through their marketing officers, of which solutions thereof had to be found.

The PS to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Rashid Tamatah said since the government started the fillet export trade, it would not augur well to stop midway hence solutions had to be found on the challenges raised in order that airlines do not suspend services to airlift the fish fillet to European markets.

He said the work done by his ministry had borne fruit after two years as now the production of fish fillets had increased as the factories thereof are working round the clock and the main challenge is the market.

He also called upon fishermen in the Lake zone to stop using illegal fishing gear.

The Mara Regional Commissioner Adam Malima suggested that: "since it is now known that Mwanza is the town from where the fish fillets originate there is need to advertise our own brand of the product to the foreign markets."

Tanzania spends 520bn/- in annual wheat imports

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA is compelled to import 1 million tonnes of wheat to suffice the country's annual demand of 1.1 million tonnes of the cereal, the Deputy minister of Agriculture has announced here.

During his tour at the agricultural research institute based in Arusha, Omary Mgumba said the government was spending over US \$225 million yearly to import of wheat whereas the country

had ample arable land to grow the cereal. "We really need to address this situation; researchers and farming experts must assist us to become self-sufficient in wheat production, because importing food is not only expensive but also does not guarantee quality, safety or freshness," the Deputy minister stated.

Apparently Tanzania imports 90 per cent of annual wheat and the related costs translate to half-a-trillion/- local currently. The over 517 billion/- wheat

importation bill, isn't a tab which the ministry finds easy to pick, especially when there are other cheaper and better alternatives.

At nearly a million square kilometres, with a population of over 53 million, Tanzania has more land than it needs to produce agricultural crops; but the country still imports large consignment from country with less land and even fewer people.

Other than wheat, Tanzania is also

forced to be spending large amounts of foreign currency to import edible oils and sugar. In this respect the ingress of edible oils from overseas cost the country over US \$ 443,000 equivalent to 1.2 billion/-.

The deputy minister toured the Seliani and Tengeru research centres and directed the institutions to find ways to address wheat and edible oil shortages in the country.

"Tanzania has 17 agricultural research centres, two of which are located in

Arusha; we expect these institutions to cooperate in coming up with ultimate solutions to all problems affecting farmers and the entire agricultural industry in the country," he pointed out.

Dr Joseph Ndunguru is the director at Selian Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) and he revealed that the centre is working on disease and drought resisting crop seeds to ensure the country's food security in case of famine or any outbreak of any pests.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Dar es Salaam announces that it is unable to locate the identification number stamps of the Embassy's Official Stamps with numbers 18051 and 1855.

The Embassy urges anyone who has information about the identification number stamps to contact the Embassy on 2111716.



Tanzania Health Promotion Support

Plot 254, 3rd floor, Coco Plaza Building - Toure Drive, Masaki, Dar es Salaam Tanzania, East Africa P.O. Box 32605 Dar es Salaam, Tel +255-22-2923107/+255 689 103 046 Fax+255 22 2923108. info@thps.or.tz

ADVERTISEMENT FOR VACANCY.

Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) is an indigenous NGO established under nongovernmental organization act No 24 of 2002 in 2011. THPS works in partnership with the Ministries of Health Community Development Gender Elderly and Children (MoHCDEGEC) and Regional Administration and Local Governments (PORALG) and Ministry of Health in Zanzibar with a goal of ensuring accessible high-quality health care services to Tanzanians; through strengthening of health systems for quality health services. THPS is currently implementing projects in comprehensive HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care, Support and Treatment among general populations in Pwani and Kigoma regions; key & vulnerable populations across 25 district councils across 13 mainland Tanzania regions and Health laboratory services strengthening in all mainland regions and Zanzibar.

THPS responded to the USAID Notice of Funding Opportunity No. 72062120RFA00003- Police and Prison Activity- Category of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 98.001, which focuses on providing quality comprehensive HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis prevention, care, and treatment support services to the police and prisons staff, their families, prisoners and surrounding communities in Tanzania. Hence, THPS is seeking an experienced, dynamic and qualified Candidate for the role of Chief of Party (COP), for USAID Police and Prisons Activity program in Tanzania should THPS be awarded the project.

The positions are subject to a successful award be granted to THPS

TITLE	: Chief of Party (COP)
Reports to	: THPS Executive Director (ED)
Position Location	: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Overall Job Function

The Chief of Party (COP) will serve as the primary technical and managerial lead for the USAID Police and prisons Activity program in Tanzania which focuses on providing quality comprehensive HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis prevention, care, and treatment support services to the police and prisons staff, their families, prisoners and surrounding communities. The Chief of Party, and will provide leadership and coordination in strategic planning, program development and management, and overseeing the implementation and evaluation of all activities related to this program in Tanzania; while ensuring that project resources are used as planned

Key Responsibilities

- Provide overall strategic, technical leadership and coordination in planning, implementation, and evaluation of all USAID Police and Prisons Activity project in Tanzania.
- Ensure quality and timeliness of work and the completion of the activity within budget.
- Maintain oversight responsibilities for all field-related technical & management issues
- Serve as the programs chief project and technical representative with USAID, MHA-TFPF, MOHCDEGEC, and other national/international agencies, institutions, and stakeholders.
- Communicate in a timely fashion with THPS Executive Director and senior management team (SMT) and USAID on the coordination of activities and regarding status/problems associated with activities and offer proposed solutions.
- Supervise, and manage all program staff and consultants working on this activity.
- Provide program and technical direction, lead annual work plan development, as well as completion of required reports.
- Oversee the planning, monitoring, management and control systems to ensure informed decision-making and implementation of project activities.
- Oversee monitoring of project activities and ensure incorporation of lessons learned into ongoing activity tasks.
- Ensure performance against targets. Take corrective action where necessary.
- Coordinate and plan meetings with USAID, MOHCDEGEC, and other partners at national and state level.
- Ensure project financial systems and controls comply with generally accepted accounting practices and USG standards and GOT.
- Ensure compliance with THPS and USAID policies, rules and regulations.
- Lead development and implementation of sustainability plans and ensure continuous engagement of local government authorities (R/CHMTs) in supportive supervisions.
- Advocate for resource allocations to police and prison facilities by the local government authorities.
- Communicate regularly with THPS Senior management team, sharing information in a timely manner.
- Ensure accuracy and timely submission of all quarterly/annual reporting requirements
- Supervise the development, implementation and reporting of evaluation and performance management including mid and end term project evaluation

Qualifications and Experience

- M.D. preferred, minimum of Master's Degree in public health, health education, or health management field
- 10 + years of program and/or project management experience in the area of HIV/AIDS and TB
- Excellent oral, written, and interpersonal skills.
- Previous work experience managing PEPFAR USAID-funded projects.
- Good interpersonal and people management skills, a team player, demonstrated ability to work effectively and harmoniously with other project staff, host country counterparts, USAID, consultants, donors, and international organizations.
- Able to travel domestically to project sites as needed.
- Must be a citizen of Tanzania

How to apply:

Interested applicants should send their application cover letter one page maximum and CV four pages maximum to (hr.thps@gmail.com) by June 15, 2020 with a subject line of Chief of Party USAID Police and Prison Activity. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Please do not attach any certificates when submitting online.

THPS is an equal opportunity employer; women, people living with HIV/AIDS and people living with disability are encouraged to apply.

DEPOSIT INSURANCE BOARD



PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF FBME BANK LIMITED (UNDER LIQUIDATION) REMINDER NOTICE ON REIMBURSEMENT OF INSURED DEPOSITS

Following the closure of FBME Bank Limited in May 2017, the Deposit Insurance Board (DIB) of P.O. Box 2939, Dar es Salaam, commenced reimbursement of insured deposits to the depositors of the closed bank in line with provisions of the law. The DIB wishes to issue this reminder notice that;

1. The reimbursement of unclaimed insured deposits to the depositors of the defunct FBME Bank Limited is still going on through the office premises of former FBME Bank Limited located at Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam. Until end of April, 2020, number of depositors equivalent to 51.77% of all eligible depositors have been reimbursed.
2. By this reminder notice, the DIB reminds all eligible depositors who are yet to collect their insured deposits to collect their deposit at the Kinondoni office premises of the former FBME Bank Limited.

All inquiries should be addressed to:

Director
Deposit Insurance Board
2 Mirambo Street
P. O. Box 2939
11884 Dar es Salaam
Tel: + 255 22 223 5390
Fax: + 255 22 223 4200
E-mail: DIB-INFO@bot.go.tz

Issued by:
The Director, Deposit Insurance Board
Dated: 28th May, 2020



Mkongoma General Supply Ltd general manager Geoffrey Mkongoma (R), briefs Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (C, foreground) yesterday on the production of chalk by the company for use in schools. This was shortly after the DC graced the connection of national grid power supply to the factory. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tarime/Rorya police embark on strategies leading to decline in cross-border rustling

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

POLICE in Tarime/Rorya Special Police Region have embarked on strategies against livestock theft and other armed criminal activities in Sirari border area in Tarime district, Mara region that will involve village government leaders.

According to the plan the police in the Special Police Region will work together with village leaders because they are capable of identifying signs for criminal activities and the perpetrators' strategies the employ before they commit crimes.

Tarime/Rorya Special Regional Police Commander William Mkonda announced at the weekend at a joint meeting with the village leaders during which he said the strategies will involve local security militia groups especially in areas bordering Kenya.

He said the security in Mara region has of recent been beefed up as the country gears up for general elections in October and other government

organs' involvement in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

"History tells us that criminals mix together with ordinary citizens every day, eating and drinking together, hence we appeal to village leaders to report on any signs of planned crimes in their areas as early as possible," the RPC said.

Earlier, Sirari Ward executive Mirumbe Waryoba claimed that there have been allegations leveled at junior police officers for failing to keep secrets given to the police force thereby threatening the lives of informers.

He said in the circumstances village leaders "have been reluctant to pass tips off as some of these leak and criminals take advantage of the situation to commit their vile acts."

Sirari District Police Commander SSP Thomas Mapuri assured village leaders that the police will protect all reports submitted to them and called on the junior officers to stop leaking sources of the informers in order to protect them.

Police hold 17-year-old boy for allegedly killing his father

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

POLICE in Gairo district, Morogoro region have detained a boy, (name withheld) for allegedly killing his father, Issaya Lameck (47), by punching him in the face and trampling on him following a domestic quarrel.

Morogoro Regional Police Commander Wilbrod Mutafungwa said the incident occurred on May 31 at 6 am in Manyani area, Mkalama Ward, in the district.

RPC Mutafungwa said a day before, May 30 at around 6.00 p.m. the deceased returned home drunk and

a quarrel erupted with his son who punched him in the face and he fell down; and then the son trampled on him in the belly.

RPC Mutafungwa said relatives of the deceased intervened but failed to send him for treatment alleged that it was due to his drunken state

and also alleged that he was not at all injured.

However, the RPC said by early morning on May 31 he died, saying after autopsy the deceased body was handed to relatives for burial.

He said the suspect was still under police custody and after investigations

he will appear in court.

Meanwhile, police are holding Nuru Hassan (35), farmer and resident of Kasiki in Kilosa district for being in possession of government trophies.

RPC Mutafungwa said that, acting on tip off, police in Kilosa District in

collaboration with wildlife officials went to her house and after a search they found 7.5 kg elephant tusk valued at 34,635,000/- stuffed in a bag under her bed.

He said the suspect is still being interrogated after which court action will follow.

Zanzibar's Jozani Forest Reserve now recognised by UNESCO, says minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government has said Jozani Forest Reserve in Isles is now officially recognised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and is included among the world's best 100 forest reserves.

Speaking in the House of Representatives, the Zanzibar Minister for Natural Resources and Fisheries Mmanga Mjengo Mjawiri said this is a great achievement since the time the Reserve was established in 1990 and officially registered in 1992.

Mjawiri appealed to people living in seven villages around Jozani Forest Reserve to recognize the Reserve's fame internationally and take up the responsibility over its protection against acts of environmental destruction.

He said such destructive acts including tree cutting and poaching of wildlife can eradicate the reserve's fame as it is now being visited by many tourists.

He said in 2016 more than 50,000 tourists visited the forest reserve and by 2019 the number rose to over 69,000.

He said UNESCO said officially recognized Jozani Forest Reserve that is home to some of the world's rare living things, including the red colobus monkey.

He said in the last ten years people

in villages surrounding the reserve earned more than 1.2bn/- dividend from revenues collected by the tourism sector as compensation from the effects living near the reserve.

He said these include frequent invasion by the red colobus monkeys that destroy their crops as they are not supposed to attack them.

Jozani Forest Reserve in Central Zanzibar District is surrounded by people living in Ukongoroni, Pete, Charawe, Unguja Ukuu, Muungoni and Binguni.



Mjawiri appealed to people living in seven villages around Jozani Forest Reserve to recognize the Reserve's fame internationally and take up the responsibility over its protection against acts of environmental destruction



Water ministry permanent secretary Prof Kitila Mkumbo (L) addresses residents of Missenyi in Kagera Region at the weekend moments after launching a water project meant to serve the region's Kyaka and Bunazi villages. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

State agency to buy seaweed produce directly from farmers

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MINISTER for Trade and Industries ambassador Amina Salum Ali has announced that the National Zanzibar State Trading Corporation (ZSTC) will start purchasing seaweed produce directly from farmers as for clove crop.

According to her, the move is aimed to boost production of the crop as

well as improve lives and incomes of farmers.

Ambassador Ali told the House of Representative when winding up the ministry's budget proposal for the 2020/21 financial year.

She said that the move will stimulate more farmers to venture into cultivating the crop saying that currently, more than 90 percent of the crop's growers

are women in rural areas.

"Farmers will no longer wait for private buyers to purchase their produce, this was affecting plans and development of our farmers, with ZSTC, growers will be sure of reliable market," she said.

The minister said that the government has taken the decision while also preparing to construct a

seaweed processing and packaging factory at Chamanangwe in Pemba North Region.

"The factory will help seaweed growers to harvest the produce and process it locally instead of transporting it as raw materials. Our aim is to see farmers improving their lives and incomes as they will be sure of the market of their produce. One

kilogramme of seaweed is currently sold at 14,000/- which is profitable," she said.

The members of the House of Representative later approved the ministry's budget amounting to 23,57bn/- for the 2020/21 fiscal year.

ZSTC was established under the Public Enterprise Decree No. 39 of 1966 through Zanzibar State Trading Order

Section 2(1) of 1968. Its key functions include purchasing and selling cloves, exchanging trade and develop trade resources, technologies, goods and services that facilitate the sustainable growth and development of the clove, agricultural products and allied products. In addition to that it provides extension services in collaboration with other relevant institutions.

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

15bn/- worth water project to benefit over 50,000 in Kagera

MORE than 50,000 people in Kyaka and Bunazi townships in Missenyi District, Kagera Region are expected to benefit from the 15.1bn/- water project dubbed: Kyaka Bunazi Water Project.

The project was launched yesterday by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Prof Kitila Mkumbo. It is the first water project in the country to use water from Kagera River.

The kick off of the project was

witnessed by residents from various villages in the district.

Prof Mkumbo said the government has decided to use water from Kagera River to provide the residents clean,

safe water.

The project is the outcome of President John Magufuli's promise he gave in July last year to people in Kyaka for water from Kagera River after he

listened to water woes complaints from the residents.

He said the project, wholly funded from internal sources is divided into two parts - one which will be implemented by CCECC at a cost of 9.4bn/- and another one will be implemented by local experts (force account) at a cost of 5.7bn/-.

He said the procedure of implementing some of the projects via force account was initiated by the Minister for Water, Prof Makame Mbarawa and have shown great success as it has produced good projects at low cost.

He added: "funds have already been set aside to ensure the project is completed within the time agreed and an initial amount of 650m/- has already

been provided, and added that it will be the 1,425th among projects initiated by the Phase V Administration.

He said up to now 792 projects have been completed and 633 others are in various stages of implementation, while 41 are being funded from foreign sources.

Acting Managing Director of Mwanza Urban Water and Sewerage Authority (MWAUWASA), Eng Leonard Msenele said the part to be done by CCECC will involve work on the water source, construction of water treatment centre and laying of the main 1.5 km pipe from the water source to the treatment centre, and the construction of the two million litre capacity water reservoir.

He said the second phase of the project will involve the construction

of the main water distribution 14 km-pipeline as well laying of distribution pipes to consumers that will be undertaken by internal experts from the Water Ministry, MWAUWASA, Bukoba Water and sanitation Authority (BUWASA) and Rural Water and sanitation Agency (RUWASA).

He said the project is expected to be completed in July 2021 and its completion will enable residents from Kyaka, Bunazi and neighbouring areas get clean and safe water.



...funds have already been set aside to ensure the project is completed within the time agreed and an initial amount of 650m/- has already been provided



Josephat Kandege (R), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), has a word in with Tanga City Council workers yesterday shortly after visiting a dump construction project in Mabokweni ward. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

TCCIA to conduct economic analysis of coronavirus impacts on businesses

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) intends to conduct an economic analysis of the impacts of the Coronavirus to businesses with an aim of addressing policy and legal challenges that emerged during the period.

Addressing a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TCCIA President, Paul Koyi called upon its members and non-members to submit challenges affecting businesses during Covid-19 pandemic to its councils in districts and regions across the country.

He said that the move is geared towards coming up with a package of challenges that will later be addressed in collaboration with regulatory bodies and the government.

"This is the best time we evaluate the problems brought by this pandemic and this will help us easily address some of the policy and legal issues that businesses were facing during the pandemic," he said.

He said TCCIA was aware of impacts brought by the pandemic saying its members must use this opportunity to list the challenges down and send them as announced.

He further said regulatory institutions needs to come up with ways to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on businesses giving an example of the Bank of Tanzania (BOT) imposed monetary policy measures to offset the impact of coronavirus in the economy.

Koyi further said they will keep on conducting such researches as they are crucial in informing policy makers and the private sectors on appropriate measures that they should take to mitigate the impact of Covid-19

According to Koyi, on the study they conducted in collaboration with East African Business Council (EABC) on the impact of Covid-19 business and investment established 63- per cent drop in cash flow in the retail sector.

The data on the survey was collected using an online survey whereby

questionnaires were sent out to EABC members and non-members from different sectors across the region.

Other sectors that experiences drop in cash flow include real estate 60- per cent, finance 50 per cent, construction 40- per cent, event management and ICT 40 percent, manufacturing 36 per cent and consultancy 24 per cent.

According to the response from the respondents, the reduction of cash flows will continue disrupting value chains and may lead to the closure of businesses and investment projects. It may also increase the rate of unemployment if EAC partner states do not come up with appropriate measures to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

Already, 55.9 per cent of businesses surveyed in the study reported declines in sales while 55.9 per cent also said they have seen increased cross border restrictions and challenges as 44.1 per cent of the interviewed companies said they were facing a challenge in the sourcing of raw materials.

Go to NEMC directly or quality consultants to get EIA certificates, Sima urges investors

By Guardian Reporter

DEPUTY Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Mussa Sima yesterday called on investors to talk to NEMC directly or use apt consultants to secure environment impact assessment (EIA) clearance from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) easily.

Sima said this in Dar es Salaam upon visiting Tropical Int. Group Inc factory to ascertain whether or not the company was operating without EIA clearance.

He learnt that the company had no EIA clearance as asserted during the last Bunge session.

"I have come with a team of NEMC experts to satisfy ourselves if you have the EIA clearance, because it was said in parliament and in the parliamentary committee sessions that you do not

have one. We have learnt the challenges you are facing and have advised the best way of doing things," the minister said.

The minister then called on investors to communicate directly with NEMC because, he said, procedures have been simplified and if they chose to use consultants they should use right consultants to avoid uncalled for administrative and procedural mishaps.

He said there was no reason for an investor to fail to get EIA certificate in time, explaining that dishonest consultants delayed very important things relating to investment in the country.

Sima said it was illegal for an investor to start operations without EIA certificate.

The minister said the government does not want to see investors being demoralised without cause, but also

said investors should do their work after getting clearance from NEMC and without harming environment.

The company's director, Charles Mlawa, said the ministerial visit gave them an opportunity to know how best to run their factory while observing the law. "We shall work on challenges that have been highlighted by experts in order to protect the environment," he pledged. The company produced transformers and copper cables.

NEMC Director General Samuel Gwamaka said besides carrying out the minister's instructions, NEMC would cooperate with investors and help those who have violated the law to come back to line because, he said, NEMC did not want to be an obstacle to investment in the country.

Consultants who would fail to present write-ups in specified time are risking being struck off the list, Dr Gwamaka warned.



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

TENDER No. PA/068/NDC/2019/2020/INV/01

PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAGANGA MATITU IRON ORE PROJECT

RE-ADVERTISEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Development Corporation (NDC) was established as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament in 1962, wholly owned by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, charged with responsibility of promoting economic development in Tanzania in partnership with the private sector.

The NDC is mandated by the Government of Tanzania to develop projects in the Mtwara Development Corridor. Liganga Iron Ore (Liganga Concession) project, located in Ludewa District in Njombe Region is among anchor projects in the Mtwara Development Corridor. Maganga Matitu is one of the five hills of the Liganga Iron Ore Project set aside by the Government for Local Program to produce sponge iron as raw material to steel industries. The Maganga Matitu iron ore project has an area of 19.63 sq.km for development and implementation of iron ore mine while beneficiation plant and the associated infrastructure might be located in the same area or nearby depending on the outcome of the study. Further, the Government directed NDC to procure an investor who will partner with the Corporation for development and implementation of the Maganga Matitu Iron Ore Project.

2. OBJECTIVE

The main objective is to secure experienced and competent investor who will partner with NDC in the development and implementation of the Maganga Matitu Iron Ore Project. The investor or firm is free to form joint ventures/consortia to express the interest.

3. PROPOSED PROJECT

The NDC intends to pre-qualify experienced and competent investors and/or firms to act as co-sponsors and shareholders alongside the NDC in promoting a joint venture company which will have the right to develop and implement the Project. This will likely involve:

- exploration and identification of the quantity and quality of the iron ore deposit at Maganga Matitu, including evaluation of the mineralogy and metallurgical response to any separation techniques to be employed, with a view to the subsequent commercial development of an iron ore mine and beneficiation plant; and
- the development of an efficient method for exploiting the deposits having in mind the infrastructural needs of the region including the Mtwara Development Corridor, and the aim of providing through any processing or industry, the maximum amount of "value added" within Tanzania.

4. INTERESTED INVESTORS

The NDC now seeks eligible investors to submit their application for pre-qualification for the above-mentioned Project. The interested developers, mining companies, beneficiation companies and/or firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to be strategic partner by submitting profile of company/consortium, technical and financial capability (including audited Financial Statement for the past 3 years), as well as the experience and past performance of similar business (include CVs of key personnel), of the prospective investors/firms. The evaluation criteria will take into consideration on the above-mentioned items.

5. PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT

Pre-qualification must be made by way of submission of a completed set of pre-qualification documents in English. Completed applications for pre-qualification must be submitted in five (5) hard copies (one original plus four (4) copies including electronic copy on CD) in sealed envelopes, and delivered to the address below.

6. SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Pre-qualification must be submitted/delivered to the address below at or before **23rd June 2020, at 14:00hrs**, 6th Floor, Room No. 605, clearly marked **"Tender No.PA/068/NDC/2019/2020/INV/01, pre-qualification for Development and Implementation of Maganga Matitu Iron Ore Project"**

7. Late submission of pre-qualification shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

8. The Corporation reserves the right to continue or reject the tendering process without giving reason(s) thereof and shall incur no any liability.

**Managing Director
National Development Corporation,
Development House,
Kivukoni Front/Ohio Street,
P. O. Box 2669
Dar es Salaam**

Govt authorities warn employers against workers' forced lockdowns

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE government in Mwanza Region has warned employers who have locked down their workers over fears of the spreading Covid-19, saying the move is against the government guidelines for prevention of the pandemic.

Regional labour officer-in-charge, Oddo Hekela noted that it is wrong for employers to lock down workers the government has not announced the lockdown at workplaces in its measures adopted against the proliferation of Covid-19.

He insisted that employers should strictly follow directives from the government when taking measures to protect workers from contracting the pandemic.

He said employers should avoid causing panic among workers when implementing measures against the deadly disease.

"Locking down workers at work places on the grounds of protecting them against Covid-19 is completely wrong, this cannot be accepted by the government", he said.

Hekela said that during a routine inspection conducted in the region, they realised that some workers have been locked down by employers over fears of the disease. He said those affected with the decision includes those working in the fish processing factories.

He pointed out that worker can only stay and sleep at workplaces at their own choices and not being forced by employers. He said it is important to release them because some have different responsibilities at home.

"Some workers are married with

children, it is not proper to keep them at workplaces for weeks," he said adding that the government will take stringent measures against employers who will continue locking down their workers.

The new coronavirus that emerged in China late last year has spread to at least 188 countries on six continents, with the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring the outbreak of the pathogen a pandemic.

According to WHO the symptoms for Covid-19 can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More rarely, the disease can be fatal.

Those mostly at risks of developing severe symptoms include older citizens and people with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and heart diseases.

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



Locking down workers at work places on the grounds of protecting them against Covid-19 is completely wrong, this cannot be accepted by the government



Claud Losioki (R), committee chairman for Simanjoro District's Orkesumet Primary School, leads members of the committee at the weekend in inspecting a farm meant to produce beans for use by students. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Getrude Mbago

KISARAWA district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo has called on investors to invest in a wide-range of investment opportunities in the district, assuring them of conducive environment and reliable supply of power.

The DC made the call on Monday when she visited Mkongoma General Supply, one of the factories engaging in production of chalks.

She assured investors that they shouldn't worry of any challenge including power supply as the District is well prepared to ensure that every investor is connected to all basic needs once commences activities.

"The factory is located at Msangazalala village in Msimbu ward in the district and was earlier decrying lack of electricity. We have solved the challenge and the factory is now getting reliable power from the Tanzania

Kisarawe DC welcomes investors in district, pledges favourable climate

Electrical Supply Company (Tanesco) with its operation cost declined significantly," she said.

According to her, before being connected to power, the factory was spending 6m/- per month for to buy diesel to conduct operation but it now spend only 400,000/- per month.

She said that the owner of the factory is a young Tanzanian who decided to take his dreams forward as well as support the country's industrialisation agenda.

"We heard ourselves that the factory owners have fought for more than six years to get connected to power and water services, it is a very long period

indeed, but all of the challenges have been addressed," he added.

Mwegelo commended the investor for their enthusiasm towards supporting smooth availability of chalks in schools.

Geoffrey Mkomboma, the factory's managing director commended the government's efforts towards ensuring that the factory operates well to serve the country.

According to him, the factory has capacity of producing between 200 and 300 cartons of chalks per day depending on the season.

"Once the schools are re-opened, we will distribute chalks to more than

200 schools in the district for free to support the government efforts towards provision of quality education. Each school will get a gift of one carton of chalk," he said.

For his part, Nyanda Magwa, Tanesco manager in Kisarawe said that the company has intensified efforts to ensure that more areas in the district are connected to power.

"We have supplied electricity in many areas and we expect that by June next year, all the 84 villages will be connected to power, currently more than 70 villages have electricity something with stimulate economic activities in the areas," he said.



Ilala Regional Police Commander Zuberi Chembera presents a certificate of appreciation to Corporal Brown Twaibu (R) for a job well done in educating members of the public on the importance of wearing masks as a way of preventing Covid-19 infections. This was at a ceremony organised by NBC Bank and held at Selander Bridge Police Station in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Prisons commercial arm receives three new trucks

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

COMMISSIONER General of Prisons Suleiman Mzee has presented three new TATA trucks valued at over 400m/- to the Prisons Corporation Sole (SHIMA) that will be used in the construction projects undertaken by the corporation.

Speaking over yesterday at the handing over event Suleiman Mzee said for a long time the corporation has been in short supply of working tools

including vehicles that necessitated hiring of the vehicles and other construction equipment hence increasing construction costs.

"Our corporation is involved in various projects including construction, farming and small industries hence I have seen it necessary to enable it with these three big trucks so as to stop hiring such vehicles," he said.

He said he will make sure the corporation various projects are

enabled by modern machinery and other tools to implement President John Magufuli's directives to the Prisons Department to become self sufficient.

Speaking on behalf of the management, SHIMA's Managing Director SACPC Chacha Bina thanked the Prisons Commissioner General for enabling the Corporation with the three trucks as it will strengthen its construction work force, and added that they will no

longer hire trucks the practice that has been increasing construction cost.

Prisons corporation was established in 1983 by Act of Parliament (The Corporation Sole Act No.23/1974).

The aim of the corporation is to undertake correctional work on inmates by teaching them skills as well as engaging in economic and business activities to alleviate government burden in running the country's prisons.

PO-RALG launches national contest in essay writing for secondary school students

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government in charge of Education Gerald Mweli has officially opened the national essay competition for Form One to Form Four students in Dodoma.

Opening the national competition on behalf of Selemeni Jafo, Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Mweli has called on parents and caregivers to help their children's involvement in developing skills for thinking, writing, expressing themselves and doing research that will help them academically.

The competition organised in collaboration with a non-governmental organisation, Dream Tree, aimed to help students from Form One to Form Four to keep themselves busy as they wait for reopening of schools.

He said the competition has come at the right time when students have enough time to participate as they stay at home noting that it is in two languages - Kiswahili and English, calling on the students to participate in large numbers.

He reminded them that Tanzanian students have always emerged in high positions in regional essay competitions such as writing about the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

"I hereby call on all students who are still at home due to Covid-19 to fully participate in the essay competition which besides getting awards help them to remain academically active," he said, adding that they are free to choose language of their comfort between English and Kiswahili.

The competition, he said started on 1st June 2020 and will end in 30th June this year, noting that all students including of special needs are allowed to participate.

"All students have the right to

participate in the competition that will sharpen their writing skills, research and ability to express themselves in any of the language," he added.

The deputy PS appealed to parents to encourage students to participate in the essay competition and send them to a site, 'www.mybook.co.tz', adding that students are required to upload in the website.

He thanked the management of Dream Tree for the creativity and willingness to work with the government in effort to ensure students continue with studies, especially at this time when they are still locked at home due to Covid-19.

The first to tenth winners in various categories will get monetary awards in addition to certificates. The first winner will get 500,000/-, the second 400,000/-, the third 300,000/-, fourth 200,000/- and fifth 100,000/- in addition to computer each.

Others will get 100,000/- each and certificates of recognition issued by the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government.



I hereby call on all students who are still at home due to Covid-19 to fully participate in the essay competition which besides getting awards help them to remain academically active

Moro authorities issue 3,000 IDs to small traders

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

AUTHORITIES in Morogoro Region have distributed 3,000 identity cards (IDs) to small traders as part of the implementation of President John Magufuli's directive.

The exercise will be implemented in phases whereas for the first phase, the municipality has distributed 3,000 IDs.

Speaking during the handover event, Morogoro District Commissioner, Regina Chonjo said they have put in place simplified procedures for traders to acquire the IDs whereas one must have his/her business details verified by ward executive officers (WEO).

She said after verification, traders are provided with special application forms before paying for the cards through selected banks namely, CRDB, NMB and NBC.

Chonjo insisted the need for petty traders to have the IDs to avoid entering into conflicts with the government when it comes to issues of tax collection.

"We have given the cards to traders who have met the set criteria, those entitled for the IDs includes traders running business with a maximum profit turnaround of 4m/-," she said adding that to get the card one must also have a national identification number, a driving license or passport.

Traders with less capital are not recognised by the Tanzania Revenue Authority and do not own TIN number, she said.

Acting municipal business officer, Sikujua Mfaume said the IDs have been more improved with increased features such as registration number and holder's picture. She said the

municipal is preparing a database for all the petty traders.

Chairman of the Morogoro petty traders association, Faustine Almasi commended the government for coming up with the plan which will facilitate their operations.

Almasi said that establishment of a database will enable them operate smoothly as well as be able to claim for better working premises.

"We are now officially recognized, we can claim for our rights which include having better working sites," he noted.

In December 2018, President Magufuli directed RCs to issue the IDs to petty traders so that TRA could identify them and stop harassing them since they will be recognised by the government.

The 20,000/- worth each ID cards which are renewable annually are given to traders running a business with a maximum profit turnaround of 4m/-.

He noted that the move will broaden the country's tax base which by that time stood at just 12.8 per cent against a population of over 50 million. Kenya's tax base stood at 18.5 percent against a population of 40 million and Rwanda, which has 11 million people, has a tax base of 15.8 percent.



We are now officially recognized, we can claim for our rights which include having better working sites



Dodoma district commissioner Patrobas Katambi (3rd-R, foreground) presents a consignment of fresh milk to Dodoma Referral Hospital nurses yesterday as part of Dairy Week anniversary celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Covid-19: SOS donates PPE for health workers in Mufindi

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

SOS Children's Villages Tanzania has donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worth 22m/- to support health workers and the public in Mufindi District in containing the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking during the event SOS Project Coordinator for children's rights and women's economic empowerment, Victor Mwaipungu said the support includes 5,350 face masks, 140 bottles of hand sanitisers,

250 buckets, five thermometers, liquid soaps, six water tanks, four posters and 250 brochures.

He said that the organisation also donated 950 face masks, 600 bottles of liquid soap, 40 hand sanitisers and 250 buckets to 1000 beneficiaries of the 'children's rights and women's economic empowerment project'.

Mwaipungu explained that the SOS Children's Villages Tanzania in Mufindi is currently implementing a children rights and women empowerment project which are funded by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Today we are delivering part of the Coronavirus preventive gear to the Mufindi District Commissioner Jamhuri William. We are all aware of the huge job done by health workers during the fight against the pandemic," he said.

Mufindi District Commissioner, Jamhuri William has commended the organisation for extending their support to ensure that health workers and communities stay safe.

DC William said that the support has come at the right time when the country is intensifying its efforts to ensure that the disease is totally

battled. He further reminded the public to continue adhering to the government directives on protective measures against the virus such as frequent hand washing, sanitising, observing social distancing and wearing face masks.

For his part, Head of Health Department in Mufindi District Council, Dr Fredrick Mugarula said the status of Coronavirus infections in the district had declined significantly.

"However, we should continue taking precautions to ensure that we stay safe," he added.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Ummu Mwalimu (R) joins a women's group choir on Monday in welcoming Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to an event. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

NGO donates medical supplies worth 6.6m/- to fight Covid-19 in Kilombero

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PLAN international has donated medical supplies worth 6.6m/- to Kilombero District in Morogoro Region to enhance the fight against Covid-19.

Speaking during the handing over ceremony held over the weekend, Kilombero District Commissioner James Ihunyo said the donation was the continuation made by the organisation to support the government's efforts to fight the disease.

He said the organisation has also supported one of health centre at Kibaoni ward in Ifakara town council and many other primary schools in the district.

"As a government we works by collaborating with private hospitals as well such as St. Francis Referral Hospital, Samaria Mwema Cancer Hospital. Therefore, I assure you the medical supplies will be distributed to all health facilities equally," he said.

He mentioned some of the items donated as 15 thermo scanners, four boxes of face masks (N95), PPE FF2 and 14 boxes of examination gloves. Others are 40 litres of sanitisers, 30 pieces of face glass masks, 1200 posters to increase awareness and 10 peaces of disposable shoes.

Speaking, Dr Erasto Litem from the Ifakara Town Council Medical Office thanked Plan International for its support saying that the move will increase self-confidence to the health providers when taking care of patients.

According to him, up to date, there was no death confirmed from covid-19 noting that all precautions were well adhered to including providing regular awareness to the community.

Dr Litem called on the public to observe guidelines made by the health experts and the responsible ministry for health to ensure that they stay safe from the infections.

For his part, the Plan International

-Ifakara Programme Manager Silvin Masele said the donation will be used by doctors, nurses and other health providers to keep them safe when taking care of covid-19 victims.

"Our support is a continuation to ensure that health providers remain safe all the time before, during and after giving services to all types of patients," he said.

He further urged parents across the country to look after their children and make sure that they are protected against the deadly infections.

Masele added that parents must ensure that their children do not fall into any form of harassment or temptations that can derail their dream such as early pregnancy.

"Parents and their children must know that the government closed colleges and schools to prevent them from contracting the disease and not otherwise," he asserted.

Varsity don stresses need for dialogue to support sustainable wildlife conservation

By Guardian Reporter

UNIVERSITY of Dar es Salaam Don Dr Elikana Kalumanga has called on dialogue and partnerships at different levels to promote sustainable wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Speaking during a two-day online training for journalists organised by the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) with support from Internews, Dr Kalumanga underscored the need for public private partnership (PPP) in environment conservation.

He said that partnerships and dialogue will increase understanding, identifying and filing knowledge gap on critical wildlife issues among citizens.

"Dialogue and partnerships will effectively increase wildlife awareness and address some challenges facing the sector," he said.

According to him, wildlife is the most important natural resources in the

country, hence the need to sustainably manage it. He said good management of the natural resources will boost national income and keep the environment healthy.

Speaking on biodiversity, he said that biodiversity conservation is important to animals, plants and human being as they all depend on each other.

Human beings development is linked to the existence of other organisms on earth, he noted.

Dr Kalumanga stated that poor biodiversity and ecosystem protection leads to among other things the loss of human well-being, social disruption and increased pressure on ecosystem.

JET Executive Director, John Chikomo said the association scheduled to conduct a number of capacity building trainings to journalists. He said the trainings will be on different environment matters with the intention of increasing the public's general

awareness on wildlife and environment issues.

He noted that good and professional media coverage on wildlife issues is the key in promoting wildlife conservation, addressing human-wildlife conflict as well as controlling poaching.

Chikomo added that after the trainings participants will be engaged in official field trips to various wildlife conservation areas in the country whereas apart from learning they are expected to educate the public on various wildlife conservation issues.

Some of the journalists who benefitted with the training commended the association's efforts in making sure they are well equipped with necessary knowledge that helps in improving the wildlife conservation in the country.

Said Mwishehe said: "We have been empowered with professional reporting skills which will bring impact in the country's wildlife sector."

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More support needed for working parents as COVID-19 takes hold

THE novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) brings with it feelings like anxiety, stress and uncertainty and they are felt especially strongly by children of all ages. Though all children deal with such emotions in different ways, if your child has been faced with school closures, cancelled events or separation from friends, they are going to need to feel loved and supported now more than ever.

Families remain at the centre of social life, ensuring the well-being of their members, educating and socialising children and youth and caring for young and old. In particular, family-oriented policies can contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals relating to doing away with poverty and hunger; ensuring healthy lives and promoting of well-being for all ages; ensuring educational opportunities throughout the lifespan and achieving gender equality.

Appreciating all parents throughout the world is indeed essential.

Since the 1980s, the important role of the family has increasingly come to the attention of the international community. The General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions and proclaimed the International Year of the Family and the International Day of Families.

Emphasising the critical role of parents in the rearing of children, the Global Day of Parents recognises that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, children should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

Designated by the General Assembly in 2012, Global Day of Parents provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice

towards nurturing this relationship.

Families bear the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the anchors of the family and the foundation of our communities and societies, parents have the responsibility of sheltering their families from harm, caring for out-of-school children and, at the same time, continuing their work responsibilities. Without support from parents, children's health, education and emotional well-being is at risk. By introducing family-friendly workplace policies and practices, companies and organizations will be in a better position to promote children's safety and wellbeing and provide systematic support to employees.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues its exponential growth, a technical note from UNICEF, ILO and UN Women on family-friendly policies and other good workplace practices in the context of COVID-19 shows that it is essential to support working families to minimise negative consequences for children.

During the 1980s, the United Nations began focusing attention on the issues related to the family. In 1983, based on the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development in its resolution on the Role of the family in the development process requested the Secretary-General to enhance awareness among decision makers and the public of the problems and needs of the family, as well as of effective ways of meeting those needs.

In its resolution of 9 December 1989, The General Assembly proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family; and in 1993, the General Assembly decided that 15 May of every year to be observed as the International Day of Families.

In 2012, the General Assembly proclaimed 1 June as the Global Day of Parents, to be observed annually in honour of parents throughout the world.

Unquestionably, June 4 affirms desire by UN to protect the rights of children

IT is a sad reality that in situations where armed conflict breaks out, it is the most vulnerable members of societies namely children, who are most affected by the consequences of war. The six most common violations are recruitment and use of children in war, killing, sexual violence, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

On 19 August 1982, at its emergency special session on the question of Palestine, the General Assembly, appalled at the great number of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese children victims of Israel's acts of aggression, decided to commemorate 4 June of each year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.

The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children. Its work is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most rapidly and widely ratified international human rights treaty in history.

Following on the ground-breaking Graça Machel report, which drew global attention to the devastating impact of armed conflict on children, in 1997 The General Assembly adopted the resolution on the Rights of the Child. It was a landmark development in efforts to improve the protection of children in conflict situations. This signaled the start of a new consensus among member states, on the need for dedicated attention, advocacy and coordinated effort, by the international community, to address the vulnerabilities and violations faced by children in conflict-related situations.

In recent years, the number of violations perpetrated against children have, in many conflict zones, increased. More needs to be done to protect the 250

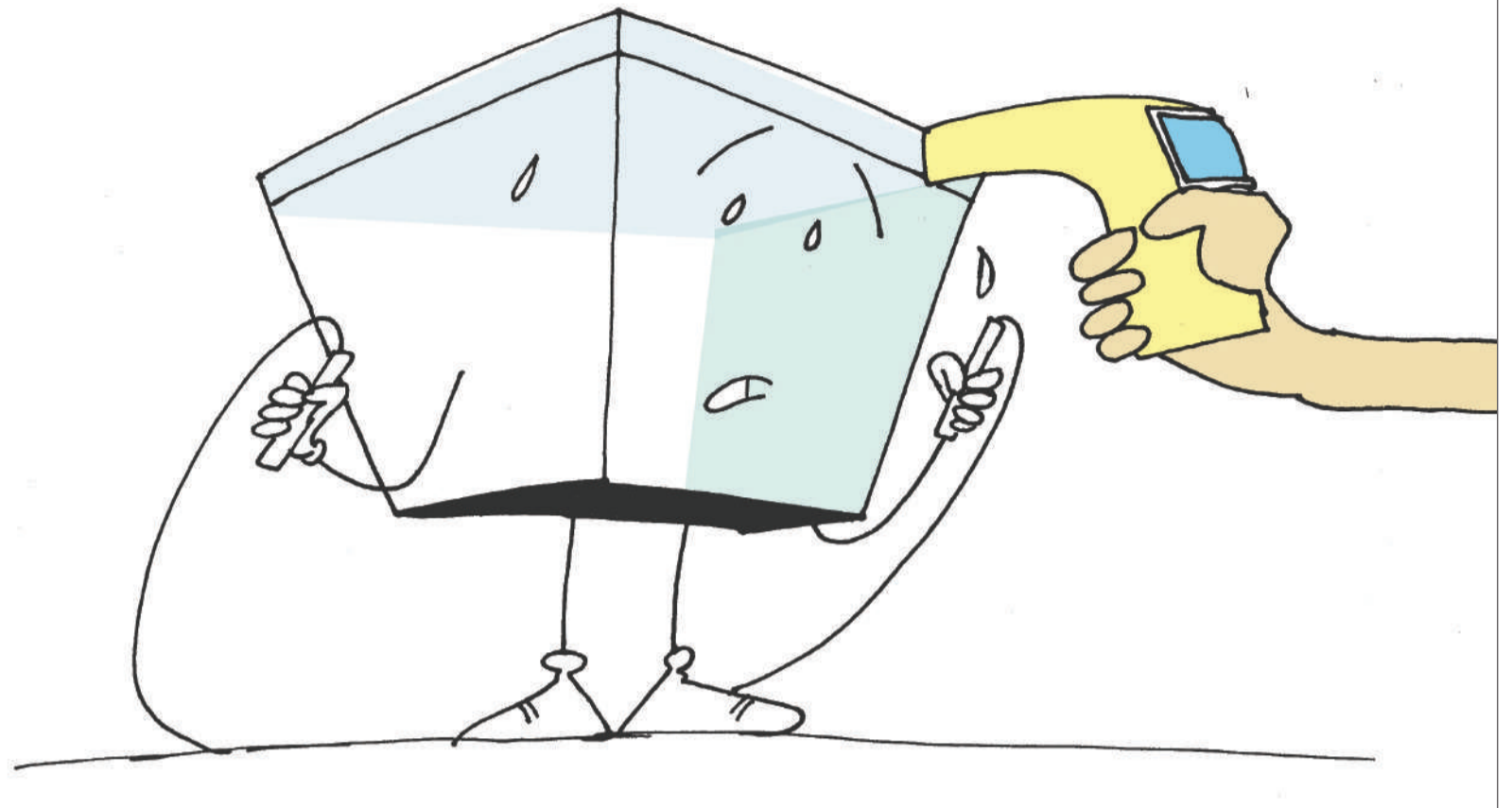
million children living in countries and areas affected by conflict. More must be done to protect children from targeting by violent extremists, to promote international humanitarian and human rights law, and to ensure accountability for violations of the rights of children.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides us with the universal masterplan to secure a better future for children. The new agenda includes for the first time a specific target to end all forms of violence against children, and ending the abuse, neglect and exploitation of children is mainstreamed across several other violence-related targets.

The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children.

Originally focused on victims of the 1982 Lebanon War, its purpose expanded to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children. It is an occasion to remind us of the stories of the innocent children who, in these turbulent times, are victims of violence and aggression.

Since 1982, when the members of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) decided to commemorate the day on 4 June of each year, it provides an opportunity to raise awareness and acknowledge the pain suffered by children victims of aggression throughout the world. Violence and aggression come in many forms, be it physical, mental or emotional. Any type of violence constitutes a violation of human rights and special provisions against any form of violence against children are enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).



Management of the Covid-19 lockdown threatening respect for the rule of law

By Pierre De Vos

THE comical manner in which the government handled the 'ban' on the selling of 'hot cooked food' during the Covid-19 lockdown highlights a larger (and more important) problem with the manner in which the lockdown regulations have been drafted and implemented. This goes to the heart of respect for the Rule of Law, a founding value protected in section 1 of the South African Constitution.

First things first. This is not a column complaining about the "ban" on "hot cooked food". While the "ban" on "hot cooked food" makes the government look churlish and spiteful, and while it is not immediately clear how this "ban" advances the aims of the lockdown, the "ban" - on its own - is of little consequence, given the heavy-handed actions of police officers and members of the military, and the hunger and economic destitution facing many South Africans.

Instead, this is a column about how the lockdown, and the manner in which it is being managed, threatens respect for the Rule of Law.

Recall that Minister Ebrahim Patel insisted recently that the lockdown regulations prohibited supermarkets from selling hot food. The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) which administers the certification of essential services during the lockdown later went even further by claiming (in a now-deleted tweet) that this "ban" included frozen foods, where food had been cooked and then frozen (not frozen meat or vegetables).

These claims were all untrue as the regulations at the time allowed the sale of "all food products". The government, in effect, admitted that these claims were false by later amending the regulations to prohibit the sale of "hot cooked food".

This was not the first time that ministers and officials had decreed that the sale of some goods were prohibited - despite the fact that the regulations were, at best, unclear about this and, at worst, allowed for the sale of the goods. Moreover, I worry that statements by ministers from the "law and order" wing of the executive, threatening members of the public and seemingly encouraging heavy-handed police action, have contributed to belief

among some members of the SANDF and the SAPS that they have carte blanche to flout the law and to "punish" individuals who they believe are in breach of the lockdown regulations.

The constitutional problem here is not related to which products are classified as essential goods and which not. People are going to differ on this, and while I think some unwise choices have been made, this is not a matter of fundamental principle. Neither is this about the sadly bellicose rhetoric of some politicians.

The problem relates to the lack of respect for the Rule of Law. It speaks to the attitude of some of the ministers and officials who regulate the lockdown, and of some of the police officers and soldiers who enforce it, that "the law is what we say it is". This attitude, taken to its extreme, leads to the kind of situation that led to the alleged killing of Collins Khosa by members of the SANDF.

Section 1(c) of the South African Constitution states that the Republic of South Africa is one, sovereign, democratic state founded, among others, on the value of the Rule of Law. This provision enjoys special protection and can only be amended with support of at least 75% of the members of the National Assembly.

The Rule of Law, which Marxist historian EP Thompson famously called "an unqualified human good", is of pivotal importance to protect everyone from the arbitrary exercise of power and from the abuses that inevitably flow from this.

Two aspects of the Rule of Law are of particular importance in the current situation. The first is that the exercise of public power must be authorised by law. This means that when the government decides to prohibit a certain activity (like selling non-essential goods), any prohibition must be authorised by specific legislation (or in the current case, regulations). In the case of the lockdown, this is done through the regulations promulgated in terms of the Disaster Management Act.

The second important aspect of the Rule of Law is that the law authorising the exercise of public power must be relatively clear. In the criminal law context this is referred to as the ius certum principle (the principle of certainty), which means that the crime must not, as formulated, be

vague or unclear. Every person must be able to understand exactly what is expected of him or her. In other words, the definition of a crime should be reasonably precise and settled, so that people need not live in fear of breaking the law inadvertently.

In this sense, the Rule of Law provides important protection against arbitrary rule by Cabinet ministers, government bureaucrats and police officers. When the Rule of Law is respected, a citizen will not face arrest for doing something that is not prohibited by the law, just because Cabinet ministers, government bureaucrats or police officers decreed that it is prohibited.

When a Cabinet minister decides that a certain activity is undesirable and announces that it is prohibited, despite the fact that the law does not prohibit it, he or she arrogates for him or herself the power to rule by decree. The same is true of a police officer who decides to arrest a person for something that the police officer frowns upon, but which is not prohibited by the law.

Similarly, where the legal rule is vague and it is impossible for a citizen to know with reasonable certainty what he or she is prohibited from doing, it creates a situation in which individual police officers and soldiers may make up the rules as they go along.

When this happens, the rules are enforced in an arbitrary and unpredictable way, in the sense that one police officer will decide to arrest somebody for doing something that may or may not be a criminal offence, while another would not. Even citizens who try to abide by the rules may be arrested, not because they broke any rules, but because an individual overzealous police officer has arbitrarily decided that a rule prohibits something.

In the current circumstances, where the stated aims of the lockdown are so clearly worthy of support, and the goodwill of the president and his most competent Cabinet ministers not in doubt, it might be tempting to turn a blind eye to the erosion of the Rule of Law.

But this would be a mistake. Respect for the Rule of Law - even during an extreme crisis like the one we are living through at the moment - protects citizens against arbitrary rule and the inevitable abuses that accompany arbitrary rule.

Now, it is clear that in a constitutional

democracy founded on the value of the Rule of Law, the mistaken claims by a minister that certain actions are prohibited, does not have any binding legal effect and cannot change the wording of the law. It is also clear that an arrest by a police officer for "infringing" on this imaginary breach of the law would be unlawful. But that does not immediately assist a citizen who is wrongly arrested by a police officer. While the victim will later be able to sue the government and while he or she will never be prosecuted successfully, he or she will not escape the consequences of an arrest.

There is an additional reason why respect for the Rule of Law remains pivotal during the current crisis. The lockdown regulations are draconian in scope and effect. But the regulations do not affect everyone equally. While middle- and upper-middle-class people with secure employment are being inconvenienced by the lockdown, the effect on financially insecure and destitute South Africans is clearly catastrophic.

At the best of times, this would make it difficult and even (on a personal level) undesirable for many South Africans to comply with all the regulations. But when the rules are arbitrarily enforced, and when individuals are arrested on the whims of individual police officers, it further erodes support for (and thus compliance with) the regulations. This will hamper the effectiveness of the effort to slow down or suppress the spread of Covid-19.

To make matters worse, the response of the law and order wing of the executive has been to encourage the police to arrest more people in a more heavy-handed manner. It was reported over the weekend that more than 10,000 people have been arrested in KwaZulu-Natal alone for allegedly breaking some or other lockdown regulation.

This is an astonishing figure. Moreover, while some regulations are being enforced vigorously, a blind eye seems to be turned about the flouting of other regulations - such as the ban on evictions.

All this reminds us again that the arbitrary interpretation and enforcement of legal rules have a disproportionate impact on the vulnerable and the marginalised, which is why respect for the Rule of Law is not a luxury, but a necessity.

Educationalists finding ways to make science subjects popular in schools

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

“FOCUSING on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects are vital for the socio-economic development of any country. Educationalists and development experts stress the importance of finding ways to make these subjects popular and to develop teaching and learning strategies to increase capacity for these subjects in our schools,” said Professor Yunus Mgaya, director general of the National Institute for Medical Research.

Professor Mgaya who is also the chairperson of the Board of Young Scientists Tanzania, is proud that Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) is one such organisation that has been working diligently since 2011 to build capacity in the STEM subjects among secondary students across the country.

This year, Young Scientists Tanzania is celebrating its tenth anniversary.

YST is a unique and innovative programme in Africa, focusing on supporting and improving the skills of secondary students, and to develop the love for the sciences by encouraging a practical approach to learning and engaging in primary scientific research.

The programme delivers two integrated and complementary events in the Science for Development Outreach Programme covering all regions in Tanzania, the second is an attractive high profile Annual YST Exhibition and Awards Ceremony.

The Exhibition and Awards Ceremony is a platform to showcase the success of the outreach programme and it gives the secondary students the opportunity to showcase their research.

YST Co-founder, Dr Gozibert Kamugisha reports that the YST Science for Development Programme has been a great success in encouraging students from secondary schools all over the country to invest their time and passion in science research.

“From the beginning, YST has grown organically as a grassroots operation. It has built this great ‘science family’ over the last 10 years. Many of our participants have gone on to take up great careers in science and technology. It is a remarkable achievement that in only 10 years, we have built YST to a national institution and our YST family are now actively engaged in developing our country,” he said.

According to YST project manager, Nabil Karatela, the YST Science for Development outreach programme took place in secondary schools across all regions from early January to March this year. In cognisance of the impending pandemic, YST decided to hold the outreach programme earlier this year.

Nabil added that the outreach is specially conducted to provide training for teachers on how scientific research and innovation is essential for individual and national development.

“At the teacher workshops, participants are exposed to



YST participants from Mwakani Secondary School. YST continues to inspire our next generation of scientists.

science research methodologies and taught how to apply the scientific research approach to their project proposals. This year YST trained 176 teachers and 2416 students across Tanzania in the programme,” he explained.

“This year we did our science outreach in January, and it was very successful. Our science advisors worked with all our regional coordinators and teachers. Before our closing date on 13th March, we had an amazing record of 604 applications,” Nabil said.

“We received projects from every region in Tanzania,” said Dr Brendan Doggett, YST senior judge. “This year the standard was excellent and we had a tough time screening the projects and selecting the successful projects to participate in YST 2020. This year we have shortlisted 140 projects,” Dr Doggett said.

The great success of YST is mainly due to the work of the YST regional coordinator’s network. Each region in Tanzania has a designated coordinator that liaises with the YST team and coordinates activities in their regions.

“I have been a YST regional co-ordinator since 2012 and every year I get more and more excited by the passion, enthusiasm and curiosity of our students,” said Sarah Milunga, Arusha YST Regional co-ordinator.

“Our students are looking around them, looking at the challenges and problems facing their communities. YST is giving them a unique opportunity to research and find

solutions to their problems. I am so impressed that these young students have the confidence to believe that they will find solutions of the existing problems in the society,” she explained.

For his part, Beatus Mayunga, Mbeya YST regional co-ordinator and science teacher at Pandahill secondary school, stressed the importance of the YST programme in encouraging students to look at science and technology in a new exciting way.

“The programme (YST) gives students the confidence to believe that they can change their lives and society through their research. Could anything be better than that?” Beatus states. He called for more investment in resources to improve the learning environment and to encourage practical approaches in doing scientific research.

This year YST team will hold their Tenth Anniversary Exhibition Awards Ceremony on 28th July 2020 in what

promises to be a great celebration of the Young Scientists Tanzania project.

“Who would have believed that the seed planted in May 2009 with Dr Gozibert Kamugisha (fellow YST Co-founder) would germinate and grow into such a great Science for Development model in Tanzania in only ten years,” said Joseph Clowry, YST Co-founder.

“As we approach to our tenth anniversary, we remember the Pearson Foundation in particular who provided the initial incubation funding for this great project.

The team also appreciate a great support from Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation who have been our main partner since 2012, together with Concern Worldwide who has been one of our loyal supporters since 2011.

“The growth of YST would not have been possible without our great sponsors over the years and the con-

tinued support of the government” said Titus Mtelega, YST government liaison officer.

He said that the programme introduces science research at an early stage in education and in doing so develops an important science culture in our secondary schools by rewarding innovation and innovators.

The science for development outreach model helps to disseminate scientific knowledge and encourages teachers and students to embed contextualised scientific knowledge in their teaching and learning experiences.

The Science Outreach Programme is augmenting the Tanzania National five-year development plan as published by the Ministry of Finance And Planning. It also aligns with the African Union, Continental Education Strategy Plan (CESA 2015-2025).

The strategic objectives are to fully reorient African education and training systems towards the achievement of the African Union’s vision and Agenda 2063. It plans to achieve this by strengthening the science and math curricula in youth training and by disseminating scientific knowledge and culture in society. These strategic objectives mirrors and aligns with the strategic objective of the Young Scientists Tanzania Strategic Document (2011),” states Titus.

“The success of the project on the ground has also been due to the huge amount of work, passion, and resilience by all our great students, teachers, regional coordinators, volunteers, YST team and YST board over the last decade” said Dr Kamugisha.

“Young Scientists Tanzania gives students and teachers the opportunity to be agents of change in the country by encouraging indigenous scientific research. The YST mentoring network helps the students along the path as they find solutions to the challenges they face on a daily level. It gives our students the confidence to follow their dreams and promotes indigenous scientific knowledge and culture.” Dr Gozibert added. YST continues to inspire our next generation of scientists.

This scientist is running thousands of antibody tests a day

By Wudan Yan

IT’S around 10 a.m., and Jason Hord is out of bed without an alarm. It’s late enough in the morning that the light has leaked through his bedroom window, or there’s some noise in his neighbourhood that has woken him up.

Groggily, he gets out of bed. His wife is already at work, and his two school-aged children are also up and doing their distance learning.

For the last two months or so, Hord has been on a staggered work and sleep schedule as a medical laboratory scientist at the University of Washington’s Virology lab, which has been at the forefront of coronavirus testing.

Over the last few weeks, there’s been buzz over a new medical test that experts believe can help reopen the United States - the antibody test. From a blood sample, these new tests would be able to tell whether or not someone had been infected by the coronavirus, and developed antibodies to it.

The human immune system usually produces antibodies when it encounters a foreign pathogen (any small organism, such as a virus or a bacterium, that can cause disease) and wants to fight subsequent infections. Presumably, if someone tests positive for antibodies against coronavirus, he or she would be able to fend off the pathogen, should they encounter it again - and would be in the clear to go back to work.

But hope for these antibody tests has so far been tempered because they’ve been deemed unreliable. The American Medical Association has gone as far as cautioning physicians and others about using these tests to determine immunity, owing to the false positives - tests that claim that people have immunity to the coronavirus when they do not - that have turned up.

In early March, while the University of Washington sent most of its staff home, the virology lab started running a non-stop schedule of 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They were among one of the first academic labs in the country approved to run coronavirus diagnostic tests.

Scientists have been going in on a shift schedule - with Hord’s shift running from 4 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. In April, they were given a chance to bring a coronavirus antibody test developed by biotechnology company Abbott online.

If this test was validated, hospitals and patients could send their samples to UW for antibody screening. It was a chance to vindicate these antibody tests’ poor reputation.

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the virology lab had used the same Abbott analyser, called The Architect, to look for antibodies against hepatitis. It was a system that the laboratory scientists were familiar with, says Hord, and the department was one of the first to take a look at the coronavirus antibody test.

“We’ve had success with The Architect, and it was just a natural fit that we did try it out for coronavirus,” he said.

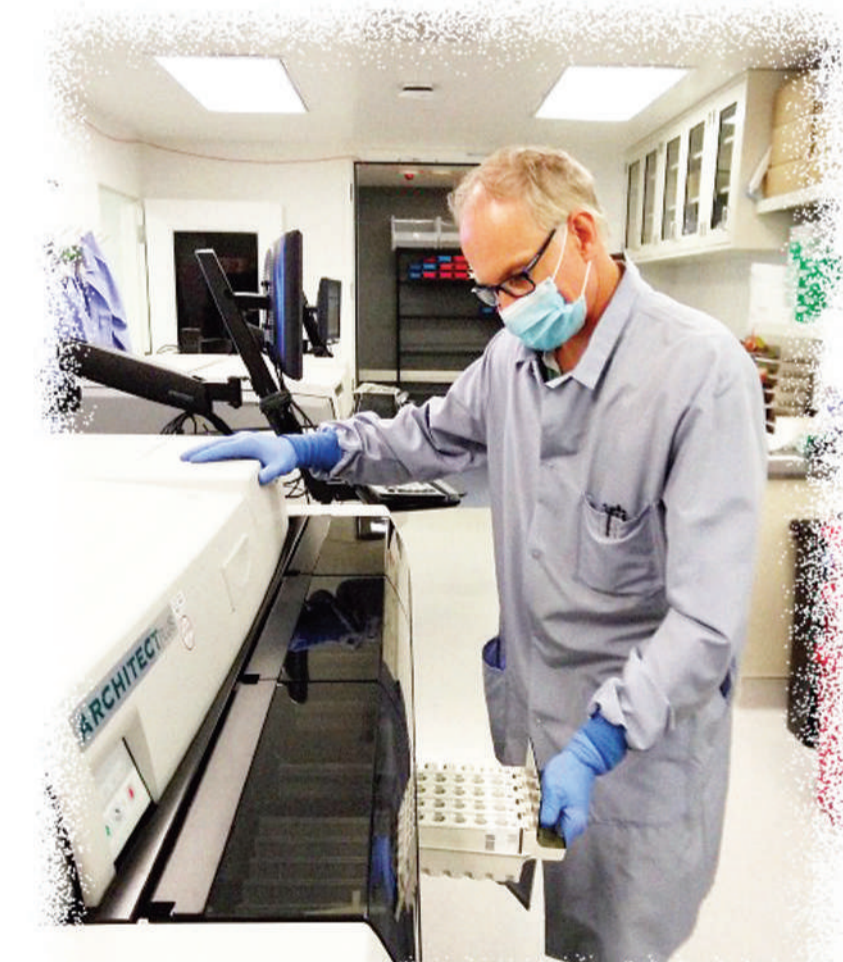
Over a few weeks, Hord and his colleagues ran 1,020 serum samples from a random sampling of patients when coronavirus was not known to be in the US - and only turned up one false positive.

The Abbott test was 99.6 per cent specific and 100 per cent sensitive from blood samples that were collected 14 days after symptom onset. In other words, the test wouldn’t miss any positive cases, and would only misdiagnose one in every 1,020 people. These results were published in the Journal of Clinical Microbiology.

Since he has been put on his new shift schedule, Hord tries to take advantage of the time he has at home. He gets in a 25-minute run first thing in the morning. When he gets home, it’s about 11 a.m., so he fixes himself a hearty breakfast: cereal with yoghurt, walnut and fresh fruit - and coffee.

For the next few hours, Hord wrangles his children to focus on schoolwork. His 13-year-old son plays computer games like Minecraft and Roblox, and his ten-year-old daughter chats with her friends and practises dance moves.

He lets them take breaks from schoolwork, but also needs to make sure that they get back on track. Meanwhile, he says: “My wife is texting me, ‘Make sure



Coronatest

they’ve finished their homework! We have our checks and balances.”

At around 3:30 p.m., Hord hops into his car to go to work. The commute on the highway has gotten fast, now that the majority of workers are staying at home. When he arrives at the lab in time for his shift, he takes the elevator to the third floor and drops his stuff off at his desk. The lab is abuzz with activity: the scientists on the day shift are finishing up. The antibody testing is always staffed during the day, evening and night with one to two scientists per shift.

“4 p.m. is actually a good time. You can see the problems, or things that didn’t get finished and need to be done,” he says.

Hord pops into the break room - a few

doors down from his office - and checks in with his co-workers. He says: “It’s all friendly stuff. It’s not too much business right away.” By 4:30 or so, Hord is downstairs on the second floor. He’s put on his personal protective equipment - a waterproof blue lab coat, safety glasses, and gloves - and is looking at what patient samples need to be analysed for antibodies.

He flips open the instrument hood and removes old test kits, and puts new ones in its place. Next, he runs the controls - blood samples that are known to have coronavirus and not.

Thirty minutes later, after the controls check out, Hord starts to load 25 samples at a time. The Architect takes about 30 minutes per sample, before spewing

back a result. For the next two hours or so, Hord switches from one Architect to the other. In a given day, he and his colleagues can run thousands of antibody samples. For Hord, there’s no time to listen to podcasts or music - there’s always something to be done, and he needs to pay close attention.

Throughout the first few hours, bells ring, signifying that a courier has arrived to the lab, delivering more samples. Couriers ring the bell so the lab workers know that they’ve received a new shipment - samples are coming in from all over the US.

“We would be unable to perform our job effectively without the help of the army of volunteer processors and dedicated co-workers that move mountains of samples,” says Hord.

At 6:30 p.m. Hord removes his PPE and breaks for dinner. Early on, as the virology lab ramped up, the department told all the scientists that if they wished to bring dinner, they could, but that most of the food would be donated.

Since March, local science writer Ellen Kuwana has gathered donations from the community to buy food from struggling restaurants and deliver them to frontline scientists and medical workers. “We’ve had Thai, Italian, breakfast foods. It’s been great,” says Hord.

Hord keeps his dinner break short. Folks can pile into the break room, making it difficult to socially distance - but the scientists do their best, and often would sit a few chairs apart. Incidentally, currently, clinical laboratory personnel like Hord are not yet getting routinely tested by the university for the coronavirus. After dinner, it’s back into the lab. “It’s more of the same. We have more samples coming, and if we have a steady amount of blood samples to run, time goes by really fast,” notes Hord.

About an hour later, he will step outside the building for a quick walk, to catch the sun before it sets. The empty streets give him a welcome break.

Hord’s breaks are never too long. Fifteen minutes later, he’s swiped back into the office and running samples again.

By 10 p.m., the post-dinner sleepiness

starts to kick in. That’s his cue to get moving. He’ll go back upstairs, and say hello to whoever’s sitting in the break room - all the while staying six feet away, as signs there remind the scientists to do. The aroma of coffee fills the space. It’s tempting for Hord, but he stays away. “I can’t have it too late,” he says.

His short break is over, and he’s back downstairs running the last few batches of samples for the day.

By midnight, he begins to wind down on work. Hord wonders if he’ll see rabbits outside. “They make me smile,” he says. As residents of Seattle have been staying home, rabbits all over the city have gotten less shy about spending time outside at night or even broad daylight.

Hord will scroll through his phone, checking the news and reading history questions, and get the machines ready for the graveyard shift. By 12:30, he’s in his car. At 1 a.m., he’s home, and in bed by 2 a.m.

Hord says he finds value in his work because he knows that he is providing answers to patients. Behind every sample he runs, there’s a story. For him, being on the laboratory side shields him from that. “I worry about those people behind the scenes,” because we don’t know the whole story.” In his small way, he’s able to provide answers.

With regards to the antibody test, though, Hord thinks the high expectations are slightly misguided. It’s not that he thinks that the antibody test he’s running in the lab is faulty, but that the numbers of positives in the general population he’s testing are very low: only about 2 per cent of individuals have made antibodies to coronavirus.

Hord says: “I think about that a lot, like, what’s the test really going to tell you? It gives information on whether or not you’ve had it. What do people do with that as far as opening up? They don’t even know if you can get re-infected or not.”

• **A dispatch published in Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Wudan Yan is a journalist based in Seattle.**

Mask-wearing remains controversial in US as COVID-19 death toll exceeds 100,000

WASHINGTON

WEARING masks remain controversial in the United States even though public health officials have continued to recommend the use of face coverings in public to curb the spread of COVID-19, which has so far killed over 100,000 Americans.

"There's no stigma attached to wearing a mask. There's no stigma attached to staying six feet apart," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell at an event in his home state of Kentucky recently.

McConnell is the latest Republican leader who waded into the "politically charge issue" that divides Americans who believe in social distancing and mask wearing and those who don't -- a gap that mirrors political and regional attitudes.

On April 3, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made a recommendation that citizens should wear "non-medical, cloth masks" when it is essential to be in public places, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Previously, the CDC had recommended that only those with COVID-19 symptoms wear masks publicly.

Even so, many Americans said they will wear masks only when they have to, such as in grocery stores or to get takeout. "I don't wear a mask when I am outside just walking and when there's no one within close proximity, but I try to remember to take one with me, so I wear it if I see other people getting close to me," a Washington, D.C.-area resident, who gave her name as Donna, told Xinhua.

Research shows that 73 per-

cent of Democrats are wearing masks to fight coronavirus, while only 59 percent of Republicans are, and people of color are more likely to wear masks than white people, according to a report by The Washington Post on May 15.

There is tension between U.S. state governments and residents, as the White House has given state governors jurisdiction to issue sweeping orders to close economies and require social distancing, to the chagrin of many citizens who bill this as government overreach.

Having been nurtured in a culture that often prioritizes individual rights, many Americans simply feel it's their right to wear a mask or not. Some have become outraged that the states are requiring people to wear masks, rather than asking them to do so. Multiple videos have surfaced of crowds ridiculing people for choosing to wear face coverings.

At a news conference on May 22, North Dakota Republican governor Doug Burgum choked up as he asked residents to "dial up your empathy and your understanding" when they see someone wearing a face mask. "If someone is wearing a mask, they're not doing it to represent what political party they're in or what candidates they support," Burgum said.

"They might be doing it because they've got a 5-year-old child who's been going through cancer treatments. They might have vulnerable adults in their life, who currently have COVID and they're fighting."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert and a member of the



People relax as they sit separately in circled-off areas to assure social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic at a park in San Francisco, the United States, May 24, 2020. (Xinhua)

White House's coronavirus task force, on Wednesday called for a cautious approach to reopening the country and implored Americans to wear face masks in public. "I want to protect myself and protect others, and also because I want to make it be a symbol for people to see that that's the kind of thing you should be doing," Fauci told CNN's Jim Sciutto on "Newsroom."

The senior expert said that while wearing a mask is not "100% effective," it is a valuable safeguard and shows "respect for another person." But many top White House officials, including President Donald Trump, have repeatedly refused to follow such practice. The White House did not require press and staff to wear masks until some of its staffers tested positive for the coronavirus ear-

ly this month.

Trump has not worn a mask at White House events and public appearances, most recently during his Memorial Day wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery.

He shared on Monday a tweet that appeared to make fun of Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee, for wearing a mask at a Memorial Day ceremony in Wilmington, Dela-

ware. Trump is fueling a cultural opposition to wearing masks when "every leading doc in the world is saying we should wear a mask when you're in a crowd," Biden said in an interview with CNN's Dana Bash in Delaware on Tuesday. Calling Trump's position amounts to "stoking deaths," he said: "Presidents are supposed to lead, not engage in folly and be falsely masculine." New York Democratic govern-

nor Andrew Cuomo announced on Thursday that he will sign an executive order allowing private businesses to deny entry to patrons who decline to wear a face covering. Last month, New Jersey governor Phil Murphy, also a Democrat, ordered most residents to wear face coverings in public spaces and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio mandated masks in the city.

Xinhua

Looking in, looking out: World emerges from lockdown with mixed feelings

AS much of the world begins to emerge from lockdown, people are looking back at time spent cut off from friends, family and colleagues by the coronavirus and forward to what happens next.

Reuters has captured some of those reflections along with portraits from across Africa and the Middle East of people inside their rooms looking out and outside looking in.

"The lockdown ... has been a great time for me to breathe, to re-evaluate how I've been living my life and trying to focus more on the things that truly matter to me," said Adetona Omokanye, a 29-year-old photographer who lives in Lagos.

Alexander Caiafas, from the same teeming Nigerian city, has also seen the bright side of being cooped up at home. The data analyst, 25, has relished time spent with family, on his studies and connecting with friends online.

But in rural Eastern Cape Province in South Africa, housewife Zodidi Desewula drew little comfort from weeks in her tiny, cylindrical "rondavel".

"Myself and my husband were stuck in this single room house unable to go to work. We were struggling in getting food to eat because there was no income," she told Reuters.

For Yael Ben Ezer, a performer with Israel's Batsheva Dance Company, there is something to be said for doing nothing.

"I will miss the comfortable feeling of it's OK not to do anything, it's OK not to be productive in the way we usually think," she said. "Things would come and go, the sun would rise and set, and I would just be living. And that's totally enough."

STAGE, SEA AND HOME

For her and many others, there

are also plenty of downsides to life away from friends and work.

She craves the adrenaline rush of dancing on stage, and the open expanse of the sea.

In the Egyptian capital Cairo, Nada Maged, a 20-year-old student, described lockdown as "prison".

"When I look out I see the same view but have a different feeling - the streets are more sad and mysterious, and there is no hope of getting out soon," she said.

Zineb Mohamed "Om Hany" also lives in the city, and misses regular contact with her family and friends.

"I need to go to the zoo with my grandchildren," the 59-year-old concierge said in a sparsely furnished room with the television glowing through the gloom. "Also, I want to take them to the sea - I dream about that many times."

With a sea view from her window in the ancient Lebanese city of Tyre, Lama Nadra, 28, has the luxury of seeing it every day.

"I like the calm and being away from the noise of the capital, Beirut," she said, adding that once she was free to move around she wants to go swimming again.

For her, the end of lockdown will mean seeing family less.

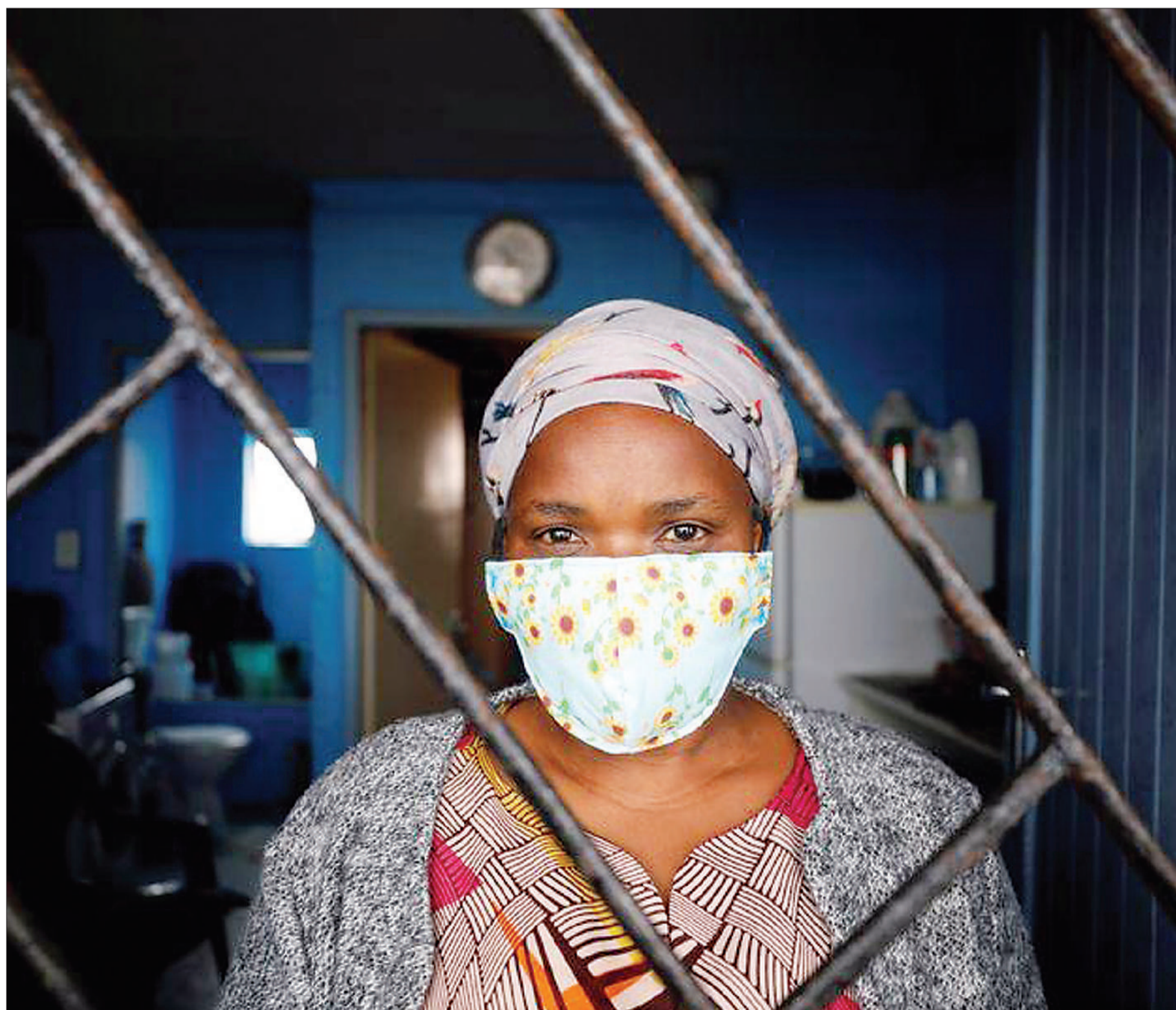
"My brother will go back to Dubai and I ... to Beirut. I will be separated from my father and mother too."

For many though, the pandemic has brought little noticeable change.

Abu Ghazi lives in a makeshift tent on the edge of a cemetery in Syria's northern town of Maarat Misrin. Like millions of his compatriots displaced by nine years of war, he longs to return home.

"We quarantined ourselves with the dead," the 53-year-old told Reuters. "We wake up and sleep looking at graves."

Agencies



Domestic worker Alphonza Zali looks out from her two roomed apartment, as authorities around the world impose various guidelines on lockdowns and social distancing to curb the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Langa township near Cape Town, South Africa, May 7, 2020. REUTERS

Conservation leaders urge UNWTO to curb wildlife exploitation in 'tomorrow's tourism'

By Louise de Waal

THE current global pandemic is case-in-point and going forward, a new perception of sustainable tourism is key, especially in South Africa.

Conservation groups from South Africa and around the globe have called on the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) and their global tourism crisis committee to phase out close-contact wildlife encounters and entertainment practices in tourism to help build a more resilient and sustainable industry going forward.

This as the world continues to navigate the aftermath of the emergence of a novel zoonotic disease. It is believed that COVID-19 originated at a wildlife market in Wuhan, China, where it was transmitted from bats to endangered pangolins and then to humans. It's not the first time such a human-wildlife transmission has occurred and, as experts predict, it won't be the last.

As a country dependent on tourism for economic stability and employment, South Africa's tourism industry simply won't survive another catastrophic zoonotic disease spill-over.

To this end, a group of nearly 240 international organisations, including 13 from South Africa, have called on the UNWTO's Global Tourism Crisis Committee partners to rethink wildlife entertainment in tourism going forward.

Travel and tourism heavyweights such as Airbnb, booking.com, the Dutch association of travel agents and tour operators ANVR, Intrepid Travel, as well as the Southern Africa Tourism Services Association (SATSA), have all backed the open letter sent by the World Animal Protection (WAP) on the 28 May.

The letter asks for a pro-active, precautionary and responsible approach in "preparing for tomorrow" by phasing out the use of captive wildlife for tourist entertainment. The proposal hopes

to safeguard both tourists and tourism employees, while shaping an authentic and ethical industry.

Wildlife interactions are an integrated part of tourism, accounting for up to 20-40% of international tourism globally. However, as the letter states, the industry is also a reservoir for new zoonotic diseases and relies on keeping wild animals in closely confined spaces to be handled, fed, posed with, walked with, ridden or watched as they perform. Often, the animals involved also suffer due to poor welfare conditions, which undermines their immune systems and accelerates disease emergence and spread.

While the era of circuses and zoos seems to be losing traction, a new, more nuanced wave of exploitation continues in the online realm, where "wildlife fame" is on the rise.

Between 2014 and 2017, the number of wildlife selfies posted on Instagram increased by 292%. More than 40% of these involved

hugging, holding or close-contact interactions with wild animals.

Apart from the immediate dangers, such as losing an arm or being mauled to death, "the risk of transmitting potential zoonosis must be considered a significant Public Health risk," says Nick Stewart, Global Head of Wildlife Campaigns for WAP.

Particularly concerning is how many of these interaction facilities and individuals operate under the cloak of "wildlife rescue operations" or "rehabilitation centres", to woo tourists, fans and volunteers. The recent Netflix hit-series Tiger King is but one example and in South Africa, there are many "Joe Exotics" keeping wildlife in captivity in the name of "education", "raising awareness" and "conservation".

In reality, the practice romanticises close physical contact with wildlife and jeopardises all ethical and well-being regulations aimed at keeping humans and wildlife safe.

According to Blood Lions di-

rector Pippa Hankinson, faux-conservation tactics pose a great challenge to creating a tourism industry which is genuinely sustainable and safe.

Blood Lions is one of the co-signatories of the UNWTO joint letter. The current pause in the global tourism industry creates an opportunity to take a step back and implement rational measures to avoid all of the above.

"Decisive action would signal the tourism sector's commitment to not only recover, but to build back better to protect the health of tourists and tourism workers globally," Stewart says.

TOMORROW'S TOURISM

SATSA have already started to address some of these issues with their Animal Interaction Charter, encouraging facilities to do away with interactions, breeding and trading. According to Keira Powers, SATSA Responsible Tourism Committee Chair, they aim to be on the right side of history.

"Wildlife remains the bedrock of South Africa's tourism, and we have the privileged position of offering tourists engagements in authentic settings.

A UNWTO-led tourism recovery plan with strong, ethical recommendations around captive wildlife will bolster local tourism authorities' efforts to create a more sustainable, ethical and responsible tourism industry around the globe", Powers says.

Cape Town's official destination marketing organisation Cape Town Tourism already opposes all human-wildlife interactions. However, says mayoral committee member for economic opportunities and tourism in Cape Town James Vos, it is out of their hands to stop such facilities from operating.

"It's clear that cub petting and other wildlife entertainment practices will continue, despite their controversy, unless they are banned for good."

There has never been a bigger need or better grounds for such

drastic action; to proactively minimise the risk of future pandemics, to protect the health of tourists and tourism workers and to secure the tourism industry's future sustainability.

"We need to ask the question however why we are still having this debate", Hankinson says. "More than three years ago, CEO of South African Tourism, Sisa Ntshona, stated publicly that SA Tourism does not promote or endorse any interaction with wild animals such as the petting of wild cats, interacting with elephants and walking with lions, cheetahs and so on, but nothing concrete has changed since."

In South Africa, wildlife interactions and entertainment in tourism remains a sticky inter-departmental web over which our national Tourism Department has limited authority, even though they support SATSA's long-term vision regarding wildlife interactions in tourism, says spokesperson Blessing Manale.

PM Majaliwa tasks TARI to increase production of improved sisal seedlings

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Tanga

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has been tasked to produce more than 10 million improved sisal seedlings annually to boost crop production in the country.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made the directive on Monday at TARI Mlingano in Muheza district, Tanga region during a strategic meeting to revamp the crop attended by sisal growing regions, Tanga regional authorities, researchers, banks, farmers, investors and other stakeholders.

He also directed district and regional authorities, Tanzania Sisal Board and other stakeholders to the revamp sisal crop which he said unlike in the past, in recent years, the crop has lost its glory.

He said in early years of independence, Sisal was one of the main economic stay of Tanga residents and the nation was producing more than 235,000 tones but due to different problems including mismanagement, currently the nation is producing only 36,000 tones adding that it was time to revamp the crop productivity so that it can contribute positively to individual income and socio economic development of the nation.

He said TARI Mlingano had more than four thousand hectares which should be utilized effectively for production of the seedlings for the farmers. He directed TARI Director General and TARI Mlingano centre to speed up the research and production process.

"I urge the Ministry of agriculture to empower TARI Mlingano centre by improving infrastructures and other facilities so that it can perform the research work effectively and efficiently," he said

Speaking on how sisal will be revamped, Deputy minister for Agriculture Omar Mgumba said that Sisal is the main economic stay of small holder farmers in Tanga region and if given weight can be the main economic crop for most people in the region and that's why the Ministry has requested allocated of 4bn/- so that TARI can effectively work with district councils and other institutions to revamp the crop.

He said that there are a total of 48 plantations in the country but they are in the hands of few people and one plantation owners have never developed them or changed them into other use. The ministry is reviewing laws and policies so that the land can be legally protected for to benefit small holder farmers because the popula-



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shares a light moment with Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank managing director Japhet Justine (L), Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella (3rd-L), Agriculture deputy minister Omary Mgumba and sisal stakeholders at Monday's launch of Tanzania Sisal Board offices in Tanga city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

tion is on the increase but the land does not increase.

"Without legal protection of the land, we will reach a time when we as a nation we will fail to feed ourselves. We must protect it so that some people won't be able to change its use.

"We have a total of 48 plantations

out of which 33 plantations are in Tanga region, eight are in Morogoro region, two in Coast region, another two in Kilimanjaro and one plantation in Arusha region, we are working on them to establish those that have never been developed o that we can ask the president to revoke their title deeds and be distributed

to small holder farmers who want to grow sisal," he said.

Mgumba warned the farmers and regional authorities that once the land has been distributed to them, they should make sure that they are developed and used as planned otherwise the government will not hastate to retake the land and dis-

tribute to other people in need of the land.

"In other areas we have realized that when this land is given to the people, they tend to sell the land. This will not be tolerated. Likewise, some unfaithful leaders who will monopolise the land for personal interest will also face problems," he warned.

Earlier on, TARI director general Geoffrey Mkamilo assured the Prime Minister to work on his directives very seriously and with high level of commitment saying his team will work around the clock to enhance the research and production of improved Sisal seedlings for the farmers and other stakeholders.

He said that in this 5th phase government, the Ministry of agriculture through TARI has registered many achievements and one of them is to conduct research and release 124 different improved and high yielding crop varieties for the farmers.

"The improved variety you have just seen at Sisal nurseries is high yielding and resistant to Korogwe leaf spot (KLS). There are also many other improved seed varieties which are in the pipeline for the farmers, he said.

He said TARI will continue generating and promoting application of knowledge in agricultural technologies to effectively contribute to increased agricultural productivity food and nutrition security.

Once again, the Prime Minister commended efforts being made by Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo for championing research activities and programs in the country.

Two-thirds of tropical forests 'under threat in next decade'

By Bruno de Pierro,

TROPICAL forests can develop resistance to a warmer climate, but 71 per cent will come under threat in the next decade if global average temperatures reach two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, a new study warns.

Forest-dependent communities and the global climate will be affected if tropical forests are further degraded, experts say.

Led by scientists at the University of Leeds and published in Science, the study involved 226 researchers from around the world. The cohort analysed carbon stock data in 590 permanent forest plots in South America, Africa, Asia and Australia, with most in the Amazon region.

The Amazon rainforest acts as a huge carbon sink, absorbing and storing carbon dioxide (CO2) and helping to cool global temperatures. Even under high temperatures, trees remove CO2 – a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming – from the atmosphere.

However, the ability to store high levels of carbon drops dramatically if the forest is exposed to average temperatures above 32.2 degrees Celsius, the researchers found.

Sustainable development in tropical regions will be directly impacted if the biodiversity of tropical forests is altered by rising temperatures and they lose their ability to absorb car-

bon, says Luiz Aragão, head of the remote sensing division at Brazil's National Institute for Space Research and a co-author of the study.

"Understanding how climate change impacts carbon absorption in tropical forests can help us identify the most vulnerable areas where biomass loss can interfere with local economies and human development," he says.

Plínio Barbosa de Camargo, a researcher at the Centre of Nuclear Energy in Agriculture at University of São Paulo and a study co-author, has been monitoring permanent plots in Santarém, in Brazil's Amazon, for 20 years. His team monitors the growth of about 20,000 trees and measures the forest's biomass and carbon balance.

"The region we monitor still has the capacity to absorb carbon and recover after prolonged periods of drought," he says.

"This gives room for different societies to continue investing in the development of products and services from biodiversity."

But, the resilience potential of forests can only be achieved with proper climate change mitigation and solutions for the conservation and restoration of native vegetation, the researchers say.

"The results suggest that intact forests can withstand heating to some extent," but for this to happen it is vital that forests remain intact, agronomist and study co-author Simone



Aparecida Vieira, from the Centre for Environmental Studies and Research at São Paulo's University of Campi-

nas (Unicamp), tells SciDev.Net. This requires reducing deforestation rates and the frequent fires associated with forest clearing, as well as

mining, illegal logging and intensive low-productivity livestock farming. Yet, it is unclear whether cooler forests in Asia and Africa will re-

spond to global heating in the same way as those in South America or whether they can adapt in time, says Lara Kueppers, associate professor at the University of California, Berkeley's energy and resources group, who did not take part in the study.

"I don't have confidence that forests are going to be able to adjust on the time scale they will need to," she says in a related Science commentary.

But, the research offers a good starting point to deepen knowledge about forests' abilities to adapt to climate change, says biologist Ricardo Ribeiro Rodrigues from the Luiz de Queiroz School of Agriculture at the University of São Paulo, who was not involved in the study.

"The findings presented in the survey are encouraging because they show that forests do indeed have a certain resilience to warming. And this has been shown based on robust mathematical modelling," he says.

However, Rodrigues warns that more research is necessary to understand how rising temperatures impact different plant species.

"The study deals with forests as a whole, but we know that each species reacts differently to global warming," he says.

"It is important, therefore, that we identify which species are most resistant so that more effective reforestation actions can be put into practice."

Covid-19 may be a blood vessel disease – which explains everything

By Dana G Smith

IN April, blood clots emerged as one of the many mysterious symptoms attributed to Covid-19, a disease that had initially been thought to largely affect the lungs in the form of pneumonia.

Quickly later came reports of young people dying owing to coronavirus-related strokes. Next it was Covid toes – painful red or purple digits.

What do all of these symptoms have in common? An impairment in blood circulation. Add in the fact that 40 per cent of deaths from Covid-19 are related to cardiovascular complications, and the disease starts to look like a vascular infection instead of a purely respiratory one.

Months into the pandemic, there is now a growing body of evidence to support the theory that the novel coronavirus can infect blood vessels – which not only could explain the high prevalence of blood clots, strokes and heart attacks but also could provide an answer for the diverse set of head-toe symptoms that have emerged.

“All these Covid-associated complications were a mystery. We see blood clotting, we see kidney damage, we see inflammation of the heart, we see stroke, we see encephalitis (swelling of the brain),” says William Li, MD, president of the Angiogenesis Foundation.

“A whole myriad of seemingly unconnected phenomena that you do not normally see with SARS or H1N1 or, frankly, most infectious diseases,” he notes.

“If you start to put together all of the data emerging, it turns out that this virus is probably a vasculotropic virus, meaning that it affects the blood vessels,” says Mandeep Mehra, MD, medical director of the Brigham and Women’s Hospital Heart and Vascular Centre.

In a paper published in April in the scientific journal *The Lancet*, Mehra and a team of scientists discovered that the SARS-CoV-2 virus can infect the endothelial cells that line the inside of blood vessels.

Endothelial cells protect the cardiovascular system and release proteins that influence everything from blood clotting to the immune response. In the paper, the scientists showed damage to endothelial cells in the lungs, heart, kidneys, liver and intestines in people with Covid-19.

“The concept that’s emerging is that

this is not a respiratory illness alone, that this is a respiratory illness to start with but it is actually a vascular illness that kills people through its involvement of the vasculature,” says Mehra.

A one-of-a-kind respiratory virus
SARS-CoV-2 is thought to enter the body through ACE2 receptors present on the surface of cells that line the respiratory tract in the nose and throat. Once in the lungs, the virus appears to move from the alveoli, the air sacs in the lung, into the blood vessels, which are also rich in ACE2 receptors.

“The virus enters the lung, it destroys the lung tissue, and people start coughing. The destruction of the lung tissue breaks open some blood vessels,” Mehra explains, adding: “Then it starts to infect endothelial cell after endothelial cell, creates a local immune response, and inflames the endothelium.”

A respiratory virus infecting blood cells and circulating through the body is virtually unheard of. Influenza viruses like H1N1 are not known to do this and the original SARS virus, a sister coronavirus to the current infection, did not spread past the lung.

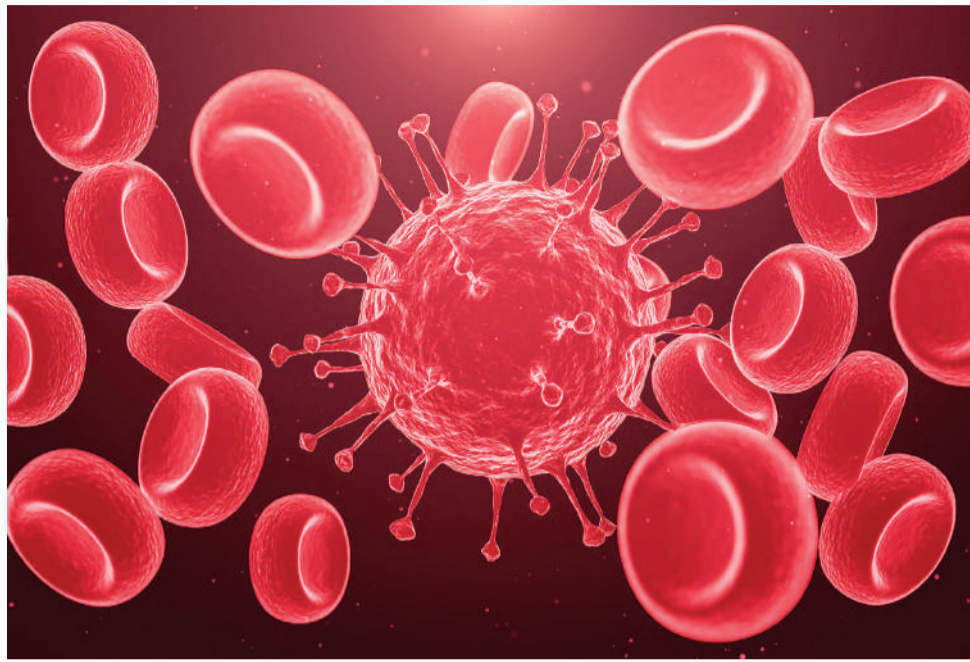
Other types of viruses, such as Ebola or Dengue, can damage endothelial cells, but they are very different from viruses that typically infect the lungs.

Benhur Lee, MD, a professor of microbiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (in New York City), says the difference between SARS and SARS-CoV-2 likely stems from an extra protein each of the viruses requires to activate and spread.

Although both viruses dock onto cells through ACE2 receptors, another protein is needed to crack open the virus so that its genetic material can get into the infected cell. The additional protein the original SARS virus requires is only present in lung tissue, but the protein for SARS-CoV-2 to activate is present in all cells, especially endothelial cells.

“In SARS, the protein that’s required to cleave it is likely present only in the lung environment, so that’s where it can replicate. To my knowledge, it doesn’t really go systemic,” Lee says, adding: “SARS-CoV-2 is cleaved by a protein called furin, and that’s a big danger because furin is present in all our cells; it’s ubiquitous.”

What endothelial damage means
An infection of the blood vessels



would explain many of the weird tendencies of the novel coronavirus, like the high rates of blood clots. Endothelial cells help regulate clot formation by sending out proteins that turn the coagulation system on or off. The cells also help ensure that blood flows smoothly and doesn’t get caught on any rough edges on the blood vessel walls.

“The endothelial cell layer is in part responsible for clot regulation – it inhibits clot formation through a variety of ways. If that’s disrupted, you could see why that may potentially promote clot formation,” says Sanjum Sethi, MD, MPH, an interventional cardiologist at Columbia University Irving Medical Centre.

Endothelial damage might also account for the high rates of cardiovascular damage and seemingly spontaneous heart attacks in people with Covid-19. Damage to endothelial cells causes inflammation in the blood vessels, and that can cause any plaque that’s accumulated to rupture, causing a heart attack.

This means that anyone who has plaque in his or her blood vessels that might normally have remained stable or been controlled with medication is suddenly at a much higher risk for a heart attack.

“Inflammation and endothelial dysfunction promote plaque rupture. Endothelial dysfunction is linked towards worse heart outcomes, in particular myocardial infarction or heart attack,” Sethi says.

Blood vessel damage could also explain why people with pre-existing conditions like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and heart disease are at a higher risk for severe complications from a virus that’s supposed to just infect the lungs.

All of those diseases cause endothelial cell dysfunction, and the additional damage and inflammation in the blood vessels caused by the infection could push them over the edge and cause serious problems.

The theory could even solve the mystery of why ventilation often isn’t enough to help many Covid-19 patients breathe better. Moving air into the lungs, which ventilators help with, is only one part of the equation. The exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the blood is just as important to provide the rest of the body

with oxygen, and that process relies on functioning blood vessels in the lungs.

“If you have blood clots within the blood vessels that are required for complete oxygen exchange, even if you’re moving air in and out of the airways, if the circulation is blocked, the full benefits of mechanical ventilatory support are somewhat thwarted,” says Li.

A new paper published last week in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, on which Li is a co-author, found widespread evidence of blood clots and infection in the endothelial cells in the lungs of people who died from Covid-19.

This was in stark contrast to people who died from H1N1, who had nine times fewer blood clots in the lungs. Even the structure of the blood vessels was different in the Covid-19 lungs, with many more new branches that likely formed after the original blood vessels were damaged.

“We saw blood clots everywhere,” notes Li, adding: “We were observing virus particles filling up the endothelial cell like filling up

with oxygen, and that process relies on functioning blood vessels in the lungs.

“What’s the best antiviral therapy?”
An alternative theory is that the blood clotting and symptoms in other organs are caused by inflammation in the body due to an over-reactive immune response – the so-called cytokine storm.

This inflammatory reaction can occur in other respiratory illnesses and severe cases of pneumonia, which is why the initial reports of blood clots, heart complications and neurological symptoms didn’t sound the alarm bells.

However, the magnitude of the problems seen with Covid-19 appears to go beyond the inflammation experienced in other respiratory infections.

“There is some increased propensity, we think, of clotting happening with these other viruses. I think inflammation in general promotes that,” interventional cardiologist Sanjum Sethi, says.

“Is this over and above or unique for SARS-CoV-2, or is this just because the

infection is just that much more severe? I think those are all really good questions that unfortunately we don’t have the answer to yet.”

Anecdotaly, Sethi says the number of requests he received this April as the director of the pulmonary embolism response team – which deals with blood clots in the lungs – was two to three times the number in April 2019.

The question he is now trying to answer is whether that’s because there were simply more patients at the hospital during that month – the peak of the pandemic – or if Covid-19 patients really do have a higher risk for blood clots.

“I suspect from what we see and what our preliminary data show that this virus has an additional risk factor for blood clots, but I can’t prove that yet,” Sethi says.

The good news

The good news is that if Covid-19 is a vascular disease, there are existing drugs that can help protect against endothelial cell damage. In another *New England Journal of Medicine* paper that looked at nearly 9,000 people with Covid-19, Mehra showed that the use of statins and ACE inhibitors were linked to higher rates of survival.

Statins reduce the risk of heart attacks by lowering cholesterol or preventing plaque, but they also stabilise existing plaque – meaning that they’re less likely to rupture if someone is on the drugs.

“It turns out that both statins and ACE inhibitors are extremely protective on vascular dysfunction,” Mehra says, adding: “Most of their benefit in the continuum of cardiovascular illness – be it high blood pressure, be it stroke, be it heart attack, be it arrhythmia, be it heart failure – in any situation the mechanism by which they protect the cardiovascular system starts with their ability to stabilise the endothelial cells.”

Mehra elaborates: “What we’re saying is that maybe the best antiviral therapy is not actually an antiviral therapy. The best therapy might actually be a drug that stabilises the vascular endothelial. We’re building a drastically different concept.”

Dana G Smith is a senior writer for Elemental, a new Medium publication covering health, science, and the science of wellness.

By Robert Roy Britt

ACROSS the United States, an unknown but presumably large number of people are packing Covid-19 around without knowing it, while only the most severely ill typically even get tested. As for knowing whether someone in your town or community might have the disease, well, forget about it.

A mish-mash of local and state reporting protocols, an utterly insufficient testing capacity, and the multi-day wait for results have conspired to

render the total case count woefully lower than reality, while offering no insight to the public into what might be happening in outlying communities, small towns or even large cities.

Just one example: As the relatively modest but rapidly growing number of diagnosed Covid-19 cases in Arizona rises, residents of Anthem – an unincorporated community of about 25,000 people straddling the City of Phoenix

and Maricopa County – have wondered how many of their neighbours might be infected.

“It would be helpful to breakdown the number of cases per zip code! We have the right to know exactly where this virus is!” Marisha Dowdell wrote on the North Phoenix News Facebook page. That information is not being distributed.

“Public Health does not report this data at the city level,” Fields Moseley, director of communications for Maricopa

County, said, adding: “That is not an effective way to track and respond to disease when there is community spread – meaning that people are getting it from other people in counties across the state.”

“It can give a false sense of safety or a false sense of danger. Everyone should assume that he or she can come into contact with Covid-19 at this time and take precautions as outlined by ADHS,” he said, referring to the Arizona Department of Health Services.

The situation is similar nationwide – and even county-by-county data are hard to come by in many states. The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the agency you might expect to be the clearinghouse for Covid-19 case data, updates its statistics just five times a week and includes only state-level data.

“No single agency has provided the public with an accurate, up-to-date record of coronavirus cases, tracked to the county level,” according to the *New York Times*, which is now doing such tracking itself.

“Individual states and counties have tracked their own cases and presented them to the public with varying degrees of speed and accuracy, but those tallies provide only limited snapshots of the nation’s outbreak,” the paper notes.

Johns Hopkins University also has a helpful Covid-19 caseload dashboard that’s updated regularly. Both tracking efforts require data, however, data that aren’t always available from the combination of government-run and private labs, even after tests are done.

“Not all labs are reporting yet – or promptly,” Surgeon General Jerome Adams tweeted on March 22.

Sorry, you’re not sick enough to be tested

The CDC’s recommendation for testing criteria may surprise some people: “Not everyone needs to be tested for Covid-19,” the agency states, noting that most people have mild illness and are able to recover at home.

The CDC’s advice to people who wish to be tested would be somewhat humorous if

it weren’t so serious: “If you have symptoms of Covid-19 and want to get tested, try calling your state or local health department or a medical provider. While supplies of these tests are increasing, it may still be difficult to find a place to get tested.”

Moseley, the Maricopa County spokesperson, outlined how test eligibility and results are handled in his county: individual hospitals follow guidelines from the CDC and Arizona’s health department to determine who gets tested.

“Those results are reported to the state and county. Maricopa County Department of Public Health does not report results by hospital or community,” Moseley said.

He adds: “If a person tests positive for Covid-19, they will be contacted by Maricopa County Department of Public Health. They will be advised to take precautions to lower the spread of disease, including reaching out to potential contacts.”

“In some cases they might meet with an investigator. While Public Health must protect their private information (because of federal and state law) some people choose to self-report to their community.”

So if a person diagnosed with Covid-19 doesn’t inform neighbours or community leaders, others simply won’t know about it.

Total number of cases unknown

For every person diagnosed with Covid-19, perhaps five to ten other people are infected but have not been tested and, in some cases, may not realise that they have it. This is according to one study, published on March 16 in the journal *Science* based on data out of China – which may or may not be relevant to the situation in the US now.

Dr Peter Gulick, an oncologist and infectious-disease specialist at Michigan State University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine, was once asked if he could take a guess at the real number of cases, and whether the five-to-ten multiplier might be accurate.

“Other than mathematical theoretical calculations, I’m not sure that we will really know that answer with any degree of cer-

tainty,” he said.

Several epidemiologists reached for comment either declined to take a guess or didn’t even bother to reply to this apparently unanswerable question.

An April 6 update had Michael Mina, assistant professor of epidemiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, weighing in on this: “We really don’t know if we’ve been ten times off or a hundred times off in terms of the cases. Personally, I lean more to 50 or a hundred times off.”

In many if not most states and locales, only people with relatively clear and obvious (and relatively serious) Covid-19 symptoms – difficult breathing and fever – or who were in close contact with some diagnosed with the disease, are eligible for testing, amid a clear lack of testing capability nationwide.

If you’ve only lost your sense of smell, which recently emerged as a possible indicator of Covid-19, don’t expect a test.

In Arizona, HonourHealth is among the facilities capable of testing for Covid-19. The company has advised people who think they might have Covid-19 not to walk in to any healthcare facility. That’s advice echoed by health officials nationwide, of course – healthcare professionals need a chance to prepare for infectious patients.

Meanwhile, the testing bar is high. “If you have the following symptoms – a fever of over 100.4, cough, shortness of breath – please call the nurse line at 480-587-6200, so that we can direct you to the most appropriate place for care,” HonourHealth said in a statement.

“At this time, Covid-19 testing capabilities are continuing to expand across the state,” said ADHS spokesperson Caroline Oppleman, adding: “Physicians can order lab tests for patients who meet certain criteria, which can be found on our website.”

Portions of this article were first published on North Phoenix News. Robert Roy Britt is a science & health journalist, author, and former editor-in-chief of LiveScience & Space dot com.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 96 00--

Word fit and crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

LAXITY

CAG says TRA did not audit any telco in past two years

By Guardian Reporter

AUDITING of telecommunication companies tax reports was never done on any company between 2016/17 and 2018/19, Controller and Auditor General, Charles Kichere has observed.

Kichere said in his first national audit report since assuming the position last year that Tanzania Revenue Authority's laxity in taxing the telcos has cost Treasury billions of shillings in taxes.

"Based on the data presented, it is observed that in the year of 2016/17 and 2018/19 there was no telecommunication service provider that was audited. The two reported tax audits were conducted in 2015/16 and 2017/16, one in each year," the report stated.

The CAG said his audit team conducted further inquiry with TRA officials responsible for tax audit to determine the reason for inadequate

implementation of their tax audit plans. "During the interview, TRA officials explained that, this was due to existence of special audits done in ad-hoc resulting to inadequate adherence to business plan," the report noted.

In addition, the CAG said based on the review of the authority's business plans and tax audit reports for the period from 2015/16 to 2018/19, there was a variation between the planned and the actual tax audits conducted.

"TRA conducted only two tax audits to TSPs out of the planned nine in the four years under the review. Therefore, it is further noted that, TRA conducted only two out of 24 potential audits to TSPs in the four years. This represents six percent of potential tax audits," the CAG stated.

The 2019 national audit report also faults adherence to the Tax Administration (Electronic Revenue Collection System) regulation (2017) which requires the Commissioner-General

to use information provided from the electronic Revenue Collection System.

"This system was expected to determine the potential amount of tax revenue to be collected and taxes not collected by the electronic revenue collection system. The eRCS was developed to help TRA verify and ensure all information concerning electronic revenue and tax were collected and documented," the CAG hinted.

The CAG said interviewed TRA officials said they did not adequately use information from eRCS because it only operated for one year, between 2017 and 2018.

"The stoppage was for maintenance and, also, to update the system to enable it to collect tax information from Zanzibar for the Zanzibar Revenue Board. For the one year when eRCS was not in operation TRA did not ver-

ify taxes remitted by Telecommunication Service Providers which based on tax audit reviewed, about 681.31bn/- were paid as value added tax and excise duty, all of which was not verified.

"In addition, further interviews showed that eRCS was not commissioned to the Commissioner-General of TRA.

Thus, TRA did not have full mandate to access eRCS. According to in-

terview with TRA officials, eRCS was under the custodianship of the developer of the system and there was restricted access.

Because of restricted access to the eRCS system, TRA was limited to only some revenue information and had a limited time to access it.

This hindered the capacity of TRA to verify the collected revenue online," the CAG revealed.



TRA commissioner general Dr Edwin Mhede

EXPANSION

Maize flour price eases on weak purchasing power

NAIROBI

PRICE of maize flour has eased by up to Sh10 as maize millers grapple with loads of unmoving stocks in the wake of Covid-19 that has weakened the purchasing power of households.

A two-kilogramme packet of flour, which had last month shot up to Sh136 has now come down to Sh125 in major retail shops in Nairobi. "The ability to buy most of the basic goods has dropped significantly because a lot of people are either out of jobs or have salary cuts because

of the Covid-19," said Mr Ken Nyagah, chairman of the United Grain Millers.

"We have tried to bring the price down to the minimum that we can to attract customers but the demand is still low." Mr Nyagah, whose umbrella body has a market share of 60 percent in Kenya, said millers were buying maize at Sh3,300 for a 90-kilogramme bag, up from Sh3,000 previously as the supply of grain tightens in the market.

He said with the ongoing trends of maize shortage and higher prices in the market,



Ken Nyagah, chairman of the United Grain Millers.

the consumers should expect higher prices in the coming days. The government has allowed millers to bring in two million bags of white maize at 14 percent import duty to bridge the deficit expected between July and August when the short rain crop from the South Rift is expected to hit the market.

The Ministry of Agriculture said a recent survey conducted by its officials indicated that the available stocks of maize would last until the end of June. Agriculture Cabinet secretary

Peter Munya said recently there are six million bags of maize in the country and warned processors against increasing the cost of flour without any justification.

Maize production in the last season dropped by 10 million bags following a reduction in area under the crop as a result of delayed rains, which saw some farmers shift to other crops. The decline was also precipitated by post-harvest losses realised during harvesting of the main crop following prolonged rains that coincided with exercise.

SURVEILLANCE

COVID-19: How the new EAC electronic truck drivers tracking system will work

KIGALI

EAST African Community (EAC) partner states have adopted a Regional Electronic Cargo and Drivers Tracking System that will be hosted at the bloc's headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The system will share the truck driver's information leveraging on that which is already managed and operated by Revenue Authorities in the region, and the existing health information systems in the six EAC countries.

An official explained that the development of a regional Covid-19 surveillance system for trucks and their crew is another tool to help mitigate the disruption of domestic, regional and global supply chain systems serving the region.

On Monday, June 1, Daniel Murenzi, the Principal Information Technology Officer at the EAC headquarters, took The New Times through "the technical functionalities of the system" which allows users to share information across borders in a transparent manner.

Murenzi said: "The system will work in all EAC Partner States. It will be inter-linked to EAC Ministries of Health and accredited laboratories for the accurate information. "The system will bring on board the truck owners or companies so that information can be shared across. In case a truck driver is tested positive in another country the system will notify the Ministry of Health of the driver's originating country."

The EAC is collaborating with Trade-mark East Africa in the development, implementation and operation of the surveillance system. Explaining what they hope will be achieved, Patience Mutesi, TMEA country director, noted that lately, the new coronavirus has been spreading between countries largely through land borders which economies rely on for key supplies, thereby threatening trade.

"We have also seen stigmatization of drivers across the region, and long queues of trucks at borders due to challenges in regulations that countries have imposed to control the spread of the virus," she said.

This development is a positive step towards a regional response to curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, she noted. "The system will help automate linkages at key nodes thus reducing the need for screening at every border. Implementing the drivers' tracking system will make ports, borders and critical supply chains safe for trade.

This will also ensure timely access to critically required medicines, medical and protective equipment and most importantly ensure food security during this crisis," Mutesi said. Truck drivers will need to upload the App on their phones.

Abdul Ndarubogoye, Chairperson of Rwanda Transporters Association (ATAR), said they have no problem with the new system because it comes to help solve a real problem. He said: "It is only until we start using it and, maybe, experience any

challenges that we can talk about them and request for help."

How the system will work

According to Murenzi, prior to commencement of any trip, all truck drivers and crews will undertake mandatory Covid-19 testing in the designated accredited clinic or laboratory of each EAC partner state.

All authorized and accredited testing and screening facilities in each country will be uploaded into the platform and any testing or health and safety events they conduct relating to a driver or crew preparing for transit movement will be uploaded in real time on the App and accessed only by authorized authorities.

After testing the truck drivers or crews an electronic medical attestation form or certificate will be generated with barcode on for authentication and validation. This will be shared across in accordance with the trip or corridor the track drivers are using.

The electronic generated medical certificate that will be validated for 14 days will be accessed electronically at the designated sites of screening, across the partner states where the driver or crew will use during transit movement.

Each trucking company will have an account with all the details of their fleet and authorized personnel uploaded into the platform. Each trucking company or owner will ensure that each driver and crew in each vehicle have an activated App downloaded into the mobile phone (android-



Daniel Murenzi, principal information technology officer at the EAC.

based). "Before the beginning of a journey each trucking company or owner will create the journey itinerary of their driver and truck that will be activated in the mobile app that the driver has," Murenzi said.

"Once the journey begins the application will connect to the Command Monitoring Centers and signal relaying will continue throughout the journey as is the current practice of tracking customs sealed cargo in transit."

Throughout the entire journey, any health and safety event conducted will be updated in the App by respec-

tive health officials and "this information made available to officials in the neighboring countries of interest on real time."

Designated stop locations will be geofenced in the App and Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System platform. Any prolonged stop outside these locations will issue an alert or warning to the authorities and truck owners of the violation.

Through the Web App, each truck crew member will be issued a digital Covid-19 health certificate that is based on agreed standards and protocols by the health official of partner States. "The certificate will be dynamic; avoiding the loopholes of manual and static certificates that may be forged or not represent the actual state of the driver during and after transits," Murenzi said.

He noted that if deemed necessary health, immigration, customs and security officials at designated areas such as border crossings, will be enabled to use mobile devices to verify the identity, status and conduct of the driver while in transit to determine which standard operating procedures will be applicable at the designated point. Drivers or crews returning will also be tested, and the results shared electronically and accessed by authorized authorities across the border.

In light of the new development, Murenzi said, Partner States need to, among other things, designate accredited facilities (clinic or laboratory or hospital) where truck drivers and crew will go for Covid-19 screening. Countries are also required to provide designated areas where truck drivers can spend the night and areas for refreshments.

CHARITY

Yara donates PPE worth 82m/- targeting farmers in a war on Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

THE country's farming communities in Southern Highlands, Northern and Western Zones will receive an assortment of coronavirus personal protective equipment worth 82m/- donated by Yara Tanzania Limited.

Yara Commercial Manager

for Southern Highlands Zone, John Rotich said the PPEs include sanitizers, soap and hand washing buckets as the fertilizer supplying company joins government's efforts to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Farmers have the role to continue producing food to avoid a possible crisis after the pandemic," Rotich said during

a handover ceremony of part of the equipment to Mbeya region in the Southern Highlands.

In addition to the donation, he said Yara is also undertaking sensitization of the public especially farmers and other agriculture stakeholders on the need to take precautions against the Covid-19 as they go about daily farming activities.

"We are glad that the numbers of infection are going down due to interventions that have already been taken but we are calling on farmers to continue taking all necessary precaution as the country expects a lot from them hence need to stay healthy," Rotich added.

Mbeya assistant Regional Administrative Secretary re-

sponsible for Agriculture and Production, Said Madito who received the donation on behalf of the farmers from Southern Highlands Zone, lauded Yara for the generosity which will save farmers against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Madito called on other private companies and individuals to emulate Yara's generosity

but should ensure they donate via the Regional Commissioner's offices where they will be guided on how to channel their donations.

"Please just come to us and inform us of what you intend to donate and we will give you the necessary guidelines," he said while admitting that the state alone cannot fight the pandemic

which has taken the whole world by storm.

He also commended Yara Tanzania for working closely with the government, farmers and other agriculture stakeholders to develop more climate friendly crop nutrition solutions while also sensitizing farmers on use of modern technologies.

INACTION

Yatani mum on future of corona-time payroll cuts

NAIROBI

THE Treasury has remained noncommittal on the fate of the recent payroll and consumption tax cuts in the post-corona period, saying retaining them depends on the future impact on public revenues.

On Monday, Treasury secretary Ukur Yatani would not commit to keeping the tax reliefs beyond three months, saying the government needed time to review their impact. "We are studying (the reliefs) because these tax expenditures will also depend on how much cooperation we get from Parliament. It is a matter that we are considering but we do not want to make any commitment at this stage," he said.

Kenya has, effective April cut income, sales and value-added taxes with a projection to lose Sh172 billion from with the hope to make up for the money by cancelling half of the Sh535 billion subsidies offered to businesses. Mr Yatani said his policy was to focus on reducing taxes directly to the individual by cutting income tax so that they have more money to spend to stimulate consumption, which will in turn boost production.



Mbeya's assistant Regional Administrative Secretary - Agriculture and Production, Said Madito handing over personal protective equipment to one of Yara Tanzania dealers, Tuli Gwelino from Iringa being part of a donation made by the fertilizer company. Others in the photo are: Benson Sanga (L) from Regional Medical Officer's office and Yara's Commercial Manager, John Rotich. Photo courtesy of Yara Tanzania.

COLLABORATION

Qatar Airways joining UNHCR in partnership to deliver vital aid to the displaced globally

By Guardian Reporter

LIFESAVING supplies targeting displaced people globally will be airlifted by Qatar Airway for the next two years after the airline signed an agreement with UN Refugee Agency.

In a statement, the Doha based airliner said the two-year partnership with UNHCR will involve a strategic collaboration whereby it will deliver crucial aid supplies to those most in need during these unprecedented times.

The agreement, which was signed in Doha on 19 May 2020 is an important synergy between Qatar Airways and



Qatar Airways Group CEO, Akbar Al Baker.

UNHCR and a clear response to the current challenges that are presented by the novel coronavirus outbreak. The partnership, which will be effective through to May 2022, will see UNHCR work closely with Qatar Airways to utilize the airline's hub-and-spoke network out of Hamad International Airport in Doha.

Commenting on the agreement, Qatar Airways Group CEO, Akbar Al Baker said its incredible to join efforts with UNHCR to provide relief aid to people and communities most in need. "By having a robust international network, we are pleased to be able to give a helping hand to support this great cause. During this crisis, we have worked closely with governments and NGOs to prioritise the shipment of medi-

cal and aid supplies transporting over 175,000 tonnes, the equivalent of approximately 1,750 fully loaded Boeing 777 freighters," Al Baker said.

"We are committed to making a difference and by working together, we are confident we will overcome the current adversities with strength, solidarity and resilience," the Qatar Airways CEO added.

A Senior Advisor and Representative to the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries at UNHCR, Khaled Khalifa said as the depths of COVID-19 continue to take the world captive, the UN agency never imagined the magnitude its impact would have, or just how many lives it would touch.

"Our primary focus at UNHCR

is to safeguard the rights and wellbeing of the most marginalised and vulnerable members of society. It is times like these when we must take action and strive to find lasting solutions which is why our partnership with Qatar Airways is crucial," Khalifa said.

Qatar Airways Cargo flies to several international destinations across Africa, Asia, Europe, The Americas, and Oceania from its base at Hamad International Airport and its global network will support UNHCR in reaching an extensive network of vulnerable groups of people. The airline will provide air cargo services for up to 400,000Kgs of essential supplies, which will be distributed to UNHCR operations worldwide.

LOCKDOWN EASE

SA shoppers stock up on booze as sales resume

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African shoppers filled trolleys with cases of beer and cider and bottles of whiskey and wine on Monday as the government eased the coronavirus lockdown to allow the sale of alcohol to resume after a nine-week ban.

South Africa, which has one of the highest rates of alcohol consumption per capita in the world, banned the sale of liquor in late March to ease hospital workloads and prevent a rise in domestic violence related to alcohol abuse during lockdown.

Under looser restrictions, alcohol will be sold for home consumption from Mondays to Thursdays, a welcome relief for an industry on its knees due to the ban. "There is a significant amount of profit lost, we were losing turnover every day," Jimmy Constantinou, who has been managing a liquor store in Johannesburg's Alexandra township for six years, told Reuters inside the busy store.

"It's obviously good that we're open again but in terms of business it's going to take a while to get there." An estimated 117 600 jobs have been lost in the industry,

with 13% of the craft beer sector in the process of shutting, while the wine industry was in severe distress, said Rico Basson, chief executive of Vinpro, a wine industry body.

A few kilometres from the township, more than 100 people snaked around the parking lot of Makro Liquor, owned by Massmart, with bottle store owners loading cases of beer and cider onto pick-up trucks. Software developer Teboho Mofokeng waited in the queue for more than two hours for his six bottles of whiskey, saying his alcohol stock ran out during lockdown.

"I've been without liquor for some time now," he said. "I'm over-excited and relieved." Retailers like Pick n Pay and Shoprite's Checkers supermarket chain, had allowed customers to place pre-orders online for delivery from Monday.

Some retailers placed limits on purchases, with Checkers limiting online orders to 120 litres per order. Online alcohol stores and delivery apps were dealing with high volumes of orders after President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement to further reopen the economy.



A shopper picking liquor at a shop in Alexandra township

EXPANSION

Alibaba hunts for a million influencers keen to make big money

BEIJING

ALIBABA pioneered the use of live-streaming hosts to sell everything from lipstick to smartphones in China. Now, the e-commerce giant wants to repeat that success globally with the help of a million influencers on forums from TikTok to Instagram.

AliExpress, the company's online marketplace for shoppers outside China, is on the hunt for social media personalities to hawk wares on its online malls around the world. It's looking to attract more than 100 000 content creators this year to its recently launched AliExpress Connect, rising to over a million in three years.

The platform offers a matchmaking service, helping pair social media influencers with brands and merchants looking to market their products. Its initial focus is Europe, where Russia, France, Spain and Poland comprise the majority of users.

Alibaba hopes to replicate the success it's enjoyed with so-called key opinion leaders driving sales on its China online marketplace Taobao. "For both Taobao and AliExpress, social content is a way to diversify offerings, but not to generate revenue," Yuan Yuan, head of operations for AliExpress, told Bloomberg News. Influencers will help users stick with the platform instead of just making a one-time purchase.

"The goal is to accumulate users, keep them there and encourage them to remain active."

China's largest e-commerce company currently gets just a fraction of its retail revenue from outside its home country, but it's harboured bigger international ambitions for years.

The move marks Alibaba's latest global push and comes at a time when Covid-19 is fuelling an unprecedented boom in social media.

The company's rivals, including TikTok proprietor ByteDance and Tencent-backed Pinduoduo, are playing catch-up in live streaming and other means of social commerce championed by the Taobao Live app.

Global social giants like Facebook Inc. have also added new features that support online shopping. In the US, more than 75 million social-network users aged 14 or older are expected to make at least one online purchase this year, up over 17% from 2019, according to research firm eMarketer.



Alibaba founder, Jack Ma

Influencers and content creators can sign up for Connect using TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and other social accounts. They can then solicit assignments from AliExpress merchants seeking help in promoting their goods or services. This gives the influencer options, from merely reposting the seller's social media posts to creating original videos. Commission fees can be based on the sales the influencers generate.

AliExpress is one of two Alibaba online bazaars for international buyers, the other being the Southeast-Asia-focused Lazada. AliExpress merchants are mainly small, export-oriented businesses in China, but global brands like Samsung and Oral-B have increasingly set up shop on the platform, targeting regional markets. Its top consumer markets include Russia, the US, Brazil and Spain.

Yuan said AliExpress aims to help at least 100 of its army of a million influencers earn an annual income of more than \$1 million within three years. "Only if they can make money will they be motivated to create good content for our platform," she said.

COVID-19 IMPACT

London traders vote to cut down world's longest trading hours

LONDON

MOST UK stock market participants want a reduction in the world's longest trading hours, which they say can improve liquidity and industry diversity, according to the results of a London Stock Exchange survey.

"A significant majority of respondents were sympathetic to the arguments that a reduction of market hours could lead to improvements in diversity and wellbeing," the LSE said as it released the outcome of its consultation, without disclosing the percentage of those favouring shorter hours.

Most of the more than 140 respondents said that any change would need a unified approach across European exchanges and other trading venues, according to the LSE. In light of this, the bourse said it'll wait for the results of other European exchanges' surveys on market hours, which at 8 1/2 hours exceed the US by two hours.

The results of the consultation lend weight to a proposal by two professional bodies to shorten European market hours for reasons including the concentration of liquidity in the first and last hours of trading, the short time window between corporate news releases and the market opening, and the need to improve the work-life balance and diversity at financial firms. The Association for Financial Markets in Europe (AFME) and the Investment Association of UK asset managers asked bourses in November to consider cutting 90 minutes from their trading day.

The LSE survey was conducted in December-January 2020, with respondents ranging from individual investors through to global investment banks. The exchange said it will also monitor whether the period of remote working due to the coronavirus pandemic has altered any views on shorter trading hours. Lobby groups for the industry have

previously said they would support a 12-month pilot across all major European exchanges and trading venues.

The majority of those surveyed favoured a 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. trading day, which would mean a one-hour delay to the open and a 30-minutes earlier closing time. Some advocated for both 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. working days. A minority advocated leaving hours unchanged, LSE said.

"Shortening trading hours has the potential to improve wellbeing and diversity on our trading floors and ultimately to deliver better outcomes for our clients," said Galina Dimitrova, director for investment and capital markets at the Investment Association. "The fact that the majority of respondents to the LSE's consultation on market trading hours agree, adds further weight to the argument that it is time to reduce trading hours."

Even if the session would be reduced to seven hours, as favoured by most respondents, the European trading day would still be longer than in the US and Japan and would overlap with American markets. Most respondents in the survey didn't consider the current overlap with Asian market hours to be as important as that with US market hours.

While the majority said shorter hours would improve trading velocity and liquidity on the order book, "very few" believe that this would result in an increase in trading volumes, according to LSE. The capitalisation of the Stoxx Europe 600 Index is about half that of the S&P 500 and the average turnover in the European benchmark in the last 12 months is about 40% lower than on Wall Street.

An informal Bloomberg News survey in February showed that across Europe, 74% of finance professionals, including traders, analysts and fund managers, favour reducing the length of the stock market day.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV TV

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	23:00 Habari	7:30 HABARI	21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo	23:15 Al Jazeera
SATURDAY 30 May	23:30 The Base	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	22:15 Kesho leo rpt	Thurs 04 June
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	00:30 Al Jazeera	8:55 Habariz a saa	22:45 Isidingo rpt	06:00 Al Jazeera
6:00 HABARI	02:00 DWTW	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	01:30 DWTW	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
6:40 Kumekucha	TUESDAY 02 June	9:30 Isidingo		09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
7:00 Habari	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	9:55 Habari za saa	SUNDAY 07 June	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
8:00 Al Jazeera	6:00 Habari	10:00 Watoto	6:00 HABARI	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)
9:00 Watoto wetu	6:40 Kumekucha	10:30 Shamba lulu rpt	6:40 Kumekucha	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
10:00 Shika Bamba 5	7:30 HABARI	11:00 The Base rpt	7:00 Habari	16:30 Business edition rpt
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	11:55 Habari za saa	8:00 Al Jazeera	17:00 In good shape
11:15 The Base rpt	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	12:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Watoto Wetu	17:30 Meza huru
11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk	9:30 Isidingo	12:30 Ijue Sheria	10:00 Isidingo	19:00 Turning the spotlight
12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt	10:00 Watoto wetu	12:55 Habari za saa	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	19:30 Tanzania yetu
13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt	13:00 Kipindi maalum: Uongozi rpt	12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:	20:00 Series: Itohan
15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito	11:00 The Base rpt	13:30 Tanzania yetu rpt	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	12:00 Al Jazeera	13:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Mwangaza	21:30 Capital Prime News
16:20 Igizo: Mtego	12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	16:00 The Great queen Seonduk	22:00 Capchat rpt
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	13:00 Kipindi maalum: TMDA na Jamii	15:00 Meza huru	16:45 ITV Top 10	23:00 Al Jazeera
18:00 Jiji Letu	13:30 Shika Bamba rpt	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:30 Kipindi cha Kikristo	Frid 05 June
18:15 Mapishi	13:55 Habari za saa	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	06:00 Al Jazeera
18:30 Igizo: Mapito	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
19:00 Jungu Kuu	14:55 Habari za saa	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
19:30 Shika Bamba	15:00 Meza Huru	18:30 Jagina	19:30 Igizo: Mtego	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
20:00 Habari	16:30 Watoto wetu	19:00 Usafiri wako	20:00 Habari	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)
21:00 Art and lifestyle	17:00 The Base	19:30 Isidingo	21:05 Mizengwe	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo	18:00 Jiji Letu	20:00 Habari	21:20 Mjue Zaidi	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
22:15 Kesho leo rpt	18:10 Yu wapi	21:00 Malumbano ya hoja	22:05 Bongo Movie:	17:30 Movie: Keeping mum
22:45 Isidingo rpt	18:15 Mapishi rpt	23:00 Habari	23:35 ITV Top 10	19:00 Drive it
01:30 DWTW	18:30 Uchumi na biashara	23:30 The Base	00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	19:30 Eco@Africa
	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	00:30 DWTW		20:00 Albu Yako
	19:30 Isidingo	FRIDAY 05 June		20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
SUNDAY 31 May	20:00 Habari	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi		20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	21:00 Tanzania Yetu	6:00 HABARI	Mon 01 June	21:30 Capital Prime News
6:00 HABARI	21:30 Chetu ni chetu	6:40 Kumekucha	06:00 Al Jazeera	22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
6:40 Kumekucha	22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	7:30 HABARI	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	00:00 Al Jazeera
7:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	Sat 06 June
8:00 Al Jazeera	23:30 The Base	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny	08:00 CNN International
09:00 Watoto Wetu	00:30 DWTW	9:30 Isidingo	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Drive It rpt
10:00 Isidingo	WEDNESDAY 03 June	10:00 Watoto wetu	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan	09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:30 Usafiri wako rpt	17:00 Eco@Africa rpt	10:00 Culinary delight rpt
12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:	6:00 HABARI	11:00 The Base	17:30 Meza huru	10:30 Innovation rpt
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	6:40 Kumekucha	12:00 Al Jazeera	19:00 The Décor rpt	11:00 Out n' About rpt
15:00 Mwangaza	7:30 HABARI	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	19:30 Shamba lulu	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
16:00 The Great queen Seonduk	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	13:00 Jagina rpt	20:00 Series: Itohan	12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
16:45 ITV Top 10	8:55 Habari za saa	13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt	20:45 The Monday Agenda	12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	21:30 Capital Prime News	13:00 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family
18:00 Jiji Letu	9:30 Isidingo	15:00 Meza huru	22:00 Kipima Joto	14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
18:15 Mapishi	09:55 Habari za saa	16:30 Watoto Wetu	00:00 Al Jazeera	17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
18:30 Matukio ya wiki	10:00 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	Tues 02 June	17:45 Bundesliga kick off
19:30 Igizo: Mtego	10:30 Uchumi na biashara	17:30 Ibada ya kislamu	06:00 Al Jazeera	18:15 Capchat rpt
19:30 Habari	10:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Jiji Letu	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	19:15 Mizengwe
21:05 Mizengwe	11:00 The Base rpt	18:15 Mizengwe rpt	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	19:30 The Decor
21:20 Mjue Zaidi	11:55 Habari za saa	18:30 Shamba lulu	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny	20:00 Korean Drama: Kimchi Family
22:05 Bongo Movie:	12:00 Al Jazeera	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na jamii	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	21:00 Out n' About
23:35 ITV Top 10	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	19:30 Isidingo	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan	21:30 Movie: Disaster zone
00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	12:55 Habari za saa	20:00 Habari	16:30 Capchat rpt	23:00 Series rpt: Itohan
	13:00 Dakika 45	21:05 Kipima Joto	17:30 Meza huru	01:00 Al Jazeera
MONDAY 01 June	13:45 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Utawala bora na utumishi	23:00 Habari	19:00 Innovation	Sun 07 June
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	13:55 Habari za saa	23:30 The Base	19:30 Jagina rpt	08:00 CNN International
6:00 Habari	14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	00:30 DWTW	20:00 Series: Itohan	09:00 In good shape
6:40 Kumekucha	14:55 Habari za saa	SATURDAY 06 June	20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny	10:00 Capchat rpt
7:30 HABARI	15:00 Meza huru	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	21:30 Capital Prime	11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	16:30 Watoto Wetu	6:00 HABARI	22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt	11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	17:00 The Base	6:40 Kumekucha	22:30 Eco@Africa	12:00 Innovation rpt
9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need	18:00 Jiji Letu	7:00 Habari	23:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
10:00 Watoto wetu	18:15 Korean drama rpt: The great queen Seonduk	8:00 Al Jazeera	Wed 03 June	13:00 In good shape rpt
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt	19:00 Ijue Sheria	9:00 Watoto wetu	06:00 Al Jazeera	13:30 Series rpt: Itohan
11:00 Al Jazeera News	19:30 Isidingo	10:00 Shika Bamba 5	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	15:15 Albu yako
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Ewura	20:00 Habari	10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	15:30 Drive it rpt
13:00 Mjue Zaidi	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka	11:15 The Base rpt	13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny	16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	21:10 Albu Yako! Hata wewe?	11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk	14:00 Club 101 (Via Capital Radio)	16:45 Mizengwe rpt
14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	21:15 Kipindi Maalum: Uongozi	12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan	17:00 The Decor rpt
15:00 Meza huru	21:45 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	16:30 Culinary delight rpt	17:30 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu	22:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito	17:00 Innovation rpt	19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
17:00 The Base	23:00 Habari	16:00 Igizo: Mtego	17:30 Meza Huru	19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
18:00 Jiji Letu	23:30 The Base	16:20 Igizo: Mtego	19:00 Sports Gazette	20:00 Korean Drama: Kimchi Family
18:10 Albu yako rpt	00:30 Al Jazeera	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	19:30 Chetu ni chetu	21:00 Shift
18:15 Mapishi	2:00 DWTW	18:00 Jiji Letu	20:00 Series: Itohan	21:15 Capchat live
18:45 Kesho leo	THURSDAY 04 June	18:15 Mapishi	20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny	22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
19:00 Afya ya Jamii	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	18:30 Igizo: Mapito	21:30 Capital Prime News	00:00 Al Jazeera
19:30 Isidingo	6:00 HABARI	19:00 Jungu Kuu	22:00 Dakika 45:	
20:00 Habari	6:40 Kumekucha	19:30 Shika Bamba	22:45 The Décor	
21:05 Dakika 45		20:00 Habari		
21:45 Kipindi Maalum: Utawala bora na utumishi		21:00 Art and lifestyle		
22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost				



A member of the public stands outside the London Stock

WORLD

WHO warns of higher rates of antimicrobial resistance

GENEVA

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday warned that the world is "losing its ability" to use critically important antimicrobial medicines.

Speaking at a virtual press conference on Monday, the WHO chief said that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increased use of antibiotics, which ultimately will lead to higher bacterial resistance rates.

Calling the threat of antimicrobial resistance "one of the most urgent challenges of our time," Tedros urged the world to find new models to incentivize sustainable innovation in this regard.

"On the supply side, there is essentially very little market incentive to developing new antibiotics and antimicrobial agents, which has led to

multiple market failures of very promising tools in the past few years," he said.

According to a press release issued on Monday, high rates of resistance among antimicrobials frequently used to treat common infections, such as urinary tract infections or some forms of diarrhea, indicate that the world is running out of effective ways to tackle these diseases.

"For instance, the rate of resistance to ciprofloxacin, an antimicrobial frequently used to treat urinary tract infections, varied from 8.4 percent to 92.9 percent in 33 reporting countries," the press release reads.

Coronavirus potency
WHO experts and a range of other scientists said Monday there was no evidence to support an assertion by a high-profile Italian doctor that the coronavirus causing the COVID-19 pandemic has been losing potency.



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom

Professor Alberto Zangrillo, head of intensive care at Italy's San Raffaele Hospital in Lombardy on Sunday told state television that the new coronavirus "clinically no longer exists". But WHO epidemiologist Maria Van Kerkhove and several other experts on viruses and infectious diseases said Zangrillo's comments were not supported by scientific evidence.

There is no data to show the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 is changing significantly, either in its form of transmission or in the severity of the disease it causes, they said.

It is not unusual for viruses to mutate and adapt as they spread. The pandemic has so far killed more than 370,000 people and infected more than 6 million.

Zangrillo told Reuters: "We have never said that the virus

has changed, we said that the interaction between the virus and the host has definitely changed."

"The suggestion by the Italian doctor is potentially dangerous as it gives false reassurance based on no evidence," said Leana Wen, an emergency physician and public health professor at George Washington University.

"There is no scientific evidence for there having been a change in the coronavirus. It's a highly transmissible and highly contagious disease. We need to be as on guard as ever."

Agencies

Zarif: Iranian professor acquitted of sanctions busting leaves US

DUBAI

AN Iranian professor imprisoned in the United States after being acquitted of stealing trade secrets has left the country and is on his way back to Iran, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in an Instagram post yesterday.



"Hello friends. Good news. Dr. Sirous Asgari is in the air on a flight back to Iran. Congratulations to his wife and family," wrote Zarif (pictured), who urged Washington in March to release Asgari, who he said was one of several Iranian scientists taken "hostage" by the United States.

In April 2016, the materials science professor was indicted as US federal prosecutors accused him of stealing trade secrets in violation of US sanctions on Iran.

A federal judge in Ohio acquitted Asgari in November and US authorities said earlier last month that the 59-year-old Asgari, who tested positive for the novel coronavirus in April, was expected to be deported by the United States once he received medical clearance to leave.

Asgari might be part of a rare prisoner swap between foes Tehran and Washington, whose relations have grown increasingly hostile since 2018 when US President Donald Trump exited Iran's 2015 nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions on the country that have battered its economy.

If a swap goes ahead, Michael White, a US navy veteran who has been detained in Iran since 2018, is a likely candidate to be exchanged. He was released from prison in mid-March on medical furlough but remains in Iran.

Iran last year freed US citizen Xiyue Wang, who had been held for three years on spying charges, and the United States released Iranian Massoud Soleimani, who faced charges of violating US sanctions on Iran.

Agencies

Russia's top brass invites 19 foreign armies to take part in Victory Parade

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S top brass has invited military units of 19 foreign armies to take part in the WWII Victory Parade on Moscow's Red Square on June 24, Russian Defense Minister Army General Sergei Shoigu said at the ministry's conference call yesterday.

"The parade teams of 19 foreign states have been invited," Shoigu (pictured) said.

The Victory Parade on Moscow's Red Square to mark the 75th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War will involve "about 14,000 personnel, including over 800 cadets of pre-University educational institutions

and the Young Army movement," the defense chief said.

The parade will feature "225 items of armament, military and special hardware and 75 aircraft. The spectators will be able to see over 20 latest military models, including Su-57 and MiG-31K aircraft," the defense chief said.

Overall, the military parades in nine hero cities and 19 cities across Russia where the military districts, fleets and armies are headquartered, are expected to involve 64,000 personnel, 1,850 weapon systems and 511 aircraft, the defense minister said.

Military personnel with coronavirus immunity to take part in Victory Parade. The service members with the coronavirus immunity



will comprise the basic part of the personnel that will march across Moscow's Red Square during the Victory Parade, the defense chief said.

"Let me note that mostly service members with the COVID-19 immunity and without the signs of infectious diseases will be admitted to the parade," Shoigu said.

The Russian defense chief or-

dered "to exclude any contacts of the parade units' personnel with servicemen and civilians who are not involved in the training [for the military parade]."

In preparing for the military parade, special epidemiological response measures have been envisaged to protect the personnel against the coronavirus infection both during their relocation and at their military bases, Shoigu stressed.

"At the places of deploying each parade unit, round-the-clock medical posts have been set up with the required equipment and gear. Units of radiological, chemical and biological protection troops are disinfecting the territory and military hardware," the defense

minister said.

At a video conference with Defense Minister Shoigu on May 26, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that the Victory Parade would be held on Moscow's Red Square on June 24.

The head of state explained he had chosen this date because June 24 was the day when in 1945 the legendary historic parade of victors took place, when soldiers, who fought for Moscow and defended Leningrad, who battled for Stalingrad, liberated Europe and stormed Berlin, marched on Red Square.

The Russian president instructed the defense chief to exclude any risks for the health of the military parade's participants.

Agencies

Kremlin weighs in on police brutality issue, says US far more extreme

MOSCOW

KREMLIN spokesman Dmitry Peskov believes comparisons between the ongoing riots engulfing the United States and police misconduct in Russia are inappropriate.

According to Peskov (pictured), this issue is not as extreme in Russia. "Police abuse of power is an issue that is strictly regulated by the enacted laws and personnel instructions, but I cannot agree with you that this issue is particularly dire in our country."

"Thank God, no," he said, answering a question on whether the Kremlin is inclined to pay special attention to actions of the police amid the continuing riots in the US.

Commenting on the death of a Yekaterinburg resident who resisted apprehension by the National Guard, Peskov noted that Kremlin "is not in possession of details of this incident in Yekaterinburg."

"We do not know what exactly happened there, and discussing it in any way without full knowledge would be wrong," he said.

Meanwhile, the spokesman disagreed that the issues that are at the top of the US agenda right now are relevant to the Russian agenda.

"We have our own agenda and, Thank God, things that happen in America do not happen [in Russia]," he said.

On Monday, media reported that a Yekaterinburg resident who stole several rolls of wallpaper resisted apprehension by the National Guard and was killed.

Agencies



Wuhan screens nearly 10m people in citywide testing

BEIJING/WUHAN/CHANGCHUN/HARBIN

WUHAN, capital of central China's Hubei province, tested 9,899,828 people between May 14 and June 1 in a citywide drive to screen novel coronavirus infections, according to a press conference yesterday.

No confirmed COVID-19 cases were found in the process, said Lu Zuxun, professor with Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science & Technology.

Meanwhile, 300 asymptomatic cases were found and quarantined, as well as 1,174 people in close contact with those cases. Everyone in the latter group tested negative for infection, according to Lu.

On May 14, Wuhan launched a campaign to offer nucleic acid tests to those who have not tested before. Officials said the move was aimed at reassuring the society as the city reopens its factories, businesses and schools.

The city's health commission said the tests are voluntary and free, with all costs borne by city and district governments.

No new local cases on mainland

Chinese health authorities said Tuesday that no new COVID-19 cas-

es transmitted locally were reported on the Chinese mainland on Monday.

A total of five imported cases were reported on the mainland. Among them, two were reported in Sichuan province and one in Shanghai, Guangdong province and Shaanxi province respectively, the National Health Commission said in its daily report.

No deaths related to the disease or new suspected cases were reported Monday, according to the commission. On Monday, eight people were discharged from hospitals after recovery.

As of Monday, the overall confirmed cases on the mainland had reached 83,022, including 73 patients still undergoing treatment, 78,315 people who had been discharged after recovery, and 4,634 people who had died of the disease.

By Monday, the mainland had reported a total of 1,761 imported cases. Out of those cases, 1,698 had been discharged from hospitals after recovery while 63 remained hospitalized. No deaths from imported cases had been reported.

The commission said two cases, both imported from overseas, were suspected of being infected with the virus.



Job seekers wait to enter the job fair held at Jiangnan University in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, on Monday. (XINHUA)

According to the commission, 4,642 close contacts were still under medical observation after 547 people were released from medical observation Monday.

Also on Monday, 10 new asymptomatic cases were reported on the mainland, including eight from overseas. Two cases were re-categorized as confirmed cases, and 34 asymptomatic cases were released from medical observation.

The commission said 371 asymptomatic cases, including 39 from overseas, were still under medical observation.

Jilin

No newly confirmed cases and

from medical observation.

Hubei

Central China's Hubei province reported no new confirmed cases and asymptomatic cases on Monday, the provincial health commission said Tuesday.

By Monday, Hubei had three confirmed cases, including one in severe condition.

Thirty-one asymptomatic cases were released from quarantine on Monday, reducing the total number of such cases under medical observation to 289.

By Monday, Hubei had reported a total of 68,135 confirmed cases, and 63,620 recoveries. A total of 4,512 people had died of the disease in the province.

Heilongjiang

No new confirmed cases were reported in northeast China's Heilongjiang province on Monday, the provincial health commission said yesterday.

There were reports of two new asymptomatic cases, bringing the number of such cases to 15.

A total of 253 close contacts in the province were still under medical observation.

Xinhua

Xinhua

Compilation of civil code fills legislative gaps for China

"TO MAKE a civil code of China's own is a dream of generations of Chinese civil jurists," said Wang Liming, chairman of the Civil Law Division under the China Law Society.

Now, the dream is coming true as the upcoming 3rd Session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) is about to approve the draft of the Chinese civil code.

The civil code is a milestone in China's legislative history. It is the first law named with "code" since the founding of the People's Republic of China in

1949, as well as a basic civil legal norm, Wang introduced.

It is divided into seven sections, namely the general rules, as well as provisions on property, contract, personality rights, marriage and family, inheritance, and torts. Established on Chinese practices and learning from the foreign legislative experiences, the civil code demonstrates the development level of China's civil legislation.

According to Wang, China's legislative departments have initiated the making of civil code for times, but had to adopt

a "retail after wholesale" strategy restricted by the then social and economic development, which means the country planned to firstly make individual laws on property, contract and torts, etc., and then compile a civil code based on those.

However, the compilation of the civil code is not simply "adding up" the laws, but integrating the existing individual civil laws in a science-based and logical manner with intrinsic consistency, and filling legislative gaps in certain areas.

"The civil code will make individual laws more comprehensive, systematic

and coordinated, which helps better balance the problems in different individual laws," Wang said. It will also provide comprehensive, authoritative and systematic arbitration rules for jurisdiction departments, as well as guide and normalize different civil conducts for the public, he added.

The section on personality rights is a major high light of the Chinese civil code, Wang noted, explaining the section answers to the need for personality rights protection in the era of internet and big data and responds to the challenges for

personality rights protection. It has Chinese characteristic and showcases Chinese wisdom, Wang said.

The draft section on personality rights established a system of injunction which enables the courts to issue injunctions against the practices infringing upon personality rights, said Wang, adding that it helps offer timely assistance for victims.

Wang told People's Daily that legislative departments have done a huge amount of work, and the jurisprudential circle and legal profession have both

made constructive contributions since the 4th Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) decided to compile the civil code.

Each draft section of the civil code has been deliberated and revised by the NPC Standing Committee, and now the draft civil code is generally in good shape. Wang said he hopes the code will be implemented soon, so as to offer strong support for comprehensively promoting law-based governance.

People's Daily



As China's economy now goes back to normal, multinational enterprises need cross-border talent flow in a globalized supply chain. Photo by Huang Zhigang / People's Daily Online

European executives charter flights to return to China

COMPANIES from Germany, France and Switzerland plan to charter planes to bring their executives back to China amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and Chinese authorities are likely to open express channels to facilitate their comeback and revitalize economic activity, sources told the Global Times.

The German Chamber of Commerce in China is organizing a flight with Lufthansa to assist German executives to fly back to China. The flight will leave from Frankfurt and land on Shanghai on May 25, an employee of a German firm told the Global Times on Wednesday.

Other European countries such as Switzerland and France may also charter flights to get corporate executives back to China, a person familiar with the matter told the Global Times.

"We are in constant contact with our members as well as with the Swiss and Chinese authorities. There is an urgent need for travel and we do our best to help develop solutions that take into account this need and take care of everyone's safety," Daniela Reinau, deputy general manager of the Swiss Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Beijing, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

In view of the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the world, China on March 28 temporarily suspended entry by most foreign nationals.

In a bid to reduce the coronavirus' hit on the economy, efforts will be made as soon as possible to open up "express access" for exchanges of key business representatives and technicians, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday.

Foreign firms play a vital role in driving economic growth as the country has largely contained the outbreak in the country, industry insiders said. Shanghai, which has the largest number of headquarters of foreign companies in the Chinese mainland, are striving to revive economic activity by helping foreign managers return.

The process won't be easy, industry insiders said.

"For instance, we must first apply to local district authorities in Shanghai where the Chinese branch is located, and show that the foreign executives are crucially needed for performing economic, trade, scientific or technological activity," an employee of a Chinese branch of a German company based in Shanghai told the Global Times on Wednesday.

"The foreign national can get an invitation after all the documents are processed and approved by local authorities, and the process may take a week... then he may apply for a new

visa at a Chinese embassy or consulate," the person said. After the foreign manager gets a visa, a flight to China can be booked.

"But the process for obtaining a visa will also be affected by the pandemic situation in the foreign national's home country," he said.

"The process is complicated, but many foreign firms understand it is necessary to take such measures to prevent the virus from spreading and we should cooperate," the employee said.

Passengers must take COVID-19 tests and offer proof of negative test results that were valid within 48 hours before departure from Germany.

They will also need to go through 48-hour quarantine after arrival in Shanghai. During quarantine in Shanghai, a mandatory COVID-19 and antibody test will be required for each passenger, the employee said.

China requires international travelers to the country to undergo a 14-day quarantine, which was mandatory, said Yang Zhanqiu, deputy director of the pathogen biology department at Wuhan University.

But since China has largely contained the virus, it is possible that the quarantine period could be shortened in some circumstances, like those of German managers returning to work in China. They are required to take COVID-19 tests before they depart, Yang told the Global Times on Tuesday.

The results of an antibody test can be known within hours, so the two-day quarantine can ensure safety, Yang noted.

Edmund Yang, a PricewaterhouseCoopers partner in Beijing, told the Global Times that some of the firm's clients want to get their staff back to China as early as possible.

"Some multinational companies are exploring the options for bringing their expatriates back to China, including applying for special approval from the relevant authorities and arranging charter flights," he said.

As of April 28, 76.6 percent of foreign companies in China had resumed more than 70 percent of their production capacity, according to a survey of 8,200 key foreign-funded firms in the Chinese market by the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

The number of newly established foreign-funded firms in China reached 9,616 in the first quarter, with foreign direct investment up 6.5 percent year-on-year to 242.28 billion yuan (\$34.16 billion), data from the MOFCOM showed.

The German Chamber of Commerce did not comment when reached by the Global Times on Wednesday.

Global Times

China determined to further open up despite COVID-19 epidemic

HAIKOU

AT this critical juncture when the COVID-19 epidemic is still ravaging the globe, China is opening its door wider to the world instead of trying to close it.

China on Monday announced it will build its island province of Hainan into a free trade port, a move that demonstrates the resolve to contribute to a stable world economy by continuing to advance reform and opening-up, widen market access, improve the business environment and expand imports and outbound investment.

By building a free trade port, Hainan will implement zero tariffs and low taxes, simplify the tax system, and offer special policies in trade, investment, capital flow, visa and entry,

transportation, and flow of data, thus becoming a new hub for reform and opening up in China.

It will bring tremendous opportunities to countries across the world. Global companies, either multinationals or small and medium ones, can tap into the Chinese market or expand their market shares in China through Hainan free trade port.

As the coronavirus epidemic continues to deal a body blow to the global economy, it's not easy to overcome external challenges to start development of a free trade port. However, China never wavers in its determination to further open up, and always goes all out to fulfill its promise.

China advocates building a community with a shared future for humanity. No country can isolate itself from the

interconnected world. To bolster wider opening-up is what China says and what China does, as always.

For instance, the China International Import Expo, the world's first national-level exhibition dedicated to import, will be held for the third year in Shanghai. More than 1,400 companies have signed up. More countries and overseas companies are sharing China's large cake of the market.

The construction of a free trade port in Hainan is not only China's latest move to expand opening up, but also comes as a confidence booster to the world which is facing economic recession and rising protectionism.

The epidemic will eventually be defeated by mankind, after which globalization is expected to accelerate.

Xinhua

Five police shot during protests after Trump vows to bring in US military

WASHINGTON/MINNEAPOLIS

AT least five U.S. police were hit by gunfire during violent protests over the death of a black man in police custody, police and media said, hours after President Donald Trump vowed to use the military to halt the unrest.

Trump deepened outrage on Monday by posing at a church clutching a bible after law enforcement officers used teargas and rubber bullets to clear the way for him to walk there after he made his remarks in the White House Rose Garden.

Demonstrators set fire to a strip mall in Los Angeles, looted stores in New York City and clashed with police in St Louis, Missouri, where four officers were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

"Officers are still taking gunfire downtown & we will share more info as it available," St Louis Police said on Twitter.

A police officer was also shot during protests in the Las Vegas Strip area, AP news agency said, quoting police. Another officer was "involved in a shooting" in the same area, the agency said without giving details.

It did not give details of the shootings or the officers' condition. Police declined to comment to Reuters.

Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak said in a tweet his office had been notified of two separate incidents in Las Vegas. "The State is in contact with local law enforcement and continues to monitor the situation," he said.

Trump has condemned the killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American who died after a white policeman pinned his neck under a knee for nearly nine minutes in Minneapolis on May 25, and has promised justice.

But, with anti-police brutality marches and rallies having turned violent after dark each day in the past week, he said rightful protests could not be drowned out by an "angry mob".

"Mayors and governors must establish an overwhelming law enforcement presence until the violence has been quelled," Trump said. "If a city or state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the United States military and quickly solve the problem for them."

Floyd's death has reignited simmering racial tensions in a politically divided country that has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, with African Americans accounting for a dis-



Protestors are tear gassed as the police disperse them near the White House on Monday as demonstrations against George Floyd's death continue. (AFP)

proportionately high number of cases.

CRITICISM OF CHURCH VISIT

Following his address, Trump walked through an area that had been cleared by police to nearby St. John's Episcopal Church, where he posed for pictures with his daughter, Ivanka, and U.S. Attorney General William Barr.

The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church diocese in Washington D. C., Michael Curry, was among those who criticized Trump's use of the historic church for a photo opportunity.

"In so doing, he used a church building and the Holy Bible for partisan political purposes," he said on Twitter. The church suffered minor fire damage during protests on Monday night.

The White House said it was clearing the area before a curfew.

A few hours later, thousands of people marched through Brooklyn, shouting "Justice now!" while some passing drivers honked in support.

Television images showed crowds smashing windows and looting luxury stores along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan before the city's 11 p.m. curfew. Mayor Bill de Blasio said the curfew would be moved to 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

Two police officers were struck by a car at a demonstration in Buffalo, New York, on Monday night. Officials said the driver and passengers were believed to be in custody. It was not clear whether the incident was intentional.

In Hollywood, dozens of people were shown in television images looting a drug store. Windows were shat-

tered at a nearby Starbucks and two restaurants.

AUTOPSIES

A second autopsy ordered by Floyd's family and released on Monday found his death was homicide by "mechanical asphyxiation," or physical force that interfered with his oxygen supply. The report says three officers contributed to his death.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner later released autopsy findings that also called Floyd's death homicide by asphyxiation. The county report said Floyd suffered cardiopulmonary arrest while being restrained by police and that he had arteriosclerotic and hypertensive heart disease, fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use.

Derek Chauvin, the 44-year-old Minneapolis police officer who knelt on Floyd, was arrested on third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter charges. Three other officers involved in the arrest have not been charged. Floyd's death was the latest case of police brutality against black men that was caught on videotape and prompted an outcry over racism in U.S. law enforcement.

Dozens of cities are under curfews not seen since riots after the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. The National Guard deployed in 23 states and Washington, D.C.

Most Americans were just emerging from weeks of strict "stay-at-home" orders imposed over the pandemic.

Agencies

S. Africa's COVID-19 cases continue to rise amid further easing of lockdown

CAPE TOWN,

THE number of COVID-19 cases in South Africa continued to rise on Monday as the country moved to a lower level of lockdown restrictions.

As of Monday, the cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa was 34,357, an increase of 1,674 from Sunday, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said in his daily update.

Regrettably the country reported 22 more deaths in the past 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 705, the minister said.

The Western Cape province remains the country's epicenter of the pandemic with 22,567 confirmed cases and 525 deaths.

"We wish to express our condolences to the families and loved ones of the departed and thank the health care workers who treated these patients," Mkhize (pictured) said.

The total national recoveries were 16,808, he said.

Also on Monday, the country eased the national lockdown from level four to level three, allowing eight million people to return to work as many economic and social activities were restarting.

"After 65 days of a nationwide lockdown, the country is today starting a new phase in its fight against the coronavirus," President Cyril Ramaphosa said in his weekly address to the nation.

He said the country is taking a gradual approach, guided by the advice of scientists and led by the realities on the ground and consultations with stakeholders.

Although the reopening of economic activities were widely welcomed, concern was growing among teachers, parents and role players in the education sector about the state of readiness for the reopening of schools, originally scheduled for June 1.

As a result, the government postponed the reopening of schools to June 8.

Addressing the reopening of schools, Ramaphosa said "the safety of our youngest citizens from a health and physical perspective is not negotiable" and "is our foremost priority."

"As we prepare for the gradual reopening of our schools and places of higher learning, education authorities have been hard at work putting the necessary health and safety measures in place," Ramaphosa said.

All schools have been provided with the standard operating procedures which cover issues like training and orientation of screeners, timetable realignment and configuring classrooms to meet social distancing requirements, according to Ramaphosa.

"Although we may feel anxious and fearful as our sons and daughters leave our care, we must draw courage from the fact that every effort is being made to protect them," he said.

Xinhua



Overseas food operators find new appetite for China

AS the coronavirus outbreak ebbs in China, overseas food companies and operators are resuming investment in the nation, eyeing annual double-digit growth in the food and beverage market in the coming years.

One such company is Turkey-based TAB Food Investments (TFI). It plans to expand fast food chain restaurant Burger King, which TFI operates as an exclusive franchisee, and introduce a new brand, the chicken restaurant Popeyes, in mid-May.

TFI has ambitious plans for both brands. Popeyes is looking to open 1,500 stores in the Chinese mainland in the next 10 years, while around 1,000 new Burger King stores will be launched in China. CEO and vice chairman of TFI Korhan

Kurdo lu told the Global Times on Wednesday.

TFI is adjusting its plans in China to reflect the impact of the coronavirus, but in general, the goal is to grow market share, he said.

Other overseas food companies are also moving to invest more in China as the dining sector rebounds. On Tuesday, Canada-based coffee-and-doughnut chain Tim Hortons said on its social media account that it received an investment from Tencent, the Chinese social networking and gaming giant, without disclosing the amount.

Tim Hortons also laid out an ambitious plan, saying that it will expand its outlets from the current 50 to 1,500 on Chinese market.



The first Popeyes, a chicken restaurant, opened on May 15 in Shanghai, attracts many enthusiastic consumers. Photo by Wang Gang / People's Daily Online

Some Russian food companies are also tapping the market as the Chinese government eases restrictions on meat imports. Miratorg, the largest producer of pork and beef in Russia, delivered 200 tons of Russian beef to China, the first time that a Russian company has exported beef to China in about seven years.

All these companies believe that the potential for China's food and beverage market is huge.

Kurdo lu expects 15 percent annual growth in China's food and beverage market in the next few years, which offers good opportunities for food industry players.

Zhu Danpeng, a food industry analyst, said that "there will be

no problems" with the growth of China's food market, given the country's large and still rising population, but there will be some changes to Chinese people's dining habits after the coronavirus outbreak, as they might care more about food safety instead of focusing on taste.

"China will undertake the responsibility of a great power, and I believe the government will increase policy support for overseas investment," Zhu said.

Kurdo lu said that the company has always been "comfortable" developing business in China, and has brought China's business achievements like digital payments back to Turkey.

People's Daily



Jamie Foxx, right of podium, and Mayor London Breed, left of podium, take part in a "kneel-in" to protest police racism on the steps of City Hall, Monday, June 1, 2020, in San Francisco. Hundreds watched the noontime demonstration. (AP Photo)

Celebrities take to streets for historic demonstrations

LOS ANGELES

JAMIE Foxx stood shoulder-to-shoulder with activists in Minneapolis, proclaiming that "we're not afraid of the moment." In Los Angeles, pop star Halsey and "Insecure" actor Kendrick Sampson were hit with rubber bullets during a tense stand-off. And in Chicago, John Cusack was filming a burning car when officers rushed up to him and began screaming at him to leave, and he says, hitting his bike.

Across the U.S., many celebrities have been doing far more than tweeting supportive words or issuing carefully prepared statements. They took to the streets alongside thousands of people to condemn the killings of black people at the hands of police and to demand reform.

"I was there in LA when it was the Rodney King beating and I watched that, and I said 'Man, if they get away with this what's going to happen later?' And it continues to happen," Foxx said Monday in San Francisco, where he joined church leaders and activists in a "kneel-in."

Foxx's comments came three days after he flew to Minneapolis to join the chorus of anger over the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after being pinned under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer for several minutes even after he became unresponsive.

"As I'm talking to my nephews, as I'm talking to my daughter, trying to tell them how to act when they're out there and they see a police officer, I'm sort of running out of things to tell them and it shouldn't be that way," Foxx said in San Francisco. "It shouldn't be that way in America in 2020. We have to evolve."

Many celebrities turned out Saturday and Sunday at sometimes intense protests in Los Angeles, including one outside a popular, high-end shopping mall where protesters took over a city bus, tagged buildings and burned police cars. Model and activist Emily Ratajkowski waved a sign that read "Dismantle power structures of oppression," Paris Jackson carried one that said "Peace Love Justice" and rapper Machine Gun Kelly's said, "Silence is betrayal." Pop star Ariana Grande tweeted that "we chanted, people beeped and cheered along."

Sampson ("Insecure," "How to Get Away With Murder") on Saturday grabbed a microphone.

"Our solutions are not defined by systems that oppression built!" he shouted. "America was founded on racism, anti-blackness and genocide. When you talk about America, don't leave that s--- out."

Later Sampson was shown at the front of a standoff with police. Some of the details of the video aren't clear, but Sampson said on Instagram that a rubber bullet that police shot into the ground ricocheted and hit his assistant. The video shows Sampson step in front of his assistant and an officer hit him at least twice with a baton.

"Then an officer aims straight at me, no ricochet, and shoots (rubber bullets)" Sampson wrote. "That was one of seven shots I took. They are excruciating. And they CAN kill."

Nearby, Halsey, who was at the protest with ex-boyfriend and recording artist Yungblud, also reported being hit with rubber bullets and getting tear-gassed.

"We were peaceful. Hands up, not moving, not breaching the line," she wrote on Instagram. "They opened fire of rubber bullets and tear gas multiple times on U.S. citizens who were not

provoking them."

Los Angeles police did not respond to a request for comment about their actions at the scene.

Halsey was back out protesting Sunday in nearby Santa Monica, where many demonstrators acted peacefully but others continued a third day of looting in the Los Angeles area.

Recording artist Madison Beer tweeted Sunday for people to leave Santa Monica immediately.

"I was just tear gassed," she wrote. "They are arresting everyone and tear gassing all crowds."

Among the hundreds arrested at that mostly peaceful demonstration was "Riverdale" actor Cole Sprouse, who wrote on Instagram that "this is precisely the time to contemplate what it means to stand as an ally."

"I hope others in my position do, as well," he said.

While some celebrities chose to demonstrate, others took to social media to express their disapproval of looting.

"Everyone is angry but there is a way to direct that anger," actor/director Taika Waititi wrote on Twitter on Saturday. In another tweet, he wrote: "The police seem to be enjoying this. You're inciting the chaos, dudes!"

After peaceful protests turned violent in Atlanta on Friday, director Tyler Perry pleaded on Instagram to "please stop this violence!"

"Looting is NOT THE ANSWER!!!!" he said. That night rapper Killer Mike, whose cousin is an Atlanta police officer, spoke alongside Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and gave an impassioned speech that soon went viral.

"It is your duty not to burn your own house down for anger with an enemy," he said, adding that he has a lot of love and respect for police while also acknowledging that some of them have done "horrendous" things.

On Monday, Perry posted on Instagram that he personally spoke with George Floyd's immediate family, and that "they are adamant in their call for peaceful protest."

In San Francisco, Foxx urged more of his fellow celebrities to step up.

"What I want to say about my Hollywood friends, you've got to get out here," he said. "You can't sit back, you can't tweet, you can't text ... When you hear and when you see how people are hurting, you can understand what it is as opposed to being in your bedroom or your living room and saying, 'Hey I don't like this.' Get out of the cul-de-sac and come down here on the courtroom steps."

Tank joined Foxx and sang a powerful rendition of Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come."

"A change is gonna come," Tank told the crowd afterward. "As long as we keep doing this, a change is gonna come."

AP

“

It is your duty not to burn your own house down for anger with an enemy," he said, adding that he has a lot of love and respect for police while also acknowledging that some of them have done "horrendous

Nandy 'drunk' and Nandy 'sober': Why artistes need a clear perspective on life

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

ARTISTES come and go in the course of the life time of each member of society, and in all of these instances a sort of impression is formed, either confirmed by other products or instances of production from the same artiste, or altered in a subtle or intense manner. Ordinarily one maintains a certain view of an artiste despite the wide variety of creations and productions in the course of the artiste's lifetime, or rather in the course of the lifetime of the listener, perhaps from a youthful period to a more mature mind, reflecting on those productions. Music for instance isn't just to be enjoyed or danced, but a mental and at times spiritual engagement between the artiste and the listener or fan, helping to model one's perspective.

In that case no artiste can be asked to maintain the same mood on life (and plenty of our private lives is taken up by sentimental attachments, marriage being a cardinal aspect but unquestionably not the predominant consideration). That is why artistes have a singular role to play in fashioning attitudes as they speak as lay people expressing the common worries and assurances of the next person, poor or netter off, and irrespective of other loyalties or inclinations. It is for that reason - and indeed the prior reason that music appeals to the ear rather than to the person - that music often called a 'universal language.'

As the basic intent of music is to entertain, it is directed to the ear, but what the ear hears and the spirit appreciates, the mind shall also take note of it graphically, if it soothes its existing view of life, questions it or injures it.

In that way an artiste faces a question of what he or she wants to say



Tanzanian musician, Faustina Charles Mfinanga, alias 'Nandy'.

in clear terms, leaving aside an artistic packaging that comes to the listener as a song, in which case there is a way in which an artiste's upbringing and view of life, habits or even manners, contribute in a significant way to the music. The question then is how far such a perspective is observable, and whether it is consistently expressed.

So there is a trap in generating an attitude among musicians, when they are still budding or beginning to attract public attention by own compositions rather than assisting the bigger names in chipping in with a sound or an echo.

At that early stage the one who is being judged - that is, listened to - by the public is the leading or composing artiste, not the contributors, but when such an 'undercard' starts

stepping on the stage on her own as in this instance, it is better or helpful that he or she has formed up a view of life that s/he wants to present to the public. It isn't altogether easy to form such an attitude, or hold it consistently.

It is when an artiste starts receiving reactions to his or her productions, and especially the first noticeable number(s), that the matters may percolate in the mind, as it were.

Listening to how musicians are put to a panel of questioners on their inner feelings in this or that song, and if indeed there was a specific cause of adopting a certain stance, or which led to their mood being sharp, modest or otherwise, it is clear that making up a consistent view of things (relationships) in life is difficult

enough.

Even within one issue views or sentiments change from one day to another, raising a problem for consistency itself, its validity.

That is why it isn't easy to blame 'Nandy' for her two contrasting and equally popular moods with rather distinctive moods in how they approach sentimental affinities. Listening to the productions, one dismissing a boyfriend as useless and consistently disturbing an otherwise promising relationship, and another expressing absolute satisfaction and happiness in a relationship, there is something there to sooth or disturb different groups of listeners. It depends where one's experience falls, as deception or promise.

In terms of literature, the Nandy of broken promises and a series of disappointments, asking the young man to walk away and leave her to heal up gradually, is a sober artiste looking at life in the face.

A rather drunk artiste says it is all happiness being in love with a particular youth, and is implicitly waiting for her day to fall into deception and injury of the soul. That is why 'sober' perspectives on sentimental affinities are more helpful than drunk variations, as most relationships are painful, so each of us (yes, even those with decades of sentimental experiences under the belt) need to 'heal up bit by bit,' after this or that painful relationship. The Nandy of 'all is just happy' isn't immune from that prospect, as she specifically states that she hates 'sharing,' that is, someone taking her place in attentions from time to time.

With that admission even in the happiest of relationships, admirers shouldn't sit idle in their happy relationships and expect that it will last forever, for as Scripture says, the devil lies in wait around the corner, always.

Boxer Floyd Mayweather to pay for George Floyd's funeral



Demonstrators gather at the Minnesota governor's mansion Monday, June 1, 2020, in St. Paul, Minn. Protests continued following the death of George Floyd, who died after being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on Memorial Day. (AP Photo)

LAS VEGAS

FORMER boxing champion Floyd Mayweather has offered to pay for George Floyd's funeral and memorial services, and the family has accepted the offer.

Mayweather personally has been in touch with the family, according to Leonard Ellerbe, the CEO of Mayweather Promotions. He will handle costs for the funeral on June 9 in Floyd's hometown of Houston, as well as other expenses.

Floyd, a black man, died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck while Floyd was handcuffed and saying that he couldn't breathe. His death sparked protests in Minneapolis and around the country, some of which became violent.

TMZ originally reported Mayweather's offer, and said he will

also pay for services in Minnesota and North Carolina.

"He'll probably get mad at me for saying that, but yes, he is definitely paying for the funeral," Ellerbe told ESPN.com on Monday.

Mayweather, who lives in Las Vegas, has not met the Floyd family.

Mayweather, who retired undefeated after 50 fights, winning five division titles, also paid for the funeral of an opponent. Mayweather won his first world championship when he stopped Genaro Hernandez for the WBC super featherweight title in 1998. Hernandez died 13 years later of cancer, and Mayweather handled funeral expenses.

Mayweather is considered one of the best boxers of his generation. Among the champion boxers he defeated before retiring in 2017, are Manny Pacquiao, Canelo Alvarez, Oscar de la Hoya and Miguel Cotto.

Meanwhile, Tiger Woods is speaking

out for the first time since George Floyd's death, saying his heart goes out to Floyd, his family and everyone who is hurting right now.

The 44-year-old golfer broke his silence with a statement on his Twitter account Monday night.

"I have always had the utmost respect for our law enforcement," Woods said. "They train so diligently to understand how, when and where to use force. This shocking tragedy clearly crossed that line."

Floyd, a black man, died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck while Floyd was handcuffed and saying that he couldn't breathe. His death sparked protests in Minneapolis and around the country, some of which became violent.

Woods' statement comes one day after former NBA star and current Charlotte Hornets owner Michael Jordan made his first public remarks

on Floyd and the killings of black people at the hands of police.

"I see and feel everyone's pain, outrage and frustration," Jordan said in the statement posted on the Jordan brand's social media accounts and the team's Twitter account. "I stand with those who are calling out the ingrained racism and violence toward people of color in our country. We have had enough."

Woods grew up in Southern California, and he said he learned from the Los Angeles riots in 1992 that "education is the best path forward." Thousands in the city's largely minority south side took to the streets after an all-white jury acquitted four white police officers of attacking Rodney King, a black driver, after a traffic stop.

"We can make our points without burning the very neighborhoods we live in," Woods said. "I hope that through constructive, honest conversations we can build a safer, unified society."

AP

FIFA: 'Common sense' needed for Floyd tributes

LONDON

FIFA urged soccer competition organizers on Monday to apply "common sense" and consider not sanctioning players demanding justice for George Floyd during matches.

The recognition by FIFA of the "depth of sentiment" over Floyd's death came in a rare statement telling the global game to show flexibility and not enforce laws of soccer it helps to set.

Players used weekend games in Germany to reveal messages expressing solidarity with Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died in Minneapolis after a white police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes after he stopped moving and pleading for air.

Germany's soccer federation announced earlier on Monday that it was assessing whether to sanction the players for breaking laws of the game that prohibit "any political, religious or personal slogans, statements or images" on equipment.

"FIFA fully understands the depth of sentiment and concerns expressed by many footballers in light of the tragic circumstances of the George Floyd case," FIFA said in a statement to the Associated Press.

"The application of the laws of the game ... is left for the competitions' organizers, which should use common sense and have in consideration the context surrounding the events."

FIFA controls half of the eight votes on the International Football Association Board, which approves the laws. The other four votes are held by England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A law change in 2014 -- proposed by England -- led to players being banned from revealing personal statements on undergarments.

England winger Jadon Sancho

was booked while playing for Borussia Dortmund on Sunday for removing his jersey -- a yellow-card offense -- only so he could reveal a T-shirt with a "Justice for George Floyd" message.

Dortmund teammate Achraf Hakimi displayed the same message on a T-shirt after scoring in the same game but was not booked because he did not lift his jersey over his head.

In the Bundesliga on Saturday, American midfielder Weston McKennie wore an armband over his Schalke jersey with the handwritten message "Justice for George," and Borussia Monchengladbach forward Marcus Thuram took a knee after scoring in another game.

The expressions of protest are being investigated by the German soccer federation's control body.

"As is the case internationally, the game itself should remain free of political statements or messages of any kind," federation vice president Rainer Koch said.

Spurred in part by Floyd's death, protesters have taken to the streets of the United States and other nations to decry the killings of black people by police.

FIFA acknowledged the anguish over racial inequalities highlighted by Floyd's death comes amid on-going criticism soccer is not doing enough to eradicate or punish racism.

"FIFA had repeatedly expressed itself to be resolutely against racism and discrimination of any kind and recently strengthened its own disciplinary rules with a view to helping to eradicate such behaviors," the Zurich-based governing body said.

"FIFA itself has promoted many anti-racism campaigns which frequently carry the anti-racism message at matches organised under its own auspices."

(Agencies)

Spain's soccer stars get back to work: 'Returning was a strange feeling'

By Sid Lowe, ESPN Spain writer

"It looked like a movie," said Luuk de Jong. Two months after Spain's footballers were told to go home and not leave the house, they were back to training -- back to work, really -- but nothing was the same anymore. The places they had left behind were not the places they returned to, the scene shifted. Despite the relief, the enthusiasm, the hope, there was something disconcerting about it, something almost surreal.

"Everything was arranged with the masks and the gloves, and everybody is walking like this and they're cleaning everything, controlling everything, and it was all strange," the Sevilla striker said.

Strange is the word, repeated often as players look back on these past three weeks and the steps they've taken toward the return of La Liga. Today, Spain's clubs will train with a full squad for the first time. By the time they get back to playing -- scheduled for June 11 -- it will have been three months since sessions were suspended and everything went into lockdown. They're almost there now, a new normal that doesn't feel entirely normal.

"I'm dead, mate," read the text message from one Spain international the day he got back to work -- but this isn't just about fitness; it's as much mind as body. At training grounds everywhere, the rules have changed. Players worked alone, a chair for a dressing room, trainers swapped for boots pitch-side as if playing in the local park. They arrived in mask, gloves and their kit. They left in their kit, too, with no loitering and no showering until they get home.

"Returning was a strange feeling after so long," said Real Betis forward Borja Iglesias. "The difference between the day you left and the day you return is big: the protocols, analysis, controls, the whole process makes a real impact. You have all this infrastructure and you can't use any of it."

"It reminded me of when I was a kid: I'd play and my parents would pick me up, still in my kit, and take me home to change there."

But at least they're back. After two months, they needed it.

"The night before the state of alarm, I ate with friends. One is Italian, and he said, 'This is the last time,' but when it actually happens you think, 'This can't be.'" Valencia midfielder Carlos Soler recalled. "It's going to be seven days, 14, but it gets worse and worse, you see the numbers going up and realise the magnitude. And two months on, we were still locked down. We'd been shut indoors, so going back was a relief, even in those conditions. You're outside in the fresh air, and although everyone's in a mask, distanced, at least you can see them. Working again makes you happy."

It's different work physically and emotionally -- a vital change. As Villarreal's Alberto Moreno put it: "The grass here is not the same as the floor of your home."

Soler speaks for more footballers than you might imagine: "I don't have a garden space; I live in a flat. I had to buy a treadmill, a static bike, a load of gym equipment."

"We need a ball and a goalpost," Villarreal goalkeeper Sergio Asenjo said.

Another player who lives in an apartment wasn't even allowed out for a jog when the government first permitted exercise: His club refused.

"Real training is totally different," said Roberto Torres, midfielder for Osasuna. "However hard you work at home, it's not the same. I realised when I got back: your joints, your muscles, everything."

The head, especially.

"People say this a 'preseason,' but it's not," Torres added. "In the summer, you rest, disconnect and come back with a clear head. This time, all the uncertainty, not knowing if you'll play again, is on your mind. You're stuck at home reading the news, and every day is different. One day, we'll play; the next, it's impossible. You can't help thinking: What if all this work is for nothing? You can disconnect."

The challenge on returning to training was, said Villarreal's fitness coach José Romero, to reconnect: "Getting them used to new stimuli," as he put it. Just being there is the greatest stimulus of all.

"Above all, there was satisfaction at returning," said Real Sociedad winger Mikel Oyarzabal. "Maybe you don't appreciate it during the season, but when something like this happens, you reevaluate that: You realise what it means to be there every day with the group."

"It was a huge relief to get onto the pitch," Torres said. "Just having someone there who's planned a session and pushes you changes everything, even in that first week when it's all individual physical work. But it was strange, given the prohibition and obligations imposed on us. And there's someone watching us, making sure the protocol was applied ..."

Ah, the "spies."
"They're there every day, part of the cycle now," said Oyarzabal. One coach admitted trying to find ways of escaping their gaze, inventing excuses to stand in the middle of drills and talk to his players, hiding behind those inflatable "footballers" for a word, aware that he won't be allowed converse for long afterward.

"It's a bit weird, but it's for everyone's good," Iglesias said. "He's given us advice, too. When we went into bigger group training, for example, he told us not to let the ball being used by one group get used by another. And you need reminders like that. The first few days, there's so much information, so many instructions in the protocol, that it's impossible



All across Spain, teams returned to full group training this week in advance of resuming the season on June 11. (Agencies)

to take it all in. You have loads of questions: What can I do? What can't I do? The club had staff there to explain it and guide us through, too. It's getting better, but the first few days were odd."

If there was one instruction above all, it was: Don't get close. Footballers work with 25 men of similar ages and ideas every day. Suddenly, overnight, they found themselves alone. Isolation, most agree, was the hardest part.

"My work means nothing without my teammates," Iglesias said. "Companionship is vital in any job, but I think in ours, it goes even further." At last, they were together ... but still apart. In the first phase of training after their return, teammates were visible but not there to be spoken to.

"That social thing is vital for all of mankind," De Jong said. "You come back, see someone and the first thought is: 'Should I give you a hug or not? Like an elbow or something? Even having to think is strange.'"

For Moreno, containing himself was especially hard. "I'm the kind of person who's always joking, grabbing people, messing about," he said with a laugh.

"It was hard to 'be with them' when you can't get close. But at least seeing them there, a few metres away, gave us strength," Torres said. "It even happened to me during lockdown at the supermarket. You see a teammate, you go to say hello, then you stop yourself, stay back. It was unreal, like you're living in a film. That happened again when we got back, but they told us no. The protocol is very strict."

It remained that way even once teams moved on to sessions of up to 10 players per group. "Personally, I find it a bit odd: you can't shake hands or give a teammate a hug, but then on the pitch, there's contact, you're close, touching, defending," Oyarzabal said.

Things were improving, though. "That week alone was hard: You've got no one to pass a ball to," said Leganés defender Roberto Rosales.

"A wall returning your pass is not the same as a teammate doing it," said Soler, "but as the groups get bigger, it feels more like football, more normal."

Only normality is ... well, abnormal. Emotionally, this has been unusual. For Valencia, those feelings were particularly acute. They played Atalanta in Milan, focal point of the virus, and then behind

closed doors at Mestalla before lockdown. They had more COVID-19 cases than any Spanish club. (Headlines emerged over the weekend that the Atalanta manager, Gian Piero Gasperini, had tested positive prior to their second game against Valencia, thus increasing their exposure.)

"In Italy, they took our temperatures, but there really wasn't anything else out of the ordinary, and no one was scared or worried," Soler admitted. "There was an odd atmosphere for the second game, and no one knew what would happen. When you look back on it from this distance, maybe it wasn't right to play -- and maybe the same is true of the first leg -- but no one realised that then. There were other events taking place. And all those who tested positive were asymptomatic, so it didn't have the emotional impact it might have. The fact that we have no positives now shows we handled things the right way."

The fear subsides.
"The first few days, you could feel the tension, the sense there's something there," Iglesias said. "But that's been overcome. You turn up and everyone's in gloves and masks, but once you get onto the pitch and compete, it's like always. Contact normalises everything."

Oyarzabal said: "With time it goes. We have to be alert, the virus hasn't gone, but we're getting back to normality."

That's training, but what about matches? Torres thinks for a moment. "I think it could happen [that players don't play with the same aggression]," he concedes. "Some may twice about contact, if not consciously. But that would be a mistake, detrimental to the team, so I hope none of my team mates have that fear."

"People working in supermarkets are taking more risks than us," Rosales says.

De Jong insists the fear has evaporated: "You still see the coaches walking round with masks and gloves on, which is odd, but we're all tested and the mind is just on playing football and getting fit for the restart." What he does wonder is whether playing in empty stadiums may impact how the game is played: it's hard to imagine the Seville derby being as fierce without fans.

"Sometimes you start a game aggressively with the fans singing and you do it also for the fans. It's cool to get opposition fans silenced too: it's a good feeling when you hear them moaning. That's part of the

game definitely so it is going to be quite different."

"If anyone is going to be hit by not having fans, it is us," says Torres. El Sadar, the Osasuna stadium, has a huge influence on the team, their performance an extension of the passion in the stands.

There's another consequence to empty stadiums, Iglesias laughs. "You use the excuse that you can't hear the manager anymore." What players say will be heard too, insults and all. "We'll have to measure our words," says Leganes midfielder Recio. Those are the small details being considered now, a good sign. So the games are close, but how close are players to being ready?

"Pff," De Jong replies. "That's a good question." On Monday, there will be full training sessions. Across the country, entire squads will work together for the first time and the week after that La Liga begins. No friendlies -- something Torres hadn't thought about until the physio mentioned it -- and straight into the competition.

"It doesn't make sense because of all the health measures but it would help to play a game or so to get the rhythm. When a season begins, there are 38 games, some margin for error. Now it's eleven; two mistakes and you're in trouble," he says.

"Most drills can be done now but there are still things missing: we still can't play 11 vs. 11, face to face," Oyarzabal says. "When we go into the final phase, I think we'll play full matches at least a couple of times. I didn't expect [prime minister Pedro] Sánchez to say we could go back so fast. But if we're going to get this finished, the sooner the better. Football's return will be a liberation. People have missed it. No one likes them not being there but it had to be done for safety. Hopefully we can get them back soon."

"What really moves football is the fans' passions, the way they live it, and having a stadium on your side really makes a difference but I think we'll learn to enjoy it," Iglesias says.

It's getting nearer. The final phase begins today and the stakes get higher. What if it unravels, what if something goes wrong? They have come all this way; just a little further now.

"There will be nerves but there's no need to be afraid," Soler says. "We're close, and hopefully we can get there and people can enjoy watching football again."

Messi's Barcelona exit clause expires - sources

BARCELONA

THE clause allowing Lionel Messi to walk away from Barcelona for free this summer expired over the weekend, sources at the club confirmed to ESPN, meaning he will remain at Camp Nou for at least another 12 months.

Messi, 32, signed terms that run until the end of the 2020-21 campaign in 2017. At the time, a clause was included that he could leave for nothing in summer 2020 as long as he communicated his decision to Barca before June.

Multiple sources at Barca have told ESPN that the actual deadline was May 30, coinciding with the date when this season's Champions League final was supposed to take place in Istanbul. ESPN contacted Messi's camp for confirmation, too, but they said, as a rule, "we don't speak about contractual issues."

El Pais first revealed the details of Messi's contract situation last September and they were later confirmed by teammate Gerard Pique, who said Messi has "earned the right to be able to choose what he does with his future after everything he's given the club."

Several teams, including Manchester City, have been monitoring Messi's situation since, but sources inside the Barca hierarchy have always maintained their belief that the club's record goal scorer would stay put.

There have been moments when that belief may have wavered. Messi rowed with sporting director Eric Abidal on Instagram earlier this year and used the players' announcement that they would take a 70% pay cut because of the coronavirus pandemic to express "surprise that from inside the club there would be people that want to pressure us into something that we were always clear we wanted to do."

Despite that, Messi has always insisted he would like to end his

career "at home" in Barcelona, although he has also suggested he would be open to a stint at boyhood club Newell's Old Boys in his native Rosario before he finally hangs up his boots.

"I love Barcelona, but I really do miss Rosario," he said in February. "This is my home -- I've been here longer than Argentina. I love Barcelona, where I live and I really enjoy what I do for a living."

Messi moved to Barcelona as a teenager and, since signing his first professional contract in 2005, he has been handed eight renewals by the Catalan club, with his release clause rising to €700 million in the process.

Barca now hope to tie Messi down to another new deal as he moves into the final years of his career. The club's president, Josep Maria Bartomeu, wants to make sure the six-time world player of the year has agreed to new terms before his mandate expires in 2021.

Bartomeu has previously spoken about offering Messi a lifetime contract, similar to the one signed by Andres Iniesta, and hopes to begin talks with Messi's father, Jorge, who is in Argentina, when some form of normalcy returns following the coronavirus crisis.

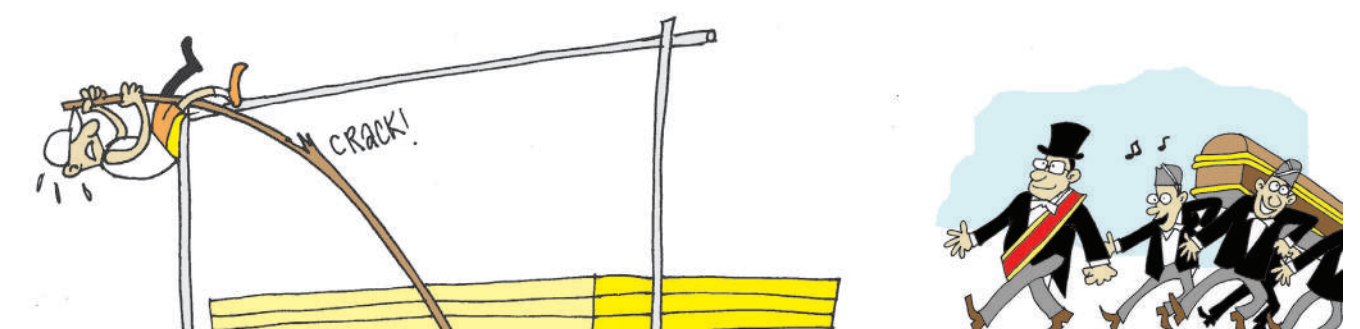
With 627 goals, Messi is the top scorer in Barcelona's history by a distance. He has also made 718 appearances for the club, a figure only bettered by Xavi Hernandez's 767.

He will be central to Barca's title hopes when they return to La Liga action on June 13 against Mallorca. They are two points clear of Real Madrid with 11 games to play following a three-month stoppage due to the coronavirus.

Games will be played behind closed doors, with Messi saying on Sunday that "life and football will never be the same again" because of the pandemic, which has taken almost 400,000 lives across the world.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Spain's soccer stars get back to work:
'Returning was a strange feeling'

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) Chief Executive Officer, Almasi Kasongo

Premier League Board settles VPL, FDL refs

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

WITH domestic football tournaments set to restart on June 13, the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has stated the Vodacom Premier League and First Division League (FDL) referees have already received their allowances.

The TPLB Chief Executive Officer, Almasi Kasongo, disclosed much as the board and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) have been facing financial difficulties, the two bodies have sought to settle the officials' unpaid dues for this season.

"We have paid more than 500m/- we had owed all officials who include those who have been suspended, we want to see to it we have no debts when the tournaments restart," he stated.

The TPLB official pointed out the board is optimistic the officials will travel to the match centers on time and officiate smoothly.

"We hope the officials will officiate the remaining games fairly," he disclosed.

The TPLB recently stated the domestic soccer competitions will resume on June 13 and the tournaments' fixtures have also been released.

Vodacom Premier League defending champions and log leaders, Dar es Salaam's Simba, will host Ruvi Shooting on June 14, whereas third-placed Yanga are set to be away to Shinyanga's Mwadui FC a day before.

Meanwhile, Yanga have experienced injury scare, given the outfit's key players, Bernard Morrison and Papy Tshishimbi, sustained injuries in the squad's training session in the city.

Yanga assistant coach, Charles Boniface Mkwasa, disclosed the two players were injured and the outfit is closely monitoring their treatment.

"We hope the two players will, as of June 13, be fit and travel with the rest of the squad to play our first match after the Vodacom Premier League's resumption," he disclosed.

He further stated the remaining players who are participating in training are in good shape.

Yanga's head coach, Luc Eymael, is set to make his way back to Dar es Salaam later this week, the squad's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, confirmed.

The Belgian tactician had headed to his home country when the Vodacom Premier League and the rest of sporting activities were suspended on March 17.

Bumbuli pointed out that Yanga leadership is looking into facilitating Eymael's trip to Dar es Salaam. The tactician is expected to head to Germany and connect a flight to Dar es Salaam.

"Belgium government has lifted ban on international flights after it had temporarily placed the ban in an effort to contain the Coronavirus crisis. We are looking into the way he will connect flight to make his way back, given there are some countries which have not lifted ban on international flights," he disclosed.

He stated his club hopes the coach will jet into the city on time and travel with the squad to Shinyanga to face Mwadui FC in the domestic top flight fixture scheduled for June 13.

Nyoshi el Saadat quits Bogoss Musica, moves to Arusha's Wisdom Musica

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Monduli

THE newly outfitted Wisdom Musica band of Arusha is currently shopping for more experienced musicians to supplement its own ensemble and has pulled in potential artistes from Dar es Salaam including the famous Nyoshi el Saadat.

Wisdom Musica band's director, Humphrey Nyuchi, has confirmed that his band will be hiring new musicians, including the widely popular Nyoshi from Dar es Salaam-based Bogoss Musica.

The Arusha band, as disclosed by Nyuchi, will as well rope in Charles Gabriel, nicknamed 'Chalz Baba', and Jose Mara from the Mapacha Watatu band.

The band will also bring to Arusha singers from Nigeria and Botswana in order to provide variety of musical test to the audience.

Congolese Nyoshi (pictured) will be taking over the leadership of the Wisdom Musica band.

"We are hiring the three top entertainment personalities so that Arusha can compete with Dar es Salaam and thrash the latter black and blue," Nyuchi boasted.

He disclosed that they are not going to compete with other Arusha-based bands, that is why they are scooping musicians from Dar es Salaam and across the border.

Based in Monduli District, Wisdom Musica Band members have chosen to steer away from the city lights and the ensemble is scheduled to be officially launched this June.

The event will depend on the decrease in the Covid-19 cases in the country.

Speaking recently during a soft launch ceremony, Wisdom Musica band's General Manager Cletus Wilbert, representing the ensemble's Director Nyuchi, described the band as being a 12-piece ensemble, consisting of six vocalists and six instrumentalists.

The band's line-up includes guitarists Francis Kandidus Komba, Khalid Shaibu Muhumba, Awadh Marijan Selemani and John Charles 'Ngosha', drummers Elias Shaaban Shaster and Said Shaaban Lamba, singers Awadh Seif Mbulu and Simphorian Novatusy Mwambaluka.

Others in the band are singers, Rama Peter Balala, Jarafi Idrisa Mbaruku, Maria Fidelis Msafiri, and the band's Manager, Selemani Shaibu Muhumba.

During the occasion to introduce the new band at Dhababu Resort, veteran singer, Ali Choki, popularly known as 'the Horseman', was invited to offer advice and take part in some of the band's songs, including his own cover versions. At the inaugural show, Wisdom Musica band was playing as support act to Les Mwenje Jazz from the Tanzania Military Academy of Monduli in the latter's regular performance.

Since time in history, Arusha has been lagging behind in musical performances, the regions' only portfolio is the defunct Kurugenzi Band which was staging shows in the 70s and 80s, as well as the army band of Mwenje Jazz.



A section of Yanga players feature in the squad's training at Tanganyika Law School's venue in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the remainder of the Vodacom Premier League. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Yanga now happy with partnership with La Liga

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League giants, Yanga, have said they are impressed and happy with the agreement they recently signed with Spanish Premier League organizers, La Liga.

Yanga information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said his side is to benefit from the agreement which they signed with La Liga last Sunday.

"Yes, we are truly delighted with the agreement which we have signed with La Liga, it will help us and the sport in Tanzania," he said.

Yanga, through the side's main sponsors GSM Group, recently signed the agreement with La Liga.

Under the agreement, La Liga will provide expertise to Yanga, the expertise will include technical, commercial and management, among others.

In another development, Vodacom Premier League side, Lipuli FC, have said they are ready for the resumption of the domestic top flight.

The Iringa-based club's head coach, Nzeyimana Mailo, said his charges are well prepared for the resumption of the league, penned for June 13.

He said his players have started training at Samora Stadium in Iringa.

"We have started preparations for the resumption of the league and I'm sure the players will be in good shape before the league kicks off," he said.

The coach further said he is impressed by the response of some of his players including keeper Deogratus Munishi and midfielder Fredy Tangalu.

The squad's doctor, Noah Mwasabite, also added that he is impressed that most of the players are in good shape.

"The players are in good shape, of course the fitness is not

that good but I'm sure as time goes they (players) will be fit and ready for the games," he said.

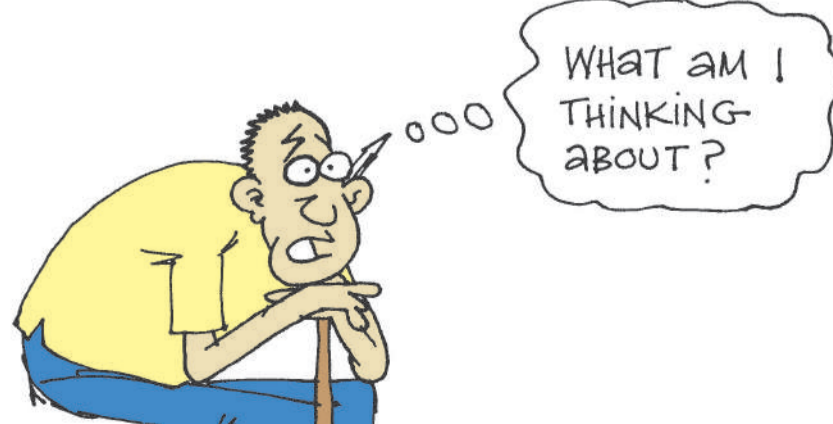
The Vodacom Premier League and the rest of sporting activities were indefinitely suspended by the government due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

President John Magufuli issued permission for the resumption of this season's sporting events from Monday this week.

Football events, Vodacom Premier League, First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL), are set to restart this week, whereas the remaining disciplines' competitions will restart slowly.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I AM JUST WONDERING...



There is no any investor who will spend his fortune on a club that is either not run efficiently or has plenty of debts, therefore, the first phase will focus on assessing the way the club is to be run, and boosting the club's membership base. I thank GSM Group, they want to see Yanga turn into a self sufficient club

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

NIRVANA

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM