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## 'COVID-19 clinical coalition likely to generate African localised solutions'

NAIROBI

A COVID-19 coalition launched to fast-track clinical research and development (R&D) in low-resource countries could help Africa find local solutions to the pandemic, experts say.

Monique Wasunna (pictured), Africa regional director at Drugs for Neglected Diseases (DND) initiative, says that the coalition will accelerate research for effective COVID-19 drugs, pre-exposure actions to protect health care workers and vulnerable groups, as well as post-exposure care for those infected.

A DND study says global health partnerships and coalitions of disease investigators from Africa and the developed world are imbalanced with African scientists having limited opportunities to make intellectual contributions to the process.



**The fight against the pandemic is likely to promote new clinical research, including, ensuring standardised research protocols and to aim at developing vaccines and other medicines for Africa**

"Global health research also depends on strong clinical, laboratory and human resource infrastructure. While such resources exist in the West, they are scarce in Africa and limit contributions of African researchers," the study asserts.

But on the COVID-19 coalition Monique says local experts will be part of international plans to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of new diagnostic tools, drugs, vaccines, and non-medical interventions to prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19.

The fight against the pandemic is likely to promote new clinical research.

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# COVID-19 countrywide as 84 new cases emerge



Armed with masks as recommended by medical experts and advised by various authorities, chiefly as a precaution against Covid-19 infections, Dar es Salaam residents board a commuter bus at Gerezani stand yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Reporters

THE number of coronavirus cases in the country reached 254 yesterday after 84 new ones were registered in 16 regions.

Ummy Mwalimu, Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said in a statement issued yesterday that 33 patients were registered in Dar es Salaam, Arusha (4), Mbeya (3), Kilimanjaro (3), Coast (3), Tanga (3), Manyara (2), Dodoma (3), Mwanza (3), Ruvuma (2), Morogoro (2) Rukwa (2), Mara (1), Mtwara (1), Kagera (1) and Tabora (1).

The number includes 23 cases, which were earlier announced in Zanzibar.

The minister said three more fatalities were registered in Dar es Salaam.

All patients in the Mainland are progressing well, while four patients were placed in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in Zanzibar.

Late last week, Zanzibar Health Minister Hamad Rashid Mohamed said in a brief statement that the total number of confirmed cases in the Isles now stands at 58 and three fatalities, with two new cases registered in Pemba.

Out of the 23 new Isles cases, 21 are Tanzanian nationals while two are foreigners who are residents of Zanzibar, he said.

The two foreigners who have contracted the disease in the Isles are citizens of France and Cuba.

With Dar es Salaam having the majority of cases, various regions have also been listed to have new cases including Mbeya, Mara, Tabora, Manyara, Dodoma, Morogoro, Rukwa and Tanga.

So far, 11 patients had recovered and were

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## House skips session as MP tests positive

### JPM mourns Rev Gertrude Rwakatare

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

BUSINESS was suspended in the ongoing Budget session of the National Assembly for the day to allow disinfecting the debating chamber following a report that one MP has contracted the novel coronavirus.

Dr. Tulia Ackson, the Deputy Speaker, explained the move when postponing the session, saying the MP traveled travelled to Dar es Salaam in recent days and returned to Dodoma on Wednesday last week.

She warned the lawmakers to stop sharing tablets and other gadgets as an aspect of behavior changes aimed at containing the disease.

The MP was progressing well as the government ensures he receives recommended medical treatment, she said.

Dr Ackson said following the situation, sanitation officials from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children embarked on an operation to

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## France leads EU states in Covid-19 emergency aid

By Guardian Reporter

FRANCE is mobilising resources to help the most vulnerable countries in Africa including Tanzania to effectively fight against the coronavirus and resist economic shocks.

Ambassador Frederic Clavier said in statement yesterday that the French Development Agency (AFD) has set aside euro 1.2bn (three trillion/-) to support efforts against the Covid-19 pandemic in the continent.

Ambassador Clavier said the financing relates to researches and strengthening health systems

in the sub-Saharan Africa.

"This is my government's plan, to ensure African countries fight the pandemic, but also fight economic downturns from the pandemic," he declared.

In the case of Tanzania, besides targeting the pandemic, French companies present in Tanzania are being asked to join hands and support government efforts by offering sanitary products and medical equipment needed to fight the propagation of the disease.

Clavier said Tanzania will benefit

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### SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

- Fever
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

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



## COVID-19 countrywide as 84 new cases emerge

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discharged from treatment centres.

The United States has announced plans to evacuate its citizens from Tanzania.

The Department of State said the US had also issued a global level four health advisory to American citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of Covid-19.

Meanwhile, Tanzania has since suspended all international flights in an effort to contain the spread of the pandemic.

As of yesterday, globally confirmed cases surpassed 2.4 million with more than 640,249 recoveries. The coronavirus has affected virtually all countries and territories around the world.

## Dams about to spill over, Kenya warns

NAIROBI

THE Kenyan government has told people living in Tana River and Garissa to move to higher grounds as Masinga, Kindaruma and Kiambere dams are all full and will spill over in the next two days.

The three dams, which are holding millions of cubic meters of water, are expected to start overflowing in the next two days, posing a major risk to people living around them.

Four Cabinet secretaries - Fred Matiang'i (Interior), Charles Keter (Energy), Keriako Tobiko (Environment) and Eugene Wamalwa (Devolution), yesterday said that the government does not want to deal with yet another disaster, similar to the one in West Pokot, and hence told those living near the dams to move to safer grounds. "The three are already full to the capacity and there is a spill already. The people should move to a higher ground because the flooding is coming," Keter said.

In addition to Tana River and Garissa, the government has also issued a red alert to people living in upper Kitui, Murang'a and Elgeyo-Marakwet that

they will experience floods due to the ongoing long rains.

Meanwhile, The number of people in Kenya who have tested positive for the coronavirus (Covid-19) has risen to 281 following the confirmation of 11 more cases. The 11 are five females and six males all aged between 11 and 80 years.

Making the announcement yesterday afternoon, Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said seven of the new cases were reported in Mombasa while four were reported in Nairobi.

Kagwe also announced that two more patients, one of them being a doctor, have recovered, bringing the number of recoveries to 69.

The number of deaths remains at 14. In the same vein, carefree teens and young adults are emerging as one of the weakest links in slowing down the spread of coronavirus in Kenya, as they continue to act irresponsibly.

They are still throwing parties and organising social events. Currently, about 30 per cent of all infections comprise those below the age of 29, while 92 per cent are below 59, bringing a new headache to parents worried about their children.

AGENCIES



Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Idd (C) is welcomed by Mohamed About Mohamed (R), Minister of State in his Office, on arrival at the venue of yesterday's ceremony at which businessman Rostam Aziz presented equipment and supplies worth 500m/- to the Zanzibar government in support of the war on Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

## France leads EU states in Covid-19 emergency aid

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proportionally with the needs of its population in the bilateral, European and multilateral initiatives supported by France.

"The French Embassy already supports within its ability national efforts in the fight against Covid-19 and its consequences," he said.

One such effort is an ongoing agroecology project, implemented by SwissAid and Tanzanian NGOs SAT and TOAM, that aims to improve sustainable livelihoods for 6000

smallholder farmers, which has been adapted to help curb the spread of the pandemic among the rural population.

About 500,000 euros will be directed to epidemic prevention, food security and economic assistance to high risk and vulnerable rural populations, he elaborated.

He said that for a long time, France through AFD has been assisting African countries in various fields, spending euro 11 billion last year, the fifth country globally among those that provide aid.

On April 8 French President

Emmanuel Macron announced an immediate deployment of € 1.2 billion to combat Covid-19 in Africa.

An initiative, "COVID-19 - Health in Common" implemented by AFD seeks to strengthen healthcare systems in Africa as well as African detection and scientific research capacities.

"But this action will not only provide an immediate response to short-term health challenges but also tackle major economic and social consequences and prepare for after the crisis," the president noted.

In parallel with this bilateral effort, France exercises relentless advocacy within European and international institutions so that Africa is prioritized in the multilateral response.

France is the fifth largest donor country in the world, with official public development aid which amounted to nearly € 11 billion last year. In the context of the Covid-19 crisis, "all the channels of this aid are fully mobilized and France is working with its partners in major multilateral instruments to support Africa," the envoy added.



Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro (L) registers in the Permanent Voters Register at Lyamungo Central village in Hai District at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Wainde Shizza

## 'COVID-19 clinical coalition likely to generate African localised solutions'

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including, ensuring standardised research protocols and to aim at developing vaccines and other medicines for Africa, says Wasunna whose organisation is a member of the coalition.

The coalition is made up of health experts, policymakers and others from institutions such as ministries of health, universities, not-for-profit R&D organisations, donor agencies and concerned international organisations.

Most COVID-19 clinical trials are being conducted or planned in China and South Korea and high-income countries in Europe and North America, with only a few trials being planned in regions such as Africa or Central and South America, says a commentary published in the UK medical journal, Lancet earlier this month.

The article calls for support for low-

and- middle-income countries to boost their capacity to undertake COVID-related trials to help identify solutions that are specific to their needs.

"Strong funding, political support, effective collaboration, adequate expertise and resources, tied to informed guidance will be needed to ensure access of new tools and strategies," says Wasunna.

"Coalition members are beginning to work through a series of expertise-specific working groups to identify solutions to the major obstacles to rapidly move ahead with new clinical research," she affirmed.

Chikwe Ihekweazu, director-general of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, a member of the coalition, saw involvement of research institutions and national public health institutes from Sub-Saharan Africa in the coalition as an opportunity.

He said it means that the region can

contribute strongly to solutions such as vaccines and other medicines and how they can be used in the African context.

World Health Organization data indicates that of the nearly two million COVID-19 cases and 152,707 deaths worldwide confirmed as of late last week, Africa had 13,892 cases and 658 deaths.

"Across the world, people are anxious at the rising numbers and absence of vaccines and therapeutics (medicines) for COVID-19," says Ihekweazu.

Members of African institutions that form part of the COVID-19 clinical research coalition include Addis Ababa University, Ghana Health Service, South African Medical Research Council, Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania and Makerere University in Uganda.

By being part of this coalition, Sub-Saharan Africa is showing its commitment to working together and

advocating for equitable and affordable access to interventions, explains Ihekweazu.

Wasunna said that sharing clinical trials data will help African policymakers to get the information they need as quickly as possible in individual countries and across the region.

Evidence generated from the process will rapidly be made available to policy makers so that they can make evidence-based decisions and guidelines for their populations, explains Wasunna.

"Coalition members will shortly start using new communication platforms to connect with one another and find any particular expertise they are looking for, partners for research.

Answers to outstanding questions are being worked out as activities of the coalition are still being determined, the director added.

## House skips session as MP tests positive

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de-contaminate the House with a disinfectant.

"No one should remain at Bunge grounds after I adjourn today's session. Health experts will be spraying disinfectants in all corners of the chambers," she asserted.

Meanwhile, President John Magufuli has conveyed condolences to the family, MPs and adherents of 'Mikocheni B' Assemblies of God Church Rev Dr Gertrude Rwakatare (pictured) that happened early yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

In his message of condolences President Magufuli said he was saddened by the death of Dr Rwakatare who he said was a great religious devotee, kind, respectful, a fighter of unity and peace and a true patriot.

President Magufuli also requested Speaker Job Ndogai to convey his sincere condolences to all MPs and followers of the late Dr Rwakatare's church.

"In this period of mourning let us all pray for Rev Rwakatare to rest in peace and I beseech her followers to continue with all the good done by her during her life," the message intoned.

MPs yesterday observed a 'one-minute silence' to mourn the late Special Seats MP Dr Gertrude Rwakatare (69).

Speaker Ndogai said in a statement that Dr Rwakatare will be buried in a day to be communicated later after consultations with her family.

"I have received with shock the news on the demise of Dr Rwakatare. My condolences go to her family, church followers and MPs. May God comfort you during this difficult time. May her soul rest in peace," he said.

Interviewed, some MPs describe the late Rwakatare as a person who has contributed to the country's development especially in the education sector. They said the late Rwakatare was so much concerned with the lives of others and always prayed for individuals as well as the nation.

Special Seats MP Ritha Kabati (CCM) said: We will always remember her as she used to pray for us even in



Parliament grounds.

"She was leading thousands of people through her church - Mikocheni B Assemblies of God, I was shocked not seeing her during Sunday prayers," she said.

The late Rwakatare could spend almost ten minutes praying for the nation when contributing to debates in the National Assembly, the MP remarked.

Ulanga MP Goodluck Mlinga (CCM) said of her as a leader who was in the frontline in fighting for women's advancement. He said the late Rwakatare would even spend her own monies to empower women and support various groups in the society.

"She was also providing support to our party - CCM. This is seriously a great loss as we prepare for the general elections," he said.

Special Seats MP, Devotha Minja (Chadema) said Rev. Rwakatare was working closely with MPs from both parts of the aisle to find solutions to various challenges facing people in her birthplace region of Morogoro. She was kind and good hearted, she emphasized.

The late Rwakatare contributed to the country's development through establishment of various projects including St Mary's primary and secondary schools, she pointed out.

The schools are in Tabata and Mbezi suburbs of Dar es Salaam, as well as in Morogoro, Mbeya, Dodoma and Mwanza.

Sumbawanga Urban MP Hillary Aeshi (CCM) said the late MP and himself were sitting closely in the National Assembly, noting that she always listened to others and guided others on a number of issues.

Dr Rwakatare was first appointed Special Seats MP in 2007 by former President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete via CCM.



## Dr Reginald A. Mengi legacy

**"For a long time we've been saying Africa is poor but that's wrong. Africa as a continent is not poor; it's the people who are poor. Instead of saying Africa is poor we should open our eyes that Africa as a continent is very rich, but of course, people are poor."**



A memorable opportunity for Dr Mengi as he is taken around the "bowels" of a Barrick gold mine in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region.



Dr Mengi visits a women entrepreneurs' exhibition in Dar es Salaam, accompanied by Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce chairperson Jacqueline Maleko (R).

By Correspondent Mboneko Munyaga

## A model businessman who served his country and nation with pride

There is no doubt whatsoever that Dr Reginald Abraham Mengi was a trailblazer businessman whose tale of overcoming adversity to become one of the world's richest persons will years continue to inspire others and draw a legion of enthusiasts and followers far beyond our immediate imagination.

Yet, we honour and celebrate his life's story not on account of the millions he left behind but rather thanks to his dedication and selfless service to society that was at the same time a hallmark of his business career, rare qualities for many in his kind of position.

Admittedly, Tanzania has many businessmen and women, some richer than he was. However, it is almost impossible to get someone who fits the enviable and glamorous role in life as a businessman, public servant, philanthropist, social activist, internationalist and friend to many that Dr Mengi simultaneously was - all rolled into one.

Society and the world noticed and recognised him for the human gem that he was - and honoured him accordingly, as he bestrode the business world like a colossus.

On May 7, 2012 in Oslo, Norway, Dr Mengi was awarded the Business for Peace Award for that year in recognition of his selfless commitment and creditable actions promoting socially responsible, responsive and ethical business practices.

The Award Committee comprised the Nobel Laureates of the Oslo-based Business for Peace Foundation, which is supported by notable businesspeople, politicians and scholars.

There were only seven honourees from around the world that year. In other words, Dr Mengi was a Nobel Prize Laureate for Business from Tanzania.

Again in Oslo, he was on May 28 the same year awarded the twin United Nations Awards for leadership and humanitarian activities and for lifetime achievement.

The two awards - namely, "2010 Global Leadership and Humanitarian Award" and the "United Nations NGO Lifetime Achievement Award" - are given to individuals and institutions throughout the world who make significant contributions to the UN's work in achieving global development objectives and goals and objectives, particularly poverty reduction and helping people with disabilities.

It will be recalled that Dr Mengi sank his heart and all in a micro-lending movement popularly known as VICOBA chiefly meant to empower women and the youth economically.



Dr Reginald Mengi with former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo on the sidelines of the March 21, 2018 African Continental Free Trade Area meeting organised by the African Union and held in the Rwandan capital, Kigali. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

He also wholeheartedly championed the rights of people with albinism.

The first award was created only two years before Dr Mengi became one of its groundbreaking honourees, which in itself goes a long way to explaining how the world valued his work.

Dr Mengi was also the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr Drum Major for Justice Award (2008) and was earlier voted consecutively for four years (2000-2003) as East Africa's Most Respected Chief Executive Officer of the year.

Also, the East African Environmental Network awarded him the Environmental Leadership Award in recognition of his efforts to safeguard and promote the environment, improving the quality of life and promoting peace.

In 2014, Dr Mengi bagged the Business

Leader of the Year Award, established by the global news network CNBC Africa, the All Africa Business Leaders Award (AABLA) and The International Order of the Lions Award for his efforts to support children's health.

A Kiswahili saying goes thus: "Mcheza kwao hutuzwa," literally meaning that whoever brings honour back home ought to be rewarded. Such, too, was the case with Dr Mengi. In 1994, he was awarded the Order of the United Republic of Tanzania by President Ali Hassan Mwinyi for work seen as having brought the country honour and praise.

Again, the next year, Dr Mengi took home the Order of the Arusha Declaration of the First Class for earning Tanzania distinction economically.

Dr Mengi always had a soft spot in his heart for orphaned children, who also

appreciated his fatherly care. In 2014, the New Hope Family Group, a centre for orphaned children, awarded him a trophy for "caring and valuing the community".

The following year saw Dr Mengi taking home "The Community Award" from the Tanzania Awards International Limited. The Medical Women Association of Tanzania (MEWATA) also awarded him for his outstanding support in the fight against breast cancer in the country.

The Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) meanwhile awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation for his noticeable support and exemplary dedication to society.

Other public recognition for Dr Mengi included: Certificate of Appreciation from Rombo Development Trust Fund - 2003, Certificate of Appreciation

from Arusha Women Development Initiative Support - 2004, and Certificate of Appreciation from the Registered Trustees of the Community Development Services - 2004.

More recognition came from Msama Promotions - Trophy in recognition of caring for and valuing people with disability - 2006, Msama Promotions - Trophy for High Respect Award - 2007, Certificate from the Dar es Salaam-based Tanzania Institute of Media Education (TIME) for Creativity, and a token from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for support and Dedication to Society.

Also, Dr Mengi was also awarded a Tanzania Muslim Hajj Trust Certificate of Appreciation for Service and Cooperation in 1998 and a Certificate for supporting National Sports Day for the Disabled - 2000.

In 1998, he was appointed to the Board of the London-based Commonwealth Business Council - serving as Director throughout.

He was also Chairman of the Media Owners Association of Tanzania (MOAT), formed in 2003 as a grouping to advance the interests of media owners, and a lifetime member of the Tanzania National Business Council - from 2007 chairing its Working Group on empowering SMEs and other businesses.

Dr Mengi also chaired - since 1992 - the People with Disabilities Trust Fund, an NGO that mobilised funds for people with disabilities. Also, he was a member of the Presidential International Investors Round Table, whose views contributed greatly to Tanzania's foreign investment policy.

From 2005 to 2009 he chaired the Confederation of Tanzania Industries, an umbrella organisation representing private sector industries in the country.

Dr Mengi concurrently served as a Commissioner on the Tanzania HIV/AIDS Commission (TACAIDS) - a statutory body for formulating viable responses to the AIDS pandemic, whose members are appointed by the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania.

From 1997 to 2006, he was the Chairman of the National Environment Management Council of Tanzania and was highly credited for giving the agency a sense of mission and direction in its very infant days.

Dr Mengi served for eight years (2000-2007) as Chairman of ICC Tanzania, the National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce. Meanwhile, he also served as Board Director of the Rockefeller Foundation-backed Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD). He resigned in 2003 after three years on the board.

In 2008, he chaired the Arusha-based East African Business Council, an organ of the East African Community tasked with setting a common business agenda for the economic bloc's member states: Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

For a long 16 years, Dr Mengi was the Chairman of the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA), the statutory body for all accountants and auditors in Tanzania.

Dr Mengi also served as Chairman of the Tanzania Chapter of the Commonwealth Press Union from 1997 to 1999.

No one can successfully investigate the ways of God, but it is quite clear that Dr Mengi passed on at a time when his country and the world still badly needed him. However, all that remains now is to try and follow in his footsteps - to learn from his legacy.



## 'Tanzania tourism sector facing really hard times'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Constantine Kanyasu, has said the country's tourism sector is facing a one of the hardest times since independence.

He said due to Covid-19 pandemic in February the number of tourists visiting various tourist attractions had decreased.

Kanyasu announced yesterday when he was speaking to people in Irindi, Ikula, Lugalo and Mahenge villages in Kilolo District, Iringa Region during his one day visit to inspect crops destroyed by wildlife on the villagers' farms.

Kanyasu said since the eruption of the pandemic the tourism sector which depends on foreign tourists by 95 per cent, revenues from the sector had been severely hit.

He said the affected institutions include Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA), Ngorongoro Conservation Authority (NCA), Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) and Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

The deputy minister said after the pandemic many tourists who had

planned to visit our tourist attractions postponed their tours while others some cancelled them altogether.

He, however, appealed to those who had planned to visit our country not to cancel them instead they should postpone them till such time the pandemic is over.

He said the Covid-19 pandemic has forced the closure of all hotels in the national parks because for lack of tourists.

He said big hotels such as those in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions had also closed down due to lack of tourists.

Kanyasu said the pandemic had forced international airlines to suspend their services, which is a big blow to the sector. He said the tourist sector has been contributing 17 per cent of GDP.

Meanwhile, Kanyasu called on people to take great precautionary measures against the disease by following directives from the health experts.

The Member of Parliament for Kilolo Constituency Venance Mwamoto called on the people whose crops were destroyed by wild animals to remain calm as the government was working on the issue.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Ummy Mwalimu (3rd-L) makes remarks shortly after receiving a dummy cheque for 172.5m/- from Sanlam Life Insurance and Sanlam General Insurance in Dar es Salaam at the weekend in support of the government's efforts to fight off Covid-19. The others include Sanlam Life head of human resources Charles Mbagi, CEO Khamis Suleiman, board chairman Dr Matern Lumbanga, East Zone executive Julius Magabe and Sanlam General Insurance chief executive Gift Noko. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government has recovered 249.4bn/- through the asset tracing and recovery unit under the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), from December to March this year, the House heard yesterday.

Through the special unit, eight houses worth 11.63bn/-, five vehicles valued 126m/- and four land plots have been confiscated.

Minister of State, President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), George Mkuchika, said in the august House here when responding to a question from Mtwara-Urban MP, Maftah

## 'Country recovers assets worth 249.4bn/- during ongoing corruption investigation'

Nachuma (CUF) who wanted to know the government's strategies in fighting corruption.

In his response, Mkuchika told the National Assembly that establishment of the tracing and recovery unit has helped the government to save US \$ 61.1 million (52.8bn/-), 14 vehicles worth 635m/- and 15 houses valued at 13.95bn/-.

According to Mkuchika, the

government is determined to fight corruption in the country hence review of a number of laws including Section 200 of the Economic and Organised Crime Control Act.

He said the government has also reviewed several sections of the law as well as putting more offences in the list of charges under economic sabotage.

The minister informed that

establishment of the Government Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG) was meant to control and enhance revenue collections. He said the government has also directed most of its institutions and ministries to start offering services electronically.

"We have improved provision of services electronically, this will help control corruption and enhance revenue collections", said the minister,

adding establishment of the Economic, Corruption and Organised Crime Court under the High Court of Tanzania was meant to enhance the war against corruption.

He said the government is aware of the impacts of corruption in community development as well as economic growth, hence coming up with a number of cross cutting reforms including implementation of the 2017-

2022 Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan (NACSAP III)

NACSAP III complements other government initiatives in preventing and combating corruption to strengthen good governance across all sectors in the economy. The strategy was designed to consolidate the achievements attained and respond to challenges arising from the previous interventions.

Mkuchika said the NACSAP III is purposely for increasing transparency and accountability in the various sectors such as harvesting of natural resources, mining activities, energy, oil and gas, governance and operations of political parties.

### KIBONDO DISTRICT COUNCIL



Tender No. LGA/041/HQ/AGRICU/2019-2020/W/01

For

**CONSTRUCTION OF WAREHOUSE, EXECUTIVE TOILETS AND FENCE AT KAGEZI VILLAGE IN KIBONDO DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

**Invitation For Tenders**

Date: 18th April, 2020

- The Government of United Republic of Tanzania has set aside funds for the operation of the Kibondo District Council during the financial year 2019/2020. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for Construction of Warehouse, Executive toilets and fence at Kagezi village in Kibondo District Council.
- The Kibondo District Council now invites sealed tenders from eligible Contractors registered as Civil Contractors Class VI and above for carrying out the works as provided in the BOQs found in Tender Documents, the works to be done is as follows:-

#### WORKS TO BE DONE

TENDER NUMBER	TENDER NAME	CONTRACTOR'S TYPE
LGA/041/HQ/AGRICU/2019-2020/W/01	Construction of Warehouse, Executive toilets and fence at Kagezi Village in Kibondo District Council.	Civil Contractor Class VI and above

- Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Tendering (NCT) procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446 and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of The **Secretary of Kibondo District Council Tender Board on behalf of Kibondo District Council tender board P.O.Box 43, Kibondo from 08:00 am to 03:30pm** on Mondays to Fridays and public holidays inclusive.
- A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tshs: 100,000.00. Payment should be made to Revenue Accountant of Kibondo District Council after being given the control number.
- All tenders must be accompanied with photocopy of the following Documents:
  - Bid Securing Declaration in the format provided in the Tendering Documents.
  - Current Business Licence of relevant works
  - TIN number of the company
  - Certificate of Registration with CRB.
  - Current receipts of CRB.
  - Bank Statements of current three Conservative months.
  - Special Power of Attorney whose holder must be an employee of Company or whose name appears in the Company profile.
  - VAT registration Certificate
  - Schedule of work.
  - Proposed plants owned or hired by the firm to execute the project.

- All tenders in one original plus two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below: **The Secretary of Kibondo District Council Tender Board, P.O Box 43, Kibondo at or before 10:30am** local time on Friday **1st of May, 2020**. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter at 12:00 Pm local time in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening ceremony at Kibondo PMU's Offices.
- Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not opened and Tenders not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

JAMHURI O. KIDUMU  
Ag. District Executive Director  
KIBONDO DISTRICT COUNCIL.

21570801

## Govt moves to revamp Mbeya school building

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbeya

Mbeya Region will spend 795m/- for extensive

renovation of Mbeya day secondary school.

The school was built in 1962 - a year after the country's independence, it is now 58 years old and

no renovation had been done to the school ever since.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila, accompanied

by some of the regional defense and security committee members last week inspected the ongoing renovation work at the school.

He said the work is being undertaken by the National Service 884 Itende Brigade in Mbeya City at the cost of 142m/- and already 50m/- had been provided for purchase of initial equipment.

Chalamila said challenges faced by the school are mainly dilapidated infrastructures and after renovation is completed the school will be among best government schools in the country.

Mbeya city executive director James Kasusura said they have decided to use the National Service to speed up the work before schools are open.

He said the JKT youth had only four days' work but the progress is great, saying the council had experiences in using JKT youth for renovation projects.

He said the government will ensure of its full cooperation to get the work done before schools open.

The school's headmistress Magreth Haule said the school is dilapidated and thanked the government for its decision to renovate it.

She said after renovation the school will have a new, friendly studying and teaching environment for both teachers and students.

### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL OF TANZANIA  
AT DAR ES SALAAM

**APPEAL NO. 06 OF 2020**

TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LTD  
(TANESCO).....APPELLANT

AND

ADRIAN MUGISHAGWE SHUMBUSHO.....1ST RESPONDENT

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES REGULATORY  
AUTHORITY (EWURA).....2ND RESPONDENT

(Notice Pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012).

TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole award and order of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), the 2nd Respondent herein, dated 30th January, 2020 in Complaint Number NP. 71/135/71 in respect of a claim by the 1st respondent for the payment of 91,000,000.00 against TANESCO being the compensation of the burnt house and fittings alleged to have been caused by the electrical fault at the appellant infrastructure in which EWURA held that appellant to pay at the tune of TZS 5,000,000 (Five Million Only) as a general damages.

The Appellant contends, among other things that, since the 2nd Respondent held that the 1st respondent had failed to prove special damages erred both in law and fact by awarding the same, believing exhibit C1, a mere Committee report which did not constitute an expert opinion and holding that the fire incident was a result of electrical fault. Thus, the Appellant prays for the all Proceeding, Decision and Order of the 2nd Respondent be quashed and set aside.

BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 21st April, 2020.

REGISTRAR

21570801





# Budget Working Group 2020/21 Pre-Budget Position Statement: Adapting to New Realities in the Wake of COVID-19

## 1. Preamble

This submission from the Policy Forum (PF), a network of 76 Tanzanian NGOs brought together by their interest in public money accountability, is a continuation of efforts to contribute to the budget process, discourse and performance. Compiled by its Budget Working Group, the submission focuses on key public sectors namely; education, health, agriculture, youth and water and presents crucial concerns related to resource mobilisation, allocation, and execution and makes recommendations worth consideration in the Parliamentary deliberations.

Being the final year of the Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP II 2016/17 to 2020/21), the submission takes stock of what has been accomplished across the education, health, agriculture, youth, and water sectors since the plan's inception and, humbly offers some issue worth considering in the formulation phase of the next development plan. The submission also puts forth other aspects that are in need of concerted interventions in relation to budgeting, planning or policy.

This submission also comes at a time of uncertainty caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic that has resulted in unprecedented devastation and a worldwide economic standstill of which Tanzania is not invulnerable. The health, education agriculture and tourism sectors have taken a massive hit and livelihoods both in the formal and informal sectors have also been negatively affected.

To this end, as active participants in Tanzania's poverty reduction and equity enhancement efforts using budget tools, we are obligated to adapt to changing times and ensure we contribute to mitigating the negative impacts of the pandemic on the socio-economic gains made in recent years as well as preserving their governance structures.

## 2. An Overview of the National Budget

The proposals released on 11th March 2020 by the Minister of Finance and Planning while highlighting the National Plan and budget ceilings for the financial year 2020/2021 indicate a 5% increase of the national budget from TZS 33,105.4 billion in 2019/20 to TZS 34,879.8 billion in 2020/21. For the period between 2016/17 and 2020/21 which is the second phase of the implementation of the National Five-Year Development Plan, the national budget has witnessed consistent growth as can be seen in the figure below.

Figure 1: Sources of Funding from 2016/17 to 2020/21

Year	Tax Revenue (bil)	Non-tax Revenue (bil)	Domestic & External Borrowing (bil)	Grants and Concessional loans (bil)	Total Budget (bil)
2016/17	15,105.1	3,358.4	5,374.3	5,701.8	29,539.6
2017/18	17,106.3	2,870.7	7,763.9	3,967.1	31,708.0
2018/19	18,737.0	2,158.8	8,904.7	2,676.6	32,477.1
2019/20	19,866.4	3,178.9	7,276.4	2,783.7	33,105.4
2020/21	21,140.7	2,924.8	7,939.9	2,874.4	34,879.8

Source: Statements by the Minister of Finance and Planning.

## 3. Domestic Resource Mobilisation

In recent years, there have been plausible efforts in enhancing the mobilisation of domestic resources. This has largely been a result of improved infrastructures that facilitate friendly payment of taxes. The first half of the 2019/20 budget performed quite well in terms of revenue collection. With the COVID-19 pandemic, it is obvious that revenue collection during the second half of the year will be highly affected.

Out of the TZS 33.1 trillion that was allocated during the financial year 2019/20, TZS 23.05 trillion was to be collected domestically. Further breakdown of this comprises of TZS 19.10 trillion, TZS 3.18 trillion, and TZS 765.5 billion as tax revenue, non-tax revenue and revenues from the councils, respectively.

The period between July 2019 and January 2020 witnessed revenue collection targets hitting high levels. The Tanzania Revenue Authority managed to collect TZS 10.62 trillion, which is about 97% of the target for that period which was TZS 10.96 trillion. More generally, domestic revenue collection between July 2019 to January 2020 stood at TZS 11.87 trillion which is equivalent to 92.3% of the target.

## 4. Trends in Selected Sectors

### Education

#### Enacting Emergence Learning Protocols and Budgeting for Quality Education for All during the COVID-19 Dilemma

Unfortunately, this Year's education budget statement is issued in the middle of the global COVID 19 pandemic that has caused a total closure of all schools and schooling activities. The government and other education stakeholders are discussing a rather a new concept to us, 'Distance/home schooling' as an alternative to formal schooling. While home schooling sounds like an ideal solution during this time in history, it is largely a new notion in the country.

Home schooling requires accessibility to internet services. In Tanzania, only 46% of the population has access to the internet. This, therefore, poses serious challenges to most of the pupils from families that do not currently have access to the internet. The Budget Working Group, therefore, recommends to the government to take immediate emergence learning protocol that will issue guidance to avoid double standards in the delivery of quality education. More specifically, we recommend the following to the policymakers where the discussions of the 2020/21 education sector budget are concerned:

#### Improved partnership between the Central Government and the Local Government.

The existing set up indicates that girls and boys are exposed and will respond to risks of being out of school differently. Indeed, children have been sent back home and are roaming around on the streets as the stay at home policy is not being enforced. If there was good citizen engagement, village and street governments, together with the community including parents could have constituted an enforcement mechanism for stay home policy or in finding less risky alternatives for kids to spend the excess energy on.

#### The 2020/21 budget should reflect lessons from the global pandemic 'COVID-19' effects

We anticipate that the Government during its 2020/21 education sector budget will consider serious investment in technology and modern facilities that can facilitate alternative learning platforms against the traditional physical attendance to classrooms as an emergence protocol. In China for instance, despite the outbreak of COVID 19 and the country lockdown, education continued regardless of school closures, taking place through internet and distance learning. We urge the government to consider engaging with the private sector for concerted efforts to heavily invest in this area.

#### Tackling Violence against school children when at home

According to UNDP's report on *Sexual and Gender Based Violence during the Ebola Crisis in Sierra Leone, 2015*, sexual violence to minors' cases was mostly recorded in 2014 during the Ebola crisis more than previous years. It should be remembered that schools were closed at this time; and since each government institution was concentrated in handling the outbreak, some key institutions didn't function to their full potential including those related to medical and justice services hence exposing most minors to violence. It is our call to government to balance the equation between service provision to tackle the COVID-19 crisis and strengthening mechanisms of protecting schoolboys and girls while at home.

### Health

Tanzania has had a shortage of health professionals before this pandemic making any impact on the health sector more resounding. The World Bank Group Report on Africa's Pulse of April 2020, Volume 21, states that the widespread sustained community transmission could prove difficult to manage in Sub-Saharan Africa, given the region's weak health systems, including understaffed medical personnel (doctors, nurses, and midwives) and the lack of hospital beds and equipment, which could lead to a high level of deaths. Therefore, the Government is advised to recruit more health staff during this COVID-19 outbreak to make the health sector more efficient to overcome the pandemic. This means short-term fiscal policy should aim at redirecting government expenditure to increase the capacity of the health system to provide adequate and affordable medical attention to the people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. (Loayza and Pennings 2020).

Tanzania might reach the virus crisis proportions as testing capacity, intensive care unit (ICU) space and personnel, ventilators, and personal protective equipment will be stretched past the breaking point. Hence, we recommend the government procure enough personal protective equipment and to increase testing capacity including strengthening infrastructure.

Tanzania is already confronting multiple health challenges, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and Non-Communicable Diseases meaning millions of people may be immunocompromised and more at risk of serious complications from this respiratory virus. Hence, the government is advised to develop an adoption plan to continue addressing existing health challenges while responding and contain the COVID-19 outbreak.

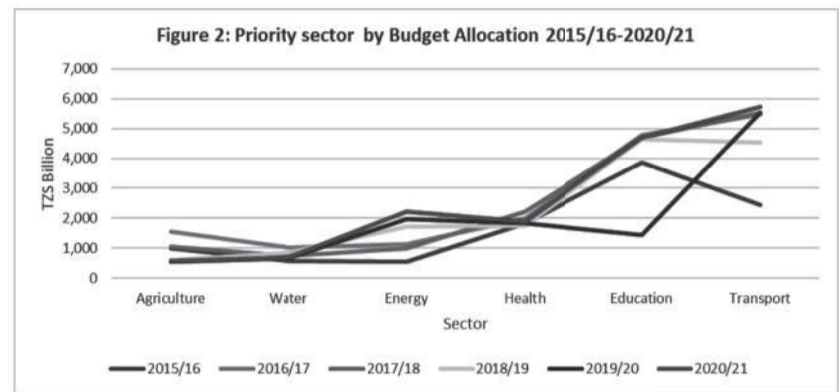
In Tanzania some of the areas such as Lake, western and southern zones have high rates of malaria this may make people more vulnerable to infection and may confuse diagnosis since high fever can be a symptom of both malaria and COVID-19. Therefore, Government is advised to address the confusion by building the capacity of the provider on the diagnosis of COVID-19 and Malaria as the Community Transmission has become evident in Tanzania, we recommend the government to set up field hospitals for the outbreak of cases that will arrive at the peak of the epidemic. This must be very simple such as tents in the school or covered sheds in the bush.

Tanzania might reach food insecurity if they will opt for the total lockdown and this will be due to livelihoods loss, the availability and access of essential items and in the end, it will result in

increasing cases of malnutrition. The World Bank report explains the learning from quarantines and panic during the Ebola virus disease outbreak in Sierra Leone, for example, led to a spike in hunger and malnutrition. The suffering worsened as restrictions on the movement led to shortages at harvest time, even as other farmers were unable to bring their products to market resulting in negative impacts on food and nutrition security particularly for vulnerable populations, including children, women, the elderly, and the poor. Government is advised to avoid total lockdown and if they will opt for the total lockdown, we recommend allocating fund for food distribution to the affected households and increasing budget allocation for nutrition services from TZS 1000 per child to TZS 3000.

### Agriculture

Transformation in the agriculture sector is key to promoting an industrial economy which is an aspiration of the fifth Government. The sector has for a while now remained the leading contributor to the economic growth of the country. Despite its significant contribution to the economy, the agriculture sector has not been given priority compared to other sectors such as transport, education, and health in terms of budget allocation and disbursements (see figure 2 below). The sector is therefore faced with several challenges ranging from inadequate budget allocations, low levels of disbursement, inconsistency in data, and also inconsistency in project implementation.

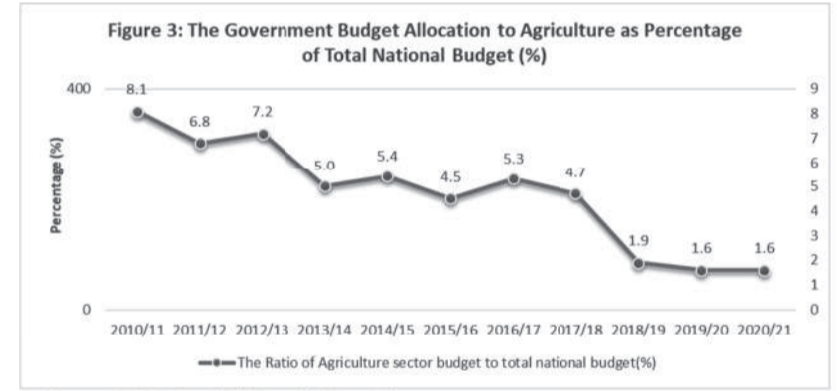


Source: MoFP-Citizens Budget

For the past five years, budget disbursement to the agriculture sector has been below 50% of the approved allocations. This to a large extent affects the implementation of different development projects in the sector, making it difficult for the sector to fully support other sectors including the provision of raw materials to the industrial sector. Low budget allocation to the sector has additionally made it difficult for modern agricultural practices to be applied in the sector.

### Trend of sector budget implementation status

Figure 3 below shows that despite the emphasis by the Africa Union Commission (AUC) through the Malabo Declaration that each member state has to allocate at least 10 percent of its national budget to the agriculture sector; Tanzania over time has not made the sector a priority in terms of investments. There is little commitment by the government as measured by the total sector budget against the total national budget. This implies that the production of agricultural products will be affected and translate into food insecurity and a low supply of raw materials to industries.



Source: MoFP, Budget Guideline and Citizens Budget

To ensure that the agriculture sector contributes substantially to the economy in terms of GDP and job creation, the government in collaboration with other key stakeholders (development partners and private sector) in 2016/17 came up with a well-structured plan (ASDP II) to guide sector investments. However, analysis has revealed the following findings, which indicate doubt on the relevance of the agriculture sector:

- The disbursement in the year 2018/19 was Tsh81.3 billion, equivalent to 34 percent of the approved budget fund of TZS237.2 billion.
- The total approved fund in the year 2019/20 was about TZS252.1 billion of the total TZS2,538.6 billion required. Out of approved funds for the year 2019/20, only about Tsh166.9 billion were allocated for the program implementation, equivalent to 66 percent.
- For the year 2020/21, the public financing to ASDP II is set at TZS78.28 billion, whereas DPs and the private sector have not yet revealed their supports to the program.

### Sector projects implementation at the ministerial level

The commitment of the government for the year 2019/20 through Vote 43 was TZS 208.045 billion, where the recurrent was 30.98 percent against 69.02 percent for development. The disbursement up to February 2020 indicates that recurrent expenditure was 55 percent, while development expenditure was only 14.92 percent. The disbursement for internal against foreign fund was 7 percent and 24 percent respectively. In 2020/21, the budget has been plugged at TZS 202.504 billion, 2.66 percent below the 2019/20 budget. The recurrent expenditure has increased slightly to 32.21 percent, while development declined to 67.79 percent, which is 1.81 percent lower than the 2019/20 development expenditure budget.

Livestock sub-sector is an unleashed potential area, where if the existing government plans are implemented effectively, the sub-sector could contribute substantially towards national income and job creation. The analysis revealed that there is little investment, which hampers sector development. The main challenge lies in resources allocation and disbursement of funds, for instance, out of TZS31.8 billion allocated to the livestock sub-sector in 2019/20, TZS3 billion was set for development expenditure, but only TZS204.1 million, equivalent to 7 percent was released. In 2020/21, the budget has increased by 1 percent to TZS32.1 billion, whereas development expenditure has increased by 68.7 percent to TZS5.1 billion. The most important areas where there are little investments include but not limited to; research, marketing and extension services. Also, it was noted that not much attention is put into Tanzania Livestock Master Plan (TLMP) implementation because there is a peanut budget and so far, there is no fund released up to February 2020.

### Some of the key issues in the agriculture sector including but not limited to:

Agricultural development requires strategic investment in the key areas that would accelerate transformation. The notable areas that need deliberate efforts from the government include irrigation, marketing, inputs, extension advisory services, research, knowledge resources centres, credits to farmers (esp. women and youth), and rural infrastructure (roads and electrification) to the high agriculture potential areas.

However, there have been challenges such as lack of focus and constant resource allocations to these areas which affect sectoral growth and development. The statistics indicate that there is a decline in allocation to those key areas. For example, funds allocated to irrigation projects in 2017/18 was TZS 38.8 billion, which declined to TZS 32.5 billion in the year 2019/20. Extension advisory services suffer most from the resources (finance and human capital) allocation.

The implementation of priorities in the agriculture sector lack continuation from the previous financial years. This situation has led to the abandonment of some projects. The CAG report 2017/2018 shows inadequate project management and abandonment of projects for a long time leading to incomplete projects worth TZS 52,429,796,288 in 46 LGAs. We urge the government to make sure that they continue funding the existing incomplete projects instead of coming up with new projects at times leading to loss of money.

Inconsistency of data presented by different government organs and institutions. Data discrepancy or differences have an adverse impact when it comes to planning and resource allocation. For example, in May 2019 the Minister of Agriculture presented statistics that showed the total area of irrigated land is 475,052 hectares, which differ from the figure provided by the Controller and Auditor General report which was released in March 2019 regarding Performance Audit on Management of construction activities on irrigation projects indicating a total irrigated area to be 461,326 hectares by March 2019.

Other notable issues raised by Controller and Auditor General (CAG) in 2018/19 audit reports that have an impact on the agriculture projects include the insufficient release of funds to the development projects and long outstanding unspent project balances; and LGAs failure to allocate to the development projects from own sources.

About 60 percent of district councils assessed on compliance with budget guideline indicated that over 50 percent of their revenue comes from agriculture and livestock contribution, however, expenditures to agriculture and livestock sub-sector have been much lower than the directed rates of 20 percent and 15 percent to the agriculture and livestock sub-sector respectively. Review of the Statement of Comparison of Budget, Actual Amount and Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) revealed that 44 LGAs collected own revenue from internal sources amounting to TZS 98,556,221,765, but only TZS 29,001,220,234 equivalent to 48% was transferred to development account leaving TZS 30,592,410,877 equivalent to 52% unallocated. (Source CAG 2017/2018).

### Policy Statements

- Ensure that the sufficient resources are set aside and released timely in order to make the planned agriculture projects and programmes goals are met and achieved their targets.
- Identify and prioritize the strategic investment areas where the scarce resources can be allocated for high impact realization to smallholder producers (SHPs).
- Find mechanisms of lessening the expenditure burdens associated with implementation of many un-budgeted activities directed by high political officials that to large extent end up chopping out the agriculture budget.

### YOUTH PRE-BUDGET VIEWS

#### NEED FOR EMBARKING INTO STRATEGIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Our pre-budget analysis focuses on Human Development on the part of skills' development which favours youth development in the industrialized society. As it is known, the youth are a key resource in the economy of the country. However, the lack of enough skills hinders them from taking great part in fostering industrialization.

Luckily the Guideline for Preparation of Plans and Budget 2020/21 cited employment and skills development as one of core components of human development. Skills development is identified as a prerequisite for increasing employment opportunities. Similarly, the guidelines insist on the need to strengthen the Youth Development Fund and promoting creativity and entrepreneurship spirit.

It is generally noted that the government continues to focus on reducing youth unemployment. It has to be further noted that the war against poverty will be achieved when many people particularly the youth are engaged in inclusive meaningful production. Societies need to properly include women in production from household to national production levels. This also includes ownership of means of production and the real ownership of the produce. This always has positive effects on household economy. However, statistics shows that women (youth) 14.6% do not enjoy employment opportunities compared to their counterpart men (youth) which is 8.9%.

We further appreciate the commendable work done by the government to register 1.55 million small entrepreneurs on which 31.02 billion was collected. The regions with bigger number are Dar es Salaam (11.6%), Arusha (6.4%), Mwanza (5.3%) and Mbeya (5.2%). We now see this as an opportunity to offer them Inclusive Business Services (IBS) to foster their business development. IBS services may include financial literacy and loaning, business and gender training, BDS. This move could include opening a special window for individuals to be offered loans under special vulnerable groups' fund at the LGAs.

### Recommendations

- As it has been noted that the informal sector is the big employer in the country, there is a need to improve the formalization of the sector and upgrade the working environment for the sector so that it can offer decent jobs for workers.
- We believe that skills development is the key to boost meaningful production. The current skills development focuses much on potential employees. There is a need to strengthen the skills development initiatives that target those who are employed to improve efficiency and cope with technological changes.
- Due to the fact that youth services are provided in different sectors, we recommend increasing the effectiveness of the Ministry/department responsible for youth services to deliver youth-friendly services in a more coordinated way. This will help to spread the information on the availability of youth opportunities. Also, it will make youth able to access information on available opportunities.
- We, however, expect that the government will take action to include entrepreneurship training as a must before youth access loans. This will help for loans to produce intended results and boost youth enterprises.

### 5. COVID-19

The World Bank report explains the fiscal measures taken by the Government of Tanzania to enhance preparedness and its containment capacity including measures to strengthen detection and surveillance capacity at points of entry such as airports and border-crossing sites, and training of medical staff on case management, risk communication, and community engagement. The plan focuses on critical priorities and amounts to US\$77 million. The government has provided initial resources for its financing and is working with development partners to secure more financing. But the report shows a gap in the government not taking Monetary and Macro-Financial measures like other countries such as Rwanda, Uganda, and Kenya. We, therefore, argue for the government of Tanzania to take necessary Monetary, and Macro-Financial measures like other countries to mitigate the impact of COVID 19 on the entire economy.

As stated above, the unprecedented crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted both businesses and livelihoods through halt of gatherings causing close of businesses and uncertainty of whether they are to return in the near future. This, in turn, creates insecurities for employees. Policymakers may need to consider whether certain fiscal tools are appropriate for the Tanzanian context in helping safeguard people and businesses from solvency challenges. These may include:

- Tax payment flexibility: Businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 could gain temporary relief in this regard. Tax payment deadlines could be deferred for two months to provide liquidity to the private sector and allow retention, reopening, and recovery. Beneficiaries could be those from most affected sectors like tourism, transport, and agriculture.
- Pension access: Employees put out of work due to businesses closed due to containment measures could benefit by being allowed to access a portion of their pension savings from their pension schemes to offer temporary relief during the period of unemployment.
- Government credit guarantees and additional loans: Through the banking system, viable SMEs could get relief from cash flow stress caused by the COVID-19 slowdown by being able to access credit at partial guarantee (60-70%). This fiscal tool can help a section of the business community stay afloat and in turn help the economy stabilize.
- Loan repayment adjustments: Businesses and self-employed individuals in sectors hard-hit by the crisis or with serious repayment difficulties related to it should be allowed to reschedule their loan repayments or defer payments for a limited period (3 months).

### 6. Summary of our Key Policy Recommendations

- The Government should invest in technology and modern facilities that can facilitate alternative learning.
- The Government to ensure there is a robust education response program with sound coordination and collaboration among all actors and invest to ensure education sector COVID 19 contingency plan is developed and rolled out timely.
- Ensuring caregivers and parents/guardians are oriented on their supportive roles such as good parenting and creating a conducive home learning environment to enable children to effectively learn through distance learning modalities.
- Mobilizing and allocating enough resources to design and implement strategies to facilitate children's return to school once schools re-open. Such resources should as well cater for education recovery strategies for teachers and other education personnel, inter alia.
- Ensuring technical resources and funding is available to continue with the implementation of the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children as the budget guideline instructions including a responsive increase to VAWC services delivery and support to parents as part of COVID-19 response.
- In particular, the Government should ensure that very young children are not separated from caregivers as part of COVID-19 health responses and that alternative temporary care arrangements are made if caregivers enter treatment centres.
- Consider allocating resources for health actors to be trained to provide basic Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) responses throughout COVID-19 prevention and response activities and District Social Welfare Officers should be assigned to health facilities to provide specialized care and follow up.
- The government should ensure that age-appropriate MHPSS are mainstreamed throughout the COVID-19 response strategy and that specialized support is available for patients and families of those who are unwell including grief support services.
- Explore with Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHDCGEC) possibility for expanding mobile test centres or availability of rapid testing services targeting as a matter of urgent to elders, pregnant women and under 5 years old and especially those already with other underlying conditions like HIV/AIDS.
- Need to explore how TASAF can be made more relevant for cushioning need families in particular poor female household families during and after COVID-19.
- As it has been noted that the informal sector is the big employer in the country, there is a need to improve the formalization of the sector and upgrade the working environment for the sector so that it can offer decent jobs for workers.
- The government should invest more in the social sectors in this wave of COVID-19.



# Ministry: Special needs students at universities had some budget

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government set aside 250m/- for higher learning institutions for the 2019/2020 budget to support students with special needs, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

This is an increase of 200m/- paid to four institutions of University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), University of Dodoma (UDOM), Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE) and Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU).

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology said this yesterday in a written response to a question from Special Seats MP, Amina Mollel (CCM), who had wanted the government to give students with disabilities education loans without interest.

The lawmaker argued that higher learning students with disabilities should not be treated like their counterparts without disabilities. "Does the government see the need to provide the students with subsidies instead of loans with interests that they find difficult to repay?" she asked.

She also said that unlike others, students with disabilities have more specialized needs, making their study costly, thus the need for loans without interest and where possible just get subsidies and not loans.

In response, the ministry explained that the government provides education loans to students in higher learning institutions in accordance with the Higher Education Students Loans Board Act, Cap 178 which states that it is to the eligible needy students.

The aim, according to the ministry is to empower higher education students from poor families get education,

adding that those with disabilities who applied and meet the criteria normally get the loans.

It further explained that the loans provided by the government were interest free unlike loans provided by financial institutions which charge between 14 and 22 per cent interest.

According to the ministry, higher education loans were only charged six per cent as value retention fee in order to maintain the value of loans money without forcing the government to pay additional charges.

The fee is therefore charged on the outstanding loans balance and not on the principal loans. The government said in order to ensure students with disabilities get education, the government provides subsidy to purchase the needed material and equipment to support them.



**Does the government see the need to provide the students with subsidies instead of loans with interests that they find difficult to repay?**



Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TanESCO) technicians move to repair defective cables along Samora Avenue in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government will in the budget for the 2020/2021 financial year build at least three dispensaries in all the 184 district councils in the country in efforts to improve provision of health services.

The statement was made in a written response by the ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government from question by Longido MP Stephen Kiruswa (CCM) who had

## Govt will build three dispensaries in every district council - minister

wanted to know when the government will start implementing health policy that requires establishment of at least one health centre in every ward and a dispensary in every village.

"What is the government doing to ensure all the 22 villages and several wards in Longido district that do not

have the health facilities get them?" he asked.

In response the ministry explained that the policy to ensure every village has a dispensary and every ward has a health centre is being implemented in phases. It said by March 2020, the government completed construction

of Engaranaibo and Longido at the cost of 1.1 billion/-.

According to the government, the Longido district hospital has been allocated a total of 1.5 billion/- in the 2020/2021 and in the same year, the government will continue building three more dispensaries in the district.



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## Donations in support of efforts to arrest Covid-19 infections flow in

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

STAKEHOLDERS in Mwanza Region continue providing assistance in terms of sanitisers, tables, chairs, soap, buckets and other items in efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19 infections.

Receiving the assistance, Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongella said "the region has big interactions of people from the Lake Zone and neighbouring countries hence it was important to beef up our own defensive measures instead of wholly depending on the government's assistance.

He also hailed the development stakeholders and other institutions for their assistance in supporting government's efforts in the fight against the pandemic.

He said as of now it was essential for the region to continue taking more preventive measures including abiding by the directives from the Ministry of Health in the war against the pandemic.

"Today we have received 29 bottles of sanitisers, 100 plastic buckets with taps, 10 steel tables, 10 tanks of 250 lts capacity and 50 plastic chairs.

"Others are 100 plastic containers of 20-lts capacity, 200 surgical masks, 48-250mls bottles of sanitiser; hence officials from all levels should not tire out in mobilizing for the eradication of the scourge," said RC Mongella.

He added: "We are informed by the Health Minister that our region has

three people infected with Covid-19, this is no small number hence there is no room to remain idle."

Public Relations Officer of Nyanza Road Workshop Joseph Kisusi, Marketing Officer of Coca-Cola Mwanza Niles Popat and Representative from Hindu Union Temple were among the stakeholders who talked after donating various items, saying the government should provide more education to rural people against the disease.

They said they decided to donate the items in order to support government efforts in the fight against Covid-19 infections, and added that they went around the streets and saw that there was the need for more preventive equipment hence they decided to contribute.

Mwanza Regional Medical Officer Dr Thopmas Rutachuzibwa thanked the development stakeholders and other institutions for the assistance which they said will enable the wananchi to protect themselves against the pandemic.

Pastor Dr Jacob Mutesh and Sheikh Hassan Kabeke who were among those invited at the event recited special prayers and called upon Tanzanians to continue praying to God to rescue and protect them during this period.

"We also thank all those who have assisted in these efforts and appeal to Tanzanians to continue working while protecting themselves," they said.



Dar es Salaam regional CCM youth wing chairman Mussa Kilakala (L) pictured yesterday presenting a water tank to Magogoni International Fish market health officer Mary Mkwazi for use in the washing of hands at the market as part of a strategy meant to forestall Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Govt bans human activities around Lake Boloti

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

THE government with immediate effect has banned all human activity around Lake Boloti located in Hai district Kilimanjaro region. The ban takes effect immediately.

The government has taken the step to

save the lake which is the main source of water for irrigation by planting more than 3,000 trees in the area.

The banning order was announced yesterday by the districts natural resources officer Mbayani Mollel, during the tree planting exercise at Maipota area.

He said: "We still have another chance to ensure what God created and destroyed by humans, is restored to its original form in answer to His testament to us to look after His garden.

"We have in place a long term strategy to plant trees at Boloti water source which we should protect and

develop because it has been of great benefit to farmers using its water for irrigation purposes. Whoever will continue to destroy the water source we shall regard him as an economic saboteur."

Lake Boloti and its water sources have the capacity to irrigate more

than 500 hectares of land at a time but due to wanton destruction to the environment at the moment there is no water for irrigation.

He said in addition to the tree planting exercise they are also educating wananchi on environmental protection to ensure the planted trees

are protected.

The chairman of Isarie forest engaged in environmental protection, Ngarami Swai called on the wananchi to cooperate in the protection of the trees, as the task should not be left to leaders alone.



### CONSULTANCY - CONDUCTING HOUSEHOLD SOCIO-ECONOMICS BASELINE SURVEY - MARINE PROGRAMME

Service Provider for Conducting Household Socio-economics (HHS) Baseline Survey

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an International Non-Governmental Organization that deals with conservation of nature through a number of environmental management programmes. Our mission is to stop the degradation of the Planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The WWF - Tanzania Country Office (TCO) is seeking a Tanzanian competent and qualified "Individual Consultant (s)/firm" for undertaking the above assignment.

The WWF TCO through Marine Programme is implementing a project titled "Strengthening Marine Protected Areas Management in Rufiji, Mafia and Kilwa District in Tanzania" with funding from the Blue Action Fund (BAF) commonly abbreviated as (RUMAKI-BAF). The project aims to improve management effectiveness of Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP) and associated buffer zones within the "Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Seascape"

The project has four work packages: The Mafia Island Marine Park (822 km2), the Rufiji Delta Mangrove Forest Reserve (532 km2), Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs) and the proposed Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Man & Biosphere (MAB) Reserve. Currently, the project is working in over 48 villages - in Kibiti, Mafia and Kilwa districts in partnership with the government, conservation practitioners, CBO groups, Village Community Banks (VICOBAs), Community Based Trainers (CBTs) and local communities.

WWF Tanzania is thus seeking to engage a consultant to undertake the Household Socio-Economic Survey of the coastal communities in Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Seascape area. The consultant should be able to use both qualitative and quantitative data and information and relate the analysis of the findings to the natural resource dependent communities, their conservation and governance systems in place, their actual practice in conservation initiatives for sustainable management of the resources as well as their livelihood, food security and enterprise development practices. The study should be able to indicate how their conservation interventions and livelihood objectives have shaped their household socioeconomic status.

#### Applicant Requirements:

A suitable individual for this assignment should possess the following qualifications:

- (i) Masters or higher degree in economics, rural sociology, community development, natural resources governance, nutrition and food security, planning and development, or any other related social sciences discipline. (Having knowledge on monitoring and evaluation, Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS)/Safeguards will be an added advantage).
- (ii) Extensive experience in socio-economic household surveys and natural resource management surveys preferably in coastal communities as well as production of quality and analytical survey data and information.
- (iii) Knowledgeable, and aware of political and cultural sensitivities of coastal communities around access and control of resource and management of marine and coastal resources including an understanding of a range of the current Marine Protected Areas management measures and governance systems in Tanzania.
- (iv) Able and committed to maintaining confidentiality and use discretion when addressing sensitive governance and political issues.
- (v) Able to conform to cultural and religious norms of the target communities during the survey, with regard to gender issues and abide to empirical studies protocols.

Submission of Application Documents:

Proposals from interested consultant(s) should be fully signed and must include:

- (i) Letter of expression of interest; highlighting company profile
- (ii) Technical proposal including the survey designed approach and methodology, data collection and analysis, activities and timeline
- (iii) Financial proposal for the assignment, clearly specifying time and other expenses, including unit costs and professional fees.
- (iv) Curriculum Vitae detailing team/consultant(s), experience & expertise in undertaking empirical, descriptive and observational studies in previous assignments.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their electronic copies to procurement department through the email address below. The sealed hardcopy application documents with title of the assignment should be submitted at the WWF Tanzania Country Office, located at Kiko Street, Mikocheni, Dar es Salaam; or through the following addresses:

WWF Tanzania Country Office  
Plot 252, Kiko Street, Mikocheni  
P. O. Box 63117  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Tel: +255 22 277 5346/277 2455/270 0077  
Fax: +255 22 277 5535  
Email: [tz.procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:tz.procurement@wwftz.org)

For additional information, including requesting for Terms of Reference (ToR), kindly contact Operations Manager through [tz.procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:tz.procurement@wwftz.org) and submit your applications by Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 1600hrs. Only successful applicant will be contacted.



### CONSULTANCY - CONDUCTING KAP BASELINE SURVEY MARINE PROGRAMME

Service Provider for Conducting Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) Survey

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is an International Non-Governmental Organization that deals with conservation of nature through a number of environmental management programmes. Our mission is to stop the degradation of the Planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The WWF - Tanzania Country Office (TCO) is seeking a Tanzanian competent and qualified "Individual Consultant (s)/firm" for undertaking the above assignment.

The WWF TCO through Marine Programme is implementing a project titled "Strengthening Marine Protected Areas Management in Rufiji, Mafia and Kilwa District in Tanzania" with funding from the Blue Action Fund (BAF) commonly abbreviated as (RUMAKI-BAF). The project aims to improve management effectiveness of Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP) and associated buffer zones within the "Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Seascape"

The project has four work packages: The Mafia Island Marine Park (822 km2), the Rufiji Delta Mangrove Forest Reserve (532 km2), Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs) and the proposed Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Man & Biosphere (MAB) Reserve. Currently, the project is working in over 48 villages - in Kibiti, Mafia and Kilwa districts in partnership with the government, conservation practitioners, CBO groups/local management bodies (BMU, VNRC, VLC, CFMA coordination Committees) and local communities.

WWF Tanzania is thus seeking to engage a consultant to conduct a survey in assessing the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) of the coastal communities in Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Seascape area.

#### Applicant Requirements:

A suitable individual for this assignment should possess the following qualifications:

- (i) Masters or higher degree in marine sciences, fisheries management, natural resource management/governance or any other related discipline. (Having knowledge on Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS)/Safeguards will be an added advantage);
- (ii) Extensive experience in fisheries and natural resources management surveys preferably in coastal environment and community level settings, and in data analysis and production of quality, analytical survey reports;
- (iii) Knowledgeable, and aware of political and cultural sensitivities of coastal communities around use and management of marine and coastal resources including understanding the current Marine Protected Areas management and governance systems in Tanzania;
- (iv) Able and committed to maintaining confidentiality and use discretion when addressing sensitive governance and political issues;
- (v) Able to conform to cultural and religious norms of the target communities during the survey, with regard to gender issues and abide to WWF & national gender policies and research protocols.

#### Submission of Application Documents:

Proposals from interested consultant(s) should be fully signed and must include:

- (i) Letter of expression of interest; highlighting company profile
- (ii) Technical proposal including the survey designed approach and methodology, data collection and analysis procedure, key activities and timeline
- (iii) Financial proposal for the assignment, clearly specifying time and other expenses, including unit costs and professional fees.
- (iv) Curriculum Vitae detailing team/consultant(s)' experience in working with fishing communities and Natural resource dependent communities, expertise in political science, natural resource governance and socioeconomic studies in previous assignment done.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their electronic copies to procurement department through the email address below. The sealed hardcopy application documents with title of the assignment should be submitted to WWF Tanzania Country Office, located at Kiko Street, Mikocheni, Dar es Salaam; or through the following addresses:

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Plot 252, Kiko Street, Mikocheni  
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For additional information, including requesting for Terms of Reference (ToR), kindly contact Operations Manager through [tz.procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:tz.procurement@wwftz.org) and submit your applications by Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 1600hrs. Only successful applicant will be contacted.



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## Covid-19: It is equally important to tackle habitat, biodiversity loss

**M**OTHER Earth is clearly urging a call to action. Nature is suffering. Australian fires, heat records and the worst locust invasion in Kenya. Now we face COVID -19, a worldwide health pandemic link to the health of our ecosystem.

Climate change, man-made changes to nature as well as crimes that disrupt biodiversity, such as deforestation, land-use change, intensified agriculture and livestock production or the growing illegal wildlife trade, can increase contact and the transmission of infectious diseases from animals to humans (zoonotic diseases) like COVID-19.

From one new infection disease that emerges in humans every 4 months, 75 per cent of these emerging diseases come from animals, according to UN Environment. This shows the close relationships between human, animal and environmental health.

Visible, positive impact, whether through improved air quality or reduced greenhouse gas emissions, are but temporary, because they come on the back of tragic economic slowdown and human distress.

Let's remind more than ever in this International Mother Earth Day that we need a shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet. Let's promote harmony with nature and the Earth.

Coronavirus outbreak poses huge public health and global economy at risk, but biodiversity as well. However, biodiversity can be part of the solution since this diversity of species would make difficult to pathogens to spread rapidly.

This Mother Earth Day, coinciding with the Super Year of Biodiversity, is focused in its role as an indicator of the Earth's health.

There is growing concern about the health consequences of biodiversity loss and change. Biodiversity changes affect ecosystem functioning and

significant disruptions of ecosystems can result in life sustaining ecosystem goods and services. Specific linkages between health and biodiversity include impact in nutrition, health research or traditional medicine, new infectious diseases and influencing shifts in the distribution of plants, pathogens, animals, and even human settlements, most of them affected by climate change.

Despite ongoing efforts, biodiversity is deteriorating worldwide at rates unprecedented in human history. It is estimated that around one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction.

With this big picture, and the coronavirus scenario, our immediate priority is to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but in long-term, it is important to tackle habitat and biodiversity loss. We are in this fight together with our Mother Earth.

International Mother Earth Day was established in 2009, by the General Assembly under Resolution. The Resolution was introduced by The Plurinational State of Bolivia and endorsed by over 50 member states. It recognises that "the Earth and its ecosystems are our home" and that "it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth." The term Mother Earth is used because it "reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit". It is decided to designate April 22 as International Mother Earth Day.

General Assembly President Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann welcomed the creation of International Mother Earth Day, saying: "International Mother Earth Day promotes a view of the Earth as the entity that sustains all living things found in nature. Inclusiveness is at the heart of International Mother Earth Day; fostering shared responsibilities to rebuild our troubled relationship with nature is a cause that is uniting people around the world."

## Locust outbreak exposes need for crop science on all fronts

**L**OCUSTS are a collection of certain species of short-horned grasshoppers in the family Acrididae that have a swarming phase. These insects are usually solitary, but under certain circumstances they become more abundant and change their behaviour and habits, becoming gregarious. No taxonomic distinction is made between locust and grasshopper species; the basis for the definition is whether a species forms swarms under intermittently suitable conditions. These grasshoppers are innocuous, their numbers are low, and they do not pose a major economic threat to agriculture.

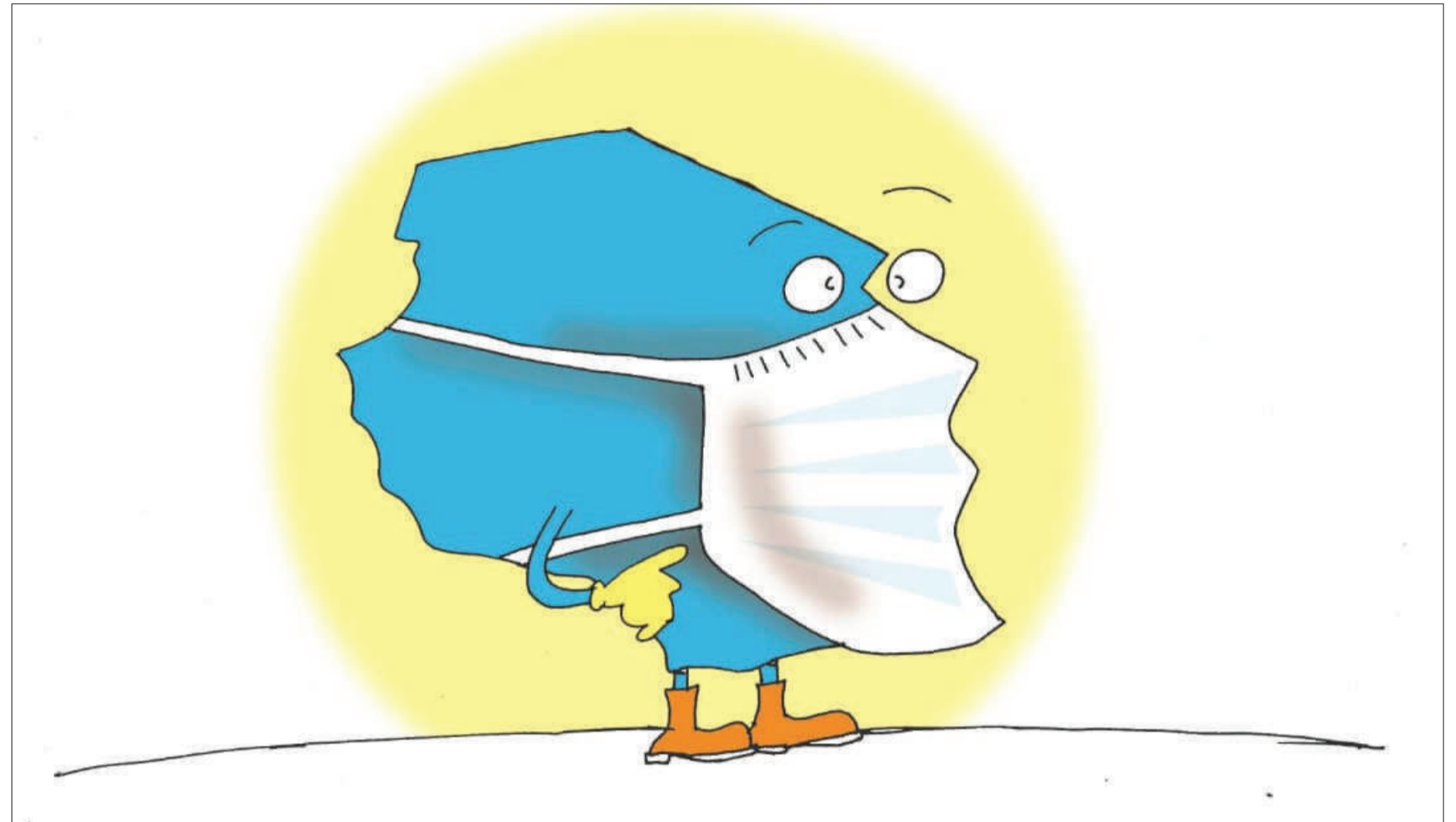
The locust WhatsApp hotline has been pinged nonstop as farmers and herders across large swathes of rural Kenya send in video clips of massive swarms flying overhead, blocking the light of the sun like a Biblical plague.

This infestation of desert locusts first arrived in East Africa last June, feeding on hundreds of thousands of hectares of crops and pastureland and chopping a path of destruction through at least eight countries (Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Sudan). Scientists say these devastating insects never left East Africa: in fact, favorable wet conditions due to above average rainfall this season means they are likely to achieve two generations of new breeding by June this year, increasing their population size up to 400 times.

East Africa already has 20 million severely food insecure people, who barely eat enough to fill their stomachs each day, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO), the body responsible for overseeing the locust response. This new wave of locusts poses a serious threat to food security in a region recently devastated by conflict and climate change shocks, including extreme droughts and floods, and now anticipating a sharp rise in novel coronavirus (Covid-19) cases.

The desert locust is a winged insect that travels in swarms, consuming almost every leaf of green vegetation in its wake. A typical swarm can consist of up to 150 million locusts per square kilometer. These insects move with the wind, and can migrate as far as 150 kilometers in one day. Even a tiny, one-square-kilometer locust swarm is capable of consuming the same amount of food in one day as approximately 35,000 people.

In Kenya, the locust maturation is coinciding with the onset of the rainy season. Farmers have been sowing crops of maize, beans, sorghum, barley and millet during March and April, in hopes that a favorable rainy season will allow for abundant growth during late April and May. With the locust swarms gaining size and strength, experts fear that up to 100% of farmers' budding crops could be consumed, leaving some communities with nothing to harvest.



By David Glassom

**T**HE Covid-19 pandemic gives us all the opportunity to become more scientifically literate, to learn to filter fact from fiction, to trust rigorous science instead of celebrities, snake-oil salesmen, politicians or corporate advocates promoting vested interests.

The coronavirus is playing havoc with economies and societies the world over. Its full cost will not be known for months or years to come, and possibly not even then. However, there are also opportunities to be grasped. They are not opportunities which we welcome, nor will they compensate us for the impacts of the pandemic, but we should grasp them nonetheless.

Many of the opportunities will arise in the scientific field, for this pandemic is a giant, uncontrolled experiment. Virologists and epidemiologists are studying the virus and the way it spreads. Medical experts may learn about the human immune response to new pathogens. Research on vaccines and treatments is proceeding at an almost unprecedented pace. New tests are being developed for the virus and whole factories and production lines are being refitted to produce vital equipment. Beyond the immediate impacts of the pandemic, climate scientists will gather data on changes resulting from the drop in pollution and CO2 emissions.

Yet, a more profound lesson may be learned from this pandemic. For some years there has been a growing tendency to disregard the opinions of scientists in favour of political expedience or so-called "alternative" forms of knowledge. Examples abound - from climate change denial, to the crowds of people who turn to celebrity websites for health advice.

Global biodiversity and entire ecosystems, such as coral reefs, are threatened by governments' refusal to heed scientific advice. In the run-up to an election in the UK in 2016, a member of the Conservative Party even opined that people had "had enough of experts".

The reasons for this trend are manifold and include deliberate disinformation strategies by some industries, politicians who would rather pander to their electorate than make hard choices, conspiracy theorists and simple ignorance, combined with the inability to tell truth from misinformation.

Pharmacies line up unproven remedies and supplements alongside tried and tested medicines while the media commonly mixes science-based stories with celebrity advice. There is rarely a consistent message that scientific evidence is more than "just another opinion". Years of the conflation of scientific evidence with an untested opinion have made it more and more difficult to distinguish fact from fallacy.

This has been brought into focus

## Another big lesson COVID-19 has taught us: Science matters



with the proliferation of coronavirus-related messages, many of which are false, from a variety of sources. Often these messages mix misinformation with some facts, making it even more difficult to separate one from the other. In some cases, such misinformation is deeply harmful, if not outright dangerous.

There have been reports, for example, of arsonists burning cellphone towers due to a rumour linking the spread of the virus to 5G technology and of deaths caused by people trying to self-medicate with chloroquine phosphate. Arguably, the global lack of preparedness for this pandemic is partly attributable to an anti-science narrative propounded by political leaders in the past several years.

The "anti-vax" movement is a prominent part of this narrative. While a debate about the safety of vaccination is as old as vaccines themselves, vaccines have managed to eliminate smallpox completely and polio might have gone the way of smallpox by now, if not for resistance to being vaccinated in a few countries. However, the movement has been renewed by the false controversy over the MMR vaccine, exponents of which claim that it is associated with bowel disease and autism. Although this idea has been repeatedly disproved and the doctor who first advocated it has been struck from the register in Britain and despite the deaths of thousands of people - the vast majority of whom are unvaccinated - from measles each year, the anti-vax movement has persisted.

All this must surely change with the outbreak of Covid-19. Now we see what a highly transmissible virus can do in the absence of a vaccine or other effective treatment. Little is heard now

of how people are sick of experts, of the dangers of vaccines causing autism, or of alternative remedies providing answers to the pandemic.

Instead, people are learning about enveloped vs naked viruses, the distance that the virus can be transported in droplets, how long it can last on different surfaces, why soap and water are more effective against coronavirus than alcohol-based sanitiser and the difference between PCR and antibody tests for the virus. Epidemiology is a common topic of conversation.

It is difficult to remember a time when so much conversation centred on a single, science-based topic. Moreover, it is largely recognised that scientific knowledge and advice is the key to solving the problem. Governments that have been quickest to heed this advice have been most successful in containing the virus. The focus on developing vaccines and effective antiviral treatments is further evidence of our reliance on science.

Of course, there are always exceptions. A leader of the Zionist church was quoted as saying, "This Covid-19 is Satan who is attempting to stop Christians from going to praise God as we wish," while the Zimbabwean defence minister reportedly ascribed the pandemic to God taking revenge on the West.

The attempts by two prominent world leaders, in the UK and the US, to circumvent scientific consensus, in one case by claiming the threat was exaggerated as a political ploy, along with a "hunch" that the mortality would be much lower than WHO projections, and in the other by trying to institute a policy of "herd immunity by mass infection" were strongly resisted and soon failed. Fortunately, such views

seem to be vastly outnumbered by those who recognise the validity of a scientific opinion.

The question now is what will happen after the lockdowns have ended and Covid-19 has been brought under control? Will this new consciousness survive, or will we see a return to the recent anti-scientific propaganda? Will evidence-based views hold sway or will industry lobbyists still be given equal credence to career scientists?

I hope a lesson will be learned from this - that in an age of climate change, mass extinction, new diseases and other emergent threats to health and society, science matters. It is undoubtedly the best method we have of producing new knowledge and improving peoples' lives. Science does not always have quick solutions to our problems, nor is it always right.

But we should bear in mind the words of Carl Sagan: "Science is not perfect. It is often misused; it is only a tool, but it's the best tool we have. Self-correcting, ever-changing, applicable to everything. With this tool, we vanquish the impossible."

We might not always like what we learn from science, but ignoring it or substituting it with superstitions, untested opinions or simply our own intuitions or biases will never solve the problems that face us. We should all use this opportunity to become more scientifically literate, to learn to filter fact from fiction, to trust rigorous science instead of celebrities, snake-oil salesmen, politicians or corporate advocates promoting vested interests.

It is immeasurably sad that it should take a global pandemic to drive this message home, but it is a message that could still save us from the worst of this and other crises that we humans have unleashed on ourselves.



# Covid-19 opens a window of opportunity to roll out mass testing for other diseases

By Vuyiseka Dubula and Tracey Naledi

MASS screening and testing could be as comprehensive as possible by offering a concoction of screening for TB, HIV and other underlying medical conditions. In that way, we will help to prevent the deaths of those with the underlying disease who may get Covid-19 in the future.

South Africa has been hit by Covid-19 on top of a quadruple burden: infectious diseases like TB and HIV; chronic diseases like diabetes, hypertension and mental illnesses; malnutrition, maternal and childhood diseases; and violence, including gender-based violence.

Emily Wong from the Africa Health Research Institute in KwaZulu-Natal has highlighted the "colliding epidemics" of TB, HIV and Covid-19 in South Africa and the higher risk of severe disease in these patients, especially if the disease is not controlled by treatment.

Even though South Africa has one of the biggest antiretroviral (ARV) programmes, we still have about 2.5 million HIV-positive people who are not on ARVs and thus potentially at high risk.

What could count in our favour is that our population profile is much younger than countries like Italy and UK that have been hard hit by Covid-19. We know that the fatality rate in those aged over 60 years increases exponentially by age and is exacerbated by underlying medical conditions. The fatality rate for those aged over 80 years is 14.8% compared to a 3.4% average fatality rate for all age groups.

Countries with more resourced health systems and healthier populations than South Africa are grappling to cope with the impact of Covid-19 on their health systems. In South Africa, Covid-19 puts additional pressure on our already under-resourced and overstretched public health system.

There are already concerns that some provinces are restricting normal primary health care services such as sexual reproductive health services and prioritising maternal and emergency services.

We argue that, on the contrary, this "colliding of epidemics" calls for a comprehensive response that includes the very necessary public health interventions of identifying those with Covid-19 and their contacts, and managing them and ensuring that we manage our current burden of disease instead of falling yet again into the default fault lines of verticalisation.

What measures has SA put in place to address Covid-19?

The South African government, like many African countries, is taking drastic steps to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic by putting in place globally recommended public health measures to slow down or delay the spread of the virus and to provide an economic and social safety net for its citizens.

Researchers from the Blavatnik School of Government at Oxford University have developed a country stringency index (0-100) to the response to Covid-19. This scores the stringency of countries' responses to the pandemic and assesses the impact of these on the pandemic. South Africa is one of the 77 countries in their first publication and was in a group of countries whose index was 80-100, meaning that we have some of the most stringent measures.

Of course, this index says little about how well these measures are adapted for the local context, how these measures are responsive to the needs of citizens, especially those who are poor and marginalised, how impactful these measures will be in the long run and what unintended consequences they will have, especially in poor and marginalised groups.

Reports from the US have highlighted the disproportionate impact this disease will have on the poor. In Chicago, the African-American population accounted for 70% of all Covid-19 cases in the city and 50% of cases in the state, despite this group making up only 30% of the population. This is due to overcrowding in urban areas and this group working in essential industries and thus not able to stay at home.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the rolling out of Covid-19 community screening door-to-door starting this past week using a social vulnerability index to target the most vulnerable communities. We know that mass testing was part of the successes seen in China and South Korea. In South Korea there was rapid scaling of testing to 5,500 tests for every one million people. Tests were readily available, free with doctors' prescriptions, available publicly and privately, drive-through services were provided, and there was contact tracing with targeted testing of contacts and monitoring of infected persons, supported by technology with a government app.

South Africa is planning to increase testing capacity by using Gene-Expert technology and mobile technology for contact tracing.

## So what is the problem?

While we welcome the proposed testing measures, we think South Africans need to reflect on lessons from the HIV and Ebola responses in particular. The recent article by Nathan Geffen on "How many people could die of Covid-19 in South Africa?" in GroundUp quoted work from researchers projecting that we could see 94,835 to 239,610 deaths in South Africa per year due to Covid-19. He reminds us that we have been here before in 2005 where 285,000 died from AIDS. We have learnt from large-scale testing for HIV that this works best when it's done comprehensively.

We know that there are many in South Africa living with HIV/TB/mental illness/gender-based violence/chronic diseases. We have learnt that it does not serve us to verticalise. Not only does it not allow us to provide person-centred care, but it brings with it immense stigma.

South Africa has been practising comprehensive screening and testing for some time now. We believe that this is not the time to abandon that strategy, which was crafted through many years of experience. We do not need to repeat the mistakes of the past. When epidemics strike, fear, anxiety and despair can be agonising. We saw this during Liberia's Ebola epidemic and in the HIV epidemic.

## Things we think could be considered

Health Minister Zweli Mkhize has publicly said that he thinks between 60-70% of us will get this disease and that most people will have mild symptoms. However, those who are older and have underlying conditions will have severe ill-

ness that could lead to death. All that the lockdown measures are doing is to flatten the curve so that we can buy ourselves some time to prepare the health system and, hopefully, find a cure or a vaccine in about 18 months' time, if we are lucky.

We could test for Covid-19, pat ourselves on the back, and count the number of people who do not have the disease and see that as a victory. Alternatively, we can also make sure that we use this crisis to catalyse our efforts to find people who are HIV-positive, have active TB, uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension who are not on treatment and link them to care.

Mass screening and testing in the South African context could be as comprehensive as possible by offering a concoction of screening for TB, HIV and other underlying medical conditions. In that way we help to prevent the deaths of those with underlying disease who may get Covid-19 in the future. Furthermore, this will address stigma, as people will know that there is a mass health screening and linkage to care.

We could maximise the use of the data centre at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) by integrating it with USSD technology or other technologies to screen people in SA for the coronavirus, HIV and TB and underlying medical risks. This will allow us to prepare them for the high likelihood that they will get the virus at some point in the near future.



## HAKIKA MICROFINANCE BANK LIMITED

Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosures) Regulations 2014

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

(Amounts in thousands of shillings)

	Current Year		Previous year	
	31.12.2019	31.12.2018	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
<b>A. ASSETS</b>				
1 Cash	208,799	277,955		
2 Balances with other banks and financial institutions	682,584	1,018,364		
3 Loans, advances and overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses)	2,793,989	1,891,733		
4 Other assets	323,974	435,725		
5 Property, Plant and Equipment	619,386	607,169		
6 <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,628,732</b>	<b>4,230,947</b>		
<b>B. LIABILITIES</b>				
7 Customer deposits	1,034,460	660,053		
8 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	-	-		
9 Other liabilities	154,479	105,700		
10 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,188,939</b>	<b>765,753</b>		
11 <b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)/(6 minus 10)</b>	<b>3,439,793</b>	<b>3,465,194</b>		
<b>C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>				
12 Paid up share capital	5,708,877	5,708,880		
13 Capital reserves	-	-		
14 Retained earnings	(2,281,121)	(2,300,587)		
15 Profit (Loss) account	-	-		
16 Regulatory reserve	12,037	38,594		
17 General Provision Reserve	-	18,307		
18 Minority Interest	-	-		
<b>TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>3,439,793</b>	<b>3,465,194</b>		
19 Contingent liabilities	-	-		
20 Non performing loans & advances	170,092	57,925		
21 Allowances for probable losses	74,745	29,145		
<b>D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS</b>				
(i) Shareholders Funds to total assets	74%	82%		
(ii) Non performing loans to total gross loans	6%	3%		
(iii) Net loans and advances to total deposits	270%	287%		
(iv) Loans and Advances to total assets	60%	45%		
(v) Earning assets to total assets	60%	45%		
(vi) Assets growth	9%	95%		
(vii) Deposits Growth	57%	-48%		

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF AUDITED PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

(Amounts in thousands of shillings)

	Current Yr P&L Cumulative		Comparative Yr (Previous Year) P&L Cumulative	
	31ST DEC 2019	31ST DEC 2018	31ST DEC 2019	31ST DEC 2018
1 Interest Income	590,686	396,374		
2 Interest Expense	9,749	30,701		
3 <b>Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)</b>	<b>580,937</b>	<b>365,673</b>		
4 Bad Debts Written-Off	-	-		
5 Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	45,600	7,579		
6 <b>Non Interest Income:</b>	<b>149,683</b>	<b>94,149</b>		
6.1 Foreign currency dealings and translation	-	-		
6.2 Fees and Commissions	149,683	94,149		
6.3 Dividend	-	-		
6.4 Other Operating Income	-	-		
7 <b>Non Interest Expenses:</b>	<b>687,605</b>	<b>916,622</b>		
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	236,804	281,777		
7.2 Fees and Commission	2,991	2,680		
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	447,810	632,165		
8 <b>Operating Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>(2,585)</b>	<b>(464,379)</b>		
9 Income Tax Provision	(3,911)	-		
10 <b>Net Income/ (Loss) After Income Tax</b>	<b>(6,496)</b>	<b>(464,379)</b>		
11 <b>Other Comprehensive Income (itemize)</b>	-	-		
12 <b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the quarter / year</b>	<b>(6,496)</b>	<b>(464,379)</b>		
13 Number of Employees	11	11		
14 Basic Earnings Per Share	-2%	-2%		
15 <b>Number of Branches</b>	1	1		
<b>SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>				
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	0%	15%		
(ii) Return on Average Shareholders' Fund	0%	-22%		
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	93%	200%		
(iv) Net Interest Income to average earning assets	5%	7%		

### CONDENSED AUDITED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

(Amounts in thousands of shillings)

	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others	Total
	<b>Current Year</b>						
Balance as at the beginning of the quarter	5,708,877	-	(2,300,587)	38,594	18,307	-	3,465,191
addition during the year	-	-	44,864	(26,557)	-	(18,307)	-
Profit for the year	-	-	(6,496)	-	-	-	(6,496)
Adjustments due to IFRS 16	-	-	(18,902)	-	-	-	(18,902)
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at the end of the current quarter</b>	<b>5,708,877</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,281,121)</b>	<b>12,037</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,439,793</b>
<b>Previous Year</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the Year 2018	2,515,520	-	(1,773,858)	10,458	8,792	-	760,912
Addition during the year	3,193,357	-	(37,651)	28,136	9,515	-	3,193,357
Profit for the year	-	-	(464,379)	-	-	-	(464,379)
Prior year adjustments on mobile Utility receivable/deferred expenses	-	-	-	-	-	(24,699)	(24,699)
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at the end of the quarter</b>	<b>5,708,877</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,275,888)</b>	<b>38,594</b>	<b>18,307</b>	<b>(24,699)</b>	<b>3,465,191</b>

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF AUDITED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

(Amounts in thousands of shillings)

	Current Quarter		Cumulative Comparative Year (Previous Year)	
	31st Dec 2019	31st Dec 2018	31st Dec 2019	31st Dec 2018
<b>I: Cash flow from operating activities:</b>				
Net income/(loss)	(2,585)	(464,379)		
Adjustments for:				
- Impairment/Amortization	167,616	(359,894)		
- Net change in Loans and Advances	(947,856)	(1,010,235)		
- Gain/loss on Sale of Assets	-	-		
- Net change in Deposits	374,404	(600,042)		
- Net change in short term Negotiable securities	-	-		
- Net change in Other Liabilities	(97,389)	(41,734)		
- Net change in Other Assets	111,751	(152,119)		
<b>Net cash provided (used) by operating activities</b>	<b>(391,473)</b>	<b>(2,164,024)</b>		
<b>II: Cash flow from investing activities:</b>				
Purchase of Fixed Assets/Adjustments	-	-		
- Net change in Other Assets (prepayments)	(13,374)	(11,319)		
<b>Net cash provided (used) by investing activities</b>	<b>(13,374)</b>	<b>(11,319)</b>		
<b>III: Cash flow from financing activities:</b>				
Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	-	3,193,357		
<b>Net Cash Provided (used) by Financing Activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,193,357</b>		
<b>IV: Cash and Cash Equivalents:</b>				
<b>Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(404,847)</b>	<b>1,018,014</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the year	1,296,320	278,306		
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Quarter</b>	<b>891,473</b>	<b>1,296,320</b>		

### SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements

Name and Title	Signature	Date
Elinasha D. Nassari Operations Manager	signed	20/4/2020
Esther G. Mwiguna Ag. Finance and Administration Manager	signed	20/4/2020
Aniha W. Baitani Internal Auditor	signed	20/4/2020

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Name	Signature	Date
1. Anna Mushi Director	signed	20/4/2020
2. Michael M. Kilubizo Director	signed	20/4/2020

### MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES 2019

(I) TRANSACTION	
<b>Bank Statement</b>	
Statement fees up to 6 months	5,000
Statement fees up to 12months	10,000
Statement fees above 12months	18,000
Standing order (within Hakika Bank)	3,000
Certificate of Bank Balance	20,000
Monthly Salary Processing fee	700
Loss of ID Card	200
Withdraw fee over the Counter	500-15000
Balance Enquiry	Free
Dormant Account activation Fee	10,000
Bulk Cash Deposit	Free
Monthly Services Fee	Free
Account Closure	10,000
Cash Deposit Charge	Free
Bank Statement up to one month	Free
<b>(II) REQUIREMENT MINIMUM OPENING BALANCE</b>	
Hakika Saving account	20,000
Other Saving accounts	10,000
Business account	100,000
Premium saving account	100,000
<b>III) LENDING RATES</b>	
Small	24% Flat
Medium	24% Reducing
Large	22% Reducing
Loan processing fee and Charges (Insurance fee,application fee and legal fee)	3% of approved amount (once time Cost)
Overdraft	19% p.a
Penalty of unpaid amount	0.5%
<b>MOBILE BANKING</b>	
Mobile balance enquiry	200
Transfer from bank to mobile (B2W)	1,000
Transfer from mobile to bank (W2B)	1,000
Mobile mini statement enquiry	200
<b>(IV) FIXED DEPOSITS</b>	
3 Months	3%
6 Months	5%
9 Months-12Months	6%
12Months	8%
This rate is negotiable for amount exceeding 30 Million	
<b>V) DEPOSIT RATE</b>	
Star Saving Account (for Children)	4%p.a
Business account	1.5% p.a
Saving Accounts	3%p.a





## CALL FOR PROPOSAL

### Assess the Community-Based Forest Economies and propose a vibrant and viable local economy model for villages with Village Land Forest Reserves in the Ruvuma Landscape, Tanzania

#### 1. Introduction

WWF Tanzania has for the past 20 years been promoting, scaling-up and maintaining area under Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in four districts of Kilwa, Rufiji, Tunduru and Namtumbo. This is implemented in partnership with local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), private sector and local government authorities. With support from WWF, Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative (MCDI) has managed to put over 450,000 ha of forests under sustainable management through Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) in over 45 villages. Out of these, over 200,000 ha of Village Land Forest Reserves in 15 villages are certified under MCDI's Forest Stewardship Council group certificate, the only one of its kind in Africa. Moreover, through a focus on sales of hardwood timber, villages supported by WWF through MCDI have been empowered to generate TZS 1.6 Billion (\$760,000) that they have been reinvesting in forest management activities and to fund local community development projects and enterprises.

Communities are direct beneficiaries of the revenues from the selling of timber where most of the money is used to improve the communities' livelihood and social services. In some of the villages the revenue has been used to erected modern village offices, while others have been supporting expectant mothers, building classrooms and teachers' houses, providing support to secondary students from less fortunate families and improving their health services. WWF Tanzania in partnership with MCDI has facilitated the forest products value addition by purchasing and donating a solar kiln to the communities in 4 villages in the Ruvuma Landscape. The kiln is owned and managed by FSC certified VLFA member communities. The kiln is expected to support the timber investments businesses in the four districts. This solar kiln enables rural communities to access high value international markets as well as domestic markets for their hardwood timber. Many international hardwood timber dealers and manufacturers of hardwood products now require timber to be kiln dried to meet these strict international specifications

#### 2. The problem and justification

The villages which have community-forest based enterprises solely depend on sales of timber from their forests based on their management and harvesting plans. These businesses are yet to be self-sustaining. It is not known how profitable the village guest house in Nanjirinji A is and how can it grow into a vibrant business. Villagers business skills are still low and thus capacity building is of paramount importance. Other enterprises include water bore hole drilling machines in some villages. There are also potential for villages to establish commercial tree nurseries to support their development projects and social services. The information on such business models at community level in the Ruvuma Landscape is lacking. Now that CBFM has proved to be a source of substantial amount of revenues through certification and value addition there is a need to develop a business model to assist villages to have sustainable and vibrant local economies while maintaining their forests.

#### 3. Overall Objective

The overall objective of this study is to document all village forest based enterprises and to undertake economic analyses in order to propose a vibrant local economy model or models for the villages' sustainable businesses in the Ruvuma Landscape.

#### 4. Specific objectives

- Collate economic (forest size, harvested volumes, forest stocks) data on established community based forest enterprises in villages with Village Land Forest Reserves
- Assess the sustainability of the resource and the available timber markets
- Undertake a cost and benefit analyses of CBFM forests in relation to other village land uses
- Assess the sustainability of the FSC Group Certification Scheme and propose the best practices
- Develop a business model to assist villages to have sustainable and vibrant local economies while maintaining their forests

#### 5. Expected outputs

- Economic data on established community based forest enterprises in villages with certified and non-certified Village Land Forest Reserves
- Cost and benefit analyses report of CBFM forests in relation to other village land uses
- A report on the business model for sustainable and vibrant community based forest local economies
- A simple training manual for community forest based enterprises development and management

#### 6. Profile

##### Required Functional Skills

- University degree in Natural Resources Economics, Econometrics, Business Management, Entrepreneurship and any other related skills
- Highly competent on forest economics and resource assessment data collection and analyses
- Knowledge and experience on economic modelling and market forecasting techniques
- Previous experience in undertaking a similar assignment
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Kiswahili will be an added advantage.

##### Required Behavioural Skills

- Excellent understanding of national policies governing forest management in Tanzania
- Personal integrity with an honest and open personal style;
- Approachable, and an ability to engage partners at all levels;
- Adherence to WWF's social policies

#### 7. Key deliverables

- An Inception Report that will detail tools, methodology, team composition and budget. An inception report should include clear methodologies for the the assignment (data collection and analysis)
- Two hard and soft copies of the Final Reports (not more than 60 pages) with other supporting information contained in annexes to the report.
- A three day community training workshop on community forest based enterprises organised and facilitated by WWF to present findings of the study and thereafter incorporate stakeholders' comments into the final reports.

#### 8. Contract duration

This assignment will last for two months (May to June, 2020)

#### 9. Proposal Submission

Please, submit your full proposal to [tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org](mailto:tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org)

#### 10. Deadline for submission:

Applications should be a concise full combined technical & financial proposals fully signed, highlighting company profile, concrete evidences of experiences on similar works, the proposed approach and methodologies, work schedule and timings of the process. Team CVs should also be attached. Also apart from one pager application letter, financial proposal should clearly specifying time and other expenses both direct and reimbursable, these include unit costs on professional fees and the eligible taxes; kindly submit your applications as instructed by **Friday, 5th May 2020 at 17.00hrs Tanzania local time.** Only successful applicant will be contacted.

Evaluation of the consultancy applications will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal/bid



## CALL FOR PROPOSAL

### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR UNDERTAKING ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE SURVEYS IN PUGU, VIKINDU AND KAZIMZUMBWI FOREST RESERVES IN KISARAWA AND MKURANGA DISTRICTS, PWANI REGION

#### 1. Introduction

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Tanzania Office is implementing the Trillion Trees Program aiming at unlocking sustainable financing for Forest Landscapes Restoration. Trillion Trees (TT) is a major initiative conceived by Restore Our Planet, a UK-based environmental foundation. A group of three international conservation organizations – the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-UK & Tanzania) and BirdLife International (BLI) are implementing the program.

The world's forests face a host of threats, which often reflect the fact that forests and the services they provide are not adequately valued in decision making and economic policy frameworks. These pressures are well known and many major international initiatives are attempting to respond to them. Rather than competing with these existing global initiatives TT supports them in their aims, with a particular focus on enhancing the scale and effectiveness of implementation. Trillion Trees (TT) is just one part of the very significant global effort that is needed. The TT seeks to promote even higher levels of ambition regarding both outcomes and the mobilization of finance, and a longer-term vision. In the same vein, WWF Tanzania in partnership with Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) Agency have agreed to implement the programme on restoration of coastal forests at Pugu, Vikindu and Kazimzumbwi through conservation and sustainable tourism involving forest adjacent communities and tour operators. Implementation of the programme will ensure effective and sustainable forest management and other development activities including nature based tourism business which is important for generating revenues and hence improving living conditions for forest adjacent communities.

#### 2. Background

Pugu, Vikindu and Kazimzumbwi Forest Reserves with a total area of 8,862 ha, are among the remnants of Tanzania coastal forests found in Kisarawe and Mkuranga Districts managed by Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) Agency. These coastal forests are defined by their distance not more than 100 km from the shoreline and the altitude less than 500 m above sea level. These forests are spread over six regions namely; Tanga, Pwani, Dar es Salaam, Lindi, Mtwara and part of Morogoro region. They are characterised by undulating topography which consists of hills, valleys and rivers. Pugu, Vikindu and Kazimzumbwi forests are among the Coastal forests recognized as one of the 25 Global Biodiversity 'Hotspots' due to the exceptional level of biological diversity and species endemism (both plant and animal) and were singled out as priority area for conservation. These forests are essential for their endemic species, and they are estimated to harbour about 30% of plant species, invertebrates, peculiar birds like the Sokoke pipit and small to medium-sized mammals. The forests also are vital sources of food, fibre and contribute to livelihoods of the surrounding communities.

Environmentally and socio-economically, these forests play a vital role in maintaining ecosystem services and functions. The forests are surrounded by high-density cities and suburban areas and subject to some illegal activities such as encroachment for the cultivation of paddy, cutting of trees for charcoal production and settlements development. The illegal activities and the rapid growth of population in Dar es Salaam City and other towns along the coast have negatively influenced the condition (quality) of these forest reserves. Poverty has forced massive extraction of forest products from the reserves by many people for their livelihoods. Unsustainable utilization of the forest resources and adverse environmental conditions has caused remarkable degradation of habitats for these endemic species in these forest reserves.

#### 3. Justification

The biological, environmental and socio-economic importance of these forest reserves and the need to conserve the area is highlighted in many documents including the Tanzania Forest Strategic Plan and National Report on the State of Environment among others. Deforestation and degradation condition of these forests cannot be over-emphasized. There is growing pressure due to growing population and land scarcity around these forests. These forests are important in regulating the local climate and play the crucial role of being a carbon sink and lungs of Dar Es Salaam city. Most of destructions to these forests are human induced among including encroachment and illegal tree cutting for various uses. In order to institute effective forest restoration initiatives and monitoring in Pugu, Vikindu and Kazimzumbwi forest reserves, ecological diversity and socio-economic base line data are of paramount importance.

#### 4. Overall Objective

The overall objective of this assignment is to collect and analyse ecological and socio-economic baseline data for the forests and surrounding communities to inform the planned forest restoration initiatives in Pugu, Vikindu and Kazimzumbwi forest reserves.

#### 5. Specific objectives and scope of the assignment

This assignment is divided into two parts: (a) ecological surveys and (b) socio-economic surveys. Under the supervision of the WWF UK Regional Manager, East Africa and the National Forest Program Coordinator, the consultant(s) will be responsible to:

##### (a) Ecological survey

- Undertake desk top review all ecological studies carried out in Pugu, Vikindu and Kazimzumbwi for the past 20 years
- Assess the current forest health in terms of number of stems, regeneration, disturbances and tree species diversity
- Using GIS and Remote Sensing techniques undertake Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology and map out areas that require immediate restoration interventions
- Classify and categorize the identified species based on IUCN classification standards (abundant, rare, threatened .....)

##### (b) Socio-economic survey

- Gather and review all socio-economic studies carried out in Pugu, Vikindu and Kazimzumbwi for the past 20 years
- Generate a socioeconomic profile of the resources dependent communities and households and will include amongst others, status and access to education, health, asset ownership, major sources of income, etc.
- Identify and assess current income generating activities and food security levels of natural resources dependent population and identify suitable activities for improvement of income diversification and securing community food security,
- Assess the current livelihood benefits, both qualitative and quantitative, from natural resources to dependent communities
- Undertake a reasonable quantification of the financial value of Pugu, Vikindu and Kazimzumbwi FRs
- Analyse and map key functional Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) engaged in restoration work in the three forests
- Identify and recommend biodiversity friendly economic activities for the forest dependent population.
- Assess the impact of national policies on management and development of the three forest reserves, focusing on threats and opportunities

#### 6. Profile

##### Required Functional Skills

- University degree in Natural Resources Management, Social Sciences, Development Studies or related fields;
- Highly competent on forest resource assessment with application of biophysical forest inventory techniques, GIS and Remotely sensed data collection; socio-economic survey techniques and statistical analyses
- Knowledge and experience of the coastal forests and their biodiversity values; community participation in forest management and community guiding cultures
- Previous experience in undertaking a similar assignment
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English; and Kiswahili will be an added advantage.

##### Required Behavioural Skills

- Excellent understanding of national policies governing forest management in Tanzania
- Personal integrity with an honest and open personal style;
- Approachable, and an ability to engage partners at all levels;
- Adherence to WWF's social policies

#### 7. Key deliverables

- An Inception Report that will detail tools, methodology, team composition and budget. An inception report should include clear methodologies for the two parts of the assignment (data collection and analysis)
- Two hard and soft copies of the Final Reports (ecological and socio-economic separated), which will include technical narrative report, A restoration opportunity analysis report and a detailed map, financial report and other accountable. The report should be clear and concise (not more than 60 pages) with other supporting information contained in annexes to the report.
- Forest land cover changes maps for the past 20 years and the restoration opportunities
- A one day stakeholders' workshop organised and facilitated by WWF to present findings of the study and thereafter incorporate stakeholders' comments into the final reports.

#### 8. Contract duration

This assignment will last for two months (May to June, 2020)

#### 9. Proposal Submission

Please, submit your full proposal to [tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org](mailto:tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org)

#### 10. Deadline for submission:

Applications should be a concise full combined technical & financial proposals fully signed, highlighting company profile, concrete evidences of experiences on similar works, the proposed approach and methodologies, work schedule and timings of the process. Team CVs should also be attached. Also apart from one pager application letter, financial proposal should clearly specifying time and other expenses both direct and reimbursable, these include unit costs on professional fees and the eligible taxes; kindly submit your applications as instructed by **Friday, 5th May 2020 at 17.00hrs Tanzania local time.** Only successful applicant will be contacted.

Evaluation of the consultancy applications will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal/bid



# '45,076 people in Namtumbo took HIV test status in 2019'

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

A TOTAL of 45,076 people volunteered themselves to have their HIV status tested in Namtumbo district in 2019.

District Executive Director (DED) Evance Nachimbinya announced when presenting his

implementation report on HIV/Aids control to the Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christine Mndeme in Namtumbo town.

Nachimbinya said among those tested 587 people were diagnosed with the HIV and that the level of infections in the district had dropped from two per cent in 2018 to one per

cent in 2019.

He said during the period the men who volunteered themselves for testing - was 30,303, compared to 14,773 women.

"All those diagnosed with HIV were registered at treatment and counseling centres," said Nachimbinya.

He said the district's achieve-

ments in HIV/Aids control include treatment of those living with HIV, testing in all levels of the society to attain the three 95's target by 2025 as well continuing with circumcision for men.

He said challenges they faced during the period include the plummeting of monetary con-

tributions from stakeholders as well the drop in the government budget.

He said another challenge was inadequate transport between the treatment centres due to the district council's not having sufficient vehicles.

Speaking soon after her inspection of HIV/Aids control ac-

tivities, the Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme congratulated the men for volunteering themselves to have their health status tested.

She said their actions will assist the government to attain the targets set in order to have a safe community in regard to new infections and to eradicate

the scourge by 2030.

She stressed that the achievements attained show that if such efforts continue by all HIV/Aids control stakeholders. Namtumbo district and ruvuma region in general will attain government's targets to have zero infections by 2030.



Kilolo district executive director Mwajuma Nasombe (R) briefs Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu (L, in glasses) before the latter addressed Lugalo ward residents on reports of frequent cases of rogue lions killing cattle in the area. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Govt has expressed its commitment to improve immunisation services'

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has expressed its commitment towards giving priority to the improvement of immunisation services, including health education and sensitisation, nutrition, prevention from communicable diseases, HIV as well as maternal and child healthcare.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu, made the commitment in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when she launched guidelines of the community health services plan and use of dashboard indicators of public health education which is spearheaded by the USAID Tulonga Afya ("Let's Talk about Health") project.

"The launching of this initiative will supplement efforts for reducing the burden of high medical costs to the people, which has been increasing curable diseases," she said.

The minister said the importance of immunisation services is underlined in the National Health Policy 2007 and the Health Sector Strategic Plan of 2015-2020, that will also be included in the preparations of the new 2020 national health sector

policy.

According to the minister, initiatives to provide health services at the community health workers level will enhance provision of immunity services at all community levels as well as providing health education as a means to prevent the community from diseases.

She pointed out that when community health workers have correct education on health related issues which in one way or the other affect their health, they are in a position to make appropriate decision issues.

This will ultimately result in creating a nation of healthy people who can contribute to their own development, as well as that of their families, the communities in which they live and the whole country at large.

The minister insisted that the government would continue taking efforts of improving health services in the country in order to reach universal health coverage, whose aspects include all initiatives related to the provision of health education on nutrition, reproductive healthcare, youth and children as well as the outbreak such as cholera, diarrheal and COVID-19.

"Also the efforts would focus

on creating awareness on the importance of health insurance that for people to get health service affordably," she said.

She said in the past three years, the number of people who were treated for non-communicable diseases rose from 3.4 million in 2016 to 4.2 million in 2018, which is equivalent to a 24 per cent increase.

Moreover, the number of deaths caused by non-communicable diseases was 33 per cent of all deaths in 2017 (134,600). The number of deaths caused by heart diseases constituted 13 per cent of all deaths, which is higher than those caused by HIV/Aids, TB and malaria.

Mwalimu noted that all these diseases can be reduced in the community by enhancing health education systems as well as providing correct education to the people on preventive measures and following best health practices. The government intends that all these be done by healthcare providers (community health workers) at the community level where after evaluation, it emerged that some villages were too big to be served by only two healthcare providers.

## Mlimba council issues loans to over 3,000 youths and women

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 3,000 youth, women and people with disabilities have benefited from the loans issued by Mlimba Town Council in Kilombero district, Morogoro region to enhance them fight against poverty.

Council Executive Director, Eng. Stephano Kaliwa said recently to the reporters in Morogoro region when explaining the success, challenges and new strategies it had set so far.

Eng. Kaliwa said the council had issued 395 m/- since last year to support three special groups namely - women, youths and disabled people from the poverty.

He said out of those, 98 groups of women received 251m/- while 47 groups of youths received 126/- and six groups of disabled people received over 17.4m/-

"As our strategy, our new municipality council has put most priority

in four issues; loan to special groups, education, agricultural and health," he said.

He added that the amount of loan issued was 10 per cent of its budget from the domestic collections as requested by the financial law that each municipality council is supposed to support women, disabled and youths.

Citing the 2018/19 budget, Mlimba council set 3.95bn/- and was able to release the loans by 100 per cent while in the 2019/20 budget, it set aside 4bn/- and it has released 81 per cent up to date.

"Out of 400m/-, we have already released almost 300m/- and 100m/- remains so far. It is our hope that the target will be reached," he said.

He said that since it was established in November 03, last year, it had already built 62 classrooms to reduce congestions.

In the agriculture sector, it has planned to extend commercial farming saying already one tonne of cash-

ew nuts seeds was on the way to be distributed to the farmers.

In health sector, Mlimba council plans to build new referral hospital noting that already it had received 500/- through 2019/20 budget from the central government.

Eng. Kaliwa added that in the 2020/21 budget, the government had allocated 1bn/- adding that its construction will anytime be complete.

The council loan coordinator, Amos Emmanuel said the main focus will invite investors in agro processing to add value to agriculture commodities used as raw materials.

He said the move resonates with the government policy of becoming middle income country through industrial economy by 2030.

"Our most priority is to ensure that there is more investment in the processing of goods to add value to our commodities instead of exporting as raw materials," he said.

## TFS set to better infrastructure at Lake Ngosi and Kalambo Falls

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Forest Services Agency (TFS) is planning to construct modern infrastructures including roads within Lake Ngozi's tourist attractions in Mbeya region and Kalambo Waterfalls in Rukwa region in order to woo more tourists.

TFS assistant resources manager for southern highlands zone Innocent Lupembe announced at the weekend when he spoke to this paper about various strategies to develop tourism, in particular domestic tourism in the two tourist districts.

Lupembe cited among the infrastructures to be built in Lake Ngozi, Africa's second biggest crater

lake include a 7.2kms road to be built by Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA), modern toilet facilities and a special tourists information centre.

He said the road to be constructed will start at Igawilo and end at the point separating the Lake Ngozi.

He said Kalambo Falls, the second highest waterfall in Africa after Tugera Falls in South Africa will also see the construction of roads, modern toilet facilities and an area reserved for camping tents.

Lupembe said funds for the projects are expected to be provided by Global Environment Facility (GEF).

He said TFS office in southern highlands zone that includes

Mbeya, Songwe, Rukwa and Iringa regions mobilized to ensure tourist attractions therein are beneficial to the nation.



**Kalambo Falls, the second highest waterfall in Africa after Tugera Falls in South Africa will also see the construction of roads, modern toilet facilities and an area reserved to camping tents**

## DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND FOR THE YEAR 2019

The Board of Directors of CRDB Bank Plc recommends a dividend of TZS 17 per issued and fully paid up share in line with the Bank's Dividend Policy subject to obtaining approval from the Annual General Meeting of shareholders to be held on 16th May, 2020.

Pursuant to approval of the dividend recommendation, the timetable for dividend payment will be as follows:

Announcement of Dividend Payment:	9th April, 2020
Trading of Shares Cum Dividend:	9th April - 30th April, 2020
Trading of Shares Ex-Dividend:	4th May, 2020 onwards
Closure of the Members Register:	6th May, 2020
Re-Opening of the Register:	7th May, 2020
Dividend Payment on/or about:	1st June, 2020

Dividend will be paid directly to shareholders bank accounts, through M-Pesa, Airtel Money and Tigo Pesa for those who have issued instructions.

For communication the contact is:

**The Company Secretary**  
CRDB Bank Plc  
Office Accommodation Scheme Building – Azikiwe Street, 4th Floor  
P. O. Box 268  
Dar es Salaam  
Tel. no. 022 – 2114237  
Email: shareholders@crdbbank.com

By order of the Board,

John B. Rugambo  
Company Secretary  
8th April, 2020



# OBITUARY

## Bishop Dr Gertrude Rwakatare, distinguished voice among women in Tanzania

By Michael Eneza

ICONIC pastor Dr Gertrude Pangalile Rwakatare is no more, having died in Dar es Salaam yesterday aged 69 after a short illness, on the basis of what church authorities said in a terse statement. She was a versatile individual noted as a leading educationist and investor in a large family of schools, a noted pastor and head of her own church that grew enough to even open branches in other parts of the city and certain spots in the country. Her voice was piercing and set people alight in her presentations, an influential educationist and church minister, such that at some point state authorities took note of her presence, and CCM nominated her on its special seats list.

In her own right she was a shining example of what critics abroad and at times in Tanzania have come to know as 'pastorpreneurs,' suggesting somewhat lackadaisically that preaching is but an enterprise. Those who are nearer to 'pastorpreneurs' know that they have spiritual capital which ought to be taken seriously, not just ability to preach but essentially to heal, in which case their houses of prayer grow to massive proportions because of testimonies of those who attended and obtained meaningful change in life. She attained considerable heights in that dimension as well.

In the past few months the late Bishop Rwakatare was narrating her story of salvation and calling in the church, especially as she made her first paces in the ranks of the late Bishop Moses Kulola

who led the Pentecostal movement in Tanzania from the mid-1960s. At an earlier period those who come from households with 'born again' enthusiasm will recall that there was chiefly an evangelical movement from neighbouring Uganda, led by Reverend Festo Kivengere. There was a universal hymn used by 'saved' people at that time in Luganda by the name 'Tukutendereza...'

She was narrating at Mikocheni 'B' Assemblies of God church (famed as 'Mountain of Fire') in the past two years or so as she was gradually taking to the way of recent ardent 'pastorpreneurs' who are more anchored in the healing ministry than in 'salvation' per se how she learned the efficacy of prayer. She was explaining how it developed while on a working or study period in the United States, and upon return she was given a massive crowd of people to address (where she wasn't the principal guest, but was expected to make a contribution). At that time she had already prophesied for a lady colleague in the US and it was realized, building trust in herself.

Some biographers of the late Dr Rwakatare have been saying on internet write ups that she was a 'Tanzanian CCM politician,' which she frankly wasn't but more of a community leader and a voice that was recognized for inclusion in Parliament. On that account as well she was a member of the constituent assembly whose distinguishing feature is that it gave the country many of its fifth phase vital appointees to all sorts of political, administrative offices. She was an exception.

What is even more surprising is that she cut her most important public role not as an investor in schools and an administrator, where women aren't numerous, but as a pastor and a bishop - where one has to scratch the head to find another example locally, regionally or elsewhere. While certain churches are debating whether women can lead church services and largely came to the conclusion



that it is grossly inappropriate, the late Gertrude was an influential pastor and bishop, proving by her own example that the debate is pointless. Several reformed churches have accepted that role for women, and Lutheran churches have quite a number of them but

hardly any bishops as yet. Dr Rwakatare chose to remain part of Assemblies of God denomination, but on the basis of her enterprise and work to build it, church hierarchy was of allies, not superiors.

One question that comes to mind when the passing away of Dr Rwakatare settles into place is how far there is capacity for her ministry to remain in place, let alone remaining

intact, in the wake of her passing away.

Different from ordinary churches where pastors are appointed into the place by bishop, that was her personal handiwork and largely reliant on her radiant personality, visions and effectiveness in the ministry, whether it was salvation earlier or healing in the more recent past. Her team of 12 pastors will have work cut out for them, to start a period of fasting and prayer so that the void can be filled partially and adequately for the ministry to continue.

Yet on the basis of what one would project from the teachings of Max Weber, early 20th century leading German sociologist, organizations that last are those which developed a bureaucracy, for instance private companies with a visible ownership structure and shareholding. When some public activity is entirely reliant on the charismatic presence of an individual, the demise of such a person can easily be a paralyzing blow to that activity.

Adding to the doubts arising from the current environment where a faith unsettling scourge is in our midst, chances of survival narrow down still, so this turn of events is destabilizing psychologically for charismatic religious work.

# Covid -19: Swift policy action, strong leadership can save millions of jobs

By Abbas Farzami

AS dire forecasts about the global economy add to the anxiety surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN's labour agency (ILO) on Thursday offered a range of urgent measures, which, if governments act quickly, can help to protect workers in the workplace, stimulate the economy and save millions of jobs.

Noting that the economic and labour crisis created by the pandemic could greatly increase worldwide unemployment, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said that an internationally-coordinated policy response - as happened in the 2008 financial crisis - could significantly lower the impact on global unemployment.

"This is no longer only a global health crisis, it is also a major labour market and economic crisis that is having a huge impact on people", said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. "In 2008, the world presented a united front to address the consequences of the global financial crisis, and the worst was averted. We need that kind of leadership and resolve now".

ILO's new report, COVID-19 and the world of work: Impacts and responses, calls for urgent, large-scale measures across three pillars: protecting workers in the workplace; stimulating the economy and employment; and supporting jobs and incomes - each to include measures to extend social protections and support employment retention and financial and tax relief.

"In times of crisis like the current one, we have two key tools that can help mitigate the damage and restore public confidence", said the ILO chief.

He called the first, for social dialogue and to engage with workers, employers and their representatives, "vital for building public trust and support for the measures that we need to overcome this crisis".

According to Mr. Ryder, the second tool, for international labour standards, provides a "tried-and-trusted foundation" for policy responses that focus on a recovery that is sustainable and equitable.

Protecting workers  
To protect workers in the workplace, ILO advocated for

teleworking and staggered hours; greater paid sick leave; occupational support - such as hotlines and dedicated websites; and to stem any and all discrimination and exclusion - including stigmatization.

Other protective measures include childcare support for working parents when schools and nurseries are closed.

### Kickstart the economic

Active fiscal and monetary policies, such as cutting interest rates, can stimulate the economy and accelerate employment, in line with the second pillar.

Tax breaks and waivers for social security contributions, as well as extending deadlines for mortgage payments and financially supporting specific sectors, including the health, can also help mitigate coronavirus-related economic impacts.

### Coronavirus Portal & News Updates

Readers can find information and guidance on the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) from the UN, World Health Organization and UN agencies here. For daily news updates from UN News, click here.

### Support employment

ILO stated that work reduction, compensation arrangements and social assistance would help to support employment and incomes.

The UN agency pointed out that several countries are introducing financial support and tax relief, including for small merchants and that affected companies could also benefit from postponing social or tax installments, or even tax rebates in the most extreme or difficult situations.

While these measures will help to contain the pandemic, to respond to the emergency needs it has generated and to pave the way to a gradual recovery, ILO acknowledged that more needs to be done.

Looking back at past crises and the experiences of the countries that have reacted too late to the current COVID-19 crisis, ILO underscored the urgency of preparedness and early action.

"Everything needs to be done to minimize the damage to people at this difficult time", concluded Mr. Ryder.

UN humanitarian agency issues reminder that millions need humanitarian aid, WHO Europe wants countries to take "bold steps" to stop coronavirus, and a UN-backed narcotics body calls for sufficient stocks of medicine to be maintained.

Millions still need life-saving UN support, reminds humanitarian official

A senior UN humanitarian official issued a reminder, on Tuesday, that millions of vulnerable people are still relying on the Organization's life-saving assistance to survive.

Speaking to UN News in Geneva, Jens Laerke, Deputy Spokesperson at the UN's humanitarian coordination office, or OCHA, said that some of the countries affected by the coronavirus pandemic are already in humanitarian crisis - due to conflicts, natural disasters and climate change.

"It is extremely important that we continue the life-saving work in these countries", he said, "and that we sustain the humanitarian response across the world".

OCHA teams in Geneva, said Mr. Laerke, are supporting the coordination, information management and logistics of humanitarian support. In the field, OCHA is also working to bolster countries that either already have COVID-19 cases or may see them in the future.

"It's very important that we leave no one behind in this crisis, and we must beat back this together", he added, echoing UN calls for global solidarity.

### 'Take the boldest action to stop or slow the spread of the virus': WHO Europe chief

With Europe now the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic, every country, with no exceptions, must take the boldest action to stop or slow the spread of the virus, said Hans Kluge, Europe chief of the World Health Organization, WHO, on Tuesday.

Mr. Kluge, speaking from an empty WHO regional office in Copenhagen, where staff are now working remotely, declared that, at a time when the demand for WHO support is growing, the virus "can be beaten back by solidarity within communities, within nations and within our region". "Everyone in society has a role to play: not to be infected your-



self, and if you are infected, to protect others, especially the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions".

### Are governments doing enough?

With many people asking if governments are doing enough to stop the virus, the WHO Europe chief said, adding that the whole of the region - where a third of global cases are now being reported - is "alert and on guard", with preparedness, readiness and response measures on multiple levels.

Mr. Kluge explained that the context for each country is different, depending on the level of infection, and the speed at which COVID-19 is spreading.

Basic actions are the same, he said, but the emphasis changes depending on which stage a country has reached. All countries, though, should work to "prepare and be ready; detect, protect and treat; reduce transmission; and innovate and learn, while protecting the vulnerable people".

### Ensure access to medicine: UN narcotics body

Meanwhile, the International Narcotics Control Board, based in Vienna, wants governments to ensure that national plans to counter coronavirus do not interfere with the supply of controlled substances, such as pain relief medication.

The UN-backed body also called on all countries to ensure that there are sufficient buffer stocks of controlled substances to guarantee availability of those medicines throughout the duration of the pandemic.

The President of the Board, Cornelis P. de Joncheere, has reminded Governments that, in acute emergencies, it is possible to use simplified control procedures for the export, transportation and provision of medicinal products containing controlled substances.

With South-East Asia reporting more than 480 cases of COVID-19 and eight deaths, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday called for countries to "act now" and urgently scale-up "aggressive" measures to tackle the disease.

### Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director, warned that the situation is evolving rapidly.

"More clusters of virus transmission are being confirmed. While this is an indication of an alert and effective surveillance, it also puts the spotlight on the need for more aggressive and whole of society efforts to prevent further spread of COVID-19. We clearly need to do more, and urgently", she said.

The 11 countries in WHO's South-East Asia Region are home to over a quarter

of the global population.

Eight have confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus disease: Thailand, Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.

Dr. Singh said the numbers indicate that some countries are clearly heading towards community transmission of the viral disease.

If this occurs, they will have to work to slow down transmission, as well as end outbreaks.

"We need to be geared to respond to the evolving situation with the aim to stop transmission of COVID-19 at the earliest to minimize the impact of the virus that has gripped over 150 countries in a short span of time, causing substantial loss to health of people, societies, countries and economies", she said.

"Urgent and aggressive measures are the need of the hour. We need to act now".

Dr. Singh highlighted the critical importance of continuous efforts to detect, test, treat and isolate patients, and to trace contacts.

People also are asked to follow WHO advice on reducing transmission through measures, such as proper handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and practicing social distancing.





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Canadian gold magnet touts Geita Buckreef Project as next big prize for country

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**VIEW FROM THE TOP**  
Vodacom's agile way of doing things proving success in the face of COVID-19 outbreak

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## Expert says Buckreef project to rival Bulyanhulu in bumper mineral output

By Smart Money Reporter

**G**EITA Buckreef Gold Project which is jointly owned by Canadian gold magnate James Sinclair and State Mining Corporation (Stamico) will likely rival Bulyanhulu in producing large quantities of gold and copper.

Sinclair said in an interview that the mine which is estimated to last 16 years, will also benefit the country a lot because of the favourable joint venture agreement signed between Stamico and Buckreef Gold Corporation.

The financial arrangement contained in our JVA is unheard of in our industry and was ground breaking from its inception. Even now, contracts with companies in the extraction industry only share the net profits with the host nation. Other companies in the extraction industry do not share the actual gold," Sinclair said.

He noted that under the JVA, not only does Stamico have a profit share of net earnings in the minerals extracted but also owns a share of the actual minerals whose value is estimated at US\$50 million



Drilling going at Buckreef Gold Project in Geita Region. File photo.

as per Canadian National Instrument 43-101 which values the Buckreef Project.

"Tanzania's 45 percent interest in the asset is valued at more than US\$50,000,000 which represents Tanzania's portion of the present value of the asset," he added while explaining that when his company submitted a bid for the Buckreef Project and was awarded it for US\$3 million, the mineralization was not expected to be as established recently.

"Tanzania also receives royalties, together with income taxes on the overall share of the project. This means Tanzania ultimately receives more than a 50 percent share in Buckreef. It needs to be mentioned that Tanzania has no risk whatsoever in the project, no capital investment in Buckreef, no financial responsibility or outlay, and is not required to do anything in order to share in the gains," Sinclair who has invested over US\$150 million in various mines in the country stated.

"The present life of the mine is projected to be at least 16 years, and we expect 16 years and beyond from the mineralization revealed in the deep drilling process we have undertaken. At the present time we anticipate 100,000 to 200,000 ounces of gold per year. We already know we have a great mine in Buckreef," he noted (Sinclair's full interview is on page 15).

## S. Africa's medium businesses aren't lagging in digitalisation

JOHANNESBURG

MEDIUM businesses in South Africa, those with 500 or fewer employees, are not lagging when it comes to digital modernisation - but challenges like talent retention, funding and attitudes of leaders remain.

This is according to an IDG survey Spotlight: The State of SMBs and IT today, commissioned by Dell Technologies and Intel, covering the motivations and challenges that medium businesses weigh as they adopt digital technologies.

According to the survey, local medium businesses rated their ability to use IT for competitive differentiation very highly: 53% saw it as very good, while 43% rated it as quite good and cited budget restrictions as the greatest barrier. 4% rated their ability as 'not bad' - no company chose the lowest tier.

51% cited competing with new competitors and start-ups in a changing marketplace, while 43% were concerned about cash-flow issues or lack of budget to invest in infrastructure. Nearly as many are worried about their ability to attract and retain talent and the same number, 40%, pointed to the state of the macro-economy.

Dell Technologies added that unlike their European peers, South African medium businesses are less concerned about

the impact of rules and regulations. By far, growing their businesses was the primary concern among respondents.

Talent retention led the concerns around managing IT, cited by 15% of the surveyed medium businesses. This was followed by information security risks (13%), cost of in-house IT skills (13%), and vendor management of service level agreements (11%).

Training staff on new software (28%), the time demands of security challenges (17%) and strategic alignment with the business (15%) dominated challenges around supporting business needs. Helpdesk response time and limited productivity budgets were also mentioned.

42% ranked IT as one of their best opportunities to grow their businesses, and 40% regard it as an important source of competitive differentiation. But a large majority - 68% - said that despite IT's importance, business leaders still don't understand its value.

Doug Woolley, Managing Director at Dell Technologies South Africa, said, "South Africa's medium businesses are clearly not lagging behind the digital modernisation curve. The challenges they face are often the same as the major markets. But there are also unique approaches that fit the contexts of Africa and her many different regions. It shows a business sector in touch with its communities and customer



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu (2nd L) receives a dummy cheque for 100m/- from Songas Limited's Managing Director, Anael Samuel (R) being donation in supporting government's fight against the novel coronavirus at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Friday. Photo courtesy of Songas.

## Will local firms cope with the demand for face masks?

KIGALI

OVER the weekend, the Ministry of Health announced that henceforth, it will be mandatory for people to wear masks whenever they step out of their homes in a bid to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Consequently, the Food and Drug Authority announced that 22 local firms had received approval for production and sale of face masks in the country. The firms were required to present samples which were matched against global standards and requirements for the approval process.

The approval saw barrier masks made out of approved fabric or cloth added to the list of approved personal protective equipment. Previously, only surgical masks and N95 respirator were common but often in short supply as they were imported.

Firms who spoke to The New Times said that over the weekend, they had been working on repurposing their production plants to respond to the demand which production expected to kick off today.

With most of the companies previously operating as garment manufacturers, they said

that their staff have adequate skills in production of quality barrier masks which had so far received approval from the regulator.

A majority of producers who spoke to this newspaper said that they were pursuing industry prices between Rwf500 to Rwf900 for a reusable mask, meaning that retail prices could be higher. This is also with a consideration that some members of the public might want to acquire more than one mask per person.

With Rwanda's population estimated at over 12 million citizens and residents, unofficial estimates put required masks at as much as 20 million taking into account ownership of over one mask by some as well as replacements over time.

Local production of the masks will, among other things, reduce the dependence on imports which have also been problematic. Some economic blocs have put restrictions on exports of medical equipment outside their bloc to meet their demand needs.

In the instances where the imports of products such as masks are available, they are expensive and out of reach for the ordinary public. For instance, a quick spot check across

a number of pharmacies established that single use masks were retailing at between Rwf1,000 to Rwf1,500 per piece.

This means that an essential service provider could spend up over Rwf5,000 per week if they are relying on imported masks. Laurène Umutooni, the founder of UZI Collections, a popular garment producer in the country told The New Times that since presenting samples for approval, her firm had been making adjustments in readiness for production.

Beyond production of masks, the firm has also put in place measures to ensure hygienic packaging based on the guidelines by the regulator. The firm kicks off production today with a target of production of between 400-500 masks daily with employees working two shifts a day. The enterprise is further working on the possibility of increasing production capacity.

Further planning, Umutooni said, has involved working with producers of raw materials and fabric to ensure that they do not run short of raw materials. "We have already engaged suppliers such as UTEXRWA to make sure that we have a steady supply of quality

raw materials at affordable costs," she said.

While the brand might have previously been known for fancy outfits, she said that repurposing production will also see quality maintained at costs affordable to all people. Joy Ndungutse the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Gahaya Links another firm that has approval to produce the masks said that the company's business model works on a social enterprise model involving women from all across the country including rural areas.

With a network of over 4000 women, she said that they are in position to respond to the demand of masks by integrating as many women as will be required in the process. This she said would also ensure that the women, especially from rural households, have income at a time when most of their revenue streams had been halted as a result of the lockdown.

She noted that with the pandemic and its consequent effects, as opposed to competition they were engaging in partnership and cooperation along the value chain to ensure production to maximum capacity.

"In the production process, we are working with partners as opposed to competing to

make sure that as much raw material is available to ensure that all Rwandans have access to face masks as was directed," Ndungutse said. She said that they were working with local suppliers of fabrics to ensure uninterrupted supply.

In regards to the costs and affordability of masks, she said that like other firms, they would be lowering their profit margins to ensure affordability for all Rwandans and residents. While they are yet to announce the final price, she said that they are working to ensure that products which will be re-usable will be priced as affordably as possible.

Officials from Utexirwa, a textile company said that the firm is aware that their role in the value chain includes production of masks and fabrics for most of the producers noting that they have readjusted their production plant.

They noted that at the moment, they had adequate raw materials with production expected to commence today with between 75 to 100 workers. The production they said will seek to produce masks as well as fabric approved for masks to ensure local producers have enough for coming weeks.



# Insurance company extends 172.5 million/- in support of efforts to fight off Covid-19



Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu (5th-R), receives a dummy cheque for 172.5m/- from Sanlam Life Insurance Tanzania and Sanlam General Insurance Tanzania officials in support of government efforts to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. This was at the event held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Photographer.

By Smart Money Reporter

**I**N a bid to boost government's kitty to fight the novel coronavirus outbreak, Sanlam Life Insurance Tanzania and Sanlam General Insurance Tanzania donated 172.5m/-.

Speaking during the event, Sanlam Group's Regional Executive Officer for East Africa, Julius Magabe said they are highly conscious of the fact that the prevailing situation is totally unprecedented and that the country has found itself needing to deal with a large-scale health and social behaviour change intervention.

"We recognize that there are people in urgent medical needs following cir-

cumstances precipitated by increasing positive COVID-19 cases, and during this critical period, as responsible corporate citizens, we deem it important to take part in supporting the government's efforts in ensuring the health and safety of families, colleagues and the community at large," said Magabe.

Magabe explained that the Sanlam Group and its Tanzanians subsidiaries believe that it is important to ensure public awareness and compliance is desired with behaviour change to keep the deadly virus at bay.

The money was presented to National Relief Fund to fight COVID-19 which is under Prime Minister's Office but was received by Minister for Health, Community

Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Umyy Mwalimu.

Speaking after receiving the donation, Mwalimu thanked Sanlam Group's management for supporting government's efforts at such a critical time. "Your support is highly appreciated as it has come at the right time, when it is highly needed. With thanks, we urge other business entities as well as individuals to continue supporting the government on this fight," she said.

She commended Sanlam companies for activating socially responsible protocols including establishing new working arrangements and where appropriate, reducing the number of staff at office premises with shorter working hours to minimize their exposure to the COVID-19.

# Zimbabwe has its currency plans changed as it fights on two fronts

HARARE

THE fallout from the coronavirus pandemic has upended Zimbabwe's plans to enforce the use of its own currency and left it scrambling to find money to tackle twin crises of economic collapse and famine.

A global slump spurred by the outbreak of the virus has come with the southern African nation's economy in its worst state since at least 2008. Already trying to raise \$400 million to buy grain after the most-severe drought in 40 years threatened to leave half of its people without enough food, it now needs another \$220 million to deal with the impact of Covid-19, according to Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube.

On the eve of major protests, which were called by the main opposition party over plunging living standards, Ncube said the country would establish a Monetary Policy Committee within a month that will cut interest rates, begin selling bonds with maturities of as long as 30 years, and proceed with a plan to privatise everything from state telecommunications companies to timber plantations.

"We are working with the two crises, we are fighting on both fronts," he said in an April 16 interview. "Our issue is just financial resources."

Zimbabwe's economy has been in free-fall as a shortage of foreign currency led to scar-



Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube.

city of fuel and wheat. Conditions worsened after the government removed a 1:1 peg between a quasi-currency known as bond notes and the dollar more than a year ago and in June banned the use of foreign exchange as it sought to reintroduce the Zimbabwe dollar that had been scrapped in 2009.

The situation has been compounded by the imposition of a national lockdown to curb the spread of the disease. The International Monetary Fund estimates the economy contracted 8.3% last year.

Now, to contain the fallout the local currency has been pegged at 25 to the dollar, still well below the black-market rate, and the ban on the use of foreign currency has been lifted.

"You are allowed to keep your

US dollars under your pillow" and they can be used in shops, Ncube said. "Our plans are derailed. We are determined to get back on track once the Covid-19 outbreak" is over, he said.

The decision may improve trading as retailers were reluctant to accept local currency that couldn't be used to import goods.

"It means we can easily buy from our suppliers," said Mikey Goredema, 28, who sells building materials in an outdoor market in Harare, the capital. "The US dollar was what people wanted, even when it was illegal."

It's a setback for Ncube, an economist who has lectured at the University of Oxford and who tried to instil financial discipline since accepting the post in September 2018.

He has slashed government spending, set up a monetary policy committee and introduced a benchmark interest rate.

Despite those measures, the country failed to attract significant foreign investment, has external debt of \$8 billion that it can't repay and annual inflation surged to 676% in March. Ncube admits a target of double-digit price growth by the end of the year may be difficult to attain.

"It has all been complicated by Covid-19," he said. "It's very hard to get our targets."

The country isn't eligible for funding from the IMF, due to arrears to other multilateral lenders, but has received some assistance from the European Union and the UK as well as from a number of organisations, Ncube said.



# TigoPesa goes across border in East Africa

By Smart Money Reporter

TIGOPESA subscribers can now send and receive cash to any East African Community country except Burundi and South Sudan.

Tigo Tanzania Limited's acting Chief Officer for Mobile Financial Services, Angelica Peshu said in Dar es Salaam this week during the launch of the service that the telco is partnering with Safaricom's M-PESA in Kenya, MTN in Uganda and MTN and Airtel in Rwanda to allow the cross border transactions.

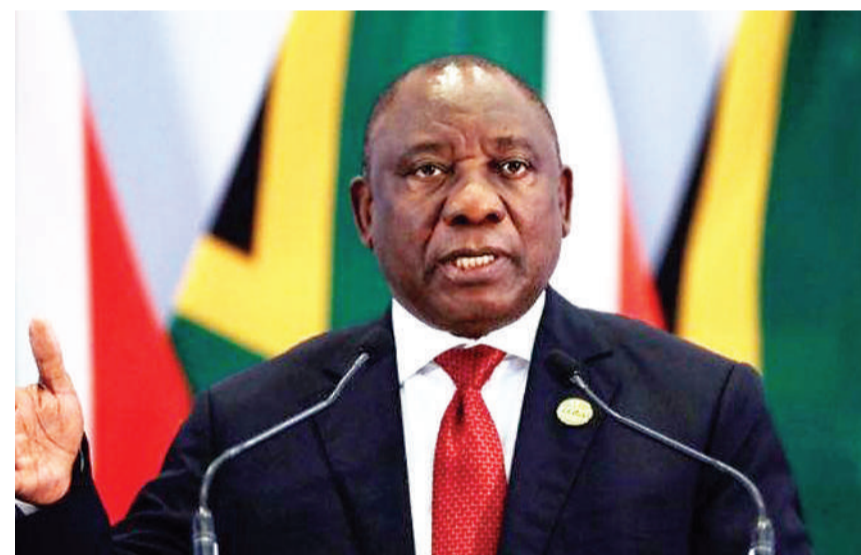
"The service now ensures that TigoPesa customers are connected to all major mobile money networks across the East African region, a move that will grow transactions for cross-border remittance users," Peshu said.

She said the new service is testimony to how the telco adapts to its customers' needs with digital solutions but also means that benefits of mobile money can be extended to cross-border trade, allowing businesses and families to transfer money quickly and securely in East Africa.

"This partnership further cements our position as a provider of choice for mobile financial services and we believe this venture will increase the number of transactions for cross-border remittance users," she added.

Commenting on the deal, MTN Uganda's General Manager for Mobile Financial Services, Stephen Mutana said the telco has been at the forefront of financial innovation pioneering in the delivery of a wide range of financial services such as micro savings, loans, insurance and merchant payments through MoMoPay.

"To be able to make our wide network available to customers across the East African region, this is testimony to continued drive to extend affordable, reliable, secure financial services to not only our customers in Uganda, but to all people in the region," Mutana said adding that the partnership among the three telcos will enable them to meet the growing demand for cross border transactions within East Africa.



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa

# SA to gradually ease regulations after lockdown

CAPETOWN

SOUTH Africa will gradually ease regulations in various sectors to restart activity after the national lockdown and will work on fast-tracking some structural reforms to help the economy recover.

A meeting of the president's Coordinating Council on Saturday "agreed on the need for a risk-adjusted approach to the resumption of economic activity at the completion of the lockdown period," the Presidency said in a statement.

The virtual gathering, chaired by President Cyril Ramaphosa, "discussed progress and challenges in the implementation of the nationwide lockdown with specific emphasis on the need for relief of social distress suffered by many South Africans who have suffered a loss of income, who are experiencing food shortages or who do not have access to water," according to the statement.

Sunday sees South Africa on day 24 of a five-week national lockdown that was extended from an initial planned 21 days.

While the restrictions first halted all economic activity, except essential services, Cooperative Governance Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma announced last week that mines can resume work at 50% capacity. The central bank projects the economy will contract by 6.1% this year and cut its key interest rate to a record low on April 14 following the decision to keep the restrictions in place until the end of April.

## Recommendations

The council also made recommendations for the cabinet to consider on April 20, the Presidency said. These relate to the need for an economic reconstruction plan and a recovery map for municipalities.

"The meeting was unanimous that the impact on the South African economy would depend on the pace and magnitude of the interventions which would be required of all social partners," according to the statement. "This includes the need to fast-track the implementation of identified structural reforms."

Labour union representatives told Ramaphosa at a special meeting of the National Economic Development and Labour Council on Friday that a R40 billion rand (\$2.1 billion) fund to compensate temporarily laid-off workers is not being distributed fast enough and that the 17 million people on welfare need more assistance.

The president's council "agreed that measures should be put in place to ensure that more cash is put in the hands of households to induce economic activity in the medium term."



# Canadian gold mogul sees Geita Buckreef Project as next big prize for country

GETTA's Buckreef Gold Project which is jointly owned by Buckreef Gold Corporation and State Mining Corporation may rival Bulyanhulu Gold Mine as one of the most productive underground mine with substantial amount of copper. Canadian gold magnate who is BGC's Executive Chairman, James Sinclair explains in this interview, read on:

## When is the likely gold production start date at Buckreef?

It is important to note that we are not starting production, but resuming production at Buckreef. We produced and were declared a commercial gold producer by Tanzania in early 2016. Upon further exploring our prospect, we realized that due to the huge gold potential at Buckreef, we were likely to require a much larger plant, better facilities, more employees and state of the art extraction since the amount of gold mineralization exceeded anything we had imagined up to that time.

## What do you mean exactly?

At Buckreef our mine is deep, and the deeper we mine, the wider and richer the gold. We already knew we had a great mine, but we now see that Buckreef could be the next world class mine. It is also important to understand that production is a process, not a destination, and we have actively and continuously engaged in the process. A gold mine is like the birth of a baby. The baby is the final result, but the baby itself is not the process. The process commenced at conception and production occurs at all stages of gestation and development. All of the production ultimately results in the delivery of the infant. To address the intent of your question, we anticipate the results of gold production, before the end of June 2020.

## How many people are employed at the mine and what percentage constitutes locals?

We presently employ over 100 Tanzanians at Buckreef, and that number will increase as the project goes forward. Lots of people imagine we only employ Tanzanians for labour jobs, but we actually employ Tanzanians at all levels of employment from professionals, to highly skilled workers, labourers and everything in between. It would take a page to give you job descriptions and job titles to reply to these questions, but I will try to list the jobs to give you a fuller answer than just a number. We employ Tanzanian consultants, geologists, metallurgists, accountants, surveyors, environmental scientists, builders, medical officers, sanitation workers and cleaners, plant managers, chemical managers, storage and facilities personnel, protective uniforms personnel, special and general laundry workers, cooks and food service workers. The list can go on and on. We employ photographers, office and field geologists. Drivers and operators of heavy equipment, and plant maintenance personnel necessary to repair, rebuild or replace equipment



for assured and continuous operations. We employ everything from professionals and specialized personnel to casual workers. All of the above were hired for the initial plant, and Tanzanian employment will dramatically increase as increased production facilities are installed as we move forward. These are all in addition to the fact that we engage local banks and insurance companies and our legal and other business professionals in Tanzania and have for as long as we have operated in Tanzania.

## What about their safety and health?

This is something which is important to us, I would like to point out is that our medical officer has a team of medical technicians who ensure the health and safety of our facility. Traditionally, we have tested our workers weekly for Malaria among other health and safety exams to ensure safety at our facility. Although we test as a matter of routine, weekly, any employee can get tested upon request if they are feeling unwell, and it is very significant at this time where the global pandemic of COVID-19 for us to ensure the health and safety of our employees. It is important for our workforce. We not only test for illnesses, but we also supply at our cost and expense treatment for any employee in need.

## How do you address the local content aspects?

We are very sensitive to local content requirements, but you should know that we engaged and procured local talent for our business operations before it was required by law in Tanzania. We have in the past and will continue in the future to support our host nation and the people of Tanzania with our investments, hiring practices and local strategic and logistical procurement. It should be noted that as the mine progresses, we expect to employ many times the present workforce and anticipate that our operations will require a workforce of 1500 or more workers at all levels.

## Are there other advantages for Tanzania from the Buckreef Project?

In addition to the jobs creation and local procurement you just asked about. Our arrangement with Tanzania through its agency STAMICO really needs to be clarified for the public to understand the real benefits to Tanzania. Our Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) between STAMICO and the Buckreef Corporation is the most beneficial economical contract that exists for mineral resources anywhere in Tanzania. Not only does STAMICO have a profit share of net earnings in the minerals extracted, it also owns a share of the actual minerals. The minerals are a real and present asset with a definable present value. The value of the

asset is present. The value of Tanzania's asset is determined by the Canadian National Instrument 43-101 which values the Buckreef Project. Tanzania's 45 percent interest in the asset is valued at more than US\$50,000,000 which represents Tanzania's portion of the present value of the asset.

The financial arrangement contained in our JVA is unheard of in our industry and was ground breaking from its inception. Even now, contracts with companies in the extraction industry only share the net profits with the host nation. Other companies in the extraction industry do not share the actual gold.

## What about royalty payments?

Tanzania receives royalties, together with income taxes on the overall share of the project. This means Tanzania ultimately receives more than a 50 percent share in Buckreef. It needs to be mentioned that Tanzania has no risk whatsoever in the project, no capital investment in Buckreef, no financial responsibility or outlay, and is not required to do anything in order to share in the gains. This is all in addition to the fact that the mine will be 99 percent operated by Tanzanians. All investment risks have been and continue to be borne by Buckreef Gold Corporation.

We bid on the Buckreef Project and were awarded it for US\$3,000,000. We expect Buckreef to be the next world class mine, comparable in size to Bulyanhulu. Tanzania will enjoy the best economic position in the extractive industry with Buckreef.

## How much has been invested so far?

This is really a two part question. Our investment in Tanzania isn't limited to our Buckreef Project. We have other projects in Tanzania in which we have significantly invested. We have expended over US\$150,000,000 in Tanzania in our operations in the extractive industry, and US\$33,000,000 has been expended in the Buckreef Project specifically.

## What will be the gold production capacity of the Buckreef mine per annum and what is the life of the mine?

Production isn't a phased process. It is a constant process. The present life of the mine is projected to be at least 16 years, and we expect 16 years and beyond from the mineralization revealed in the deep drilling process we have undertaken. At the present time we anticipate 100,000 to 200,000 ounces of gold per year. We already know we have a great mine in Buckreef. We also know that Buckreef has the potential to be the greatest mine in Tanzania because of the deep drilling mineralization we continue to strike in our drilling process, and we have already drilled more than 3,000 feet down. Simply put, the drilling shows the mine to be deeper, wider, and richer.

## Apart from gold, will there be any other minerals produced through the Buckreef mine?

The short answer is yes. There is an abundance of copper located at Buckreef. There are other minerals which are yet to be defined, but there are traces of silver and molybdenum. Presently our focus is on the gold, but the amount of copper is significantly abundant.

Jim you are a renowned gold expert, can you give us your opinion on the global rising price of gold benefiting Tanzania and your investors?

First, you will understand that I do not provide private investment advice. A rising gold price can only benefit Tanzania as a shareholder in our company and simultaneously benefit our investors and shareholders since the value of our gold asset increases.

## VIEW FROM THE TOP

## Vodacom's agile way of doing things prove a success in the face of COVID-19 outbreak

By Smart Money Reporter

IN this highly competitive and fast moving world, businesses are always seeking new ways of doing things in order to get an edge and better outcomes.

Flexibility and adaptability are the buzz words as companies strive to empower its people to work where, when and how they choose, with maximum flexibility and minimum constraints to optimize their performance and to do their best work to keep up and remain profitable.

The local market's leading telecommunication technology company, Vodacom Tanzania Plc has embraced the new ways of working and already results are visible in terms of profitability and productivity. This new way of working is called Agile and its Team Leader is Athumani Milinga.

As Agile Team Leader, Milinga said Agile is an iterative approach to project management and software development that helps teams deliver value to their customers faster and with fewer headaches.

"Traditional business principles are important but need to be updated in context to today's environment, trends and technologies. Instead of betting everything on a reveal or a launch, an Agile Team delivers work in small, but consumable, increments," said Milinga in an interview.

He said under the new working ways at Vodacom, requirements, plans, and results are evaluated continuously so teams have a natural mechanism for responding to change quickly, thus simply put, it is the smart way of getting things done.

"Any company that wants to improve its systems in order to get better results will be interested in the Agile as it unfolds new ways of doing things to yield better and faster results. One of the aims of an Agile approach is to release benefits throughout the process rather than only at the end," he noted.

At the core, Agile projects exhibit central values and behaviours of trust, flexibility, empowerment and collaboration. In a fast changing industry like telecommunications, Agile is the smart way of getting things done and responding to situations as they happen.

As the domestic market's largest telco, Vodacom is always keen to lead the way in terms of innovation and adopting new ways of working, which is why there are already three Agile teams working on different projects.

"The beauty of agile is the ability to work fast, quickly adapt to new changes, learning along the way to ensure we produce products and services that are needed," he added while noting that since April 2019 when the project started, the telco has been able reduce its M-Pesa

agent registration and payment process which was previously long, tedious and manual.

"The team looked at the challenges staff and customers faced and came up with a new solution. The process has now been automated, its seamless and gives visibility of performance. We also used our Agile Team for the SIM registration process were able to respond quick to regulatory requirements, register our customers faster and anticipate challenges before they came hence reducing cost," the ATL noted.

Milinga describes Agile as a smart way of thinking and doing things. "It's a philosophy that needs to spread and be practiced throughout the company as it is not confined to one particular department of any organization. Software developers in America by the likes of Microsoft adopted Agile philosophy to improve processes and their business practices."

Due to the fast changing nature of software development, changes and adjustments are constantly needed in order to adopt to changes and address challenges as they happen during development of products and services.

Some of the characteristics attributed to an Agile practitioner includes: Trusted and respected as a thought leader and change agent who can influence and persuade business and IT leaders; Natural servant leader, with the ability to develop and communicate the objectives, inspire, coach, motivate staff, and maintain alignment with the business outcome vision; and Ability to continue to monitor, learn, and implement industry best practices from the agile community, among others.

"These attributes are not confined to individuals but the entire team at an organization. This is what makes Vodacom stand out as we adopt the Agile way of doing things, we are doing this collectively so that teams, departments and the entire company becomes a truly Agile organization," the ATL pointed out.

As a global company with presence in several jurisdictions, Milinga said he has participated in international training courses and done assignments since joining Vodacom which has been very beneficial to development of his career.

"Agile is not a one-time thing; it is rather a process of doing things. Learning best practices from different markets helps us change our systems and practices with a view to improve outcomes we desire. My background and area of work is in Information Technology, however, Agile philosophy extends to all departments and internal systems," he noted.

As to how does the Agile way of working help address the COVID-19 outbreak, the Vodacom ATL stated, "Agile means adopting to situations. This is very applicable at this moment.



An Agile Team at work at Vodacom Tanzania Plc's headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

# Glencore mine boss seized at Zambian airport spells trouble

LUSAKA

NATHAN Bullock was about to fly home to his family in Australia when authorities blocked his exit at Zambia's Lusaka airport, bundled him into a police car, and drove him six hours through the night back to the mine he manages. Police later camped outside his home.

Bullock is at the center of a rapidly deteriorating row between the southern African nation's government and Glencore Plc [JSE: GLN], the world's biggest commodity trader. The conflict flared last week when Glencore said it was temporarily closing its giant Mopani mines as they hemorrhaged cash following a collapse in the copper price. Zambia said Glencore didn't follow the proper legal procedures and threatened to cancel its mining licenses.

The stakes are high for both parties. Zambia, heavily dependent on copper revenues, is on the brink of a debt crisis. For Glencore, it's the latest headache at its African copper and cobalt assets. Spanning the copper belt that stretches north into the Democratic Republic of Congo, the mines are supposed to be a major growth driver, but have been beset by problems.

There are also wider implications. Glencore is one of the last major western miners to control

copper and cobalt operations in Congo and Zambia. Gradually its rivals have quit the region to be replaced by Chinese companies. As the world moves toward an era of electric vehicles, China is gaining increasing dominance over the supply chain.

The Mopani mines are on the outskirts of Kitwe, a city about 180 miles (about 289 km) north of Zambia's capital, Lusaka. The mines have been troublesome for Glencore, but that hasn't stopped the company from spending billions of dollars on sinking new shafts to try and almost triple copper production, to about 140 000 tons a year. Still, Mopani was unprofitable even before the coronavirus pandemic led to a collapse in the copper price, convincing Glencore that its best option was to mothball the mines for at least three months.

## Tough line

Zambia responded with fury, detaining Bullock, chief executive of Glencore's local unit. He had only been in the country since October, when he took over the Mopani unit. Bullock was released by the police, who on Friday camped outside his Kitwe residence "merely for his safety," according to Richard Musukwa, the mines minister. Glencore said it's in talks with Zambia on the way forward.

Musukwa, who made the comments at a press briefing in Kitwe that was broadcast on local radio, asked for questions to be sent by text message, which he didn't immediately respond to. It's not the first time Zambia has taken a tough line with the companies that exploit its mineral wealth.

Fifty years ago, Zambia's first post-independence leader, Kenneth Kaunda, nationalised mines owned by Anglo American Plc and Roan Selection Trust to rally his political supporters. Now, the often-populist President Edgar Lungu may try to shore up support in the politically crucial Copperbelt province by fighting to keep Mopani operating.

"Already under pressure, the mine closures would undermine President Edgar Lungu ahead of internal party elections and the 2021 national elections," Eurasia Group analyst Connor Vasey wrote in a note. "They would also jeopardise Zambia's broader economic stability."

A year ago, the government placed the local unit of Vedanta Resources Plc in provisional liquidation, accusing the company of lying about expansion plans and cheating on taxes. The belligerent approach has drawn criticism, including a letter this week from three former finance ministers and a central bank governor.

"There is a growing image of Zambia as the 'wild

west' where the application of the law and work of statutory bodies is arbitrary and political," they wrote. "Who will invest in a country where assets can be seized, or contracts are irrelevant?"

## Resource nationalism

Zambia isn't alone in pursuing resource nationalism. In neighboring Tanzania, President John Magufuli has spearheaded an aggressive drive targeting gold-mining companies, while Congo upset miners operating there by redrawing the mining code.

The International Monetary Fund forecasts Zambia's economy will contract by 3.5% this year, the worst performance in about two and a half decades. Copper production, which generates about 70% of the country's export earnings, dropped to the lowest since 2015 last year.

Glencore has faced repeated problems with its African operations, struggling to make them profitable. Yet the company unveiled a turnaround plan last year that would see the assets generate an annual profit of more than \$1.5 billion (about \$28 billion). So far the program is working at Katanga, its best asset, but the closure of Mopani is a setback.

Chinese companies including Jiangxi Copper Co have shown a growing interest in Zambia's copper industry. Last year, it bought a near-20% stake in

First Quantum Minerals Ltd., the nation's biggest producer. Mopani, which Glencore valued at \$1.7 billion (about \$32 billion) in December - when copper prices were much higher - has a smelter as well as mines. "Zambia can talk up confiscating licenses, but no one is going to step in and buy it," said Ben Davis, an analyst at Liberum Capital Markets. "Except maybe the Chinese."



**Already under pressure, the mine closures would undermine President Edgar Lungu ahead of internal party elections and the 2021 national elections," Eurasia Group analyst Connor Vasey wrote in a note. "They would also jeopardise Zambia's broader economic stability"**



## Social distancing works, but how long must it remain in place?

BY LIA ZHU

AFTER embracing the scientific terms of flattening the curve and social distancing, the US public wonder when life will return to normal. But experts say the physical distancing practice may need to remain in place for the next two years.

"It factors in importantly the physical distancing measures that are absolutely essential," said Jonathan Fielding, professor at schools of public health and medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. "And it's important that we keep everybody compliant with these measures if we don't want things to get worse."

Experts say protective measures like social distancing are the key to flattening the curve of infection so the total number of COVID-19 cases is spread over a longer term, preventing an influx of patients from overwhelming the

health care system.

While bracing for a surge of coronavirus cases, the hospital of the University of California San Francisco, or UCSF, has kept caseloads low. The hospital's COVID-19 unit with 600 beds had only 20 patients, according to an NBC News report on April 11.

The UCSF and its doctors took to social media to note that the new cases in San Francisco seemed to be flattening as a result of the city's early adoption of social distancing measures.

Robert Wachter, the chair of the Department of Medicine at UCSF, created a graphic and posted it on Twitter to illustrate what San Francisco and California have done right in the pandemic.

According to the graphic, San Francisco had declared a public health emergency on Feb 26 before the first US death was reported in Seattle on Feb 29.

The city and six surrounding Bay Area counties announced a "shelter in



A sign reading 'Keep This Far Apart', to remind people of social distancing, is seen in a park on April 15, 2020 in New York City. (AFP)

place" order on March 16, the first of its kind in the country. Three days later, California ordered all residents to stay at home, the first US state to do so. New York went to "shelter at home" on March 23, four days later than California.

Huge difference

The graphic indicates a huge difference between the death tolls of the two states. As of April 10, San Francisco and California had recorded 13 and 554 deaths respectively, compared with 5,820 deaths in New York and 7,844 deaths in New York State.

The key to San Francisco's "lighter hit" includes big tech companies' early action to allow employees to work from home, then bold steps by elected leaders and the "crucial part" people

following the guidance, Wachter said.

Another early adopter of social distancing measures was Washington state, the early epicenter of COVID-19 in the US. It has not had the same spike as New York.

The physical distancing strategy also seemed to work in the hardest-hit New York State, as Governor Andrew Cuomo said last week.

"The increase has slowed down; it flattens out for a period of time," he said.

However, the latest Google community-mobility report analyzing location data from cell phones estimates that physical distancing has reduced national movement to retail and recreational locations by only 49 percent, with deep differentials between states that have implemented stay-at-home orders and those that have not.

## G77, China voice support for WHO in COVID-19 fight

UNITED NATIONS

THE Group of 77 (G77) and China on Sunday issued a statement expressing their support for the World Health Organization (WHO) in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Group of 77 and China is deeply concerned at the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most serious public health crises in modern history," the statement said, adding that "the first priority is to save lives."

"The group, therefore, acknowledges the leading role of the World Health Organization led by its Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and extends its full support and appreciation for its work in providing information, technical guidance, training and other assistance to developing countries to help them prepare for and efficiently respond to the pandemic," the statement said.

The group and China share United Nations Secretary-Gen-



Antonio Guterres' view that solidarity counts in the international efforts to curb the virus and its shattering consequences,

they said.

They emphasized that "the international community must unite in its efforts to ensure access to scientific guidance, training, equipment, essential medical supplies, and concrete life-saving services to countries in greatest need and in regions where the full impact is yet to be felt."

The statement includes a call on the international community "to maintain and, where possible, increase their support for the WHO, which, by the mandate giv-

en to it by member states, has a critical and central role to play in supporting developing countries to confront a crisis of epic scale that threatens to erase the gains made over the past decades."

"We reiterate the need to strengthen international solidarity and multilateral cooperation and partnership in the fight against a disease that is our common enemy," according to the statement.

Xinhua

## Zimbabwe extends COVID-19 lockdown by 14 days, allows citizens in S. Africa to return home

HARARE

ZIMBABWE has extended its COVID-19 lockdown by another 14 days to May 3, President Emmerson Mnangagwa announced on Sunday.

The government imposed a 21-day lockdown from March 30 to curb the spread of COVID-19. The lockdown was estimated to end today.

During the lockdown, government has allowed only workers in essential services to continue going to work while observing precautionary and sanitation measures.

The number of COVID-19 cases in Zimbabwe rose to 25 after a case was recorded in Harare on Saturday, including two recoveries and three deaths.

"The country is yet to meet the conditions for lifting the lockdown that were recently announced by the World Health Organization," he said. He also noted that cases were increasing globally.

"Guided by these realities and to allow ourselves greater leeway to prepare for worse times ahead, the government has decided to extend with immediate effect the national lockdown by a further 14 days," he said.

Mnangagwa (pictured) said it had

been a difficult decision to take, but it was necessary and unavoidable given the circumstances.

Among other measures, the military, police and municipal police were deployed to ensure that people stayed home and avoided unnecessary trips.

Retail shops were allowed to open until 3 p.m. every day, while members of the public could still purchase essential medicines from pharmacies.

Some sectors of the economy, which had initially been classified as non-essential were later allowed to operate, such as beverage manufacturers and the agricultural concerns.

Meanwhile Zimbabwe will this week re-open Beitbridge, its major border post with South Africa, to receive more than 3,000 of its citizens who have been residing in the neighboring country.

Most of the returnees crossed the border illegally into the neighboring country but have requested to be sent back home in the wake of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, state media reported Sunday.

According to the Sunday Mail, they will be received without any conditions attached, Public Service,



Labour and Social Welfare Deputy Minister Lovemore Matuke said.

He did not say when exactly during the week the border post, which is currently open to commercial clients only, will be re-opened to other forms of traffic but said all logistics with their South African counterparts were being made to allow even those without the requisite papers to pass through.

"We are going to open the Beitbridge Border Post to allow for the passage of the country's citizens

back into the country. We have more than 3,000 who have requested to be sent back home... We don't want them to use illegal channels to come back because we want to account for everyone in the wake of COVID-19," Matuke said.

He said some of them were of no fixed abode and were always running away from law enforcement agents while others were doing odd jobs which are no longer available because of COVID-19.

South Africa last week extended

its lockdown period by two more weeks from the previous three weeks. Facilities had already been put in place in Beitbridge where the returnees will be isolated and tested for COVID-19.

Matuke said he would be touring facilities that had been set to host the country's citizens that had chosen to return home from neighboring countries. "Government and its partners will also be providing for them in terms of food and other provisions," he said.

The Zimbabwean Embassy in Namibia has also requested all Zimbabwean nationals who have been affected by the lockdown and would want to return home to register their names on Monday and Tuesday.

These, however, are required to have valid travelling documents and national identity cards will meet their own travelling costs.

A notice from the embassy's Consular Department said those who wanted to travel would go through Zambia where there was a possibility of a 14-day quarantine at the Zambian border before proceeding to Zimbabwe. "There will also be a mandatory 21-day quarantine upon arrival in Zimbabwe," the notice said.

Xinhua

## Once epicenter of virus outbreak, Wuhan now a low-risk area

WUHAN

ONCE the hardest-hit city by novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Wuhan has been classified as a low-risk area of the outbreak as the city has met the criteria of no newly confirmed cases for the last 14 days, according to the latest assessment released Saturday by local authorities.

By the end of Friday, the central province of Hubei, which administers Wuhan, has 76 low-risk cities and counties and none with high risk or medium risk, according to the provincial COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control headquarters on Saturday.

Wuhan, the provincial capital, saw its last medium-risk district of Qiaokou classified as low-risk compared with the assessment Thursday. It had its coronavirus risk evaluation downgraded from high-risk to medium-risk on March 27.

On Friday, Hubei reported no newly confirmed COVID-19 cases and 33 asymptomatic cases.

According to the risk criteria defined in a guideline issued by China's State Council, cities, counties, and districts with no newly confirmed cases in the last 14 days are categorized as low-risk areas, those with fewer than 50 cases or those with over 50 but without a concentrated outbreak are classified as mid-risk areas, and those with over 50 cases as well as a concentrated outbreak are classified as high-risk areas.

A series of decisive measures taken by the Chinese government over the last two months helped Wuhan achieve a high cure rate and a low mortality rate, according to an official with the National Health Commission.

Jiao Yahui, an official with the National Health Commission, said the measures included applying quarantine policy, dispatching medical workers to Hubei, building makeshift hospitals, treating patients in severe condition with the country's best resources and making full use of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

According to Jiao, the novel coronavirus is highly contagious with concealed pathogenesis and atypical symptoms, making it hard to identify the source of infection.

Facing the huge challenge of the strained medical resources, more than 42,000 medics were assembled, and 16 temporary hospitals were converted from gymnasiums and convention centers in Wuhan.

During the peak period of the epidemic, Wuhan has a total of 60,000 hospital beds to meet the surging demand for medical resources.

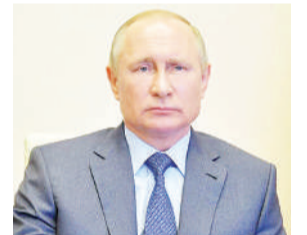
"This is one of the reasons that we have a rather high patient cure rate and a low mortality rate," Jiao said.

"Mortality rate is highly related to the treatment of intensive care patients," Jiao said, noting that authorities have used the best resources in the country to reduce the fatality rate.

Xinhua

## President Putin says coronavirus epidemic keeps spreading, but Russia managed to contain it

NOVO-OGARYOVO



THE coronavirus epidemic continues to spread, but Russia's preventive measures have contained it, Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday.

"The situation is still challenging, and unfortunately, the epidemic spread continues and the number of citizens, who contract the coronavirus, is on the rise," Putin told a meeting to discuss the sanitary and epidemiological situation in Russia.

The Russian leader noted that the growth was seen "not only in Moscow, which was the first to face this threat, but also in other regions." "Due to preventive measures we still managed to slow down and contain this process, but unfortunately the infection, even its single cases, has been registered in all 85 regions."

Putin stressed that the scenario of the coronavirus spread had been predicted and Russia had prepared for it.

The peak is still ahead

The peak of the coronavirus spread in Russia is still ahead but it is necessary to smooth over the growth of new cases, Putin said.

"The peak of the disease spread is still ahead," Putin stressed, referring to expert opinions.

However, "it is necessary to do everything to smooth over this peak and cut the time of getting past the so-called plateau when the largest number of new infections is registered," the Russian president said.

As the Russian leader stressed, "work in all the directions is currently underway." "Also, an additional stock of specialized medical beds will be made available in all the regions by the end of this and at the beginning of next week," Putin specified.

Agencies

## Chinese Technologies contribute to global fight against Covid-19

WHEN COVID-19 is exacerbating around the world, China is injecting strong confidence into the globe by timely sharing scientific data, results, and prevention methods, as well as conducting in-depth cooperation and communication with global countries.

When the virus just hit the country, Chinese scientific personnel, in a sharing spirit, had publicized research data about the disease.

On Jan. 11, Chinese scientists isolated novel coronavirus strains and shared the genetic sequence of the virus with the World Health Organization

(WHO), laying an important foundation for global experts to conduct drug, vaccine and diagnostic researches. The WHO expressed its appreciation to China for publicizing the genetic sequence.

By sharing the virus strain and genetic sequence, China, to some extent, hopes countries around the world can start vaccine R&D as early as possible, said Xu Nanping, China's vice minister of science and technology at a recent news conference held by the State Council Information Office.

China has adopted five technological approaches in vaccine

development, all of which are open for international cooperation, he introduced.

According to Xu, a Chinese company is working with Inovio in the United States on a DNA vaccine; a Chinese company is cooperating with German pharmaceutical company BioNTech on an mRNA vaccine and a Chinese company is working with British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) on a recombinant protein vaccine.

China's vaccine development pools global strength and will be shared globally, Xu said.

Apart from the timely sharing of scientific data, results and

prevention methods, China will keep conducting in-depth cooperation with other countries on epidemic prevention and control, treatment, and basic research, in a bid to contribute to the global fight against COVID-19.

A total of 99 journals have been launched on the sharing platform of COVID-19 prevention and control established by China, and 700 theses and reports have been published. Meanwhile, Chinese scientists released 54 papers on internationally renowned journals such as The Lancet and The New England Journal of Medicine.

High-tech products from China also played an important role in the global efforts to combat the pandemic.

On March 22, novel coronavirus test kits produced by Chinese genome sequencing company BGI Group was sent to Serbia, as the first batch of donation received by the country for COVID-19 control.

It is learnt that the company's test kits have been distributed to over 70 countries and regions, diagnosing more than 1 million individuals worldwide.

So far, multiple kinds of Chinese test kits have received qualification for entering the

European Union (EU) market. Apart from donation, China has also shipped the products to many EU countries.

Chinese tech giant Huawei donated an infrared temperature scanner system powered by AI and cloud technologies to Argentina under the support from the company's strategic partners in the country.

The system was co-developed by Huawei and its partners, and is able to automatically detect body temperature through AI thermal imagery on the company's cloud platform, which reduces physical contact and lowers the risk of human-to-human

transmission.

Recently, Chinese tech firm Tencent open-sourced the international module in its COVID-19 Mini Program (TH\_COVID19-International).

The module displays global COVID-19 information with maps and data curves, shows the numbers of the latest confirmed cases, total cases, cured cases, and deaths, and gathers reports of the pandemic from authoritative media agencies.

It helps people around the world to acquire real-time situation of the pandemic through their phones.

People's Daily



# Africa faces stern virus test with hit in economy

By Angus Mcneice

THE health ministry in Mali recently corrected a media report that claimed the country only had one ventilator; a type of machine that has become essential to health care systems during the COVID-19 crisis.

The updated figure, however, did little to soothe concerns. Mali officials said there are 41 ventilators in public hospitals, and 15 of the devices in private hospitals, across the nation of 19 million people.

COVID-19 has yet to truly take hold in Mali and much of sub-Saharan Africa, a region that accounts for less than 0.5 percent of total cases. So far, around two thirds of all confirmed cases have occurred across the two largest economies in the world - the United States and China - and the five largest economies in Europe, namely Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Spain.

Having seen what a strain the virus has placed on these wealthy nations, it is sobering to consider what will occur if the disease takes a similar grip on the world's poorest regions.

The World Health Organization warned that Africa could soon become the new epicenter for the pandemic, and a severe lack of ventilators is just one of the concerns many countries on the continent must contend with.

Existing national debt among some of Africa's poorest countries is being

compounded by a dip in exports of commodities and raw materials, as major trading partners contend with the COVID-19 pandemic. African tourism, which accounts for 8.5 percent of the continent's GDP, has ground to a halt.

Emergency funding  
Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has asked leaders from the G20 group of major economies for US\$150 billion in emergency funding to address this "existential threat to the economies of African countries".

Last week, finance ministers from the G20 announced plans to freeze an estimated US\$12 billion in debt obligations for 76 of the world's poorest nations, with 40 sub-Saharan countries qualifying.

In addition, the International Monetary Fund has announced it will cancel US\$215 million of debt payments for 25 countries during the next six months, due to the pandemic.

The aid and development charity Oxfam said the move by the G20 was an important first step, and called on private creditors and multilateral lenders to follow suit.

Poor countries owe huge sums to private banks and investors in New York and London, which should be pushed to cancel debts by enforcement and not left to voluntary action, Oxfam said.

It also called for the cancellations of all debts due this year to international



A worker loads disaster-relief materials bound for Italy at Hangzhou Xiaoshan International Airport in Zhejiang province on Wednesday. The materials were donated by people from throughout the province.

financial bodies, including the IMF and the World Bank.

"Far more needs to be done to rise to this moment of unprecedented need and save millions of lives," said Nadia Daar, head of Oxfam International.

"The G20 must not allow the suspended debt payments to accrue into the future. They must cancel all the 2020 debts of all the countries that are being hit by this economic tsunami,

and all creditors must follow suit urgently."

The Jubilee Debt Coalition in UK said last week's announcements by the G20 and the IMF amount to a "drop in the ocean" compared with the amount of debt cancellation that will be needed this year and next among low-and middle-income countries. The organization estimates that these countries will require debt moratoriums valued

at a combined US\$300 billion in order to fight the virus.

"The scale of the economic crisis faced by developing countries requires the IMF to go much further," said Sarah-Jayne Clifton, director of the Jubilee Debt Campaign. "We need the cancellation of payments to be extended to a much bigger group of developing countries and to be for the next full year." **Agencies**

## IMF, World Bank urge countries to keep trade open amid COVID-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) have called on countries to keep trade open as the world battles the COVID-19 pandemic, warning that export controls on medical supplies and other essentials could backfire.

At a virtual press conference during the just-concluded spring meetings of the two multilateral institutions, IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath said that this is not a time to restrict the trade of medical supplies and essential equipment around the world.

"It is very important that this does not become a future where we reverse all the gains that we've got from globalization," said

Gopinath (pictured), in response to a question from Xinhua.

Echoing her remarks, Kenneth Kang, deputy director of the Asia and Pacific Department at the IMF, told Xinhua in a recent written interview that countries should avoid trade restrictions on medical and health products to ensure that they go to where they are most needed.

"Countries with limited health care capacity and resources will need international aid to prepare for and weather the pandemic," Kang said. "The health emergency is a powerful reminder of the need for policy coordination and solidarity in an interconnected world," he said.

The IMF official said that countries should cooperate to reduce



tariff and non-tariff barriers that impede cross-border trade and investment and to strengthen global supply chains as the recovery takes hold. Zhang Tao, deputy managing director of the IMF, told Xinhua that he hoped these supply chains would work as best as they can to maximize global production and supply, which makes global collaboration "es-

sential." "Today more than ever, the global economy would benefit from a more open, stable, and transparent, rules-based international trade system," Zhang said.

World Bank President David Malpass, meanwhile, said at a virtual press conference Friday that big countries need to step forward and pledge not to use the crisis as a reason to close or block the markets.

"We should allow markets to function, markets to clear and the supplies to go to those most in need," said Malpass, adding that China is exporting medical supplies to the rest of the world, which is "very welcome."

The IMF and World Bank's advocacy for free trade came as protectionist sentiments are growing

across the globe amid the pandemic.

Some 46 export curbs on medical supplies have been introduced by 54 governments since the beginning of the year, according to a report published on March 23, by Global Trade Alert, a trade policy monitoring initiative.

Thirty-three of those export curbs have been announced since the beginning of March, "an indication of just how quickly new trade limits are spreading across the globe," the report showed.

Aaditya Mattoo, chief economist for East Asia and the Pacific Region at the World Bank, said it is a bit understandable for countries to impose export restrictions, but these actions are "al-

most always counterproductive."

"If each country imposes restrictions, then the global price increases even more than it would have. And it can end up being a self-defeating policy," Mattoo said at a recent press call, in response to a question from Xinhua.

The World Bank economist also noted that such measures would hit those countries who rely on these badly needed medical supplies, especially poor countries, which import a lot of drugs, ventilators and masks. Despite that, Jeffrey Sachs, a renowned economics professor at Columbia University, told Xinhua that he thinks there will be more protectionism in Western countries, both in the United States and the Europe. **Xinhua**

## Embassy in Czech Republic refutes allegations about Russia's involvement in cyberattacks

PRAGUE

RUSSIA'S embassy in the Czech Republic has slammed as provocation Czech media reports alleging that the recent hacker attack on medical institutions in that country were allegedly engineered by Russia.

"A number of Czech media outlets cited unnamed sources in the Czech security agencies to claim that Russia was allegedly behind the series of recent cyberattacks on medical establishments in the Czech Republic," the embassy said in a statement posted on its Facebook account.

"This is nothing but yet another portion of fake news. The Russian embassy wants to stress that the only goal of such publications is to create a hostile image of our country."

The embassy noted that it is general practice of the local media to circulate ungrounded anti-Russian materials. "But capitalizing on the topic of our common disaster - the coronavirus epidemic, when people's lives are at stake - goes beyond any possible moral and ethical frames.

It is also alarming that the pretext for the current scandalous and revolting accusations against Russia comes from the Czech authorities that are rushing to say that a "foreign state" might be behind the cyberattacks in the country," it wrote.

"We would like to warn against such irresponsible and filthy information attacks on Russia, which smell like a provocation," the embassy stressed, adding that all problems arising in the sphere of information and communications technologies should be settled within a professional expert dialogue and the Russian side has repeatedly called for such a dialogue.

"In this connection, we would like to recall Russia's initiative to develop a universal convention on combating cybercrime that was approved by the majority of the United Nations member countries in 2019. Regrettably, the Czech Republic is not among them," it added.

**We would like to warn against such irresponsible and filthy information attacks on Russia, which smell like**

## Rumours of 'forced labour' in Xinjiang refuted

RECENTLY, US lawmakers and an Australian think tank have been sparing no effort on hyping up the so-called forced labor conspiracy in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and pushing for a bill to limit US imports from Xinjiang.

To refute these rumours, the Global Times visited more than 70 companies and private workshops in four prefectures in southern Xinjiang and found that accusations of forced labor in China are totally false. The smear campaign launched by these anti-China forces could further undermine the livelihoods of the Uygurs and some other residents in Xinjiang who are currently living in poverty.

Experts said that US politicians' efforts in pushing sanctions on China over so-called forced labor in Xinjiang aims to contain China in the backdrop of the US-initiated trade war with China, and they also

want to promote a decoupling of trade ties between China and the US to thwart possible restrictions in future strategic confrontations.

Following a report in late February from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), which claimed China is forcing at least 80,000 people from ethnic minority groups in Xinjiang to work in factories, on March 11, the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) released a report stating that forced labor inside and outside of Xinjiang's vocational education and training centers is "systematic repression" of minority groups.

Echoing the two reports, many US lawmakers and politicians are pushing a bill in the last week to implement stringent limits on imports from Xinjiang.

However, Global Times reporters conducted a research into more than 70 companies,

cooperatives and private workshops in Kashi, Hotan, Kizilsu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture and Aksu in southern Xinjiang and had conversations with many residents in the region to collect information on the current employment situation. No evidence of forced labor has been found throughout the joint research project, and employees' rights and interests have been protected in accordance with laws and regulations.

The Global Times had contacted companies, including Foxconn, Apple and Volkswagen Group, which had been implicated in "forced labor" reports by Western media. They denied forced labor practices occurring in their companies and Uygur employees have expressed hope to extend their contracts.

The Global Times also found that the World Uyghur Congress, a US-backed regime change network seeking the fall of China, and its global offshoots

have played a significant role in hyping the "forced labor" narrative in the media. Members of these organizations have been busy lobbying US politicians to impose sanctions on China.

Rushan Abbas, head of the Campaign for Uyghurs affiliated to the WUC who also worked for several US intelligence agencies, disclosed on her Twitter account that she participated in the panel of the CECC.

At a press conference on Monday, Eljan Anayti, spokesperson of the Xinjiang regional government, rejected the report issued by ASPI as a smear campaign against Xinjiang and said the report was full of unfounded claims and fabricated stories.

Eljan also noted that ASPI has long been receiving funds from the US government and US-based arms dealers, and it deliberately smears, vilifies and demonizes China for its investors' benefits.

## Royal castle turns into hospital in Kabul for Covid-19 patients

KABUL

BUILT a century ago and located in the western edge of Kabul city, the Darul Aman Palace was formally turned into hospital on Saturday to treat patients infected with novel coronavirus in Afghanistan.

"The historic palace turned into an isolation facility with 200-bed for the COVID-19 infected patients," the country's Public Health Minister Ferozuddin Feroz said in his opening remarks in the castle on Saturday.

Badly damaged in conflicts and reconstructed in 2019, the European-style palace was designed to accommodate government's functionaries' meetings and also serve as guest house for high ranking guests.

But it would from now on accommodate quarantined patients affected until the country gets rid of the disease.

To contain the spread of COVID-19 in Afghanistan, the government has established scores of isolation centers and health clinics to provide services for the virus-affected patients.

Welcoming the step as a suitable decision to fight COVID-19 in the militancy-battered country, a Kabul resident Abdul Wadoud said that the fast spread of virus in the country requires opening more isolation centers and more hospitals to check the disease.

"The situation is critical and the virus is rapidly spreading across the country. All of us including the government and the citizens should work together to overcome the killing virus," Wadoud told Xinhua.

"We the people should stay at home to avoid contact the virus and the government has to open more health facilities and essential medicines to combat

the disease in the country," said Wadoud.

Expressing concerns over the spread of COVID-19 in Afghanistan, spokesman for the Public Health Ministry Wahidullah Mayar told Xinhua on Sunday that the number of patients infected with COVID-19 has reached 993 and could soon surpass 1,000 if the people neglect the ministry's advices or violate the regulations imposed during quarantine period.

The government has imposed daytime curfew in cities including Kabul since late March and extended for three more weeks last week, calling upon the citizens to stay at home.

According to Mayar, 33 COVID-19-affected patients including three doctors have died and 131 others have recovered since the outbreak of the virus in mid February in Afghanistan.

**Xinhua**

## Chinese enterprise inject power into global fight against Covid-19 pandemic

THE joint efforts made by Chinese enterprises to combat COVID-19 served as a powerful guarantee for the important phased success of China's epidemic control, offering a strong support for Chinese economy amid this major test and stabilizing confidence in China's future development.

As a Chinese saying goes, when difficulties arise in one place, aid will come from everywhere. Since the onset of the epidemic, Chinese enterprises reacted with the fastest speed, with some making generous donations, some maintaining effective operation

for stable supplies, and some establishing new production lines to manufacture products in short supply.

The chairman of board Wang Changshen of Sanqi Medical, a comprehensive manufacturing and export company for medical devices, immediately returned home from abroad after China was hit by COVID-19 to inspect his enterprise's production of masks and twice fainted. Logistics and supply chain company Xinxing Cathay International Group shifted to protective suit production, and reached daily output of 40,000 suits in just 20 days.

Many enterprises vowed amid this public health emergency that they would produce what the country needs.

The past 40 years of reform and opening up witnessed not only the increasing sizes of Chinese enterprises, but their growing sense of social responsibility. It is their solidarity and cooperation that guarantee China's epidemic prevention and control.

China is a major manufacturer of the world, where multiple enterprises have completed cross-industry transfer to produce emergency supplies amid COVID-19 and received wide attention.

For instance, BYD, a Shenzhen-based company focusing on new energy vehicle production and electronic products, realized mass production of masks in just over a month after the epidemic broke out. At present, the enterprise is able to produce 5 million pieces of masks and 300,000 bottles of sanitizers each day. Foreign media noted that the "cross-industry" experience has been introduced to multiple countries, and some of them have called on their enterprises to produce medical devices such as ventilators. The epidemic is never able to defeat the outstanding Chinese enterprises.

Manufacturing enterprises managed to relieve the pressure on cost through smart production; the producer services industry timely upgraded their production lines; the consumer service sector moved businesses online and "shared" employees to expand their business by the internet.

Chinese enterprises, not fearing any difficulty, are trying to advance the resumption of work while ensuring solid efforts on epidemic prevention. Their morale, bravery and innovation formulated the strong resilience of the Chinese economy, and will pave them a wider path in future

development. Chinese enterprises possess a very important role in the global industrial chain.

Shenzhen Kaifa Technology Co., Ltd. under China Electronic Corporation adopted a series of emergency measures to ensure timely delivery of chip orders placed by foreign clients. It deployed employees to fetch the raw materials needed, instead of waiting for them, as well as adjusted working schedule and conducted training for employees. Such efforts guaranteed their production.

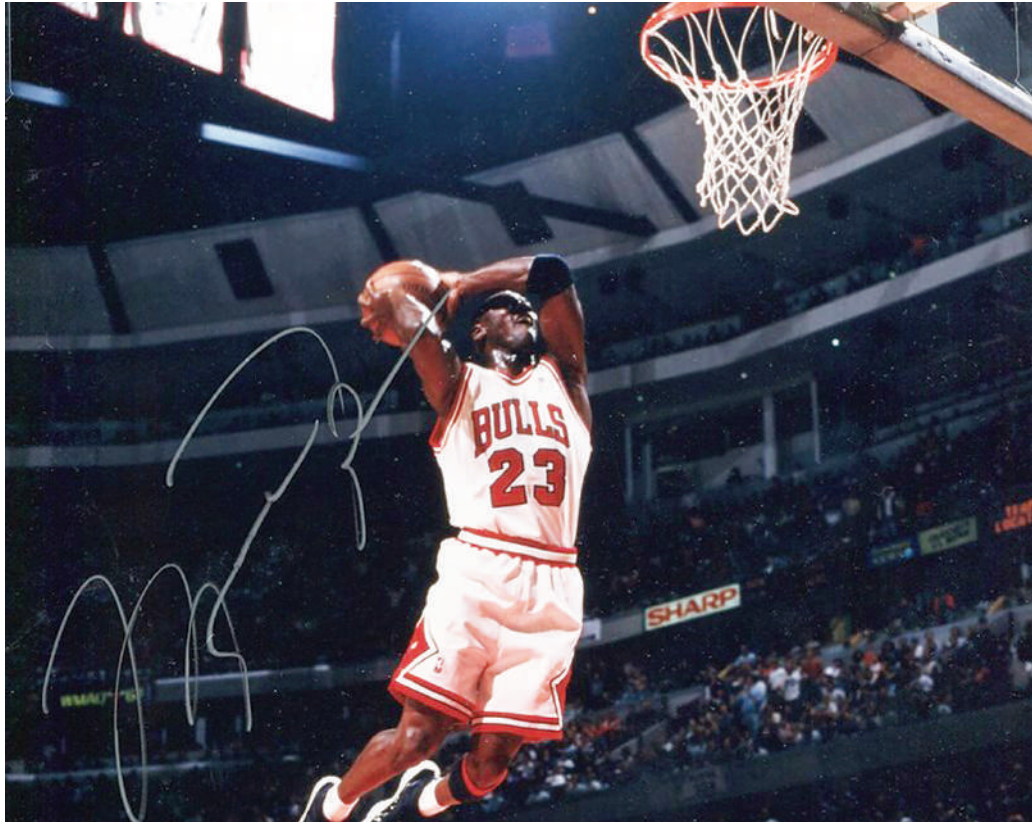
To ensure normal operation of the Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed

Railway in Indonesia, constructors of the project from China Railway Group Limited started construction, strengthening management and ensuring the safety of all employees. As a result, the tunnel No. 5 of the project was holed through on March 12.

Chinese enterprises, sparing no efforts to stabilize global supply chain and guarantee smooth progress of overseas projects, have won high reputation from their foreign clients and made contribution to the stability of the world economy.

**People's Daily**





Michael Jordan leaps in the air to celebrate making a playoff series-winning shot for the Bulls over Craig Ehlo of the Cavaliers on May 7, 1989. (Agencies)

## Michael Jordan: A timeline of the NBA legend

By Dan Woike, LA Times

A LOOK at the Hall of Fame career of Michael Jordan:

**Feb. 17, 1963:** Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., to parents James Sr. and Deloris Jordan.

**1979:** Cut from the varsity team at Laney High in Wilmington N.C.

**1981:** After two varsity seasons, is selected a McDonald's All-American and accepts a scholarship to University of North Carolina.

**March 29, 1982:** Makes game-winning shot in NCAA tournament final against Georgetown.

**June 19, 1984:** Selected No. 3 by the Chicago Bulls in the NBA draft after centers Hakeem Ojaluwon and Sam Bowie.

**Aug. 10, 1984:** Scores 20 points in gold-medal game in the L.A. Summer Olympics.

**May 16, 1985:** Selected rookie of the year after averaging 28.2 points, 6.5 rebounds and 5.9 assists.

**Sept. 15, 1985:** Air Jordan 1 basketball shoes released by Nike.

**Oct. 29, 1985:** Breaks his left foot in a game at the Golden State Warriors, misses the next 61 games before returning in time for end of season and playoffs.

**April 20, 1986:** Scores an NBA-record 63 points in a playoff game, a 135-131 overtime loss to Boston.

**April 16, 1987:** Scores 61 points in a loss to Atlanta, capping three-game stretch during which he averages 54.7 points. Wins first of 10 scoring titles.

**Feb. 6, 1988:** Defeats Dominique Wilkins in the NBA dunk contest in Chicago. It's the second consecutive dunk contest win for Jordan. One night later, wins his first All-Star game MVP award.

**May 25, 1988:** Selected NBA most valuable player for first time, beating out Boston's Larry Bird and the Lakers' Magic Johnson.

**May 7, 1989:** Makes a game-winning jumper in a deciding Game 5 first-round playoff series against the Cleveland Cavaliers. It's simply known as "the Shot."

**July 10, 1989:** Days after firing Doug Collins, the Bulls hire Phil Jackson to be their fourth coach of the Jordan era.

**June 5, 1991:** Playing in his first NBA Finals, Jordan rises up in the paint to dunk, switching hands midair for an acrobatic layup against the Lakers. "The Move" helps propel the Bulls to their first NBA title.

**June 3, 1992:** Jordan makes six three-point shots in the first half of Game 1 of the NBA Finals against the Portland Trail Blazers, turning to the crowd and shrugging his shoulders. The Bulls win the series in six games.

**Aug. 8, 1992:** Jordan scores 22 points as the "Dream Team" wins gold at the Barcelona Olympics. On the medal stand, Jordan is draped in the American flag, covering the Reebok logo on his team-issued warmup jacket.

**June 20, 1993:** Jordan has 33 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, but it's John Paxson who makes the game-winning three-pointer in the Bulls' 99-98 win over the Phoenix Suns for title No. 3. Jordan is Finals MVP for the third time in a row.

**Aug. 3, 1993:** After missing for three weeks, the body of Jordan's father is found in a South Carolina creek, although positive identification comes 11 days later. Daniel Green and Larry Demery are later charged and convicted of murder.

**Oct. 6, 1993:** In a room filled with coaches, teammates and NBA Commissioner David Stern, Jordan announces his retirement. He says there's a possibility he could return.

**Oct. 23, 1993:** In federal court, Jordan testifies that a \$53,000 check he wrote to James (Slim) Boulter was to cover gambling losses. He originally said the

check was a loan for Boulter to open a driving range. Feb. 7, 1994: Jordan signs a contract to play baseball for the Chicago White Sox. He plays for the double-A Birmingham Barons, hitting .202.

**March 18, 1995:** Jordan rejoins the Bulls with a two-word fax: "I'm back."

**March 28, 1995:** Facing the Knicks in Madison Square Garden, Jordan, wearing No. 45, scores 55 points before finding Bill Wennington for the game-winning jumper. It was the record for the most points scored by an opponent at the Garden — a record Kobe Bryant would break.

**May 18, 1995:** The Bulls are eliminated in the second round of the playoffs by Shaquille O'Neal and the Orlando Magic. It's the first playoff series Jordan has lost since June, 3 1990.

**April 21, 1996:** Alongside Toni Kukoc, Scottie Pippen and newly acquired Dennis Rodman, the Bulls beat the Washington Bullets 103-93 to win their 72nd game of the season, an NBA record. Jordan is the league's MVP.

**June 16, 1996:** The Bulls cap a postseason in which they lost only three times by beating the Seattle SuperSonics 87-75. Jordan wins his fourth Finals MVP.

**July 13, 1996:** Jordan signs a one-year deal worth \$30 million, the biggest single-season contract in American team sports history.

**Nov. 15, 1996:** Space Jam, a movie starring Jordan alongside Bugs Bunny and the rest of the Looney Toons, is released. The movie grossed \$230 million despite mixed reviews.

**June 11, 1997:** A physically depleted Jordan scores 33 in Game 5 of the Finals in what will be known as "The Flu Game."

**June 13, 1997:** Jordan and the Bulls win their fifth title, beating the Utah Jazz in six games. Jordan scores 39 in the clincher, winning another Finals MVP.

**July 24, 1997:** The Bulls sign Phil Jackson to a one-year deal worth \$6 million, but management makes it clear that it will be his last season with the Bulls, setting the stage for "The Last Dance."

**June 14, 1998:** Jordan scores 45, including a title-winning jumper after he nudges Utah's Byron Russell before burying an open shot. Chicago wins its sixth title and Jordan collects a sixth Finals MVP. It's the last basket he'll make for the Bulls.

**Jan. 13, 1999:** Saying he is mentally exhausted, Jordan retires from the NBA for a second time.

**Jan. 19, 2000:** Jordan becomes part owner and team president of the Washington Wizards. His tenure is defined by the decision to select center Kwame Brown out of high school with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2001 NBA draft.

**Sept. 25, 2001:** Jordan comes out of retirement (again), this time suiting up for the Wizards. He averages 22.9 points in 60 games in his first season back.

**April 16, 2003:** Jordan plays in his last game in the NBA, scoring 15 points.

**May 7, 2003:** Wizards owner Abe Pollin fires Jordan from his role as team president after three-plus unsuccessful years.

**June 15, 2006:** Jordan purchases a minority stake in the Charlotte Bobcats from BET founder Robert Johnson, becoming the team's "managing member of basketball operations."

**Sept. 11, 2009:** Jordan is inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, delivering a scathing speech of the people who doubted him.

**March 17, 2010:** Jordan buys majority ownership of the Charlotte Bobcats, now known as the Hornets, for \$275 million, becoming the first former NBA player to become a majority owner.

## English Premier League sketches out completion of matches, we could also do that

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

EXPECTATIONS that the Covid-19 lockdowns start being eased as the rate of infections dwindles and methods being administered to monitor exposure and risk of Covid-19 infections on an all round basis, the stage is being set for a phased or muted return to the Premier League in England. The move, tentatively set for the second week of June, is likely to be taken up by other countries (within the UEFA context) and set to be role model in Africa and elsewhere. It is likely that pundits are already mapping out how it can be applied to Tanzania, and CECAFA members.

There are however significant differences between what is expected by a changed format to the league in England and all over Europe, and what can be done elsewhere, or chiefly in Africa and for Tanzania in particular. What is basically expected is to play league matches behind closed doors, where the most vital issue is a fair ending of the league run, not just taking the standings at the stoppage moment as final result. What makes this option possible is testing capacity, that players can be tested beforehand to ascertain that none of them is positive, in which case no touch or push is likely to cause harm or put another in such danger. Basically that is the situation.

The need for finishing up the league under any circumstance is vital from a commercial point of view as there is not just sponsorship cash but salaries for players, which can't be denied on account of force majeure whereas they are tied to the clubs by contract. Another vital sphere is advertising, which is paid for all year round or some of it is introduced at an occasion and may already have been paid for, and clubs aren't in a situation to return the money, or sponsors just to forgive them without trying alternatives like this. It makes plenty of sense to play that way so that viewers can have a sense of being in a stadium, though they will be just facing television.



Yanga winger, Bernard Morrison (R), shoots past Lipuli FC defender when the teams clashed in a Vodacom Premier League match, which took place Dar es Salaam recently.

But at the same time this testing method can be performed with viewers as well, for instance if one enters a bank branch in Dar es Salaam chances are that such person will be subjected to a rapid canning for temperature. Were it that such a person has coronavirus infection that is capable of being transmitted when such person breathes or emits whatever particle from mouth or nose, chances are that body temperature will also have been altered. Thus the moment such a situation is discerned it will lead to the person being directed to isolation facility for treatment.

Evidently it is possible to apply such a mechanism to enable token presence of individuals at stadia, but chances are that a different kind of solidarity could come up in such environments. Soccer fraternities tend to be like families, where neutrality - what one can describe as mental distancing - from one person to another is insufficiently expressed, in which case deliberate errors are likely when scanning for temperature

signals. In that case authorities here and abroad are not likely to take chances, unless some other pervading argument comes up in due process.

The difference between playing without a crowd here and abroad is that the money that is expected from advertising is significant if not pervading as compared to tickets, while in our case tickets are really what brings in the money, outside sponsorship. In that context it is possible to see pressures for skipping seats and just having half the likely capacity - as at any rate stadia are not filled to capacity outside matches with one of the city rivals visiting uncountried, or when they meet themselves in one or other stadium in the city. The issue is whether this sort of arrangement is sufficient for precautionary conditions, or can just be backed up by wearing face masks, easily.

These issues can't be decided beforehand but the problem is that people have to live, and in a situation where various sectors face a lockdown of sorts, asking that the government supplements all of us in our needs is

sort of unrealistic. Even rich countries are having problems making ends meet, even for hospital equipment like ventilators used to help patients breathe, that governments and state governments in particular can't find enough of them, or medicine. That is why testing is being taken up as an option to reduce exposure first among players and then among the fans, but enabling matches to be held, so everyone earns what they can. Entertainment, or life, is restored.

One parameter that is as yet unclear is whether other criteria that have been applied in some countries will be mandatory here as well, or not. For one thing, we closed schools and other public activities (except work and worship) a little earlier than most of Europe or Asia as by the time we had our first case the global outcry was already quite high. Still, if we have plenty of testing (temperature scanning) kits, we can smooth our Covid-19 administration without having passed through a withering lockdown as it has been the case in so many countries all around.

## Beyoncé, Gaga offer hope at all-star event fighting Covid-19

NEW YORK

LADY Gaga, Stevie Wonder, Lizzo, Shawn Mendes and others sang classic songs brimmed with messages of hope and change during a TV special aimed at fighting the coronavirus, while Beyoncé and Alicia Keys spoke passionately about how the virus has disproportionately affected black Americans.

Beyoncé made a surprise appearance on Saturday's TV special "One World: Together At Home," thanking "delivery workers, mail carriers and sanitation employees" for their hard work during the pandemic.

"Black Americans disproportionately belong to these essential parts of the workforce that do not have the luxury of working from home. And African American communities at large have been severely affected in this crisis. Those with pre-existing conditions are at an even higher risk. This virus is killing black people at an alarmingly high rate here in America," Beyoncé said.

African Americans account for more than one-third of COVID-19 deaths in the United States where the race of victims has been made public. Data from states, cities and counties show black people are regularly overrepresented compared to their share of the population. "Please protect yourselves," Beyoncé continued. "We are one family. We need you. We need your voices, your abilities and your strength all over this world. I know it's very hard but please be patient, stay encouraged, keep the faith, stay positive and continue to pray for our heroes."

An Associated Press analysis, based on data through Thursday, found that of the more than 21,500 victims whose demographic data was known and disclosed by officials, more than 6,350 were black, a rate of nearly 30%. African Americans account for 14.2% of the 241 million people who live in the areas covered by the analysis. The nation had recorded more than 33,000 deaths as of Thursday.

Keys presented similar data when



Beyoncé



Stevie Wonder



Lady Gaga

she spoke during the special, ending with: "Keep your frequency high and I'm sending you all my love."

Gaga, who curated the all-star TV event, kicked off it off by urging people weathering the coronavirus pandemic to find a way to smile through the pain with a performance of Nat King Cole's version of the song "Smile."

She performed during the second part of an eight-hour event supporting the World Health Organization alongside advocacy organization Global Citizen.

"I care so much about the medical workers that are putting their lives at risk for us," Gaga said.

Wonder performed "Lean On Me" by Bill Withers - who died on March 30 - while playing piano. He told viewers: "During hardships like this we have to lean on each other for help." John Legend and Sam Smith, each from their own homes, duetted on "Stand by Me"; Lizzo sang "A Change Is Gonna Come" with passion; and Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello, sitting together, performed "What a

Wonderful World."

Paul McCartney sang the Beatles' "Lady Madonna" and talked about the work his mother did as a nurse. The members of the Rolling Stones - from four different locations - joined forces to perform "You Can't Always Get What You Want." And Taylor Swift sang "Soon You'll Get Better" while playing piano.

Former first ladies Michelle Obama and Laura Bush, Oprah Winfrey, Bill and Melinda Gates, Ellen DeGeneres, Pharrell Williams, Kerry Washington, Lupita Nyong'o and Henry Golding offered positive words while photos of health care workers and everyday people were shown on the screen.

Reggaeton star J Balvin even offered tips on handwashing, while doctors and other medical workers spoke about social distancing and relief efforts.

"One World: Together At Home" featured stars appearing in intimate settings, beamed virtually to the world. It aired simultaneously on ABC, NBC, CBS, iHeartMedia and Bell Media

networks and was hosted by Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Fallon and Jimmy Kimmel.

Colbert told viewers to "take out their wallets and put them away." Kimmel added that over \$50 million had already been raised to help those during the worldly crisis. At the event's end, organizers announced that the total amount raised was nearly \$128 million.

Performers included Billie Eilish and her producer-brother Finneas, Elton John, Jennifer Lopez, Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong, Kacey Musgraves, Maluma and Keith Urban. Gaga, Legend, Celine Dion, Andrea Bocelli and Lang Lang closed the special with a collaborative performance of "The Prayer."

Earlier in the day, a six-hour streaming event featuring Andra Day, Niall Horan, Keshia, Jack Black, Matthew McConaughey, Heidi Klum and Jason Segel aired on digital platforms as part of the "One World: Together At Home" event.



## Berlin club beats 'FC Corona Covid-19' in virtual match to raise funds for team

BERLIN

A GERMAN lower-league soccer club raised more than €70,000 (\$76,000) on Saturday to help stay afloat during lockdown by playing a virtual match against "FC Corona Covid-19."

BFC Dynamo needed a late winner to beat "FC Corona Covid-19" 4-3 in a match played out on FIFA 20. They mounted a stirring comeback from being 3-1 down with just half an hour played after conceding two early goals from "Artur Viral" and another from "Quarantinho."

Berlin-based BFC Dynamo created a whole virtual matchday for their fans and "sold out" one of their former grounds, the Stadion der Weltjugend, in the German capital. The money raised will help the club -- a regional fourth-tier club that was the record champion of East Germany (GDR) before reunification in 1989 -- through the difficult time without any matchday revenue.

The match was broadcast live to over 4,000 following the coverage on YouTube after fans had bought virtual tickets priced between €1 and €50 as well as beers, bratwursts and schnapps to "bring to the stadium," which in reality was demolished in 1992.

The stadium, which once held 70,000 people, was torn down to make way for a new arena as part of Berlin's unsuccessful bid to host the 2000 Summer Olympic Games.

"We are playing at the Stadion der Weltjugend because you never know with people," the club told ESPN earlier this week, addressing concerns that supporters would congregate at their current Friedrich-Ludwig-Jahn-Sportpark home if they made that the virtual venue. "We want to make it absolutely clear that it's a virtual match."

BFC Dynamo were the record champions of East Germany, winning 10 consecutive titles from 1979 to 1988. The club was backed by Erich Mielke, the head of the East German Ministry for State Security (more commonly known as the "Stasi"), and the team were known for their knack of scoring goals and having crucial refereeing decisions go their way late in matches.

"Just like in the old days, BFC wins in stoppage time," local tabloid Berliner Kurier headlined following the win against FC Corona Covid-19, "the most hated team on the planet."

Next month another former GDR great, Lok Leipzig, will play the "Invisible Opponent" in front of what they hope will surpass the record attendance for a live football match in Europe.

Having already sold over 130,000 tickets for €1 each, they now have in their sights set on the record set on April 17, 1937, at Hampden Park, when Scotland hosted England in front of 147,000 paying supporters.

(Agencies)

## Premier League's transfer market bubble set to burst

LONDON

THE financial squeeze put on Premier League clubs by the coronavirus crisis could be felt across the continent in the coming months as the well to fund massive transfer fees runs dry.

For each of the past four summers, Premier League clubs have flexed their financial muscle to splurge over £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) on transfers.

That has helped spread the wealth of television contracts worth billions across Europe and crucially down the divisions to cash-strapped clubs in England.

Now even the world's richest league is facing economic meltdown.

Premier League matches have been suspended indefinitely with no return expected before mid-June at the earliest.

Broadcasters could be due a rebate worth a reported £762 million if the season is not completed and, even when the games do recommence, they are likely to be behind closed doors, quashing income from gate receipts.

Moreover, a number of major sponsors such as airlines and gambling companies have been just as badly hit by the COVID-19 shutdown, which is expected to lead to a curb on commercial revenue.

Rather than the usual arms race for talent, Premier League clubs are fretting about just meeting their wage bills for the next few months.

"Many clubs could be threatened by insolvency and transfer plans came to a standstill for most clubs because of the many uncertainties," said Matthias Seidel, founder of Transfermarkt, a website specialising in transfer values.

According to Transfermarkt, 1.8 billion euros (\$2 billion) has already been wiped off the value of Premier League squads.

"There's no doubt the actual value of players right now has gone down in all squads," said Brighton owner Tony Bloom.

"How much less, I have no idea. It depends on how the next few months play out."

"Vultures and predators" - Such uncertainty has led for calls to do away with transfers entirely to avoid the unseemly sight of clubs, who have asked staff to take pay cuts and in some cases relied on govern-

ment money, spending money on new players.

"If you're trying to get 30 percent pay cuts from existing players, you may have to put a transfer embargo in place," former Manchester United captain Gary Neville told Sky Sports.

However, embargoes may only accelerate fears that clubs lower down the pyramid will not survive the crisis.

Proceeds from transfer sales are commonly used in the lower leagues to cover running costs and will be needed even more without the regular income of gate receipts to rely on.

"I think there will be significant transfer fee deflation," football finance expert Kieran Maguire told AFP.

"There will be a significant number of clubs that when some form of transfer market returns, they will be close to going out of business and therefore will accept fire sale prices."

"The vultures and predators will pick off good players for very modest fees."

The fear for those reliant on transfer fees, though, is that the damage has already been done.

Given the vast sums involved, transfer fees are very commonly paid over the course of a player's contract.

Based on accounts published to the end of the 2018/19 season, Premier League clubs owed £1.6 billion in outstanding transfer payments, £900 million of which was to foreign clubs.

Maguire warns of the domino effect whereby if one club fails to meet its transfer debt, it could spark a series of defaulted payments on other deals or even worse force clubs into insolvency.

"The concern is that financial problems in one league could spread throughout the industry just like the pandemic," he said.

Bundesliga chief executive Christian Seifert told the New York Times earlier this month that the transfer market will "collapse" and that "some leagues will understand that money is nothing that is coming automatically every month from heaven."

That may have been a slight on the Premier League's overindulgence on transfer fees.

But as the biggest spender, the economic earthquake felt by English football will ripple across Europe for some time to come.

AFP

# League-by-league guide to European football's coronavirus shutdown

PARIS

FOOTBALL leagues across Europe have been suspended since mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic which has claimed over 100,000 lives throughout the continent.

Lockdown restrictions are in effect worldwide although some countries are cautiously beginning to ease stay-at-home orders.

AFP Sport looks at what we know about possible restart plans for Europe's top leagues:

ENGLAND

The Premier League said that wrapping up the remaining 92 fixtures remains their goal, but the ongoing COVID-19 crisis means no fixed schedule can be drawn up yet.

With most clubs having nine games left, it was reported that Friday's meeting of the 20 clubs discussed finishing the season in a 40-day window.

There have been claims that clubs were told domestic seasons must end by July 31 and the 2020-21 campaign must start by the first week of September at the latest.

The UK's lockdown is in place until May 7 at the earliest.

There is a general acceptance among clubs that matches will be played behind closed doors if the competition can resume, with restrictions on mass gatherings likely to remain in force for the foreseeable future.

A Premier League statement said a number of complex scenarios were being worked through, with fears that failure to finish the season could cost it more than £1 billion (\$1.2 billion).

SPAIN

La Liga chief Javier Tebas last week said play could restart as early as next month, although a two-week extension of the nationwide lockdown until May 9 announced Saturday appears to have scuppered those plans.

Tebas said no team training could take place until after the state of emergency ends in Spain, but he was adamant "it is not an option" to cancel the season given the massive hit to revenue Spain's top clubs would have to absorb. He estimated cancellation would cost teams around a billion euros (\$1.08 billion).

May 28-29, June 6-7 and June 28-29 were the three dates Tebas cited for a potential return to competition.

Fixtures are expected to be held behind closed



Juventus beat Inter Milan 2-0 behind closed doors on March 8 (AFP Photo)

doors initially, with some clubs facing the prospect of playing away from their own grounds due to scheduled building work.

The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) has proposed using the current standings to decide which teams qualify for Europe if the season is scrapped. La Liga and UEFA have not given their approval to the plan.

ITALY

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) said club matches could resume "in late May, early June", saying those advocating cancellation of the season "do not like football, or Italians".

The president of the FIGC, Gabriele Gravina, said it would take three weeks to prepare after the end of the coronavirus lockdown in the country, currently scheduled for May 4.

"There will be a monitoring period to guarantee that all those taking part are free of the virus. If they are all negative, there is

no problem of distancing or contagion," said Gravina.

However, the head of infectious diseases at Italy's National Institute of Health has warned against restarting the league next month.

According to the Italian media, Brescia and Torino are the last two clubs to openly oppose the resumption of the league.

Twelve rounds of matches remain with another eight postponed games to be played as well, leaving the prospect of finishing the season in late July.

GERMANY

The German Football League (DFL) will hold a video conference on April 23 with the 36 clubs in the top two divisions to discuss whether matches can resume in early May, albeit without fans.

Players have returned to training while adhering to social distancing guidelines,

and if health authorities give the go-ahead, the Bundesliga could be the first top European league to resume. But a debate is raging as to whether there will be enough testing available for the coronavirus to keep players safe.

Large-scale public events have been banned in Germany until August 31, but one proposal is for games to be played behind closed doors without spectators, with clubs testing their players, coaches and backroom staff every three to four days.

Only those players or staff who test positive for the coronavirus would be quarantined -- not entire teams -- with the league hoping the season can be completed by June 30.

The date is important as it would secure around 300 million euros (\$326 million) from television deals alone, which could reportedly save some clubs from insolvency.

AFP

## Brazil's 1982 'specialists in losing' now serving as an inspiration

By Tim Vickery, ESPN South America correspondent

IN this long, dry time without live football, it is only natural that, choosing old matches to rerun, countries look for a "happy space" -- a time of triumph and joy.

Brazil has already sat down to watch the final of the 2002 World Cup. It is currently enjoying the entire campaign from 1970 and is going as far as to dredge up Confederations Cup finals of the past. All of them, of course, are times when Brazil won the trophy.

But the nation has also watched the five games of Brazil's 1982 campaign, a World Cup in which Brazil did not even reach the semifinals. But of all the unsuccessful tournaments, this one stands out as the most glorious failure. The football played that year by Zico, Socrates, Eder, Falcao, Cerezo, Junior and company continues to enthrall -- and also to inspire debate.

Brazil's 1982 side is one of the sport's most emphatic examples to back up the case made by William Faulkner.

"The past," wrote the great American author in 1951, "is not dead. It's not even past."

Arguments swirling around Brazil's 1982 team get right to the heart of the big questions about the nation's football identity: are they the winners? Or are they the stylists? And does it have to be an either/or question?

With some difficulty, Brazil got past the Soviet Union in 1982 before seeing off Scotland, New Zealand and Argentina. But then, in one of the all-time-great World Cup games, they went down 3-2 to eventual champions Italy.

The team was far from perfect. Valdír Peres was not a great goalkeeper, and while full-backs Leandro and Junior were fine players, they had defensive vulnerabilities which were well exploited by the Italians. Centre-forward Serginho was a bad choice for the side, a blunderbuss figure without the technique to combine with those behind him.

But what a midfield! True, they had a left-sided bias -- Eder played wide on that flank, without a natural figure to cover the other wing. But Falcao and Cerezo in central midfield really made the ball sing, setting up the play for Zico and Socrates to work their magic. Seldom in the history of the game has a team moved the ball with greater fluency.

Former Liverpool and Scotland stalwart Graeme Souness was recently asked to select the 11 most difficult opponents he faced in his career. He found it an easy task. He just named, one to 11, the Brazil team that battered Scotland 4-1 in Seville back in 1982. But the problem was that they did not batter their way to the title. Four years later, still under coach Tele Santana, some of the class of '82 had another go in the Mexico World Cup -- and



Brazil legend Zico and Claudio Gentile of Italy mark each other during the 1982 World Cup. Italy would go on to win the match 3-2. (Agencies)

fell again at the quarterfinals stage.

Dunga, who played three World Cups for Brazil in the 1990s and coached the team in South Africa 2010, once dismissed the class of '82 as "specialists in losing." Now, though, they are back in fashion. Current national team boss Tite continually holds the 1982 side up as a reference. The change in perspective is not hard to understand.

The long-term reaction to the premature elimination of 1982 was to double down on pragmatism. Brazil's physical preparation specialists -- always an important voice in the camp -- stressed the evolution of the game. In the mid-1970s, players were covering an average of 5,000 metres per match. In 20 years, that figure had doubled. It was, Brazil concluded, no longer possible to work those

joyful midfield triangles and be successful. Less space meant more physical contact. Central midfield had to be shut down with specialist destroyers, and the game would be won with fast breaks, especially down the flanks.

A separation entered the local mind between winning and the traditional idea of playing well. Brazil recovered to reach three World Cup finals in a row -- winning the trophy in 1994 and 2002 -- but it never felt quite the same. And if the world's press, somewhat disappointed with the spectacle, asked the players why they had not put on more of a show, they usually got the same answer:

As far as we are concerned, winning is the show.

Pragmatic football, though, loses its charm if it stops being successful. Brazil

had all the attacking stars but little midfield fluency in 2006, bowed out of South Africa 2010 unloved and ran into disaster on home ground in 2014. Youth titles started to evade them. And meanwhile, something dramatic had taken place in Barcelona.

Pep Guardiola took over the Catalan giants and built a gorgeously eye-pleasing team around the talents of Xavi and Andres Iniesta.

According to the Brazilian playbook, this should not have been possible. Barcelona were physically small and played a possession-based game -- everything Brazil had decided was obsolete. And yet, they kept winning -- while putting on a show that gripped the planet on a weekly basis.

In the final of the 2011 Club World Cup, Guardiola's team brushed aside Santos of Brazil with embarrassing ease. The 4-0 rout came as a huge surprise to Brazilians. After the game, Guardiola stuck in the stiletto: His side, he said, treated the ball the way that, according to his grandfather, Brazil used to do.

Searching for weapons to fight back, Brazilian football started to put a higher value on the class of 1982. No, they had not won the World Cup. But joyful and artistic, like a group of men enjoying the best aspects of a collective childhood, they had seduced the planet with their beauty. Perhaps with a bit more luck, they might have won the trophy -- after all, Hungary of 1954 and Holland of 1974 are considered great teams, and both of them fell short. Maybe the 1982 side could serve as a muse of inspiration?

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

League-by-league guide to European football's coronavirus shutdown

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba defender, Gadiel Michael

## Tanzanians urged to uphold creativity

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIANS have been challenged to appreciate creativity and innovation for the country to develop. Rashid Chenja, the SBC Tanzania official, issued the comments at the launch of the company's new brand, known as Pepsi Max, in Dar es Salaam recently.

He said all nations which have prospered invest in innovation and creativity.

The launch was done online as a means to avoid the spread of the Covid-19.

"Be it in sports, arts, business and all aspects of life, creativity and innovation are extremely vital, we must invest a lot in creativity, nations which have prospered invest in innovation and creativity," he said.

He also asked the youths in the country to use creativity to realize their dreams in life.

Chenja further said they are delighted to have come up with the new brand and promised that his company will continue coming up with new brands which are good for all Tanzanians.

The company also launched a campaign, known as 'Ishi Mpaka Max', which is aimed at honouring individuals who use creativity to realize their dreams in all aspects of life be it sports, arts and others.

## Cycling improves body fitness- experts

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

EXPERTS have revealed cycling boosts brain power and body fitness.

Morogoro-based pharmacist, Hassan Abubakar, disclosed at a racing tournament that took place in the region recently that biking outdoors benefits a person tremendously.

The event, known as 'Uluguru Cycling race', targeted to back efforts by the government to fight Coronavirus disease.

The event further targeted to motivate people to uphold fitness training in an effort to do away with non-communicable diseases.

"Bikers have to play an active role in seeing to it people value fitness training, they should also protect their bodies against bowel cancer and covid-19, which attacks a weak body," he disclosed.

He disclosed outdoor cycling race is much more important than using indoor cycling bikes.

He insisted a person who cycles outdoors breathes fresh air, whereas the one who uses indoor cycling bikes at gyms has to settle for air condition.

"A healthy body needs fresh air. Breathing fresh air helps fitness exercise for a long time," he added.

He disclosed bicycles' types contribute to a good performance and body relaxation.

A road bicycle which has dropped handle bars, according to him, is useful because it helps a biker smoothly push pedals on either hills or flat surfaces.

"Geared bike is also useful because it is harmful for a person to start biking strongly, the bicycle allows a biker to relax while he or she is on the way," he advised.



Junior tennis coach, Charles Laizer (R), pictured with members of Moshi-based Rafiki Foundation outfit after they had participated in a competition in Arusha.

## Moshi tennis club targets to improve junior players' fitness

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

KILIMANJARO's Rafiki Foundation outfit has disclosed it is closely monitoring the outfit's players at a time all sporting activities in Tanzania have been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The outfit's head coach, Charles Laizer, said he is using social media platforms to monitor progress of his players who are indoors due

to the pandemic.

Rafiki Foundation, which is situated in Machame, is the hub of tennis development program in the country as it has groomed seven junior players that are now turning out for the national team.

The players are Eunice Ali, Irene Munisi, Naitoti Singo, Natasha Singo, Emmanuel Lema, Rachael Swai and Hilal Ndosu

Coach Laizer said he is confident that his players will be in their shape when the government lifts the suspension of sports activities.

"I do communicate with my players,

three to four days a week, I'm giving them instructions through social media platforms," he noted.

"The aim is to keep them fit and maintain their shape during this period when all sporting activities are suspended," he said.

Natasha Singo is the champion of the just ended Uganda Open tournament which was held in Kampala.

The tournament was used as a qualifying competition for the Africa Junior Championships (AJC) which will be held in Morocco later this year.

## Player reveals why he joined Simba SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebbe

TAIFA Stars defender Gadiel Michael has revealed why he opted for a transfer to Simba SC from rivals Young Africans (Yanga) while he had other options.

Simba, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', landed the left full back from their rivals, despite the former Azam FC man being poised to renew his contract with Yanga who were coming off a disappointing 2018/19 campaign.

Yanga were under pressure to end their three-year trophy drought this season and Michael was regarded as one of the key players they had to retain in order to fight for the league title.

It was reported numerous times Yanga had tabled a good offer to retain Michael's services but in the end he declined only to cross the divide two days before the transfer deadline.

When asked about the factors that swayed his decision to join Msimbazi Reds, Michael mentioned Simba's very good offer and his quest to win titles.

"I considered a lot of things - my career but in the end I chose Simba for all the right reasons. The most important thing is that they brought on the table a very good offer," he said.

"Simba have been at the top for close to three years, they have invested heavily in their team. They performed well in the international scene. I thought they offered a better platform for me to advance my career," he noted.

"It is a fact that the further a team progresses in the international scene the better it is for a player's career. I had to come here," he added in a live question and answer interaction with the club's fans on Sunday.

The Tanzania international is reported to be one of the highest local earners while his competitor and Simba fans' favourite, Mohamed Hussein, remains the outfit's first choice at left full-back.

Consequently Michael who had been the preferred Taifa Stars full back in the last three years has lost his national team place as he struggles for game time at Simba this season.

While there have been rumours of the player moving elsewhere, he still has one more year to serve after signing a two-year deal last year and Simba would not let him on the cheap.

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

**EATV TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msosi Kilaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

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 PPanel Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



It is a fact that the further a team progresses in the international scene the better it is for a player's career, I had to come here