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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 7873 PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

SATURDAY 11 APRIL, 2020

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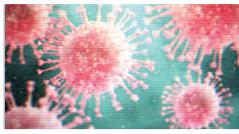
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Experts baffled after Covid-19 expected cases dwindle sharply

JOHANNESBURG

HEALTH experts in South Africa are baffled at the unexpected sharp fall in new cases of Covid-19 at a time when the country had prepared for the worst.

It is nearly five weeks since the first confirmed Covid-19 case in South Africa, and until 28 March, the daily graph tracking the number of new infections followed a familiar, accelerating, upward

But on that Saturday, the curve suddenly broke sharply - from 243 new cases in one day, to just 17. Since then, the daily average has settled at around 50 new cases.

President Cyril Ramaphosa (pictured) has now suggested that the lockdown of two lockdown is responsible. He has



It's difficult to predict which road we're going to take - a high, middle or low [rate of infection]. We don't have widespread testing

extended the nationwide restrictions, scheduled to end in one week's time, to the end of the month.

But - as the country and the continent continue to brace for the potentially devastating impact of the pandemic doctors are struggling to explain what's going on.

The beds are ready. Wards have been cleared. Non-emergency operations rescheduled. Ambulances kitted out. Medical teams have been rehearsing nonstop for weeks. Managers have spent long hours in online meetings drawing up, and tweaking their emergency plans.

But so far, and against most predictions, South Africa's hospitals remain quiet, the

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Churches alter rules after corona cases, deaths rise



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania faithful re-enact the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ during Good Friday mass at Dar es Salaam's Azania

CAG: Key public firms struggling to survive

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

NEARLY two dozen top public institutions have been making losses for years due to low performance, inadequate appraisal of projects and lack of alternative sources of revenue, the latest report by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) shows.

CAG Charles Kichere notes in the report that the audit found at least 23 public entities facing financial difficulties, highlighting that it is

Entities that lack substantive chief executive officers have been under acting CEOs who in most cases retain such positions for long periods

unlikely they will survive without government support. Also, there is a risk that these entities might not be able to deliver on their mandates

effectively.

"I reviewed the financial stability of 140 public authorities and other bodies and noted that 23 entities were continuously making deficits. Eight entities were financed by debts and six entities had negative equity," he said.

"For example, I noted that the National Housing Corporation (NHC) had 75 uncompleted joint venture projects. Out of these 33 were still in progress while 42

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By Guardian Reporter

HRISTIANS in the country yesterday took to Good Friday prayers with some adjustments to the way services are conducted in an effort to check the spread of the novel coronavirus.

This happened as the government confirmed seven new cases of Covid-19 and two more deaths, bringing the national tally to 32, three fatalities and five recoveries.

Social distancing took centre-stage in churches with the faithful as well as the clergy washing hands before entering the church, the traditional handshakes to wish each other well replaced with a slight bow.

Altars that are manned by a number of priests were yesterday occupied by one or two as the sitting arrangement for the faithful also adhered to one-metre guideline in most churches. Dr Frederick Shoo, the head of the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) said that it had it had issued a directive to all its dioceses to observe safety guidelines issued by the government.

"We have decided to increase the number of services and reduce the number of faithful attending each session," he explained.

The Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) issued a statement appealing for observance of recommended containment measures set out by the World Health Organization (WHO), the government and health experts regarding social distancing and regular hand washing.

"Apart from seeking divine intervention, we have to play our part by adhering to the guidelines for our safety," TEC underlined, in the statement read by Bishop Antony Lagwen of Mbulu Diocese on behalf of the Catholic Church

Rev Patrick Challo of Kinondoni Anglican



We have decided to increase the number of services and reduce the number of faithful attending each session

Church said it was agreed that the sermons be shortened so that people do not spend long periods in one place.

"We have ensured that everybody who entered the church washed their hands and we had the faithful receive the Eucharistic bread in their hand then put it into their own mouth instead of the clergy," he said.

These adjustments came as a statement released by Ummy Mwalimu, the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender,

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CCB arrest saccos leaders as retired teachers lose millions

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

ANTI-GRAFT agents in Rukwa Region are holding leaders of a savings and credit cooperative society (Saccos) operating in Sumbawanga municipality after retired teachers reported losing millions of shillings deposited with the

entity. Detectives from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) pounced on key leaders of Ushirika wa Walimu wa Akiba na Mikopo (UWAMI) Saccos Ltd in an effort to retrieve millions of shillings deposited by members several years back.



PCCB regional bureau chief Hamza Mwenda told this paper yesterday that the case came to

their attention after being informed that three said. PCCB gave the leaders one month to raise of the retirees had since died without recovering their savings.

The graft busters are now seeking to retrieve 45.5m/- whose depositors have so far come out-money that the Saccos has been sitting on for five years.

He named the suspects– also teachers–as Marietha Haule (chairperson), Alexander Zumba, Anicet Lyela and Bernard Msika. A fifth suspect ran away after learning that colleagues were being picked up.

"We arrested and locked them up for four days and they have already released 11,541,750/which belongs to Saccos members," Mwenda

and avail to the regional bureau the remainder 34m/- to complete the amount owed to 13 teachers who had so far come out and lodged formal complaints.

However, the quartet was arrested again hours after being set free for further interrogation as more complaints against them reached PCCB offices, he said.

The saccos, registered in 2004, has members from primary and secondary schools. Those who complained to the authorities said the

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Churches altering rules after corona cases, deaths rise

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Elderly and Children, said five of the new cases were diagnosed in Dar es Salaam and two in Zanzibar.

The minister said on Thursday that local transmission of the disease was already in place and the country could soon plunge into a more complex community transmission stage.

Mwalimu said yesterday that the two deaths are male Tanzanians aged 51 and 57 respectively whose cases were both reported on April 8.

The five patients are four men aged 68, 57, 54, 41, and one woman aged 35, all residents of Dar es Salaam.

The number of patients now stands at 32 after the Zanzibar minister for Health earlier in the day announced two new cases on the Isles.

"Of the 32 cases recorded so far, five have healed and discharged, 24 are still receiving treatment whereas three have passed on," Mwalimu specified.

Addressing heads of religious organisations, the minister said internal transmission needs the public to avoid unnecessary gatherings or travelling, to villages or towns.

Isles Health minister Hamad Rashid Mohammed announced that cases of novel coronavirus infections reached nine in the archipelago after two more patients tested positive of Covid-19 yesterday.

The two new cases are both from Zanzibar, without a travel background.

Isles opposition leader Seif Shariff Hamad has called on the government to enforce total lockdown to stop further spread of coronavirus.

In his article in African Arguments, a pan-African ideas platform, Hamad who is a past Chief Minister and erstwhile First Vice President in a brief Isles government of national unity called upon governments to implement a universal stay at home order.

It should be accompanied by a coming together of leaders of all sectors of society to develop a plan to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the crisis and to ensure food security of the people, he stated.

The Union and Isles authorities need to initiate extraordinary measures to mitigate the economic impacts of the global crisis, said Hamad, who was recently voted national chairman for ACT-Wazalendo.

He said the economy was facing significant stresses and strains as a result of the pandemic and there was immediate need to address this.

As of vesterday, total confirmed cases globally surpassed 1.6m with over 97,000 deaths and 366,000 recoveries. More than half of all the confirmed cases were in Europe, with Spain and Italy the worst affected. However, the United States had more than twice as many confirmed cases as any other single country, with over 468,000 cases.

Coffins were being buried in a mass grave in New York City as the death toll from the coronavirus outbreak continued to rise.

The location was Hart Island, used tp bury for New Yorkers with no next of kin or who could not afford a funeral, media reports indicated.

PCCB arrest Saccos leaders as retired teachers lose millions

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are savings that they need to recover whenever they wish to end their membership with the outfit.

However, it took years as they were being given empty promises of 'come next week, come next month' to no avail. "The 13 teachers approached us with complaints that after retiring and ceased to be members of the Saccos, its leaders have been dillydallying on giving them their deposits," the officer

One of the retired teachers and former member of the Saccos, Mary Chale told this paper that the leaders

lately ran out of sweet words and resorted to intimidation, telling former members to 'go anywhere you want.'

"Imagine someone sitting on your money for five years and intimidating you as you demand what belongs to you," she said.

Another retired teacher and Saccos member Edward Mwambene said three of their colleagues died of poverty-related causes as the Saccos leaders kept dillydallying on paying up.

"I cry whenever I think of my colleagues who have died before recovering their savings from this organization," he lamented.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa engaged in talks with China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, at Mlimwa in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

Experts baffled as cases of Covid-19 dwindle sharply

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anticipated "tsunami" of infections that many experts here have been waiting for has yet to materialise.

"It's a bit strange. Eerie. Noone is sure what to make of it," said Dr Evan Shoul, an infectious disease specialist in the main city, Johannesburg.

"We're a bit perplexed," said Dr Tom Boyles, another

infectious disease doctor at a small lull? Johannesburg's Helen Joseph Hospital, one of the biggest public hospitals in the city.

set up here. And it just hasn't arrived. It's weird."

Could it be that South Africa's actually working? Or is this just it's real. The numbers are not

Thursday President Ramaphosa said it was "too early to make a definite analysis," but "We've been calling it the calm he said that since the lockdown before the storm for about three had been introduced the daily weeks. We're getting everything increase in infections had dropped from 42 per cent to "around four per cent."

"I think the more people early, and strict lockdown, and we test, the more we'll reveal its aggressive tracing work, are whether it's an aberration, or

Matotso, a public health official who is monitoring South Africa's pandemic for the World Health Organization (WHO).

is a There general acknowledgement here, from the health minister to frontline hospital staff that it is dangerously early to try to reach a healthcare executive now any firm conclusions about the coordinating elements of the spread of the virus.

"It's difficult to predict which

yet there," cautioned Precious road we're going to take - a high, middle or low [rate of infection]. We don't have widespread testing.

> "There might be early signs that are positive, but my fear is that people start becoming complacent, based on limited data," said Stavros Nicolaou, private sector's response.



Muslim Council of Tanzania (Bakwata) leaders in Dodoma Urban District participate in special prayers for divine intervention with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic. The event was held at Jamhuri Secondary School in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo:

CAG: Key public firms struggling to survive

FROM PAGE 1

projects were stalled. The corporation is at risk of incurring losses in terms of invested money and expected return from stalled and uncompleted projects," the report elab-

Some public authorities operate without oversight bodies or substantive chief executive officers, he said, noting that entities that lack the oversight bodies have increased from 24 reported in 2017/18 to 39 as at 30th June, 2019.

Entities that lack substantive chief executive officers have been under acting CEOs

who in most cases retain such positions for long periods, he further noted.

At the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tantrade), auditors noted some anomalies including lack of crucial tools for its functioning such as an established market intelligence system, a robust established section for coordinating training activates,

and documented institutional cooperation.

At the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), auditors noted inefficiency in dealing with investors. For example, the centre does not serve investors within 14 days as provided in the Act and Strategic Plan. It takes 20 days for the centre to process work permits

while the process of fully attending to and (TANAPA) face challenges of controlling huproviding feedback to an applicant of incentives like customs and excise duties to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) through TIC takes four to twelve months, the report elaborates.

In the tourism sector, despite government efforts to promote tourism, there are still several factors that pose challenges, including the lack of diversification of tourism products, inadequate promotion and marketing and lack of specified areas for tour-

"The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and Tanzania National Parks man populations that cause massive environmental degradation, increase in humanwild animal conflicts as well as blockage of or diminishing wildlife movement routes,"

"Further, I noted slow pace in controlling wide spreading of invasive alien plants at NCAA and low rate of tourists visiting western and southern parts of the country.

The CAG however said that a majority of the authorities delay in implementation of his recommendations, meaning that deficiencies identified have not been addressed and are likely to continue exposing the entities to the risks of fraud, inefficiencies and the failure to deliver on their mandates.

Water authorities have not fully addressed his recommendations to improve on nonrevenue water outlets, he stated.

"For the year under review 20 of the water authorities I reviewed had high percentage of non-revenue water with the total water loss of 155.84bn/- in 2018/19. The loss of 74.14bn/- included in this amount was above the normal loss threshold. I also noted inadequate water service coverage, low water quality and unsatisfactory rate of debt recovery by water authorities, which stood at 106.31bn/- as at June 30, 2019," he added.

Ugandan officials arrested in COVID-19 purchasing scandal

KAMPALA

FOUR top Ugandan government officials were arrested Thursday following reports they inflated Covid-19 relief food prices.

Analysts say the government's swift response shows the importance it has attached to the crisis.

The defendants worked in the office of Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda and ran a program to provide food relief for the most vulnerable amid the coronavirus pandemic. They were arrested for causing government losses in excess of US \$ 528,000.

On Thursday, the head of the anti-corruption unit in the State House, Edith Nakalema, said she received a directive from President Yoweri Museveni to investigate the way the program was being run.

"We have some clear evidence of the well-known, able and credible suppliers who offered lower prices and the accounting officers in OPM rejected. And they instead took on the higher ones. Some of the people who were given offers to supply, are even not prequalified and that's the president's concern," she said.

Government officials arrested include Permanent Secretary Christine Guwatudde Kintu, and Accounting Officer Joel Wanjala, assistant procurement commissioner Fred Lutimba and Martin Owor, head of COVID-19 relief management, were taken into custody.



Zanzibar Health minister Hamad Rashid Mohammed (R) updates journalists yesterday on developments relating to Covid-19 infections in the Isles. He put the total number of confirmed cases so far at nine. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

'Contractors and consultants claim outstanding debt exceeding 1trn/-'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE Controller and Auditor General (CAG) has said contractors and consultants claim outstanding debt exceeding ltrn/- due to various services provided in several public projects in the country.

In his annual report for the year ending June 2019, which was handed over to MPs early this week, the CAG showed that arrears increased due to inclusive of penalties amounting to 224bn/and compensation 13bn/-.

"My review of construction projects relating to roads and airports at Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) revealed significant overdue claims from contractors and consultants amounting to 1.03trn/- as of November 2019 due to late payment of Interim Payment Certificates (IPCs)," said CAG Charles Kichere.

The total outstanding claim was made of principal amount of 794.09bn/-, interest charges of 224bn/- (current year 166.93bn/-plus prior year 57bn/- and com-

pensations amounting to 13.2bn/from project affected people.

He said that it was revealed that the outstanding claims were caused by under release of funds by the Ministry of Finance and Planning; that eventually inhibited TANROADS to pay the contractors on time and consequently resulted to slow progress of works as well as escalation of project cost due to interest charges.

"In addition, I am concerned that the untimely payment of outstanding claims of the contractors and consultants may increase the amount of debt due to interest charges which may make the pertinent projects stall or remain uncompleted therefore, denying citizens the intended benefits of the projects," he said.

The CAG further said that his office audited 90 projects implemented in the financial year 2018/2019 which ranges from Agriculture, Education, Energy and Mining, Health, Transport, Water and Social Sector.

Kichere noted that he observed

that the government continues to focus on transforming the agriculture Sector into advanced productivity, commercialized, profitable the

and surplus producing in order to cater for the domestic and international market but more is still to be done to meet targets. "During the financial year under

review, I audited six projects implemented under the Agriculture Sector with 52.2bn/- being available for use 42.73bn/- was spent remaining with 9.47bn/- for implementation of the outstanding

activities."

In the education sector, auditors covered ten projects under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST). During the financial year under review, 402.64bn/- was available for use of which 273.65bn/- was spent remaining with 128.99bn/- for implementing the outstanding activities.

He further said that during the year under review, I observed instances where projects Implementers had unimplemented activities at the year-end due to insufficient release of funds in comparison with the approved budget.

"In order to achieve the Five Years Development Plan Phase II (FYDP II) goals, I am of the view that, government institutions (especially the ones which are implementing the development projects), need to be proactive by having in place strategies that will facilitate growth and industrialization, foster human development and social transformation; and improve the environment for enterprise development," he said.

Tanzania provides 10bn/- for revival of Tanzania and Zambia Railway Authority

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzanian government has provided a total of 10bn/- to ensure the revival of the Tanzania and Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) and increase its business capital to achieve commercial goals.

Speaking in Mbeya region after inspecting maintenance of two engines that have been fixed with new traction motor, the Minister of Works, Transport and Communications, Eng Isack Kamwelwe said completion of the renovation would increase the freight load to the authority.

"The main purpose of the government investment into the authority is to make sure the railway operates accordingly as well as increase the number of transported cargo. We want TAZARA to continue with the previous five million tonnes freight per year", he noted.

Eng Kamwelwe explained that the provided funds had already been used to purchase forty-two new electrical generating machines that will be fixed on seven train engines.

TAZARA workshop manager in Mbeya region, Eng Ezekiel Mong'ateko said they have completed renovation of two engines and they are expecting to complete repair of another engine by end of this month. He said each of the engines has the capacity to transfer 250 thousand tonnes of cargo per year.

"Completion of these engines will increase the load we need to carry in a year as the load we are now transporting has decreased significantly and does not exceed three thousand tonnes. We are grateful to the government for supporting us financially", said Eng Mong'ateko.

Eng Mong'ateko added that in line with the maintenance of the engines in the region, the authority is continuing the renovation of passenger wagons at its garage in Dar es Salaam. He said the aim is to increase the number of passenger train routes as well as improve service provision.

He added that maintenance of the train engines would the authority have a total of 20 engines.

Tanzania disbursed the funds as per agreements reached between the two countries whereas Zambia will also provide 10bn/-. The two countries agreed to revive the railway line and capacitate it to operate without depending on government funds.

Meanwhile, TAZARA has suspended passenger and cargo transportation services for five days following destruction of infrastructures due to ongoing rains.

The rains have also caused floods at the Usangu valley in Mbarali district and damaged railway infrastructures at Chimala area—some 15 kilometers from the main station.

Minister Kamwelwe visited area insisting TAZARA engineers to speed up maintenance of the damaged infrastructures so that services resume after five days.

He said the government has embarked on improvement of railway transport at various parts across the country to reduce damage of the roads especially when used to transport heavy cargo.



Residents of Vuga ward in Lushoto District pictured yesterday building a temporary bridge in the place of the one formerly there, which has been swept away by floodwaters. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Govt praises China on support to contain coronavirus pandemic

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday commended the support from Chinese government in boosting efforts to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

During his talks with Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke in Dodoma, the Premier said: "We are grateful to the Chinese government for the support towards the fight against Covid-19 including medical supplies and drugs".

He added: "Your contribution is vital since we are now getting experience on how to control spreading of the virus".

According to Majaliwa, both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar have confirmed cases of coronavirus because the areas are centres of business and receive a big number of visitors. He insisted that visitor's coming to Tanzania from countries that have been hit by the disease are subjected to a 14-day mandatory isolation.

He said the government appreciates the way leaders have sensitised Tanzanians to adhere to the disease preventive measures as issued by ministry of health and experts. He said preventive measures are important in curbing spreading of the pandemic.

PM commended the Chinese government for taking care of Tanzanian students currently in China insisting to receive reports on their development from Tanzania ambassador in China Mbelwa Kairuki.

"Ambassador Kairuki has been updating us frequently on the situation in China as well as the health of our 500 students. We thank you for ensuring Tanzanian students remain safe throughout the pandemic outbreak", he stated.

He said the country is now experiencing what China experienced in previous months whereas it has few patients but with a good number of people on isolation. He said the government tracks and tests all the people who came into contact with the patients every day.

He said various efforts are on-going to contain spreading of covid-19 whereas people have been urged to avoid unnecessary gatherings, wash their hand frequently with soap and running tape water or sanitisers.

"We have closed all the schools and colleges, we have also banned gatherings and sports activities", he added.

The Premier informed that Tanzania has closed its borders following similar measures in neighbouring countries. He said the move is to ensure that all those coming into the country are screened and put on isolation for 14 days.

Ambassador Wang Ke said China does not have new coronavirus cases noting the country is currently implementing measures to ensure no new cases are imported from visitors.

The ambassador said they have re-opened some of the factories following the decrease in new cases. He said the government in China had earlier declared the year 2020 to ensure end of poverty for its citizens, that's why it is struggling to bring the situation into normal and allow industrial operations.

Wang Ke said that China has selected a number of countries which they will be sharing experience on how to tackle the pandemic. She said that health experts from Africa will be sharing experience with their counterparts in China though video conferencing.

"Civil society organizations and business community in China are collecting various equipment that will be given to governments in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland to boost efforts against Covid-19", she noted.



MV Tanga ferry with abnormally few people on board while moving across Pangani River in Tanga Region yesterday, all thanks to a decongestion strategy being implemented in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

JNIA arrivals are accorded favourable reception - govt

By Guardian Reporter

PERMENT secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Wilbert Ibuge has said despite closure of the country's boundaries, the few coming visitors are accorded favourable reception in accordance with the laws.

He said the visitors receive treatment as per international standards while taking precaution measures against covid-19

PS Ibuge made the statement yesterday during his visit at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA). His tour was meant to witness the treatment that visitors arriving from different countries receive as well as the screening procedures they go through.

He said despite closure of the boundaries it was important for the government to make sure that all the visitors are subjected to screening for coronavirus and provided with guidelines on how to prevent themselves from the disease.

The permanent secretary expressed

satisfaction with the services provided to arriving visitors at the JNIA insisting the quality of services are similar to those offered in other countries worldwide. He said such treatment of arriving passengers is meant to protect the visitors as well as Tanzanians from the outbreak.

He called upon JNIA staffs to continue providing services to arriving passengers but consider taking precautions against the disease.

The PS also inspected the building at Terminal I and the Terminal III while accompanied by Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) director general, Julius Ndyamu-



PS Ibuge made the statement yesterday during his visit at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA)

Coalition secures grant to support sustainable community network

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) has recently acquired a grant of 256,539 Euros (equivalent to 650m/-) from Protection International - Kenya.

The grant is aimed at supporting THRDC's interventions towards improving constructive collaborations between civil society organizations and national authorities in Tan-

zania, to foster their respective mandates. This project will last for 12 months.

A press statement issued yesterday and signed by THRDC national Coordinator, Onemo Ole Ngurumwa said that throughout the entirety of this project, THRDC will partner with human rights defenders (HRDs) including women and youth. THRDC will also partner with HRDs networks, networks of national human rights institutions like the

commission for human rights and good governance (CHRAGG), national authorities (policy makers, law enforcement agencies, and judiciary), CSOs, human rights defenders' families and their respective communities,

and the general public.

"It's worth noting that, THRDC has always been a strong advocate for improved relations among human rights defenders, the government and the commission for human rights and good governance (CHRAGG) in Tanzania. We believe in improved partnerships, for improved national development and the absolute protection and promotion of human rights in Tanzania," he

Coronavirus could push half a billion people into poverty, Oxfam warns

By Larry Elliott

MORE than half a billion more people could be pushed into poverty unless urgent action is taken to bail out poor countries affected by the economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, Oxfam has warned.

Ahead of three key international meetings next week, the charity said the impact of shutting down economies to prevent the virus spreading risked setting back the fight against poverty by a decade globally - and by 30 years in the hardest-pressed countries of sub-Saharan Africa, north Africa and the Middle East.

An Oxfam report published before virtual meetings of finance ministers of the G20 group of leading developed and developing nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, said by the time the pandemic was over half of the world's population of 7.8 billion people could be living in poverty.

The research - conducted by King's College London and the Australian National University - said that a 20% drop in income as a result of a recession caused by Covid-19 would push an additional 548 million people below \$5.50 a day - one of the World Bank's definitions of pov-

For poor people in poor countries who are already struggling to survive, there are almost no safety nets

The meetings of the G20, the IMF and the World Bank will discuss plans to offer debt relief to the world's poorest countries and whether to increase the funds available to the IMF through the creation of special drawing rights (SDRs), a form of international currency that can be used to help struggling countries. The UN, which says \$2.5tn is needed to support developing countries through the crisis, says nearly half of all jobs in Africa could be lost.

Oxfam called for an emergency rescue package that would enable poor countries to provide cash grants to those who have lost their income and to bail out vulnerable small businesses. The charity said the money would come from a variety of measures, including the immediate cancellation of \$1tn worth of developing country debt payments and the creation of at least \$1tn in SDRs.

A proposal to create \$500bn of SDRs is being blocked by the US on the grounds that some of the money would go to Iran. A more limited plan for debt relief, which excludes payments owed to private creditors, is up for dis-

José María Vera, Oxfam's international interim executive director, said: "The devastating economic fallout of the pandemic is being felt across the globe. But for poor people in poor countries who are already struggling to survive, there are almost no safety nets to stop them fall-

"G20 finance ministers, the IMF and the World Bank must give developing countries an immediate cash injection to help them bail out poor and vulnerable communi-

Many wealthy nations, including the UK and the US, have introduced large-scale economic stimulus packages to support business and workers, but Oxfam said most developing nations lacked the financial firepower to fol-

G20 finance ministers, the IMF and the World Bank must give developing countries an immediate cash injection to help them bail out poor and vulnerable communities





Pearl millet farmer Cecilia Machite inspects her crop at Hombolo on the outskirts of Dodoma city yesterday. The drought-resistant crop has proved a boon to farmers in the few parts of the country where it is grown. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Experts study banana disease in Tanzania

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

RESEARCHERS are challenges against banana wilt disease' that affects the growth of banana, a major source of food and income for millions of small holder farm-

The disease called 'fusarium wilt', a soil borne fungal is being spread by the fungus called fusarium oxysporum fsp Cubense (Foc). It enters the roots systems of banana plants and blocks the uptake of nutrients and water.

The research is conducted by researchers from the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the CGIAR research program on roots, tubers and banana (RTB).

The disease causes yellowing of leaves, splitting of the pseudosten,

and eventual death of the banana and fungi, surrounding the roots bio-control products to protect nadales, well-known to be re-

It is difficult to control as it cannot be managed by synthetic biome. pesticides/fungicides and therefore continues to spread easily as farmers exchange planting materials (banana suckers), water and movement of people and equip-

A statement issued by IITA yesterday in Dar es Salaam said all traditional East Africa highland cooking bananas including Mchare in Tanzania and some desert bananas like Sukari Ndizi are susceptible to this disease.

However, it was observed that only some of the plants die after infection.

The researchers sought to understand why this is so by study- if this is the case, this may pave ing the microorganisms bacteria the way for the development of

as well as in the roots and corn. This is known as the soil micro-

Systems agronomist for IITA who led the study, Manoj Kaushal said: "This study allowed us to have a better understanding of the root microbiome in banana that can be harnessed to develop new disease management tools in Mchare based on beneficial microorganisms (endophytes and biological control agents) for smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa".

The researchers suspect that the interaction between the soil microbiome and the banana plant may provide some defense against the fungal pathogen. And banana against the disease using soil microorganisms.

In their research, they were able to establish a link between the levels of microbiome diversity with the plants resistance to the invasion of the pathogen in the roots.

The researchers profiled the root microbiome of banana both with and without symptoms of the disease. Each sample showed substantial differences in the community composition and species abundance.

The beneficial bacteria identified in the root samples included actinomycetales which are known to produce various metabolic compounds that helps to suppress various plant and soil borne pathogens.

Others were pseudomo- EAHB more sustainably.

sponsible for beneficial plantmicrobe interactions, and streptomycetaceae, which are known to produce antagonist compounds against various plant pathogens.

The institute said future research will be focused on the isolation, characterization, and screening of various indigenous microbial strains with the target to develop a product from the microbial strains (single or consortium) that will provide enhanced tolerance against banana Fusarium wilt disease to boost the production of banana in the region.

The IITA banana research program aims to improve soil health and increase the yields of the



Mkomazi National Park senior official Abel Mtui (2nd-R) briefs Same district commissioner Rosemary Senvamule (4th-R) on recent developments at the border between the Tanzanian wildlife sanctuary and Kenya's Tsavo National Park. The DC toured the area on Thursday. Photo: Godfrey

Rukwa RC appeal for leaders to get tougher at land borders

By Guardian Correspondent,

RUKWA Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo has called upon local leaders in the region to ensure they sensitize people to be at the forefront in controlling illegal entrance of foreigners in the region.

The RC said up to now the region has quarantined 49 people whereby out of the number, only 13 people entered the country through the various ports and official

Wangambo therefore called upon the leaders to sensitize people to ensure they report anyone they suspect to have entered into their areas without passing through official borders.

He claimed that some visitors from neighbouring countries have been entering the region through dump ports within Lake Tangayika.

"You should tell them to go through the official borders so that they go through the required covid-19 screening procedures. We need to be cautious and test all the visitors since our region has a number of entries and borders various countries," he

The RC made the remarks when addressing the village steps to take as precaution at their specific localities.

against the coronavirus.

In his remarks the regional immigration officer for Rukwa Elizeus Mushongi warned against misuse of powers by the leaders who he accused them of allowing foreigners to enter the country without following legal procedures.

"You receive various foreigners from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia, worse enough you become custodians officials, this is not proper because all the visitors should pass through legal routes and make sure they are tested for coronavirus",

In her welcoming remarks, the Ward councilor (special seats) Christina Simbakavu said there are some people whose relatives reside in neighbouring DRC.

She said: "These people cross the border during night to greet their relatives in DRC, we must control the trend since it poses health risks to our people especially during this time when the country struggles to contain the pandemic outbreak".

Korongwe Ward Councilor, Venus Bamilitwaye called upon local leaders to work closely with the villagers to ensure no foreigner enters the country without relevant permits. He urged the resiand street leaders during a dents to tip off authorities meeting aimed at sensitizing whenever they suspect the the regional residents on the presence of unfamiliar faces

Ethiopia MPs approve 5-month coronavirus state of emergency

ADDIS ABABA

THE Ethiopian Parliament has approved the five-month state of emergency declared to fight coronavirus (Covid-19)

The Council of Ministers led by PM Abiy Ahmed on Wednesday declared the measure to control the spread of the virus and reduce its impact on the country.

Ethiopia's current tallies stand at 56 confirmed cases, out of which four have recovered and two have died. Two of the patients have been repatriated weeks back.

Abiebie Adanech, Attorney general disclosed yesterday that the Covid-19 State of Emergency (SOE) will be supervised by the Council of Ministers & Ministerial sub committees - the later to be established on an as and when basis.

Previous State of Emergencies have been overseen by Command Posts (CP), which have often been accused of gross abuse of rights including targeted arrests and use of lethal force against persons believed to flout the orders.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia's Chief Justice has disclosed that federal courts will start listening to domestic violence cases that arise from the stay at home order occasioned by a state of emergency declaration.

CJ Meaza Ashenafi disclosed through Twitter: "Considering the possibility of an increase in domestic violence during the 'Stay At Home' period, a decision is made for federal courts to entertain charges of domestic violence as an urgent type of case.'

'Land dispute pending before the court'

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

AGRICULTURE minister Josephat Hasunga has called upon TARI-Uyole and the residents to be patient as the land dispute is pending before the court and that the court has not yet made a decision, saying the government has started to take measures to resolve land dispute within the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Uyole Centre.

The land which residents claim belong to them was being used by the research institute to conduct crop researching.

Speaking during one day official tour in Mbeya Region, the minister (pictured) urged the institute to temporarily stop conducting research activities at the area as the government works to come up with a solution. The minister was accompanied by Mbeya regional commissioner Albert Chalamila and members of the region's defence and



security committee.

He however called upon the residents to stop agricultural activities at the disputed area as they wait for the court's judgment. He also banned them from harvesting some of the crops planted on the farm.

The residents are complaining of delayed compensation since when the

government announced to take over the land. In January this year, the villagers wrote to Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture complained to have not received the monies despite the fact that TARI had already started conducting activities on the farm.

The disputed land measuring 8.52 hectares was previously used by the

villagers to cultivate food and cash crops. Some of the villagers used their farms for grazing.

Chalamila called upon the villagers to be patient and wait for the government and court's decision.

According to Chalamila the court might also rule in favour of the villagers, hence the need to be patient.

TARI was established to enhance and strengthen of agricultural research activities in Tanzania.

It is a semi-autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for all agricultural research activities conducted by the National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

Its goals include contributing to increased agricultural productivity through development and deployment of improved agricultural knowledge and technologies by adopting innovation systems ap-

STAR GENERAL INSURANCE TANZANIA LIMITED



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC	NOTES	2019 Tzs 000	2018 Tzs 000
EARNED PREMIUM		2,593,080	1,598,391
LESS: OUTWARD REINSURANCE		(1,327,382)	(571,299)
NET EARNED PREMIUM	3	1,265,698	1,027,092
Investment income	4	128,939	161,849
Commission earned		416,553	172,430
Other income	5	16,992	4,016
Claims incurred	6	(121,370)	(394,987)
Operating and other expenses	7	(1,158,831)	(999,137)
Commission paid		(458,555)	(221,058)
Operating profit (loss)		89,426	(249,794)
Finance costs			(2,105)
Profit (Loss) before Tax		89,426	(251,899)
Tax	9	(32,589)	64,211
Profit (Loss) after tax		56,837	(187,688)

STATEMENT OF DROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	NOTES	2019 Tzs 000	2018 Tzs 000
CAPITAL EMPLOYED			
Share capital	10	1,333,400	1,333,400
Contingency reserves		541,734	498,648
Share premium	11	16,139	16,139
Accumulated profit (losses)		(126,845)	(140,596
		1,764,428	1,707,59
REPRESENTED BY		·	
Assets			0.15
Equipment	12	23,332	8,420
Intangible Assets	13	169	338
Receivables arising out of reinsurance arrangement		196,668	153,820
Receivables arising out of direct insurance arrangement		31,421	348,533
Reinsurers' share of technical provision and reserves	14	1,283,630	967,253
Deferred acquisition costs		31,814	35,795
Other receivables	15	114,108	93,847
Current Income tax		-	14,311
Deferred tax	21	377,005	333,901
Investment	16	44,328	44,328
Government securities	17	1,054,907	804,686
Deposits with financial institutions	18	1,563,801	1,376,389
Cash and bank balances		83,036	50,931
Total Assets		4,804,219	4,232,559
Liabilities			
Unearned premium		1,337,153	831,518
Outstanding claims provisions	20	1,025,527	1,459,650
VAT		43,925	12,853
Current tax payable		39,561	
Creditors arising out of reinsurance arrangement	22	508,582	145,760
Other payables	22	85,043	75,179
Bank overdraft			
Total Liabilities		3,039,791	2,524,967

The financial statements on pages 13 to 37 were approved for issue by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by:

Date: 19/03/2020

Date: 19/03/2020

Year ended 31st December 2019	Share capital Tzs 000	Contingency reserve Tzs 000	Share premium Tzs 000	Retained earnings Tzs 000	Total Tzs 000
At 1st January 2018	1,333,400	470,544	16,139	75,196	1,895,279
Net profit for the period	-	-	-	(187,688)	(187,688)
Issue of shares	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	28,104	-	(28,104)	
At 31st December 2018	1,333,400	498,648	16,139	(140,596)	1,707,591
At 1st January 2019	1,333,400	498,648	16,139	(140,596)	1,707,591
Profit for the year	-	-	-	56,837	56,837
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	43,086	-	(43,086)	-
At 31st December 2019	1,333,400	541,734	16,139	(126,845)	1,764,428

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC	EMBER 2019		
	NOTES	2019 Tzs 000	2018 Tzs 000
Operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	25	386,599	(301,989)
Finance costs		-	(2,105)
Investment and other income		128,939	161,850
Tax paid		(21,821)	(13,130)
Net cash from operating activities		493,717	(155,374)
Investing activities			
Purchase of equipment		(24,531)	(2,125)
Purchase of Intangible assets		-	(506)
Sale proceeds on disposal of vehicle		553	500
Increase in government securities		(250,221)	238,770
Increase in deposit with financial institutions		288,844	(478,810)
Investment in shares			(410)
Net cash used in investing activities		14,645	(242,581)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalent at 1st January		351,665	749,620
Cash and cash equivalents at 31st December	24	860,027	351,665



Water minister Prof Makame Mbarawa washes his hands as precaution against Covid-19 shortly before a meeting with Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority officials in Tanga city earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

Covid-19: Kagera RC bans lake shore gatherings during Easter

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

IN efforts to control the spread of Covid-19 infections Kagera regional commissioner Brig general Marco Gaguti has directed relevant authorities to ensure that no one should be seen on the shores of Lake Victoria during Easter

The RC issued the directives when conveying Easter greetings to citizens, the holiday that begins this Sunday, saying people should celebrate the holiday at home with their families.

"Due to the challenge we face, as the Regional Commissioner for the region order for suspension all activities involving gatherings at lake shores which have traditionally been large gatherings, especially during the night, and I ask wananchi to celebrate the holidays in other friendly areas without large gatherings," he said.

He also ordered the suspension of gatherings in entertainment halls and added that even though business activities have not been closed but huge gatherings in business areas are also not allowed.

In the meantime, the Kigoma Regional Commissioner Brig Gen (Rtd) Emmanuel Maganga has directed defense and security organs in the region to beef up security in areas set aside as quarantine areas following reports that some people who have been isolated in the areas were spotted looking for food in the streets.

Maganga revealed this during his visit at Kibirizi Port on Lake Tanganyika that caters for boats that carry goods to Burundi and Congo DRC.

He said sailors have to abide by quarantine procedures in the allocated areas in order to ensure their own safety and that of other people.

The RC also refused request from boat transporters to quarantine them in their own vessels.

The Kigoma Regional Medical Officer Simon Chacha said up to now the region has 61 people under quarantine including sailors of vessels that sail to neighbouring countries.

Singida Region establishes seven quarantine centres

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA region has established seven quarantine centres with the capacity to accommodate 73 beds that will be used to keep people suspected of being infected with Covid-19 pandemic.

Singida regional malaria coordinator, Dr Abdallah Balla, said Singida regional has identified the isolation units with

caution since there are so far no Covid-19 patients in the region. He said the preparations will enable authority to put into mandatory isolation any suspected coronavirus pa-

According to Ballla, the isolation centres include Ihanja health centre in Ikungi district which has 12 beds, Kinampanda health centre in Iramba district with 12 beds and St Gasper Itigi hospital which will have the capacity to accommodate 11 people.

Others are Mwiboo health centre in Manyoni district, Mkalama district hospital, Singida regional hospital and Mtipa dispensary in Singida municipality.

Earlier, chairman of the ruling party's women wing in Singida region, Jenny Kessy commended the regional medical chief for providing education to women in the region on how

to protect from the spreading pandemic.

"We are grateful to the office of the regional commissioner for ensuring women are educated on the disease because they are the main service providers at family level. We will consider the Covid-19 preventive measures and adhere to guidelines provided by Health Ministry", she said.

CCM women wing chairman from Ikungi district, Aziza Ally urged fellow women to make ment to come up with a nationsure they protect their children from the disease. She insisted to parents to ensure that children remain indoors throughout the

school closure period. "It is our responsibility to protect children against the pandemic, as guardians we should guide them to be able to properly follow the preventive measures", she said.

On Thursday, Members of Parliament advised the governal homeschooling and distance learning strategy to enable pupils and students who are at home as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to continue learning.

The lawmakers asserted that as the country struggles to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus with schools closed, parents are stranded with no idea of the future of their children's education.

Hawa Mchafu (Special Seats,

CCM) said that the government can arrange TV or radio programmes and use teachers to handle such distance learning for children for a few hours every day.

"The government has to take this matter seriously to support children by coming up with educational technologies to provide remote learning opportunities for primary school children and those in secondary schools as well," she said.

African energy chamber appoints Rogo president for eastern Africa region

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Energy Chamber has appointed Eng Elizabeth Rogo, Founder and CEO of TSAVO Oilfield Services as its president for East Africa representing the chamber across the region, including Tanzania, Kenva, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

Elizabeth Rogo's appointment comes at a strategic time when African energy markets need leadership and unity to preserve the continuity of operations across segments of the industry as oil prices crash and economies suffer from lockdowns.

It also represents the continued growth of the African Energy Chamber across the continent, especially in a region with so much potential as East Africa.

In her role, Elizabeth Rogo will be contributing to key development priorities for the chamber, especially when it comes to developing local content and building domestic capacity, promoting women in the energy sector, supporting entrepreneurship across the region, advocating for policy reforms and ease of doing business, and promoting investments in oil & gas and key segments of the power industry such as geothermal and renewables.

NJ Ayuk, executive chairman at the African Energy Chamber said: "We could not be more delighted with this appointment.

Elizabeth Rogo is a representation of African entrepreneurship in the sector and a true expert when it comes to East Africa and local content development. She is an inspiration for many young women in our industry, and a true pan-Africanist.

She will head our activities in East Africa at a time when the region's energy industry is entering a new era of growth and diversification and we look forward to her journey with us". "It is an honour for me to be joining the African Energy Chamber and to give a stronger voice and representation to Kenya and the whole of East Africa in the global energy scene," Elizabeth Rogo said.

She added: "There is a lot to be done in our region when it comes to local content development across the value-chain and the adoption of the right policies to promote investment. I look forward to my work with the African Energy Chamber and to further contribute to the growth of our energy industry in the region".

East Africa is a very diverse energy frontier and one of the most attractive for investments worldwide. It comprises both well-established oil producers like South Sudan and upcoming ones like Kenya and Uganda.

It is also home to world-class gas discoveries in Tanzania, and a key promoter of gas-to-power projects and strategies.



It is an honour for me to be joining the African Energy Chamber and to give a stronger voice and representation to Kenya and the whole of East Africa in the global energy scene,



A Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency technician works on a drainage system along a street in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone yesterday. Photo: Correspondent **Jumanne Juma**

Group supports orphans against Covid-19 pandemic

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

TANZANIA Moja Movemen, a youth group with branches across the country has donated various protective gear to support over 50 orphans against covid 19 Dar UI Muslimeen orphanage centre is located at Karume Street in Morogoro the covid-19 pandemic. He said staffs and clothes", he noted.

The items worth 400,000/will be used by the children to protect themselves against coronavirus, according to the group

spokesperson, Innocent Kembo. Kembo said the monies have been contributed by group members in Morogoro region

children at the centre require support from other people to protect themselves against the

disease. "The funds will be used to purchase coronavirus protective gear such as hand washing soaps, sanitisers and buckets. We have directed that part of the to protect themselves during money be used to procure food

One of the group members, Wambura Mirumbe said they are determined to enhance the fight against poverty through the provision of various societal groups

in the region. He said even the late father of the nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyfight against the three enemies namely ignorance, diseases and

poverty.

"We are youth and our target is to support the majority Tanzanians especially the under-privileged and those living in difficult conditions.

We are planning to provide support to different youth erere emphasised on people to groups in Mara region before end of this year", said Mirumbe.

Air Zimbabwe ready to place some employees on leave due to virus

Godfrey Marawanyika

ZIMBABWE'S troubled national airline will place some if its employees on indefinite unpaid leave from April 23 as the coronavirus pandemic have grounded its operations.

"This decision has been made after evaluating all the available and possible options," Air Zimbabwe said in staff rationalization circular to all its employees obtained by Bloomberg and confirmed by the airline.

Air Zimbabwe has been administration since Oct. 2018, but has so far failed to secure any potential suitors.

Health professionals in

Zimbabwe have sounded the alarm over the country's limited capacity to test people for the new coronavirus, warning that a lack of critical equipment and infrastructure shortages may result in many cases being undetected.

Zimbabwe reported its first case on March 20 and so far, it has tested only 392 people for COV-ID-19, the highly infectious respiratory disease caused by the new coro-

The country - which has only one COVID-19 test centre, in the capital, Harare - has confirmed 11 cases, including three



This 'sandwiching' style of transport is illegal but it has become such common practice and taken such deep roots with motorbike taxis (bodaboda) in Tanzania, particularly in urban areas, that few consider it a serious problem any longer. Even worse, only the rider has a helmet on! This scene was captured at a Kinondoni section of Dar es Salaam's Kawawa Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Flash floods in Sunbawanga leave hundreds homeless

By Guardian Correspondent,

Sumbawanga

MORE than 540 residents in Nkasi and Kalambo districts, Rukwa region have been forced to relocate after their homes were surrounded by water due to overflowing of Lake Tanganyika.

According to the villagers, the area experienced such floods in the past 30 years where it mostly affected residents of Kipwa and Nkasi villages.

The floodwaters from Lake Tanganyika has also affected infrastructures including a fresh fish market at Kipili village in Na-

"Businesses have also stopped at the modern fish market in Kasanga ward", said Kalambo District Commissioner, Julieth Binyura adding that residents at Kipwa village experienced floods during the El-Nino rains in

She said that water at Lake Tanganyika had exceeded its

normal level resulting into floods which destroyed all 90 houses at Kipwa village. She said the only structures which had not been affected by the floods are school buildings and dispensaries.

"We do not have any recorded deaths due to the floods and we are yet to evaluate the cost of property and items destroyed.,

she said noting that affected families had been provided with alternative shelters at schools.

Binyura appealed to companies, civil society organizations and individuals to provide support to the flood victims. She said the villagers' foods including livestock were swept away by

John Simulanga from Kipwa village said: "We are in need of food and shelter. We also want the government to assist us with fishing gear and boats".

Some interviewed fishermen said their businesses had been largely affected, noting they had temporarily suspended fishing activities at the shore.

Kirando Ward Councilor, Kakuli Seba told this paper that the overflowing waters from Lake Tanganyika had also reached villages located far from the water source. He said the floods had affected a fuel selling station as well as Nkondwe beach and a

Mhenda villagers call for govt intervention over land dispute

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

VILLAGERS at Mhenda in Kilosa district, Morogoro region have called upon the government to intervene in a land dispute that has lasted for over 14 years between the villagers and owner of the 623 acres farm.

The villagers are concerned that Mhenda farm which is under the investor–Salehe Mohamed Gaidi was previously owned by the village government. They claimed to conduct agricultural activities at the farm which has now been restricted by the owner.

Speaking at a rally, the villagers said the dispute has affected most of the families because almost all the villagers depended on agricultural activities to generate incomes. The villagers claimed to have been conducting agricultural activities at the farm since 1975 but they were barred from cultivating on the land in 2006.

Salma Jumbe a resident of Mhenda village said: "I have lived at this village since 1974; I used to grow cotton on the farm. The late founder of the nation, Julius Kambarage Nyerere visited the village and allowed us to conduct agricultural activities on the farm".

A resident, Fabian Mapunda said: "We are planning to start farming on the farm even without permission from the village government. The investor has yet developed the farm; it is time we are allowed to conduct farming activities

According to Mapunda the government should intervene the matter because the investor had failed to develop the farm for many years now.

"Nothing is going on at the farm, we want our farms back because we do not have other farms to grow food and conduct other businesses", he said.

Mhenda village chairman, Franco Stando warned the residents from taking the law into their hands and the village government is work on the matter. He urged them to be patient as they are consulting officials at the regional level.

"Let us be patient as we wait for the regional government's decision, taking laws into our hands will disrupt the whole mediation process which started some years back", said the village chairman noting in 1985, the late Nyerere allowed the villagers to conduct activities on the

Mhenda Ward Councilor, Japhet Kageuka said his office received an official letter from the villagers and forwarded it to authorities at district and regional level. He said they have also formed a committee which will later this month meet with the Kilosa District Commissioner.

Reached for comments, the investor, Salehe Mohamed Gaidi claimed to legally inherited the farm from his father. He claimed to have all the land ownership documents including a title deed.

"I have a title deed which is signed by land commissioner; the High Court of Tanzania had once ruled on the dispute and declared me as legal owner of the farm. My father bought the farm in 2006", he explained.

In 2016, Morogoro opting to implement land use tenure supporting programme (LTSP) to end land disputes in different parts of the region.

The programme was established by G-8 countries to exercise transparency in land use issues to end up conflicts that have resulted into deaths, injuries and loss of properties when happened.

Having been established on the 16th February this year under the sponsorship of the United Kingdom (UK), Denmark and Sweden, the programme was firstly implemented in three districts namely-Ifakara, Ulanga and Malinyi.





Zelothe Steven, CCM's chairman in Arusha Region, takes a precaution against Covid-19 by washing his hands just before attending the burial of a member of the party at Kiutu in Arusha city on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Malawi announces new strict Covid-19 lockdown: Funerals to be allowed with 50 people

LILONGWE

THE Malawi's special cabinet committee on coronavirus (Covid-19) has announced strict new curbs on life to tackle the spread of the outbreak.

Announcing the measures, the committee chaired by Minister of Health Jappie Mhango said the country faced a moment of national disaster and that government is also stopping all social events, including weddings, religious gatherings and other ceremonies - but funerals will be allowed.

In his remarks, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Ben Phiri said among others, bars and any social gathering have been banned during the virus crisis. The only services that are exempt from the lockdown suspension include, health and sanitation services, pharmaceutical and drug stores, utility services and veterinary services, grazing of cattle and operation of maize mills.

The cabinet committee said funerals will still be going ahead and shall be attended by not more than 50 people.

restaurant shall be allowed to operate except on condition that they offer services on take away basis.

All mobile markets have been suspended. These include Bembeke, Thabwa and Kampepuza. Minister Mhnago said these measures are under constant review and could therefore be subject to change.

Malawi was one of the last African countries to detect cases of the virus, announc-

ing its first three on 2 April. The number of recorded infections has

Among the new lockdown measures, no since risen to eight, with one death.

Malawi has not registered any positive virus case in the last 24 hours, Principle Secretary for Health Dr. Dan Namarika said on

Thursday. Scientists have said each person with coronavirus infects 2.5 people and that takes about five days. This means, over a period of 30 days, more than 400 people will have

been infected as a result of that one person. If a person halves their social exposure, that first infection leads to only 15 infections after 30 days.



SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

We need to get tougher at all our border points

ORDERS are geographic boundaries of political entities or legal jurisdictions, such as governments, sovereign states, federated states, and other subnational entities. Borders are established through agreements between political or social entities that control those areas; the creation of these agreements is called boundary delimitation.

Some borders—such as a state's internal administrative border, or inter-state borders within the Schengen Area—are often open and completely unguarded.

The Schengen Area is an area comprising 26 European states that have officially abolished all passport and all other types of border control at their mutual borders. The area mostly functions as a single jurisdiction for international travel purposes, with a common visa policy.

Other borders are partially or fully controlled, and may be crossed legally only at designated border checkpoints and border zones may be controlled.

As COVID-19 spreads around the world, many countries are adopting different measures in order to contain the virus.

From a total lockdown to the closure of land, sea and airports and aggressive quarantine of patients across the world, countries are racing against time to contain the deadly virus.

The tough decisions taken by some countries appear to be yielding results but unfortunately many countries are also facing challenges with measures they have instituted to combat the coronavirus.

One such measure that appears to be posing serious problems is the porous land borders of African countries.

In order to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus, several regions in Tanzania have directed the closure of the regional borders.

Tanzania borders Kenya and Uganda on the north, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the

west, and Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique on the south. To the east it borders the Indian Ocean.

Unfortunately however, reports we are getting indicate that both human and vehicular movements are creating problems for security agencies manning the border posts.

Security personnel in charge of the borders are facing a herculean task in controlling bodaboda riders who use unapproved routes in the areas.

Similar reports from other parts of the country which is worrying because the activities of the bodaboda riders in the country pose a great danger to other citizens.

COVID-19 poses a particularly dire threat to all countries and if efforts being made to contain it are disregarded, then it would be difficult to win the fight against the virus

It is important for the security agencies to mount surveillance on bodabodas and other users of unapproved routes in order to stop them from breaking the rules.

The current battle against the pandemic needs the cooperation of all citizens and anyone who is caught flouting the measures instituted to contain the virus must be punished severely.

This is because, not only are they putting their lives in danger but they risk spreading the disease and that would be disastrous for the country that is trying hard to prevent the spread of the disease.

We urge the security services particularly to draw from the significant experience of other countries in controlling their borders to prevent their citizens from flouting the measures instituted against the disease.

We also call on the government to adopt tough measures and to severely deal with members of the public who would take the law into their own hands and behave in a manner that puts the rest of the people in danger.

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Green counter-revolution in Africa?

By Jomo Kwame Sundaram

IN 2006, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation jointly launched the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). The African Green Revolution Forum claims AGRA is the "world's most important and impactful forum for African agriculture".

The initial AGRA goals - to reduce food insecurity by half in at least 20 countries, to double the incomes of 20 million smallholder families by 2020, and to ensure at least 15 countries achieve and sustain a Green Revolution - have been revised to "increase the incomes and improve food security for 30 million farming households in 11 African countries by 2021".

In Eating Tomorrow: Agribusiness, Family Farmers and the Battle for the Future of Food, Timothy A. Wise argues that many millions of dollars spent on fertilizers and seed subsidies in Africa - and favoured by African politicians seeking rural votes - have not delivered their promised outcomes.

Without publicly available evaluations of its effectiveness by either AGRA or donors, Wise estimated cereal output rose by only 33 per cent in the 13 AGRA countries between 2006 and 2014. As land planted with cereals has increased, actual land productivity gains were more modest.

Agrarian reform or regres-

Wise shows how transnational giants gain from farm input subsidy programmes. Without the subsidies, increased output rarely generated enough additional income to justify farmer purchases and application of commercial fertilizers and other inputs.

Subsidies have induced farmers to plant AGRA promoted crops, especially maize. After structural adjustment killed research in Africa in the late 20th century, promoting maize, well researched elsewhere, was tempting, but often meant abandoning nutritious, drought-tolerant traditional crops.

net incomes rose, increases often diminished once soils were depleted. Julius Sigei, a newspaper agriculture editor, notes that Kenyan farmers pro-

But even where yields and

duce only a fifth of US maize yields on comparable land and a third of Chinese levels as soils in Kenya are too poor to sustain higher yields while increased fertilizer application adoption w sponsored a subsidy pro and not thos AGRA investriction.

Although water was crucial for the Asian green revolution and is necessary for effective fertilizer application in Africa - long subject to accelerating desertification, and increasingly to uncertain rainfall and droughts, due to global warming - AGRA efforts to improve water supplies have been modest

raises soil acidity.

Food and agriculture expert, MaterneMaetz cautions, "it is risky to use fertiliser if you don't have cash and are not sure about rain". Hence, in the African context, he favours 'associating' leguminous with other crops and developing neglected, drought-resistant, traditional food crops.

Dubious gains

Probably inspired by the neoliberal mantra of 'vampire states' exploiting farmers, and expecting markets to work better without governments, AGRA has promoted public-private partnerships, and may even have enabled land grabbing by the private sector.

Whereas Asian governments provided a broad range of crucial infrastructure and services - such as credit and agricultural extension - with AGRA, these have been less, with transnational agribusinesses getting millions of dollars in subsidies for synthetic fertilizers and 'miracle seeds'.

Instead, Wise found that actual productivity and income gains were mainly in countries supportingtechnology

adoption with governmentsponsored agricultural input subsidy programmes(FISPs), and not those relying on large AGRA investments alone.

Experienced Malawian agricultural analyst Mafa Chipeta observes "what little increased yield comes from subsidised inputs is often lost as predatory buyers beat down weak and balkanised farmers on produce price. Unless governments intervene to stabilise markets, the subsidy programmes will not help farmers"

Agribusiness transnation-

In some countries, transnationals have influenced national policies and laws in their favour, e.g., by seeking to outlaw farmers exchanging and selling seeds for planting. Such seed policies leave farmers with little choice but to purchase high-cost seeds and agrochemicals every season.

Thus, agribusiness transnationals, such as Monsanto and Yara, have not only benefited from subsidies from governments, official aid and philanthropies, but also abused their monopolistic perches in developing country markets, at the expense of farmers, consumers and governments.

In this connection, Chipeta astutely observes that "subsidies seem to help more the input sellers and the produce buyers, with farmers as mere conveyors for subsidies". For Wise, the Green Revolution has become a "high-input treadmill" on which farmers and their governments are "running without getting any-

where".

Although the input sup-

port programme and Food Reserve Agency in Zambia took 98 per cent of the government budget for poverty reduction, according to Wise, "78 per cent of family farmers are ... in extreme poverty, living below \$1.25 a day". Clearly, "farmers and consumers weren't the main beneficiaries of Zambia's 'poverty reduction' programmes in agriculture".

With trade liberalization and the retreat of the state accelerated by structural adjustment, Africa was transformed from net food exporter to net food importer, becoming more food insecure. Nevertheless, African family farmers still produce four fifths of the food consumed on the continent.

Despite its much smaller population, Africa is overtaking Asia as home of the most poor people in the world. Meanwhile, AGRA's promised African green revolution has failed, while inducing subsidy dependence, andreducing crop, food and dietary diversity, butlittle for agricultural climate resilience.

Food systems approach

Meanwhile, following its World Food Summits from 1996, the Romebased Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has promoted a comprehensive 'food systems' approach.

In October 2019, the UN Secretary-General announced that it would host a Food Systems Summit in late 2021to maximize the benefits of such an approach, embed food systems transformation initiatives around the world in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and promote growth on inclusive and sustainable pathways that address climate change.

Incredibly, the principal partner appears to be the World Economic Forum, with the UN's Rome-based agencies serving as a pliant secretariat. Unlike FAO's earlier summits, which had a unifying concept of food security, and built consensus among stakeholders on food systems for nutrition, the 2021 summit seems to eschew inter-governmental collaboration.

The Secretary-General's decision to name the AGRA head as his Special Envoy for the Summit preparation process suggests an intention to make ita largely private sectorled affair. Civil society organizations working for years on these issues are understandably outraged with its likely implications.

As the ultimate owners of the United Nations, Member States may respond to such erosion of multilateralism and its remaining institutions,through various intergovernmental channels, to ensure that the Summit involves a truly inclusive and transparent process that effectively energizes initiatives to ensure food systems drive Agenda 2020

Human space flights mean much

HE International Day of Human Space Flight is the annual celebration, held on April 12, of the anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin. It was proclaimed at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on April 7, 2011, a few days before the 50th anniversary of the flight.

Yuri Gagarin crewed the Vostok 1 space flight in 1961, making one orbit around the Earth over 108 minutes in the Vostok 3KA spacecraft launched by Vostok-K launch vehicle.

In the Soviet Union, April 12 was commemorated as Cosmonautics Day since 1963, and is still observed in Russia and some former Soviet states. Yuri's Night, also known as "World Space Party" is an international observance initiated in the United States in 2001, on the 40th anniversary of Gagarin's flight.

April 12 was also the date of the first Space Shuttle launch, STS-1 of Columbia in 1981, which is also commemorated on this date.

Human spaceflight also referred to as manned spaceflight is space travel with a crew or passengers aboard the spacecraft. Spacecraft carrying people may be operated directly, by human crew, or it may be either remotely operated from ground stations on Earth or be autonomous, able to carry out a specific mission with no

human involvement.

The first human in space was Yuri Gagarin, who flew the Vostok 1 spacecraft, launched by the Soviet Union on 12 April 1961 as part of the Vostok

programme.

Humans have flown to the Moon nine times from 1968 to 1972 in the United States Apollo programme, and have been continuously present in space for 19 years and 151 days on the International Space Station. All human spaceflight has so far been

HE International Day of human-piloted, with the first autonomus human Space Flight is the annual celebration, held der design starting in 2015.

Russia and China have human spaceflight capability with the Soyuz programme and Shenzhou programme. In the United States, Space-ShipTwo reached the edge of space in 2018; this was the first crewed spaceflight from the US since the Space Shuttle retired in 2011. Currently, all expeditions to the International Space Station use Soyuz vehicles, which remain attached to the station to allow quick return if needed. The United States is developing commercial crew transportation to facilitate domestic access to ISS and low Earth orbit, as well as the Orion vehicle for beyond-low-Earth-orbit applications.

While spaceflight has typically been a government-directed activity, commercial spaceflight has gradually been taking on a greater role. The first private human spaceflight took place on 21 June 2004, when SpaceShipOne conducted a suborbital flight, and a number of non-governmental companies have been working to develop a space tourism industry.

NASA has also played a role to stimulate private spaceflight through programs such as Commercial Orbital Transportation Services (COTS) and Commercial Crew Development (CCDev).

With its 2011 budget proposals released in 2010, the Obama administration moved towards a model where commercial companies would supply NASA with transportation services of both people and cargo transport to low Earth orbit. The vehicles used for these services could then serve both NASA and potential com-

mercial customers.

Commercial resupply of ISS began two years after the retirement of the Shuttle, and commercial crew launches could begin by 2020.



Tanzania to boost palm oil production to reduce edible oil import dependence

Guardian Correspon-

ANZANIA Agricultural Institute (TARI) has established six district councils in Kigoma region to grow a total of 10.5 million tenera seeds variety on an area that covers 73,314 hectares. This is only half way of about 114,000 hectares of land in Kigoma region which is suitable for oil palm production. If the area will be utilised well, definitely the nation will be able to reduce edible oil import dependence in the country.

If the improved tenera variety seedlings which produce 5 times higher palm oil per hectare compared to locally grown dura will be well managed by the six district councils of Kigoma, adhering to good agricultural practices, they are enough to produce a total of 366,570 metric tonnes which actually surpasses the current country's 365,000 metric tons of edible oil imported from outside Tanzania, mainly Malaysia and Coast Rica.

In other words, it means that if only six district councils of Kigoma can manage well the 73,314ha of tenera variety and produce 366,570 metric tonnes, it is possible for the country to produce more than 570,000 metric tonnes of vegetable oil which actually required every year.

According to TARI's director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo, the country has the capacity to produce only 40 percent of 570,000 metric tonnes where as 60 per cent is actually imported from other countries.

Importation of this costs approximately T.sh 443 billion annually but basically if Tanzania can effectively and efficiently use this potential land and produce TENERA locally, we can be able of seeds each the institution or which, in recent years has cost

produce surplus for export.

The current situation in the six district councils in Kigoma

In each of the six district councils in Kigoma region, TARI has supplied thousands of pregerminated seeds. Citing an example, Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo explained that in Uvinza district council alone, TARI supplied a total of 35,000 pre-germinated seeds but amount germinated was 26,054 which is equivalent to 74.4 percent.

In Kigoma district council, TARI supplied a total of 36,000 pre-germinated seeds but the amount germinated was 22,468 which is equivalent to 62.4 per-

In Kigoma Municipal council, TARI supplied a total of 30,000 pre-germinated seeds, but the amount germinated was 11, 023 which is equivalent to 36.7 percent. Amount supplied in Kasulu town was 30,000 but amount of seeds germinated was 9,356 which is equivalent to 31.2 per-

TARI also supplied a total of 30,000 pre-germinated seeds to Buhigwe district council but amount of seeds germinated was 9,344 which is equivalent to 31.1 percent. Kasulu district Council received a total of 30,000 seeds but the amount of seeds germinated was 8,000 equivalent to 20 percent.

Uvinza district agricultural, irrigation and cooperative officer (DAICO) Engineer Masolwa Salum said that oil palm has become one of the priority and strategic crops in the district.

"After TARI has supplied these seeds, we convened a meeting with all school head teachers, coordinators, institutions and farmer groups. They committed themselves on the number to meet the requirement and farmer groups should take and the nation billions of shillings,"

work on. Before they were given, they were required to bring commitment letters to ensure the seeds would be managed well and would all germinate," he

He said the pre-germinated seeds were all distributed to Nine Primary schools, five secondary schools and four farmer groups. Salum requested TARI to supply extra 22,000 pre-germinated seeds for the district council.

"I commend TARI Kihinga for technical backstopping. We have been working with researchers from this centre very closely that's why you can see these fruitful results," he said.

uvinza district executive director Weja Lutobolwa Ng'ollo said that the district has done well because of high level commitment. The district has bigger agricultural land and the oil palm project is working very closely with researchers and other stakeholders.

He said so far the district has saved more than 156m/- shillings from receiving 26,054 seeds from TARI. Such money would have been used to buy the seeds from private oil palm seed companies.

Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo commended commitment and the efforts being taken by all six district councils in Kigoma and called on the authorities to increase commitment and to set aside adequate budget for dissemination and management of the Oil Palm Seedlings.

"These efforts of multiplying and disseminating the improved seeds of Oil Palm at local government authorities and to farmers in Kigoma and elsewhere is basically trying to address the issue of importation of vegetable edible oil from Malaysia and some other countries like Costa Rica.



TARI director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo (R) and TARI board chairman Dr. Yohana Budeba (Left in black dress) admires one of oil palm group farmers belonging to 'Nguvu Kazi Farmers' Group' at Nguruka Itebula village, Uvinza district in Kigoma region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TARI's board chairman Dr. Yohana Budeba who also spent a week long in the field to talk to different institutions, and the farmers' groups on the achievements made and challenges they faced, lauded the institutions and all district councils for hard work and for adhering the Prime Minister's directives.

He called on the government institutions to ensure the surrounding communities are part of the beneficiaries of

the improved TENERA seedlings.

the progress of this oil palm project in your respective areas. You have done a very good work, and keep it up," he said.

rectives. I have come to see for myself

As board chair, you have encouraged me to supervise TARI properly so that together we can register more achievements and attain the main goal of addressing the problem of importation of vegetable edible oil in the country, he added.

Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) has put in place a new comhectare to 9 metric tonnes for our farm-"We are heeding the government di- prehensive Oil Palm Seed Road Map ers, he added.

(OPSRM), which, among other things, will ensure production and dissemination of a total of five million improved seeds of oil palm variety called tenera by June this year. We are also planning to produce and disseminate 20 million improved seeds in four years time.

The new OPSRM also involves further studying of the characteristics of tenera parents that is dura and pisifera to get the best tenera progenies to be used to raise the yield from 5 metric tones per

Humanitarian spirit shall be cherished in midst of Covid-19 pandemic

By He Yin

CHINA, which upholds the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind, would like to share its experience in disease prevention and control with other countries, launch joint research and development of medicines and vaccines, and offer as much assistance as possible to coun-

tries that are affected by the disease."

Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks at the recent G20 Extraordinary Leaders' Summit on COVID-19 well explained to the world China's highly responsible actions. China, always actively promoting international cooperation to combat the virus and offering assistance to other countries with humanitarian spirit, is showing its caring and respect for

As the novel coronavirus has taken the life of many, the world must seize every minute and do everything it could to both defeat the virus and care for the people. It is a time when humanitarian spirit is particularly needed - every life shall be taken care of; every individual shall be respected; and every patient shall be treated.

To protect people's lives and health calls for humanitarian spirit, and so does the global victory over the pandemic. "We must come to the aid of the ultra-vulnerable - millions upon millions of people who are least able to protect themselves," said United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres when launching a COV-ID-19 Global Humanitarian Response

The UN has allocated \$75 million for emergency response to protect the worst-affected in the pandemic and to support water supply and

health services. The world must react with solidar-

ity to cope with the pandemic. China, securing a phased success in epidemic control at home, is doing its best to offer assistance to the world with the humanitarian spirit. It has dispatched medical expert teams to Iran, Iraq, Italy, Serbia, Cambodia, Pakistan, Laos, Venezuela and the Philippines, and offered material assistance to 120 countries and four international organizations. Besides, it also shared its epidemic control experiences with over 180 countries and 10 international and regional organizations.

China's anti-virus international assistance is the most intensive and wide-ranging emergency humanitarian operation since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. The country has earned wide applause from the international so-

China's timely assistance received warm response. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban received Chinese assisting expert teams and supplies at the airports. Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen livestreamed the arrival of the Chinese experts in Phnum Penh, which was watched by 600,000 people online. Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio noted that Chinese experts and the supplies they brought would save Italy.

Such appreciation fully proves that China is doing the right thing, and the humanitarian spirit of the Chinese aid is well respected.

A just cause should be pursued for common good. To offer assistance for those in need is a fine tradition of the Chinese nation.

Over the past 70 years of China's foreign aid, the country has always adhered to internationalism and humanitarian spirit and offered assistance within its capability to the



Chinese medical team members meet with Iranian medical experts in Tehran, Iran, March 7. Photo: Xinhua

countries threatened by natural dis-

asters and major epidemics. It has offered sincere aid in multiple deadly emergencies, such as the Indian Ocean tsunami, Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the major earthquake in Nepal.

China never sits back and watch when its friends are in trouble, or attaches any string to its foreign aid -

this is what the country values. The arrogance and prejudices of

some Westerners, as well as their narrow-minded geo-political calculations that distort China's humanitarian aid and smear the country's kind acts, are totally tarnishing the hu-

manitarian spirit. The world witnesses that China has gone in harm's way with bravery to protect the lives and health of the people around the world, which signals the significance of the vision of building a community with a shared

future for mankind, and marks concrete actions to build the vision.

China's practices demonstrate its love for the world, and shines with the humanitarian spirit which is also a part in the vision of building a community with a shared future for man-

People and their lives are the most valuable, and this should be always remembered in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Solidarity and

cooperation remain the most powerful weapon, and humanitarian spirit deserves particular attention.

As long as countries around the world prioritize people's lives and health, and take action to cooperate without ideological prejudices, they can build strong cohesion in enhancing international cooperation and jointly achieve the final victory over this major infectious disease.

Global Times

China advances international cooperation through sharing of COVID-19 information

Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19), China has timely released information, shared epidemic control experience, and advanced international exchanges and cooperation. The country's efforts in the global fight against the coronavirus has been applauded and widely recognized

BEIJING

community.

HINA on Monday released a detailed timeline of its response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), chronicling the main facts and measures it has taken in the global joint anti-virus efforts.

by the international

The document, titled "Timeline of China releasing information on COV-ID-19 and advancing international cooperation on epidemic response," stressed China's timeliness, openness and transparency in notifying people at home and abroad in its fight against the coronavirus.

The timeline, recording major events from late December 2019 to March 2020, offered a glimpse of how China has timely released information, shared experience, and advanced international exchanges and cooperation.

The COVID-19 epidemic, a major public health emergency, has spread the fastest, caused the most extensive infections and been the hardest People's Republic of China in 1949, the document said.

With joint efforts of the whole nation, the positive trend in preventing and controlling the epidemic has been constantly consolidated and expanded in China, and the restoration of normal production and daily life has been quickened, according to the timeline.

The timeline noted a "formidable challenge" to global public health security as the pandemic has been spreading rapidly in the world.

According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO), COV-ID-19 has affected more than 200 countries and regions with over 1.13 million confirmed cases by Sunday.

"Virus knows no national borders, and the epidemic distinguishes no races," the document said, adding only with solidarity and by cooperation can the international community prevail over the pandemic and safeguard the common homeland of

By upholding the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, China has been timely releasing information on COVID-19 since the onset of the epidemic in an open, transparent and responsible manner, unreservedly sharing with the WHO and the international community its experience in epidemic response and medical treatment, and strengthening cooperation on scien-

tific research, said the document. It has also provided assistance to all parties to the best of its ability, according to the document.

INFORMING PUBLIC AT HOME

According to the timeline, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission sent out an urgent notification to medical institutions under its jurisdiction on Dec. 30, 2019, about an outbreak of pneumonia of unknown cause in the city.

Upon the report of the outbreak,



guide epidemic response and conduct on-site investigations.

One day later, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission released its first briefing about the outbreak of pneumonia of unknown cause on its website, in which it confirmed 27 cases and told the public not to go to to contain since the founding of the enclosed public places or gather. The public were also advised to wear face masks when going out, according to the timeline.

> Starting Dec. 31, 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission released briefings on the pneumonia outbreak in accordance with the law, according to the timeline.

> The NHC started to update via its official website and its new media platform the epidemic information on a daily basis since Jan. 21 and had updated 71 times by March 31.

SHARING INFORMATION GLOBALLY

Since the outbreak, the Chinese government has released information about the epidemic in a timely, open, transparent and responsible manner, actively responded to concerns of all sides, and enhanced cooperation with the international community, the timeline noted.

China's regular informing of the outbreak with the WHO, relevant countries and regions and China's Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan came on Jan. 3, 2020, according to the time-

Also starting Jan. 3, China began to inform the United States of the pneumonia outbreak and response measures on a regular basis.

On the same day when an expert evaluation team from the NHC initially identified a new coronavirus as the cause of the epidemic on Jan. 8, heads of China and U.S. CDCs talked over phone to discuss technological exchanges and cooperation.

Starting on Feb. 3, the English official website of the NHC started to release epidemic information simultaneously, updating the data for 58 times by March 31.

From Jan. 3 to Feb. 3, China had given the United States briefings on the epidemic information and control measures in China for 30 times, including sharing with U.S. CDC project manager in China information about China's diagnosis and treatthe National Health Commission ment guidelines, prevention and (NHC) dispatched a working group control guidelines, and the linkage of and an expert team to Wuhan to the novel coronavirus database that China shares with the world in real time. Chinese President Xi Jinping

Lithuanian health

experts attend a

video conference

experts and their

officials and

with Chinese

counterparts

from Central

and Eastern

European

Lithuania.

March 13.

Xinhua]

(CEE) coun-

tries in Vilnius,

2020. [Photo/

in Lithuania/

Chinese Embassy

spoke over phone about the epidemic with dozens of leaders of countries and regions as well as international organizations, including U.S. President Donald Trump and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

During a phone call with U.S. President Donald Trump on Feb. 7, Xi said that with an open, transparent and responsible attitude, China has kept the WHO as well as relevant countries and regions, including the United States, posted on the epidemic, and invited WHO and other experts to conduct field visits in Wuhan.

The NHC gave briefings on China's anti-epidemic efforts and measures at the first meeting of the APEC health working group on Feb. 8, according to the timeline.

On Feb. 12, specialists from the NHC joined a China-EU teleconference on COVID-19 related technical exchanges, introducing the latest developments of the epidemic, prevention and control measures, and the situation of international coopera-

Starting Feb. 16, the China-WHO joint expert team, which consists of 25 experts from China, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea (ROK), Nigeria, Russia, Singapore, the United States and WHO, conducted a nine-day field visit in China, inspecting cities including Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou and Wuhan.

Under China's joint prevention and control mechanism of the State Council, a press conference has been held every day since Jan. 27, updating data on a daily basis, including new confirmed cases, severe cases, deaths and suspected cases, and giving briefings on the country's measures to fight the epidemic and minimize its impact on social and economic development.

By March 31, 65 such press conferences under the mechanism had been held, with officials of 69 departments having answered 779 questions raised by Chinese and foreign report- latest research results by the

ers at the conferences, according to the timeline.

The NHC shared on Feb. 25

updated technical guidelines on

COVID-19 response with a number of countries and regional organizations, according to the **RESEARCH COOPERATION** In the global fight against the

coronavirus, China has attached great importance to the role of scientific research, with scientists releasing their latest research results of the new virus. according to the timeline.

China has timely shared with the world the whole gene sequence, primers and probes of the coronavirus, and shared diagnosis and treatment guidelines and other technical documents with more than 100 countries and over 10 international and regional organizations around the world, according to the timeline.

By carrying out timely technical exchanges with the international community, such as the WHO, the United States, and countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America, Chinese scientists and health experts worked with global peers to share their knowledge about the virus to help countries develop testing kits and adopt responsive meas-

After the China CDC succeeded in isolating the first novel coronavirus strain on Jan. 7, an expert team from the NHC made public of the pathogen two days later, saying a new type of coronavirus was initially identified as the cause of the viral pneumonia in Wuhan.

On Jan. 12, the China CDC, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and the Wuhan Institute of Virology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, as designated agencies of the NHC, submitted to the WHO the genome sequence of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), which was published by the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data (GISAID) and shared glob-

A number of papers on the

Chinese scientists and health specialists were published by the journals Nature, Science and other medical publications over the past three months, according to the timeline.

As Chinese researchers and doctors deepened their under-NHC updated different versions of guidelines on diagnosis and treatment of the COVID-19 and shared them globally.

ASSISTANCE TO OTHER COUNTRIES

While 1.4 billion Chinese are pulling together to contain the COVID-19 domestically, China has also helped other countries fight the pandemic to the best of its capacity after it peaked at home, providing medical supplies or sending medical experts to other countries, according to the timeline.

China announced a donation of 20 million U.S. dollars to the WHO on March 7 to support its international cooperation in the fight against COVID-19.

A spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said at a press conference in Beijing on March 8 that while overcoming its own difficulties, China is willing to provide masks and other medical protection materials to relevant countries to support them in fighting the COVID-19 epidemic.

According to the timeline, the first batch of Chinese medical experts carrying China-assisted medical supplies arrived in Italy on March 12. More medical experts and supplies from China arrived in Italy later to help with its epidemic prevention and control

Medical experts and supplies from China were also sent to countries such as Iran, Iraq, Serbia, Cambodia, Pakistan, Laos and Venezuela.

By March 31, the Chinese government had provided material assistance including medical masks, N95 masks, protective suits, nucleic acid testing reagent and ventilators to 120 countries and four international organizations, according to the document.

In the meantime, local governments in China had donated medical supplies to more than 50 countries. And Chinese enterprises donated medical supplies to more than 100 countries and international organizations.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

According to the timeline, the standing of the coronavirus, the WHO released on Jan. 9 on its website a statement regarding a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, saying that preliminary identification of the novel coronavirus in a short period of time is a notable achievement.

On Jan. 13, the WHO issued another statement on the discovery of the novel coronavirus cases in Thailand, pointing out that China's sharing of the genome sequence enabled more countries to quickly diagnose

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Jan. 24 thanked on social media the Chinese government for its cooperation and transparency, saying that the Chinese government has been successful in isolating and sequencing the virus very quickly and has shared that genetic sequence with the WHO and the international commu-

Apart from the WHO, a number of foreign leaders appreciated China's efforts in dealing with the COVID-19 in openness and transparency when they visited China or talked with Chinese leaders over phone.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany appreciates China's efforts to respond in a timely manner, stay open and transparent, and actively carry out international cooperation during a phone conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Jan. 22.

On Feb. 24, the China-WHO joint expert team held a press conference in Beijing, at which the team members said China's unprecedented public health responses to the COVID-19 outbreak have yielded notable results in slowing the spread of the epidemic and blocking humanto-human transmission of the virus, preventing or at least delaying hundreds of thousands of Xinhua

Ethiopia installs digital system to track, monitor Covid-19 cases

By Yonas Abiye

IN order to help in the tracking and surveillance of coronavirus cases, the government has installed a new digital system to improve the response for the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH). The new system, officially unveiled on Monday, is believed to be a more suitable digital tool that enhances result oriented surveillance, monitoring, and tracking of coronavirus cases in response to the COVID-19 pandemic broadly at national level.

A team of experts led by the MoH and the Ethiopian Public ures that stamp out new chains of

Health Institute (EPHI) have been transmission while also mitigatency and timeliness of all COVworking to reconfigure and deploy a digital information system for public health officials and policymakers, to access accurate, real-time information during the

Health minister Lia Tadesse (MD) explained at her office that the world had seen the evidence shared by the World Health Organization (WHO) and other health experts on how we can help flatten the curve to slowdown the spread of the epidemic and to mitigate the risk it creates.

"Doing so will require individual and collective protective meas-

ing the damage of the spread of COVID-19," she said.

She further indicated that the tools are critical in terms of routinely collecting surveillance data, tracking suspects, tracing contacts of confirmed cases, issuing lab requests and receiving results and monitoring COVID-19 patients until their health outcome is determined.

The minister, coordinating the fight with the response task force against the growing threats of the virus, pointed out that "these tools will be integrated with the other existing systems, developed by our partners for better consistID-19 related information."

Similarly, Ebba Abate (MD) -Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) Director General - on his part said "the digital tools will support the enrollment and tracking of suspected cases, create lab requests, link confirmed cases with contacts, and monitor patient outcomes."

He said that as a result call center agents, rapid response team members, medical officers, lab technicians, and national and local health authorities involved in the coronavirus response, will be able to do their jobs more efficiently.

USAID Mission Director, Sean Jones noted that "Data is not going to stop the coronavirus by itself, but will serve as an essential tool for epidemiologists and health authorities to monitor and

In the meantime, the National COVID-19 Resource Mobilization Committee is mobilizing funds availed by local and international sources that would strengthen the financial needs for the re-

respond to the crisis more effec-

sponse to the virus. Members of the committee have announced that in the first five days of its establishment, it was able to collect close to 200 million birr, locally.

The committee was established last week with a task of coordinating efforts of gathering financial and non-financial materials for COVID-19 emergency preparedness. The committee is set up and chaired by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, while some 10 ministers are part of the committee.

On Wednesday, the PM, on his Facebook page said the amount of the fund collected locally, did not include the contributions made in-kind.

More than 241,000 people have contributed 2.7 million birr through Ethio-telecom's SMS service locally, he said, connecting

the contribution of various people and organizations, with Medemer mentality.

"This is a clear demonstration of MEDEMER in action, with Ethiopians from all walks of life saying that we stand united through adversity," Abiy said adding, he is grateful to all the contributors "For heeding the call and ask you to continue your support through the official government channels of resource mobilization."

Meanwhile, Sheikh Mohammed Ali Al-amoudi, chairman and owner of MIDROC Ethiopia, donated 120 million birr to fight the pandemic.

Retirement capital of South African women is woefully inadequate

By Bruce Cameron

RECENT research by Alexander Forbes, based on the retirement funds it administers, show that many pensioners were already in serious trouble before Covid-19 the virus and the resulting investment market downturn just makes it a lot worse. (Photo: Flickr/Marco Verch) Less

Alexander Forbes recently released the first major research on the financial survival of pensioners of retirement schemes in SA - and it does not make happy reading for women. This research was done before the Covid-19 outbreak and Moody's downgraded South Africa. The situation now is likely to be far

Women in retirement are far worse off financially than men. The reasons include insufficient contribution rates to retirement funds, breaks in careers to raise a family. the glass ceiling and, in retirement, the fact that they live longer than

Incidentally, the World Economic Forum's 2018 Global Gender Gap Report has South Africa in 19th place out of 149 countries. Things are getting better for women, but they are still far from acceptable.

This is backed by research undertaken by Alexander Forbes on its own retirement book, the largest in South Africa.

John Anderson, an actuary and Alexander Forbes' head of strategic development, says the proportion of women in higher-earning positions has increased over the last decade.

He says this is likely to be a result of changes in the type of work given the advancement of technology, cost-of-living changes generally making it necessary for as many family members as possible to work and changes in the environment to encourage and embrace diversity and equality in the workplace.

"We are also seeing many more women being appointed to boards of companies as well as being ap-

pointed as CEOs. The portion of women in the R960,000-plus salary band is now seven times higher than in 2010."

More and more retirees and fund members are now female.

Anderson says female fund members have increased by about 17% in the last seven years, from 39.31% in 2012 to 46.04% in 2019.

Women now dominate membership in the personal services, professional and business services and in the retail, wholesale and hospitality sectors. Their lowest membership of women is in the mining and construction sectors, which are still dominated and likely to remain dominated by male members.

Anderson says that the research into retirees' finances shows that the amount of money with which women retire has grown significantly from 1998 to 2018.

Women are ahead in the R600.000 to R1.500.000 retirement capital group at retirement. In the R20-million-plus group, where they had no representation before, they now hold 25% of the assets.

Apart from the one group, in all the other retirement savings sectors men are ahead. The lowest sec- linked living annuities (illas) is higher than tor for women is the R10-million to that for men. R20-million group, where they hold only 21% of the capital.

Women members, in the build-up to retirement, are still disadvantaged in other ways. For example, by having babies and/or raising a family, getting divorced and looking after children, resulting in breaks in their careers or the ability to work full-time.

And then comes retirement, where they live longer on average than men. At age 60 the expected average age of death for women is 84 and for men it is 79.

The consequence of this is shown immediately in traditional guarreceive less than men. In 2019, the average return (pension) paid to a woman investing R1-million at retirement at age 65 would have been R8,750 a month, against a male who







Anderson says another factor which women Anderson says that the replacement ratio, which is the expected pension as a proportion of final salary, for retirees in 2019 was 25.4% for females and 27.8% for males. Anderson says that compounding the lower

replacement ratio is the fact that the average drawdowns by women from investment-

This is far too low for most people to retire on. You should have at least a replacement ratio of at 60%, but probably closer to 100%.

would have received R8,950.

Anderson says that this is concerning as women need more retirement capital than men. It again shows the problems for women in the build-up in retirement savings.

Based on research comparing men with women, in an investment-linked living annuity the average drawdowns where the retiree takes the risk of capital lasting till they die, is again the wrong way around:

Anderson says that for females looking for options to ensure their basic income needs against longevity, these higher drawdown rates will boil through to an earlier "point of ruin" where your income drawdown goes up anteed annuities where women rapidly to the maximum drawdown of 17.5% and will then reduce in rand terms in both real and before-inflation returns.

Any initial drawdown, at age 65, above 4% is likely to result in a "point of ruin" in the years

face is that because men, who die earlier on average, often die of diseases that are expensive to treat, this can wipe out any other assets, leaving the window to suffer the conse-

Anderson says there are some rules women should follow to improve their income in retirement. These include:

•Sign up for a retirement fund as soon as you can. Preferably from your first paycheck.

•Build up an emergency savings of between three and six months' income for tough times alongside your retirement savings.

•Realise that any employment-based retirement fund is not likely to give you the required replacement ratio at retirement. You will need to top this up with contributions to a retirement annuity. The tax advantages are fantastic. You can contribute in total savings to a retirement fund 27.5% of your taxable income to a maximum of R350,000 on which no

•Do not use your retirement funds as a backup for a family business and do not cash them in and transfer the money to the ownership of

•Preserve your retirement savings for retirement. This is the main cause of people not having a financially stable pension in retire-

• If you are having babies or raising a family, have your husband or partner make contributions to your retirement fund. If you are married or in a permanent relationship this will make your retirement years so much better, and will be a lifesaver if you get divorced.

•If you get divorced make sure you get your rightful share of your partner's retirement savings. Then invest that amount in a retirement annuity. Don't use it for anything else.

•Continue working for as long as possible before retiring. •Invest your retirement savings

in an appropriate and diversified growth strategy when you are

· Do not make high-risk investments at retirement.

• At retirement, structure your income so that it will meet your ongoing financial needs.

•At retirement, consider assuring your basic income needs against longevity to avoid running out of money to cover these necessities. The main assurance vehicle is a guaranteed-for-life pension bought from a life assurance company which is guaranteed to keep pay-

ing a pension until you die.

By David S. Menjor

BIOMEDICAL research scientist and infectious disease expert, Dr. Dougbeh Chris Nyan, has said that any thought of lockdown or curfew instituted by the government to contain the spread of the virus will only be effective if a stimulus package is at-

tached to help people survive. "Well, a lockdown can help in contact tracing but it is only possible if the population, mainly the less fortunate, can have some assistance to access food, and other basic needs," Dr. Nyan said in a phone-in interview with the Truth Breakfast Show yesterday morning.

Dr. Nyan, who is the inventor of the Nyan Testing Kits for multiple infectious diseases, said lockdown or curfew can only be effective if people are not going to bed hungry and have amenities such as free current and pipe-borne water. While fighting to save

'Lockdown only possible if...

people from being contaminated by COVID-19, it would be more disastrous if they starved to death. However, Dr. Nyan said the

final discussion depends on how the government is looking at its means of containing "the spread of the virus. But to trace contacts, a lock-down could not be that bad. Some sacrifices are just needed."

Dr. Nyan added that Liberia having encountered the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in 2014, should have learned enough lessons by now and take the appropriate measures in containing the spread of any virus, but this not the case.

"We need to close our borders and place in tighter measures," Dr. Nyan said. "Liberia is vulnerable and the worst may happen if care is

as Rwandan ministers and top officials join the growing trend of public officials donating their salaries to the fight against COVID-19 and supplied at no cost to the beneficiaries, food, safe drinking water and even tax waivers or reductions.

But in Liberia, this has not been the case. Although the country currently has 14 cases, with 3 deaths and 3 recoveries, those numbers are expected to rise in the next 24 to 72 hours as health authorities await second tests on nearly a dozen already tested positive after one test. Two positive tests are required before an announcement is made.

The number of confirmed positive cases continue to spike, even as concerns grow over the government's inabil-

Dr. Nyan's statement comes ity to adequately track those today, the continent would be who came in contact with infected COVID-19 patients. Support Trial Vaccine for

> COVID-19 in Africa Meanwhile, Dr. Nyan has

said that he supports the idea of two French doctors to conduct trials of a vaccine for COVID-19 in Africa.

The proposal by the French doctors has been described as a racist remark by many celebrity and medical practi-

"It is unfortunate that the perception about what the two doctors suggested became a continental or racial issue. But all through history, no vaccine has been tried on persons already affected with a sickness for whose cure the very vaccine was made.

and should there be a vaccine among others.

a good ground for the test," he said.

"It is not that easy as people may think," Dr. Nyan added. "We want a quick solution but the processes involved are always complex. Time is needed to perfectly complete a scientific invention, mainly in medicine."

Concerning the use of chloroquine and some other antibiotics as recommended by some health practitioners or pharmaceuticals, Nyan said, it is not a straight jacket answer to the fight against the virus.

"The virus, once in the body of a person, he or she shows some signs and symptoms. Cough, cold, sneezing, and many other symptoms are also associated with oth-Africa is less affected now er sicknesses like malaria,

Therefore, one kind of treatment is no solution now,"

According to him, while some people may survive through the use of chloroquine and some other drugs, it is also clear that chloroquine is toxic and has several different ugly reactions on patients.

Patients' Confidentiality As said in previous interviews, Dr. Nyan reiterated that the Liberian government has to step up its game in managing patients' information.

"Globally, there are health regulations that patients' records should be kept secret when needed by approved persons or institutions but it should not be a game of bias. They began calling the names of the first confirmed cases, but today, some other government officials said to have come down with COVID-19 are concealed from the public," he noted.

He said it would even help in contact tracing if the name of a prominent person said to have come down with COV-ID-19 is called and made pub-

"One one of the reasons why people are resisting those who carry out the awareness of people preventing themselves from the Coronavirus is because they don't trust their government.

There have been many contradictions in the fight against corruption and other vices eating up the fabric of the country," he said.

Nyan added: "Let the people themselves take the lead. Train them in their communities. Involve their leaderships and trust will be rebuilt. They will listen to those they take the prevention messages to and the listeners too will also do the same.'

FEATURES

Meet the 13 female Health ministers in Africa leading war on Covid-19

By Prince Akpah

CROSS the world, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has not only become another disaster to wipe us all out of the earth but has also put the spotlight on the level of the competence of our political

In Africa, the case is not different, as governments are putting in drastic measures to halt the spread just like their counterparts in Europe

With the noticeable role health ministers are playing in fighting this global pandemic, I delved into a special survey to uncover the female faces leading the battle and definitely deserve commendation for the effort they have put in so far.

This is despite the fact that it is sad that they have faced several challenges in the process because of the under-resourced facilities they manage and how they are risking their lives in the battle against the virus.

Beyond their competence, these women have stood tall in the delivery of their duties as their role in combating this pandemic goes beyond providing counsel to their presidents but stands as an opportunity to manage the global crisis.

These great women provide all manner of support to doctors, nurses and other health workers in their countries while also collaborating with their counterparts in making sure that patients receive treatment and citizens are well informed about the situation in their countries.

My research on 51 African countries has shown that there are only 13 female ministers in charge of health across the continent. Nine of these are medical doctors and the others were appointed based on their political leadership track records.

The countries that deserve this special applause for such laudable appointments are Tanzania, Angola, Burkina Faso, Congo Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mozambique, Somalia and Uganda.

Prince Akpah, Managing Director of African PR & Rating Firm Avance Media presents the list of 12 Female Health Ministers in Africa leading countries to help fight the Covid-19 disease.

One: Ummy Ally Mwalimu (bottom -R) has served as Tanzania's Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister since 2015. She is a two-term Member of Parliament, appointed to a seat reserved for women.

She completed her schooling at Korogwe Girls Secondary School in 1993. In 1998, she received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Dar es Salaam and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Pretoria in 2001.

Between 2000 and 2010, she worked in various governmental and NGO agencies in legal, research and governance roles. She also previously served as Community Development, Gender and Children deputy minister in the Vice President's Office and in the Constitutional Affairs and Justice ministry.

Two: Dr Fawziya Abikar is Somalia's Health minister. Three: Dr Hala Zayed, Egypt's Health and Population minister. She served as President of the 57357 Academy of Health Sciences, Chairwoman of the Supreme Committee for Combating Corruption at Egypt's Health ministry and as Advisor to the Health and Population

She also held other positions, including Director General of the General Department of Hospitals in the Medical Therapy Sector of the Health Ministry, Head of the Central Administration for Monitoring and Follow-up and the Head of the Department of Grants and Loans at the ministry.

Dr Zayed holds a Master's degree in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and a doctorate and Master's degree in Business Administration. She once supervised a series of national projects in the health sector to which the World Bank, the World Health Organisation and many international donors contributed.

Four: Dr Jacqueline Lydia Mikolo, Congo Republic's Health and Population minister since May 6, 2016. She was previously Public Procurement and Regulatory Coordinator at the Department of Major Works.

At the 69th World Health Assembly, held on May 23-28, 2016 in Geneva, she presented the Congolese Health Programme. Entitled "The march towards development", it sets itself as a primary goal to facilitate access to health for the population with inexpensive and quality care over the period 2016-2021.

This goes through several achievements such as the establishment of universal health insurance, construction of general hospitals in all departments, and the strengthening of the management of certain diseases or maintenance of free access to health care for certain segments of the population.

Five: Dr Léonie Claudine Sorgho-Lougue, Burkina Faso's Health minister, is a radiologist doctor, and professor of radiology, medical imaging and radiodiagnostics. She was Director of the Research and Training Unit in Health Science at the country's Ouaga I Joseph Ki-Zerbo University from 2015 to 2019 and member of the jury of the 18th and 19th Human Medicine, Pharmacy, Odontology, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Production aggregation competitions at CAMES.

Dr Sorgho-Lougue teaches Radiology, Medical Imaging and Radiodiagnostics at the university and supervises medical and specialisation students. She is also Director of the UNESCO Chair 'Gender, Women, Science, Society and Sustainable Development' of universities, institutes and research centres, Head of Radiology and Medical Imaging Department and Director in charge of University Hospital Planning and cooperation at the Center Hospitalier Universitaires Pédiatrique Charles De Gaulle. Dr Sorgho-Lougue is also a member of several university and learned societies: evaluation group of the International Conference of Deans of Faculties of Medicine of French Expression (CIDMEF) and member of the board and the Board of Directors of said Conference, Conference African of the Deans of Faculties of Medicine of French Expression (CADMEF), of which she is the general treasurer, Burkinabe Society of Radiology and Medical Imaging (SOBURAD) as a founding member and treasurer.

Six: Dr Lia Tadesse Gebremedhin, Ethiopia's Health minister, was previously executive director of the CenMEET THE 13 FEMALE HEALTH MINISTERS IN **AFRICA LEADING THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 PANDEMIC - PRINCE AKPAH**



the University of Michigan and once served as project director for the Maternal and Child Survival Programnme at Jhpiego Ethiopia. She also led research in Reproductive Health, Public Health and Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She earned her Doctor of Medicine and Master of health care administration at Jimma University, and specialised in O&G at Addis Ababa University.

Seven: Lizzie Nkosi is Eswantini's Health minister.

Eight: Maria Inácia CóSanhá, Guinea Bissau's Public Health, Family and Social Cohesion minister, graduated in Portuguese at the Escola Normal Superior TchicoTé in Bissau.

She was President of the Instituto de Mulher e Criança, Director General of Social Solidarity and Family, Head of the Department of Information and Professional Guidance, Employment Technician of the General Directorate of Labour, Employment and Professional Training in the Public Service and Labour ministry.

She twice served as Hospital Manage-

ment before being promoted to her current position.

Nine: Dr Nazira Abdula, a paediatrician by profession, is Mozambique's Health minister. She graduated from Maputo Central Hospital with complementary stages in Portugal's Hospital São João do Porto.

Abdula earned a Master's degree in Nutrition from the University of Flinders, Australia, in 2006. She worked as a general practitioner at Mozambique's Medical Mavalane General Hospital from 1993 to 1997 and was involved in a programme to combat malaria in Mavalane

During the cholera epidemic of 1997, she led Maputo Central Hospital's cholera infirmary. She has taught at the Catholic University of Mozambique and in the Health Sciences Institute in Maputo and Beira. After serving as Health deputy minister from 2010 to 2014 in the previous administration, she was appointed Health minister in January 2015.

Ten: Dr Ruth Jane Aceng, a paediatrician, is Uganda's Health minister who previously served as Director General of Medical Services in the ministry.

Her time in public service began when she was a medical of ficer in the ministry. Before her appointment as the Director General of Medical Services, she was serving as executive director of Lira Regional Referral Hospital.

Dr Aceng has vast experience as a manager and a practising medical expert which she accumulated while serving in various tre for International Reproductive Health Training at ment secretary in the current govern-capacities, including Medical Officer, Senior Medical Officer, her country for a very long time.

Medical Officer Special Grade, Medical Superintendent, Consultant Paediatrician, Senior Consultant Paediatrician, Hospital Director, and the Director General of Health Services for her country's Health ministry.

Eleven: Dr Silvia Paula Valentim, Angola's Health minister, is a physician, cardiologist and university professor. She is Head of the Postgraduate and Scientific Research Department at the Faculty of Medicine of Universidade Agostinho Neto (FMUAN) in Huambo, with experience in Research - Molecular Biology and Genetics of Cardiovascular Diseases.

She entered the faculty aged just 16 year, completed her degree in the six years established in 1990. Since she was the youngest and best student, at just 21 years old she was offered a scholarship.

Immediately after her postgraduate studies and inspired by her maternal grandmother, she specialised in Cardiology at Hospital Santa Maria in Lisbon. The grandmother, a great nationalist Angolan woman who always defended the importance of advanced training in women, her emancipation and economic independence, has a severe heart disease.

Dr Silvia Valentim started her teaching career while just 19 years old, as Monitor in the Department of Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine in Huambo in the Department of Morphology Chair of Histology. With the growing need to reinforce the teaching staff of the FMUAN Department of Medicine, she was then transferred to the capital, Luanda, during the internship and became a supervisor of the department. After completing her degree, she moved to the Assistant category, an activity that was interrupted during her training abroad.

Twelve: Amna Nurhusein is Eritrea's Health minister, a position she has held since ealth

into thye position her appointment in 2009. She previously held various positions, including Tourism minister, and is a leading member of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice in her country.

Thirteen: Dr Wilhemina Jallah, Liberia's Health minister, was previously Head of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the John F. Kennedy Medical Centre in the capital, Monrovia. She helped provide medical services to young survivors of rape, many of whom required fistula repair surgery, and has practised medicine in

OPEC+ at brink of ending oil price war, while awaiting OPEC++ deal

By Special Correspondent

IN a move to save the oil industry, which is facing the biggest crisis in its history, OPEC and Russia have agreed on new production cuts.

The OPEC+ group has agreed to eliminate 10 million barrels of crude per day for an initial twomonth period to save a glutted oil market.

Mexico is the only country in the extended OPEC+ group to have refused to take part in the cuts at the same level as others, its energy minister Rocio Nahle having proposed a reduction in national output of 100,000 barrels per day instead of the 400,000 barrels per day requested.

Though the new OPEC+ deal is not dependent on additional cuts from outside the group to move forward - such as the United States, Brazil and Canada - OPEC+ is hoping for additional cuts from these and other G20 countries.

The OPEC+ production cuts are scheduled to begin next month but can only proceed if Mexico participates. From July to December, overall production cuts will drop to 8 million barrels per day, followed by 6 million barrels per day from January 2021 to April 2022.

The fate of a new "OPEC++" deal, in which additional countries could sign up to production cuts, will be the focus of a virtual meeting of G20 energy ministers on Friday.

US Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette among the global energy leaders expected to participate in the webinar, with Alberta Energy minister Sonya Savage on Thursday's OPEC+ call - a first for Canada.

The OPEC+ production cuts

when the group is set to meet again. Iran, Libya and Venezuela will be exempted, while Saudi Arabia and Russia would bear the brunt of the

Brent crude was down by 4 per cent at market close, losing pace from a nearly 11 per cent rally before the details of the deal were announced. Brent closed at \$31.48 per

Free market or bust?

Thursday's deal would bring an end to the oil price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia - which started on March 8 in an effort to regain market share captured by US shale oil production in recent

In moving to end the oil price war, both Saudi Arabia and Russia have called on the participation of global producers outside the OPEC+ group to join production

That issue is set to be addressed at Friday's virtual G20 meeting but, citing an open market and antitrust laws, the US has balked at the idea of officially joining cuts.

However, President Donald Trump has indicated the US, which is a top oil producer along with Russia and Saudi Arabia, will naturally see sharp declines in oil and gas production with the steep drop in oil prices and drop in global demand. Trump has radically changed his position on OPEC, as the oil market collapse foreshadows a collapse of US shale.

"Obviously, for many years I used to think OPEC was very unfair," Trump told journalists on Wednesday, adding: "I hated OPEC. You

would just run through June 10, want to know the truth? I hated it. Because it was a fix. But somewhere along the line that broke down and went the opposite way. ... We have a tremendously powerful energy industry in this country now - No. 1 in the world - and I don't want those jobs being lost."

The US shale industry, however, remains sharply divided on official production cuts - with majors like Exxon and Chevron calling for a free market and smaller independents more eager to join production

Last year saw US oil production average 12 million barrels per day. But production is now projected to fall by at least 15 per cent in the second quarter of this year and another drop of 12 per cent in the third quarter, according to the EIA.

Several companies in the Permian Basin are asking for a hearing with the Texas Railroad Commission - the regulator - to determine mandatory production cuts. But no such meeting has been called so far.

Global pandemic coincides with price war

Oil prices plummeted in recent weeks as the oil price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia, which began on March 8, was amplified by an unprecedented drop in oil demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

About 40 per cent of the world's population has been ordered to stay home to stem the spread of the pandemic, according to the Energy Information Agency.

Unforeseen impacts on travel, tourism, manufacturing, and joblessness have since seen global oil demand plummet by about 30 per



cent, from over 100 million barrels per day to under 85 million.

The virtual OPEC+ meeting was, in fact, an indicator of the new reality, as many of the world's top oil and gas leaders joined the meeting from their home countries.

Brent crude was averaging \$55.70/barrel in February, before the oil price war and the impacts of COVID-19 were known. Ahead of the meeting on Thursday, Brent crude was trading at \$33.41 and WTI at \$25.92.

Both Brent and WTI have reached their lowest level in years, with Brent hitting \$22.76 per barrel last month, its lowest price since November 2002.

"The global spread of the coronavirus is creating a demand shock that is impacting already fragile world energy market balances. Markets are continuing to assess the yet unknown risks of COVID-19 to the global economy as the disease continues to suppress economic activity," Dr Sun Xiansheng, Secretary General International Energy Forum, said in a statement.

As demand for oil and the price of oil have declined, storage capacity is reaching its limits. In just a few weeks, analysts predict, oil production may be shut in for a lack of global storage capacity.

"Low oil prices combined with the inelastic nature of refined product supply and demand is usually a boon to refining margins," Dr Sun noted, adding: "However, COVID-19 also impacts downstream profitability caused by erosion in demand. The combination of sustained shocks to supply and demand will cause product inventories to rise to new highs."

Impact on Africa

Africa has a lot to lose from sustained low oil prices, in addition to the damaging economic impacts of COVID-19. Economic powerhouses like Nigeria and Angola, which reportedly had difficulty selling oil earmarked for export this month, could take especially hard hits made especially vulnerable by a lack of economic diversification.

On the whole, the continent's oil producers have pushed for cooperation at the OPEC+ meeting, recommending a stabilised oil market and reduction in production.

In a joint statement, the Africa Petroleum Producers Organisation (APPO) called for OPEC and non-OPEC members to cooperate in stabilising the oil market.

APPO Council of Ministers president Foumakoye Gado, who is Niger's Petroleum minister, said: "We reiterate our support to OPEC and non-OPEC member countries as well other global oil producers in their concerted efforts at ensuring long-term stability of the global oil market. Furthermore, we urge the G20 countries to offer assistance to Africa as we struggle to ward off this pandemic and price stabilization process in the oil markets."

Timipre Marlin Sylva, Nigeria's Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, also appealed for cooperation heading into Thursday's meet-

"The driving force of our OPEC policy is first the stability of our national economy as well as the stability of the global economy which is heavily dependent on OPEC and its strategic partners, popularly referred to as OPEC+," said

"Nigeria, like the rest of the world, has been hit by the Global Pandemic, COVID-19, and is prepared to join the rest of the world in making the necessary sacrifices needed to stabilise the crude oil market; and to prevent what is likely to be a major global economic meltdown," added the minister.

NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber, supported the deal and advocates for further cuts, declaring: "The OPEC deal is a good one. We can work with it for now. African countries will not recover from COVID-19 and the associated economic difficulties without a strong energy sector."

Ayuk elaborated: "The oil industry helped the continent pull itself out of the last economic recession of 2008. African businesses and workers will be happy to see the end to the price war and to maintain an industry that meets their hopes and aspirations."

He said a global cut would be better "and everyone needs to put some skin in the game, especially our friends from the US, Canada and Norway".

South Sudan, a member of the OPEC+ cooperation, backed the production cuts. "South Sudan believes that market volatility is negative for every player in the market and hurts our ability to attract new foreign investment, diversify our economy and promote peace," noted its Petroleum minister, Puot Kang.

"South Sudan is focused on boosting exploration and opening up new oil and gas fields, and the current scenario hampers our growth targets significantly," added the minister.

The International Monetary Fund is already working closely with African countries to stave off recessions and an economic collapse.

Governments throughout the continent are calling for debt relief as the global economic crisis deepens, with both the World Bank and the IMF having expressed support for debt relief as less developed economies navigate the COVID-19 fallout.

An Africa Oil & Power Conference dispatch filed from Cape Town.

Guardian

BUSINESS

Up to 75 million jobs at risk in travel and tourism sector due to coronavirus

ZURICH

As many as 75 million jobs are at immediate risk in the travel and tourism sector globally due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Travel & Tourism Council based in London said on Wednesday.

The organisation forecast that travel restrictions and other measures put in place to stop the spread of the pandemic will mean a \$2.1 trillion hit to global GDP in terms of lost tourism revenue in 2020.

"The number of jobs now at risk in the global travel & tourism sector is a staggering 75 million, bringing real and profound worry to millions of families around the world," said Gloria Guevara, WTTC president and chief executive. "This chilling new figure also represents the collective delay by many governments around the world to react quickly enough to come to the aid of a sector which is the backbone of the global economy."

The latest job risk figure is 50 per cent higher than the organisation's previous estimate less than two weeks ago. As many as a million jobs are being lost in the travel and tourism sector every day, WTTC said last week.

Asia-Pacific is expected to be hardest hit, with up to 49 million jobs at risk throughout the region, representing a loss of nearly \$800bn to travel and tourism GDP. In Europe, the figure is expected to be 10 million jobs, totalling a loss of nearly \$552bn.

The Americas will also be struck hard by this crisis, with the US, Canada and Mexico expected to lose up to \$570bn combined, with nearly seven million jobs at risk. Brazil, the UK, Italy, Germany, France, Japan, Indonesia and India were other countries named by WTTC where the problem could be

"If urgent action is not taken within the next few days, the travel & tourism sector faces an economic meltdown from which it will struggle to recover and plunge millions of people dependent upon it for their livelihoods into debt," she said.

"Not only will this have an enormous negative impact on major businesses in the travel and tourism sector around the world, the 'domino effect' will also result in massive job losses across the entire supply chain, hitting employees and those in self-employment."

In Europe, Germany is set to be the most affected country with almost 1.6 million jobs at risk, followed by Russia with an estimated 1.1 million potential losses. Italy and the UK are each facing about a million lost jobs in the sector. The Middle East, on the other hand, faces unemployment of about 1.8 million and a GDP drop of up to \$65bn in the regional economy due to the global health crisis.

"We call on all those in positions of power to help the powerless and enact policies to support and sustain a sector which is a driving force of the global economy and responsible for generating one in five of all new jobs," added Ms Guevara.

Travel and tourism, which contributes 10.4 per cent of the global GDP, is directly responsible for generating one in every 10 jobs, and has outpaced the growth of the world economy for eight successive years. Worldwide, there are over 435,000 confirmed cases of Covid-19 with more than 19,500 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University as of Wednesday. More than 111,000 have recovered. The Covid-19 health crisis represents the biggest challenge to the global economy since the 2008 financial meltdown with at least \$17tn having been wiped off stock markets in the past months.

Meanwhile, one in five jobs in the oilfield service industry could also be cut due to low project volumes brought on by the Covid-19 outbreak and the major fall in crude prices brought about by the battle for market share, according to Norwegian consultancy Rystad Energy.

It estimates that contractors will scale back their workforce by 21 per cent, meaning that more than a million jobs will be axed in an industry that employs about five million people. The shale sector is expected to be worst hit, as it was when oil prices previously collapsed in 2014-16.

"Low oil prices are likely to persist in 2021 and could lead to further workforce reductions. But as we move into the second half of 2021, with better market fundamentals and a fading Covid-19, recruitment is likely to pick up in the shale sector and from 2022 will also kick-off in the offshore sector," said Audun Martinsen, Rystad Energy's head of oilfield service research.



Swiss International Airlines aircraft parked on the tarmac at Zurich Airport.

INNOVATIVE

This CT company switched from making car badges to 350,000 face shields a week

Cape Town based manufacturer has gone from making car badges to making 350,000 face shields a week during South Africa's nationwide lockdown.

David King, Financial Director at Creative Graphics International (CGI) based in Ottery, Cape Town, says in order to stay afloat their company switched from making decals and badges for South African taxis, Toyota, Ford, VW and Nissan to manufacturing thousands of face shields

Before lockdown, Creative Graphics International (CGI) made decals and badges for South African taxis, Toyota, Ford, VW and Nissan. Image supplied by Creative Graphics International. The company which has been in operation for more than 35 years, feared its revenue stream would run dry when President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the country would go into a national lockdown and they were not listed as an essential service.

"The cash to cash cycle for a manufacturer is incredibly long. Raw Materials need to be ordered, deposits paid, shipping, payments, clearing, production, shipping, collection which places immense strain on cash flow and as a result, cash being tied up in stock," said King.

Rather than throwing in the towel, the company turned it into an opportunity to save lives. Their econoversion face shields can be made in 40 seconds. Image supplied by Creative Graphics International. "The idea actually came from one of our clients that said it was looking for face shields for its staff to keep working," said King.



CGI staff making the shields in their Ottery plant in Cape Town.

The idea prompted CGI to adapt their business. In a matter of days they figured out a way to use their specialised equipment and make face shields from plastic. The face shields are manufactured with specific polymer constructions, each selected to ensure optimum clarity and functionality as required by the respective types.

"The company obtained its Essential Services Certificate on the 27th of March and reconfigured its plant and began producing," said King. Out of this came two versions of the SURVISOR shield. The first is an econo-version which can be made in 40 seconds. This means they can make 350,000 units per week for potential Covid-19 patients during trans-

portation or hospital visit.

They can also manufacture a second more durable 'premium' version which can be reused by fieldworkers in healthcare and other forms of essential services. They manufacture a second more durable 'premium' version which can be reused. Image supplied by Creative Graphics International.

Because of the project, the company has been able to avoid completely shutting down. At present the company has been able to keep about 30% of its staff employed, with the hope of bringing back more with more orders.

Face shield rings for their econoversion face shield. Image supplied by Creative Graphics International. "We

have had enquiries for our product from outside South Africa including the USA, Australia and the NHS of United Kingdom. While there is a moratorium on the export of PPE we are working through this process with the DTI and ITAC," said King. "A lot of businesses have the potential to make this a fullblown export industry once the lockdown is over.'

The company currently sells the face shields to essential service corporates. They leverage off high volume orders to lower the costs per mask. CGI have donated shields to various causes including a significant amount to automotive customer Ford SA who are working on a social responsibility project.

COVID-19

Poll: 81pc of staff working from home unproductive

NAIROBI

About eight in 10 Kenvans believe that working from home is ineffective, a survey conducted by Consumer Insight Africa has revealed, even as employers increasingly ask their staff to work from home in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, which has drastically changed the way business is

The poll released Thursday shows that 81 percent of Kenyan workers interviewed are of the view that working from home is unproductive. Only a meagre two percent felt productive working from home while three per cent of the 1,083 respondents said their productivity had remained the same. The survey was conducted between March 28 and 31.

This looks set to hurt the overall productivity of companies at a time when over 50 percent of staff in many firms are working from home to reduce the probability of spreading the virus which has infected 184 people and killed seven in Kenya. Another 13 have been reported as having fully recovered.

The findings also upend the ongoing thinking that working from home not only benefits employees by eliminating their daily commutes, but also increases productivity and leads to healthier lifestyles. It is viewed as a win-win situation that both workers and employers welcome on account of its flexibility and for its potential to improve work-life balance for employ-

"For 81 percent of office goers, working at home was ineffective with a skew to females and those in business," says the Consumer Insights Africa poll released on Thursday. About 85 percent of the female workers said they were unproductive while working remotely compared to males at 80 percent.



A woman working from the comfort of her house.

Self-employed workers offered a worse verdict on working from home with 85 percent saying they were unproductive compared 79 percent for those in employment. Kenya has suspended international passenger travel, closed schools indefinitely, closed bars and golf clubs and imposed a daily dusk-to-dawn curfew as well as banning public gatherings to curb the spread of the virus that has infected 1.5 million people globally, killing close to 90,000. Another 34,000 have recovered.

On Monday, the government also barred movement into and out of the four counties most affected by the virus, including Nairobi, Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi. Restrictions for Nairobi started on Monday and in the coastal counties on Wednesday evening.

Restriction on movements Tougher restriction on move-

ments look set to hurt Kenya's economic output, which analysts led by management consultants McKinsey

& Company expect will shrink by five percent in what will represent a \$10 billion (Sh1 trillion) loss if the coronavirus pandemic is not contained. Sectors such as tourism and horticulture, the two leading sources of foreign exchange, have already been hit hard by the ban on international travel. The outbreak has also disrupted supply chains and local production.

Kenya's economic growth is expected to slow down to three percent or less this year from an earlier forecast of 6.1 percent due to the economic shocks of the novel coronavirus, according to Treasury estimates. This is expected to lead to job cuts as well as under-employment.

Consumer Insight Africa says 21 percent of those polled have seen their incomes drop to zero since Kenya announced its first case of coronavirus on March 13. Another 61 percent have seen their income drop while 17 percent of those interview said their pay has remained unchanged. Only one percent of

those polled have seen their income rise, reflecting the impact of the virus on

A reduction in incomes invariably leads to depressed consumer spending and ultimately hits firms' sales, not to mention a reduction in income tax collections. Kenya announced tax cuts on March 25 including on corporation, personal income and sales levy for small and mid-sized traders, to protect the economy against the coronavirus. The tax changes, to be debated in Parliament on Tuesday, are geared at lowering the cost of basic goods while providing workers with additional income for spending to boost consumption.

Of the respondents who said their productivity had dropped as a result of working from home, 41 percent said they were spending more time watching pay TV and movies. Another 34 percent increased their spending on entertainment. On age distribution, more young employees said they were working remotely compared to their older counterparts. Some 86 percent of workers under 25 years said they were on out-of-office duty while 77 percent of those aged above 35 said they were working from

A lower productivity is a double loss to companies that have invested in tools like laptops and internet data to ease remote working. As people disperse to their homes to work and study because of the coronavirus pandemic, taking their laptops and company data with them, cyber security experts say hackers will follow, seeking to take advantage and infiltrate corporations. Many workers are moving their employers' data from professionally-managed corporate networks to home Wi-Fi setups protected with basic passwords.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Young Zimbabwean who changed his fortunes

HARARE

Zimbabwean entrepreneur, Paul Makaya - the founder and CEO of Bergast House, a digital solutions company - has been named in the Forbes Africa's 30

Under 30 list.

The list is one of the mostanticipated of young gamechangers on the continent. Each year, Forbes Africa looks for resilient self-starters, innovators, entrepreneurs and disruptors

who have the acumen to stay the course in their chosen field.

The 27-year old Zimbabwean businessman's budding empire is based on digital design and marketing. His is a story of defying the odds at almost every

turn. With just the \$200 he had saved up, Makaya and his friends invested it in 2016 and rented a miniature one-room office space that had only two chairs.

This was only the beginning of Bergast House, a company that

offers strategy, public relations, digital and design services. Bergast House has served over 103 clients including Zuva Petroleum, Astro Mobile, Maranatha Group of Schools, the Contact Centre Zimbabwe,

Tech24, the Chartered Institute Customer Management, Steward Bank, and the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society, delivering an advertising value of up to \$175 million. Makaya has been listed on the Gumiguru 40 Under 30

list of emerging Zimbabwean leaders and in 2019, was selected to be the vice curator of the World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Harare Hub.

GENEROSITY

Meet Luiza, a yoga teacher giving free lessons during the lockdown

KIGALI

ith the Prime indoors as part of the measures to stop the possible spread of the new coronavirus, one has to find ways to keep busy and avoid boredom, while making the most of time at home.

There are a couple of fun things one can do at home, alone or with the family that can also benefit one's health. For voga enthusiasts, this is the time to make use of that mat, as Tori Luiza, a certified yoga teacher and birth worker, says.

Luiza says anybody can do yoga and for those who want to try it, this is the time. You don't have to be super flexible or strong. "Yoga is a spiritual and ascetic discipline which includes breath control, meditation, and adoption of different postures and is practiced for mental, emotional, and physical health. It is great for all ages, religious backgrounds and athletic ability. You don't have to be super flexible or strong to practice."

The 25-year-old is a certified media can be. Social media,

yoga teacher and birth worker. Originally from Upstate NY, USA, but now living in Rwanda, Luiza is a 200-hour certified yoga teacher who has started an online yoga class on Instagram to help people as they stay inside their homes.

"Right now people around the whole world are affected by COVID-19. Many are forced to stay inside their homes and are looking for ways to connect with others, relieve stress, anxiety and stay healthy. I was thinking of ways to provide yoga classes during this time and decided to teach my first live online yoga class on Instagram this past week. I saw that over 80 people were watching my class live from Rwanda, the U.S. and even Ireland.'

"I teach vinyasa yoga as well as meditation classes. Vinvasa means 'movement on the breath'. Each movement is done on an inhale or exhale," she adds. She became certified through the Yoga Alliance in May of 2019 with Jai Yoga School in Upstate NY and has been teaching ever since.

"By teaching this live class, I realised how powerful social



The 25-year-old is a certified yoga teacher and birth worker.

like anything else, can be used to spread negativity and fear, but if you use it right, it can also be used to connect people in positive ways that we could never imagine,'

"I plan to teach more online everyone," Luiza says. Having

been impacted by yoga herself, she believes people's lives and health can be made so much better by making the practice a routine. She started practicing yoga to manage her anxiety.

"I was experiencing general classes so I can better serve the anxiety as well as full blown global community as well as panic attacks that even sent me make yoga more accessible to to the hospital a few times. Once this started happening to me, I

realised I needed something to change in my life. I then began to practice yoga regularly, as I had done in the past and noticed how great it made me feel.

"Once I began this journey of yoga, I noticed my anxiety and panic attacks slowly started to fade away and today I can say that I haven't had a panic attack in almost two years," she recalls. Since then, Luiza has never looked back.

"This is why I decided to become a yoga teacher and why I dedicate myself to it regularly. Even though I had never thought I would be a voga teacher, my passion has turned into my career," she states. She disagrees with people who think yoga is merely a sport like others, because she thinks practicing yoga is a lifestyle, not just about losing weight and gaining flexibility.

"If practiced regularly, we begin to feel more energized all of the time, we think more positively, we are calmer, more rational and our perspectives and mood change. We start seeing ourselves and the world differently in the best of ways," she adds.

"The word yoga literally

RESTRICTIONS

Mozambique: Masks to be mandatory in transport, crowded places

MAPUTO

means "to yoke" or to combine.

What we are combining in

yoga is our mind and body.

In daily life we don't take the

time to focus inward because

we are always focused on

outward things such as going

to work, running errands,

being with friends and family

and planning for the next day,"

She says that practicing

yoga allows people to bring

their awareness and attention

inward so that we can find

a deeper connection with

ourselves. Luiza usually

teaches public classes weekly

at Waka Kimi, Waka Town, and

Heaven Fitness (The Retreat).

She also does private groups

and one-on-one sessions.

Sometimes she teaches in

Gisenyi for different business

events and wellness retreats.

Some of Luiza's students doing

Luiza is also a birth doula

and is currently working

on her childbirth educator

certification. She supports

pregnant women and their

partners with educational,

emotional and physical

support during pregnancy,

labour and delivery. Her plan

is to start teaching prenatal

and postnatal yoga very soon.

Relief of Distress grants. We are

calling on other public office

bearers and executives of large

companies to make a similar

gesture and to further increase

the reach of this national effort,"

to aid their economies during the lockdown. Indian Prime

Muhammadu Buhari, Rwanda's

Paul Kagame and Malawi's Peter

Mutharika together with their

Cabinets have each taken salary

While the EFF welcomed the

extension of the lockdown, the

party questioned if government

had taken adequate measures

to mitigate against the economic

and subsistence consequences

on ordinary people. The red

berets called on government to

impose an interest-free payment

holiday for three months for

all people who cannot afford to

make the monthly payments due

"The president and Covid-19

Command Council are tip-toeing

to the lockdown.

she explains.

The use of masks on transport and in crowded places in Mozambique is to become mandatory, in the latest government measure aimed at preventing the spread of the new coronavirus in the country.

The measures are included in a new decree that amends some articles of a first document approved by the government on 2 April, according to Filimão Suaze, spokesman for the cabinet, which met in Maputo on Wednesday in extraordinary session.

"The big issue facing the government is the protection of human life and all these measures aim to protect people," Suaze said. "In the meantime, this combination must be made without creating situations of economic crisis.'

In addition to the use of masks on public and private transport, the decree suspends the ban on taxi services by motorcycles and bicycles, after a number of protests on the part of operators, mainly in country's central and northern provinces. Under the new measures, such services may operate, but only with drivers and passengers using masks.

On the other hand, the government has suspended the article that forced van and bus operators to carry only one third of the normal capacity, so allowing them to take up to the maximum capacity of the vehicle, but again with everyone wearing masks.

The number of officially registered cases of infection by the new coronavirus in Mozambique rose to 17 from 10, but there is still no record of any death from Cov-Several governments have id-19 in the country, the Ministry of Health already made salary adjustments announced on Wednesday. The country is in a state of emergency that is to run to the end of April, with recreational spaces Minister Narendra Modi, African closed and a ban in force on all types of presidents including Nigeria's public and private events and gatherings.

During the same period schools are closed and no visas will be issued for foreign nationals seeking to enter the country. The number of deaths caused by Covid-19 in Africa so far exceeds 500. with more than 10,500 cases of infection recorded in 52 countries, according to the latest pandemic data for the continent.

The new coronavirus responsible for the Covid-19 pandemic has so far infected more than 1.4 million people worldwide, of whom more than 82,000 have died. Of the cases of infection, some 260,000 are considered cured. After the outbreak broke out in China in December, it spread worldwide, leading the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare a pandemic situation.



The big issue facing the government is the protection of human life and all these measures aim to protect people," Suaze said. "In the meantime, this combination must be made without creating situations of economic crisis

CONCERN

EFF and City of Ekurhuleni respond to Ramaphosa's call for salary cuts

CAPE TOWN

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) as well Ekurhuleni mayor Mzwandile Masina have quickly answered the call by President Cyril Ramaphosa to take pay cuts to contribute to the Solidarity Fund - aimed at acquiring resources to help combat the scourge of the novel coronavirus.

In a statement shortly after the president announced that the lockdown would be extended for an additional two weeks, the EFF said all its public representatives - including MPs, MPLs and councillors - would contribute a third of their salaries to the fund.

"In this regard, the mandatory party levy deducted from our public representatives will not be deducted in the period where we will be contributing a third of our salaries to the Solidarity Fund. Our public representatives will continue to closely monitor all spheres of government against all forms of corruption and violation of procurement laws and regulations," the statement

Meanwhile Masina said he would be donating 33% of his monthly salary over the next three months. Senior Ekurhuleni officials including the city manager, chief financial officer and



SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.

members of the mayoral committee, Speaker and Chief Whip would donate between announced on Thursday 15% and 33% of their salaries.

The mayor said discussions heads to donate 25% and

divisional heads 12.5% over the same period. Ramaphosa night during an address to the nation that he, together with were underway for department his cabinet, deputy ministers and premiers, would take a

one-third cut in their salaries for the next three months, which would be donated to the Solidarity Fund.

The fund has so far raised around R2.2 billion, with half of that already allocated to buying aside by government for Social

sterile gloves, face shields, surgical masks, test kits and ventilators, he said. "It will also allocate funds for humanitarian relief to vulnerable households, in addition to the R400m set

around the financial services sector and are afraid to provide decisive and clear direction that will insulate our people from the economic jeopardy of further exclusion and repossession of their vehicles, businesses and houses. This points to the reality that the financial services sector, particularly banks, have disproportionate political control of the elected

government," the party said.

Jumia offers 100,000 masks for health workers

CHARITY

E-commerce firm Jumia Kenya has donated 100,000 face masks to the Covid-19 National Response Committee, which was set up to gather resources for combating the spread and

impact of the virus. Jumia Kenya managing director Sam Chappatte said the contribution, which was received by frontline in fighting the disease,

Kenya has 179 confirmed cases, according to the health ministry announcement on Wednesday. The Amref Health Africa and Red Cross, was ministry projects that cases could hit made in recognition of the need to sup- 10,000 by the end of April, if social disport community health workers at the tancing and hygiene measures are not adhered to.

"Frontline workers across the country are protecting us and leading the fight against Covid-19. These heroes deserve our full support - and it is with this aim that we are making a small contribution to the fight," Mr Chappatte told the Business Daily on Thursday.

He added that "e-commerce plat- ceipts from development partners, forms like Jumia, with cashless payments and contactless delivery capapandemic. And stand ready to serve."

local firms, individual Kenyans and multinational companies. Salary cuts bilities, are uniquely positioned to be for top government officials including part of Kenya's response strategy to this the president and his deputy, the three arms of government and counties will Jumia's donation adds to the realso flow to the response fund.

UAE animal shelters see rise in pet abandonment amid Covid-19 fears

ABU DHABI

nimal shelters in the UAE have reported an increase in the number of surrendered pets because their owners are afraid they could catch Covid-19 from them.

Shelters say misinformed owners have been giving up their pets for the past two months but the issue was exacerbated this week after a tiger at Bronx Zoo in New York tested positive for the virus. The wild animals - including six other tigers and lions - were believed to have been infected by a zoo employee who had not yet begun displaying symptoms.

The news prompted the World Health Organisation to clarify, though there is a possibility for transmission to animals from humans through close contact, further evidence is needed to understand if pets can spread the disease.

"Based on current evidence, human to human transmission remains the main driver," Who said. Amirah William, owner and manager of Stray Dogs Centre UAQ, said they have taken in more than 30 dogs over the past two months.

"This past week we have taken in eight dogs as a direct result of people believing they can catch Covid-19 from them," she said. "Panic has ensued. Two weeks ago, 15 were surrendered." Ms William said she tried to explain that the pets posed no threat but the owners were unwilling to listen. "Fear is greater than edu-

cation, unfortunately," she said. "There is no scientific evidence that dogs can pass on Covid-19. However, there are common-sense practices that keep you and your dog safe." She suggested social distancing, not allowing people to pet your dog and using an F10 solution to disinfect the dog's paws after a



Amirah William is hopeful her 160 rescued dogs will get help from authorities.

The UAE government has advised against walking dogs outdoors at all and, this week, the British Veterinary Association also recommended that pets remain indoors to avoid infected passersby from stroking them and potentially

depositing the virus onto their fur. Ms William said dog owners need to get creative to keep their pet entertained.

"Paws Pals, Dog Walk and several others offer online isolation exerand expending energy," she said. with microchips abandoned most

"Make use of underground building parking to play fetch ... and set up a toilet station for your dog on the balcony or in the bathroom by using artificial grass with pee pads or newspaper underneath."

An unexpected positive outcome of the outbreak, however, has been an increase in fosters because from more people are working from home. "We have had 127 dogs out to foster and 17 adoptions. That has given us space to take dogs in need," she said. "Please do not abandon or dump your pets. Contact us if you need support or ad-

Michelle Francis, founder of Animals and Us Welfare in Fujairah, said they too have taken more pets in lately as a result of misleading messages on social media. "Bad news does travel faster than good news in the social media world," said Ms Francis, "The numbers increased after pet owners read social media reports."

She said pet abandonment has been a longstanding issue. "Some people make all kinds of excuses cises to keep your dog entertained not to keep a pet. "We find dogs

of them in terrible conditions while some owners drop their animals outside our gate in carton boxes," she said

Para UAE in Dubai has been fielding calls from nervous owners asking how to protect their animals against the virus. "We had a recent adopter contacting us asking if the dog was vaccinated against corona," said co-founder Sarah Al Zaaki. The animal shelter went from taking on three to four dogs a week to that amount per day.

"We were given 18 cats in less than a week, not to mention the 22 requests to surrender cats in one day," said Ms Al Zaaki. She said dogs were being dumped on the streets rather than directly surrendered.

"Lack of education, awareness, as well as fear from the media, people losing their jobs and salary cuts; everyone is in panic and it's common for people to let go of their pets in such times. "We are never prepared for such situations," she

How to keep your dog entertained while staying at home

Most dogs require a lot of physical stimulation, which can be difficult to maintain when social distancing and staying at home. Ms Al Zaaki had the following suggestions: Laying out patches of fake grass on a balcony, if you have one; Read more: What to do with your dog when you can't go for a walk: potty training, games and treats;

"There are many other ways to stimulate your pet mentally, which can tire them out. There are several activities that can keep both you and your pet entertained and can strengthen your bond with your pet. Get creative and have fun, make this break worthwhile." She said feeding your dog their meals with puzzle toys - including giving them frozen treats in a kong - will keep them entertained and distracted.

"Teach your dog those basic commands you've been meaning to. There are so many things you can do to keep them entertained. We know it does not replace the walk, but we need to keep everyone safe in order to continue our work." If all else fails, bring your pet into an animal shelter temporarily until this period passes.

OBITUARY

Famed Italian shoemaker Sergio Rossi dies as coronavirus strikes

Italian luxury shoemaker Sergio Rossi has died aged 84 after being hospitalised with the coronavirus. The mayor of the famed designer's home town confirmed the news on Friday, April 3. Rossi died on Thursday in the small town of Cesena in central Italy.

Italy has recorded more deaths from the coronavirus than any other country in the world, with more than 14,000 fatalities as of Saturday. The elderly have been particularly hard hit by the virus, of which there are more than 119,000 recorded cases in the European country, and 19,700 confirmed recoveries.

"[Rossi] was among the founders of the high-end women's footwear district in the area of Forli and Cesena in the mid-20th century," said Luciana Garbuglia, mayor of San Mauro Pascoli, where Rossi was born in 1935 and where he founded his brand.

In 1951, Rossi, the son of a shoemaker, opened his first store in his hometown, with the first shoes bearing his eponymous brand name produced in 1968. French luxury fashion group Kering took over the brand in 1999. It then passed into the hands of the Italian private equity fund Investindustrial

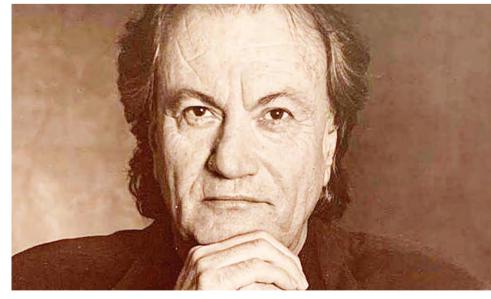
in 2015, when Rossi had already retired.

His eponymous label also took to social media to pay tribute to the designer, pledging to honour his vision in future collections. "Today everyone at Sergio Rossi joins me in remembering our dear Sergio, the inspiring founder of our dream," read a statement from the brand's chief executive, Riccardo

"Sergio Rossi was a master, and it is my great honour to have met him and gotten to present him the archive earlier this year. His vision and approach will remain our guide in the growth of the brand and the business.

"He loved women and was able to capture a woman's femininity in a unique way, creating the perfect extension of a woman's leg through his shoes. Our long and glorious history started from his incredible vision and we'll remember his creativity forever."

Rossi's son, Gianvito, is also a shoe designer with his own namesake brand. Sergio Rossi designs have been worn by the likes of Sienna Miller, Miley Cyrus and Priyanka Chopra. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the brand donated more than \$100,000 to two of the largest hospitals in Milan.



Shoemaker Sergio Rossi began designing shoes in the 1950s.

CREATIVITY

'Stylish and easy to wear': How Ramadhan fashion has evolved right through the years

DUBAI

A decade ago, shopping for clothes to wear during Ramadhan mainly involved stocking up on kaftans and decorative abayas from local sougs. But the Ramadan retail market has since evolved, with names such as Michael Kors, Oscar de la Renta and Dolce & Gabbana entering the landscape.

It all started in 2014, when American label DKNY launched a capsule collection for Ramadan, kicking off a trend many other western brands would come to follow. Six years on, Tommy Hilfiger, Burberry and H&M have all experimented with longer hemlines, flowing silhouettes and headscarves for their

Middle East clientele during the holy month. Then came the rise of modest fashion, which is now a thriving retail category, thanks to hijab-wearing models and modest fashion bloggers shedding light on the demand for conservative cuts. Financial projections, too, show this fashion segment as a lucrative one; the State of the Global Islamic Economy Report 2019-20 estimates that spend on fashion by the Muslim community tallied up to \$283 billion in 2018, projected to grow to \$368bn in 2021 and reach \$402bn by 2024.

MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM Afya ya Jamii 23:00 Habari Uwanja wa Mazoezi 21:00 Out n' About 23:30

SATURDAY 11 April Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI 6:00

Kumekucha 7:00 Habari Al Jazeera

8:00 Watoto wetu 10.00 Shika Bamba 5 Mjue Zaidi rpt

The Base rpt 11.45 The Great Queen Seonduk 12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

Igizo rpt: Mapito 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego Shamsham za Pwani 17:00

18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Mapito 19:00 Art and lifestyle

19:25 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari

21:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo Kipindi maalum: Insta Moia Kesho leo rpt

22:40 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 12 April

Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari

8:00 Al jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt

12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza The Great queen Seonduk 16:00 16:45 ITV Top 10

17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego

20:00 Kipindi Maalum: Biko 21:05 Mizengwe 21:10

21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: More than pain 23:45 ITV Top 10 00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

MONDAY 13 March

Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha

7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need 10:00 Watoto wetu

11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt 12:00 Al jazeera 12:30 Igizo Mtego rpt 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:10 15:00 Movie: Identity card 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu

18:10 Aibu yako rpt Mapishi 18:15 18:45 Kesho leo

19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost

23:00 The Base Al Jazeera DWTV

TUESDAY 14 March

Uwanja wa Mazoezi Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI Kumekucha Michezo Kumekucha Kishindo

9:00 9:30 Isidingo 10:00 Watoto wetu Jungu Kuu rpt 10:30 The Base rpt 11:00 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afva va jamij rpt

Kipindi maalum: KTMDA 13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Wizara ya viwanda na biashara Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu The Base 17:00 18:00 Jiii Letu 18:10 Yu wapi Mapishi rpt

Uchumi na biashara 18:30 Jarida la wanawake 19:00 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Tanzania vetu 21:35 Chetu ni chetu

Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 22:15 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV

WEDNESDAY 15April Uwania wa Mazoez 5:30

HABÁRI 6:00 6:40 Kumekucha HABARI 7:30 Kumekucha Michezo 8:00 8:55 Habari za saa Kumekucha Kishindo 9:00 9:30 Isidingo Habari za saa 09:55

10:00 Watoto wetu Uchumi na biashara 10:30 Habari za saa 10:55 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al iazeera Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:30

Dakika 45 13:00 Habari za saa 13:55 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost Habari za saa 14:55 15:00 Meza huru Watoto Wetu

16:30

21:40

Habari za saa

17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiii Letu Korean drama: The great 18:15 aueen Seonduk 19:00 liue Sheria

19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:00 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco

Ripoti Maalum:

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

The Base

Al Jazeera

THURSDAY 16 April Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABÁRI 6:00 Kumekucha 6:40 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo

8:55 Habariz a saa Kumekucha Kishindo 9:00 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto

Shamba lulu rpt 10:30 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al iazeera 12:30 liue Sheria

12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt 13:30 Tanzania vetu Habari za saa 13:55

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:00 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu

18:15 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari Malumbano ya hoja 21:00

Mapishi

23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV

6:40

12:00

12:30

FRIDAY 17 April Uwania wa Mazoezi 5:30 HABÁRI 6:00 Kumekucha

HABARI 7:30 Kumekucha Michezo 8:00 8:55 Habari za saa Kumekucha Kishindo 09:00 9:30 Isidingo

9:55 Habari za saa Watoto wetu 10:00 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt Habari za saa 10:55 11:00 The Base 11:55 Habari za saa

Al Jazeera

12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt

Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:10 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu The Base 17:00 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu

18:00 Jiii Letu 18:15 Mizenawe rpt 18:30 Shamba lulu Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:00 19:30 Isidingo

20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari The Base 23:30 00:30

SATURDAY 18 April

HABÁRI Kumekucha 6:40

7:00 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00

Shika Bamba 5 Mjue Zaidi rpt The Base rpt

11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk Chetu ni chetu rot 12:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

Igizo rpt: Mapito Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego

Jiji Letu 18:00 18:15 Igizo: Mapito 18:30

Art and lifestyle 19:00 19:25 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari

Hawavumi lakini wamo Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja Kesho leo rpt

22:40 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV **SUNDAY 19 April**

Uwania wa Mazoezi 5:30 6:00 HABÁRI 6:40 Kumekucha

7:00 Habari 8:00 Al iazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 11:40 Bongo Movie rpt: 12:00

Tamasha la Michezo 14:00 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great gueen Seonduk 16:45 ITV Top 10 Kipindi cha kikristo 17:30

Mapishi Matukio ya wiki 18:30 19:30 laizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari Kipindi Maalum: Biko 21:05

Jiii Letu

18:00

00:30

21:10 Mizenawe Mjue Zaidi 21:30 22:15 Bongo Movie: ITV Top 10

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

CAPITAL

Sat 11 April

CNN International Drive It rpt Turning the Spotlight rpt Culinary delight rpt Innovation rpt

Out n'about rpt Sports Gazette rpt Usafiri wako rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt

13:00Business edition rpt Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está

Elisa?) Where is Elisa? Tanzania Yetu rpt

Bundesliga kick off Capchat rpt

19:15 Mizengwe Korean Drama: Kimchi Family

Movie: Guantanamero Series rpt: Itohan Al Jazeera

Sun 12 April

CNN International In good shape 09:00 Capchat rpt 10:00 Sports Gazette rpt

Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi 11:30 Family Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesligga Kick Off rpt

13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Itohar 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Drive it rpf 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt

16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:00 Cookery pgm: Culinary 19:30

Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: Kimchi Family 21:00

21:15 Capchat live Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está 22:15 Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 13 April 06:00 Al iazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital

Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está 13:00 Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan Tanzania Yetu rot 16:30 Eco@Africa rpt 17:00

Movie: Identity card 17:30 19:00 The Décor rpt Shamba lulu

19:30 Series: Itohan 20:00 20:45 The Monday Agenda Capital Prime News 21:30 22:00 Kipima Joto

00:00 Al Jazeera Tues 14 April 06:00 Al Jazeera

Morning Jam (Via Capital 07:00 Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está 13:00 Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation

19:30 Jagina rpt Series: Itohan 20:00 Telenovela: (Dónde está 20:45 Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt Eco@Africa 23:00

Al Jazeera

Wed 15 April

06:00 Al jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital 07:00 Radio)

09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

Guardian www.ippmedia.com

WORLD

In parts of Africa, police are accused of excess force amid coronavirus lockdowns

KINSHASA/NAIROBI

DAYS after Congo announced emergency restrictions to curb the new coronavirus, a police video started circulating online showing an officer in the capital beating a taxi driver for violating a one-passenger limit.

The driver pleads with officers as they order him to lie face down on the road. But the punishment is meted out anyway: a sharp truncheon blow to the calves that leaves him writhing in pain.

Sylvano Kasongo, who heads the Kinshasa police and is seen in the March 26 video, sent a copy to Reuters because he said he wanted to encourage others to obey the rules. The force respects human rights, he said.

Reuters was unable to reach the driver in the video, which caused public outrage in Democratic Republic of Congo. The head of the drivers' union, Jean Mutombo, said members are scrambling to make a living in lean times

"We call on drivers to respect the decisions taken by the authorities to stop the spread of the coronavirus, but at the same time, we condemn any act of violence by the police," he said.

As in some other parts of the world, allegations of police brutality have

surfaced in several African countries as governments impose lockdowns, curfews and other restrictions in response to COVID-19.

But populations who cannot afford to stay locked down for long pose a problem for governments in countries where the virus could overwhelm their fragile health systems.

"We need to be very careful about the way the governments implement these measures," said Samira Daoud, regional director for West and Central Africa at London-based rights group Amnesty International.

"The people responsible for these violations should be sanctioned, and a clear message should be sent to security forces in order to make sure that they respect human rights."

"EXCESSIVE INTERVENTIONS"

In Senegal, where clashes between police and civilians are rare, the first night of a nationwide curfew in late March was marred by violence. Videos posted online showed police swiping at fleeing civilians with batons.

Reuters could not verify the footage, but police in a statement apologised for the use of "excessive interventions" and promised to punish officers involved.

Crowded living conditions make it



A police officer looks on as locals go on their daily business on the first day of a nationwide lockdown for 21 days to try to contain the coronavirus in Alexandra, South Africa, March 27, 2020. REUTERS

hard to obey rules demanding people keep a safe

On the evening of April 2, in Lorokwo West village in northern Uganda, police moved in to disperse people from informal settlements to reduce crowding. They broke down doors and dragged out occupants, injuring about 30 women and some men, police said in a statement on

It denounced the behaviour of the officers as "outrageous" and said 10 police and six military officers had been arrested.

In South Africa, where police are enforcing a nationwide lockdown, an officer and a security guard were arrested in connection with the shooting death of a man caught drinking in a

No charges have been brought against the officer pending an investigation by the Independent Police Investigative Directorate, its spokesman Sontaga Seisa told Reuters on Wednesday. The security guard has been charged with mur-

Videos purporting to show South African sealso circulating on social media.

South African police spokesman Vishnu Naidoo did not respond to requests for comment. In a statement last week, he said the videos had vet to be verified, but added "such alleged behaviour by security forces is unacceptable ... (and) can be neither tolerated nor condoned".

In Kenya, residents say violence has got worse since the outbreak began.

In one incident involving police enforcing the curfew, a 13-year-old boy, Yasin Moyo, suffered a fatal bullet wound on March 30 while playing on a balcony in Nairobi.

Police offered condolences to the family and said an investigation was underway.

Seven people have been killed by Kenyan police enforcing curfew or lockdown orders, according to Missing Voices, a website documenting police killings run by a coalition of rights groups including Amnesty's Kenya chapter. Police did not immediately respond to a request for

President Uhuru Kenyatta apologised for the violence in a televised speech last week.

"Maybe in the initial stages there were some challenges," he said. "I want to apologise to all Kenyans maybe for some excesses that were conducted."

UN chief highlights impacts of COVID-19 on women

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday highlighted the impacts of COVID-19 on women.

"A pandemic amplifies and heightens all existing inequalities. With COVID-19, this is even more so," said Guterres in

The policy brief highlighted the social and economic impacts of the pandemic on women across four areas: economic, health, unpaid care, and gender-based violence.

Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for women and girls simply by virtue of their sex, said the policy brief.

These impacts risk reversing limited gains made on women's rights in the past decades, Guterres warned. He asked for inclusion of women and women's organizations at the heart of the COVID-19 response; the transformation of the inequities of unpaid care work into a new, inclusive care economy that works for everyone; the designing of socioeconomic plans with an intentional focus on the lives and futures of women and girls.

"Putting women and girls at the center of economies will fundamentally drive better and more sustainable development outcomes for all, support a more rapid recovery, and place us back on a footing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals," said the policy brief.

Women are the majority of those employed in sectors the worst hit by business closures due to COVID-19, including the service sector and tourism.

The situation is worse in developing economies where the vast majority of women's employment, 70 percent, is in the informal economy with few protections against dismissal or for paid sick leave and limited access to social pro-

The policy brief recommended actions, including prioritizing putting money in the hands of women through cash transfer programs, expanding social protections including to informal workers, and alleviating the tax burden on women-owned businesses.

The health of women is adversely impacted through the re-allocation of resources and priorities, including sexual and reproductive health services amid the COVID-19 pan-

Women may be at greater risk of exposure as they constitute 70 percent of the global health workforce on the front lines of response to COVID-19.

The policy brief called for specific attention to the needs and protection of female health workers and the continuation of standard health services. With children out of school, intensified care needs of older persons and ill family members, and overwhelmed health services, demands for care work in a COVID-19 world have intensified exponentially.

Prior to the crisis, women already averaged three times more time spent on work in the home than men. The policy brief recommended the expansion of social protection, expansion of child care programs, and the design of economic recovery packages which finally make visible and place a value on unpaid care in the formal economy.

As the COVID-19 pandemic deepens economic and social stress coupled with restricted movement and social isolation measures, gender-based violence is increasing expo-

The policy brief recommended for all countries to make prevention and response part of their national COVID-19 response plans, ensure domestic violence shelters are designated essential services, move help and reporting and response online where possible, and increase funding to civil society organizations providing services in communities.

South Korea coronavirus patients vote as general election kicks off

SEOUL

EARLY voting in South Korea's parliamentary election began yesterday with coronavirus patients casting ballots at disinfected polling stations and candidates bumping fists instead of pressing the flesh as they appeal for sup-

The election could decide the control of parliament and shape President Moon Jae-in's ability to implement his agenda in the final two years of his administration, including looser fiscal policy aimed at creating jobs, raising the minimum wage, and continued re-engagement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The National Election Commission set up eight polling stations for more than 3,000 coronavirus patients receiving treatment as well as 900 medical staff at treatment centers in hard-hit areas, including the capital, Seoul, and Daegu city. The election is on April 15 but officials are hoping that people will take advantage of early voting to reduce the numbers crowding polling locations that day.

distance from each other. That has led to clashes.

Monday.

township tavern last week.

curity forces beating people who defy the rules with whips and forcing them to do squats are

> might unfold, and may increase its risks. Non-state groups could gain access to virulent strains that could pose similar devastation to societies around the globe.

Seventh, the crisis has hindered international, regional and national conflict resolution efforts, exactly when they are needed most. Many peace processes have stalled as the world responds to COVID-19. Revision and turmoil. This could lead strictions on movement may conto an escalation of violence and postinue to affect the work of various confidence-based mechanisms, as well as the ability to engage in crisis diplomacy to de-escalate potential

Eighth, the pandemic is triggering or exacerbating various human rights challenges. "We are seeing stigma, hate speech, and white supremacists and other extremists seeking to exploit the situation. We are witnessing discrimination in accessing health services.

UN chief calls for unity of Security Council over Covid-19 UNITED NATIONS While COVID-19 is first and foreto proceed with a vote -- even with

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for unity of the Security Council over the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The engagement of the Security Council will be critical to mitigate the peace and security implications of the COVID-19 pandemic," he told the council in a virtual briefing.

for a lot at this anxious time."To prevail against the pandemic, the world will need to work together.

That means heightened solidarity, and it means having the necessary resources, said Guterres.

The financial situation of the United Nations remains perilous, and it has only enough cash to fund peacekeeping operations through the end of June and no capacity to pay troop- and police-contributing countries, he said.

most a health crisis, its implications are much more far-reaching, he warned."We are already seeing its ruinous social and economic impacts, as governments around the world struggle to find the most effective responses to rising unemployment and the economic down-

But the pandemic also poses a sig-"Indeed, a signal of unity and re-nificant threat to the maintenance solve from the council would count of international peace and security -- potentially leading to an increase in social unrest and violence that would greatly undermine our ability to fight the disease."

In his briefing through video teleconference, Guterres reminded the Security Council of eight concerns that come under its purview: the maintenance of international peace and security.

First, the pandemic threatens to further erode trust in public institutions, particularly if citizens perceive



that their authorities mishandled the response or are not transparent on the scope of the crisis.

Second, the economic fallout of this crisis could create major stressors, particularly in fragile societies, less developed countries and those in transition. Economic instability will have particularly devastating impacts for women, who make up the vast majority of those sectors worst affected. The large numbers of female-headed households in conflict-settings are especially vulnerable to economic shocks.

Third, the postponement of elections or referenda, or the decision

mitigation measures - can create political tensions and undermine legitimacy. Such decisions are best made following broad consultation aimed at consensus. This is not a time for political opportunism. Fourth, in some conflict settings,

the uncertainty created by the pandemic may create incentives for some actors to promote further disibly devastating miscalculations, which could further entrench ongoing wars and complicate efforts to fight the pandemic.

Fifth, the threat of terrorism remains alive. Terrorist groups may see a window of opportunity to strike while the attention of most governments is turned toward the pandemic. Sixth, the weaknesses and lack of preparedness exposed by this pandemic provide a window onto how a bioterrorist attack

President Xi stresses tighter supervision of workplace safety

Premier Li Keqiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, also made an instruction on workplace safety.

Authorities must not let up on workplace safety at a time when the country is in a critical period of coordinating epidemic control and work resumption, Li said.

entities, said Xi, also general sec- work is vet mentally eliminated and major **BEIJING** Workplace safety must not be regarded as a trivial matter or accidents effectively curbed. retary of the Communist Party to be done.

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has called for tighter supervision of workplace safety to effectively safeguard the safety of people's lives and property.

As the country is resuming work and production, it is necessary to strengthen monitoring and law enforcement of production safety and better implement the responsibilities of market

of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, in an instruction. Authorities should firmly hold

the bottom line of workplace safety, Xi said.

Noting that the country had made progress in workplace safety last year with the number of accidents declining, Xi said there remained many risks and much

Party committees



stressed, adding that authorities

must not neglect safety while fo-

cusing on development.

treated with formalism or bureaucracy, Xi said. In view of the main features

and outstanding problems in workplace safety, Xi said efforts should be made to improve the responsibility system, ensure strict rectification of problems found, and strengthen risk prevention and control so that hidden dangers could be funda-

help decongest the current ones, but in these difficult conditions, the country is doing everything possible to protect people, with the support of other EU member states, he added.

Despite the enormous new challenge, the government has an emergency plan to prevent and deal with coronavirus cases in refugee and migrant accommodation facilities, Koumoutsa-

The state mechanism is on alert. We have a clear strategy and necessary actions have been taken.'

From early on, refugees and migrants are being given information in their mother languages about the situation, regarding social distancing or the symptoms for the infected, camps are

country since March 23 and increased medical aid is available inside camps, he explained. Due to adverse weather conditions lately, there were no new arrivals from Turkey, but Greek authorities were planning to set up new facilities on the islands, as all new arrivals should be in a 14-day precautionary quarantine due to the virus, Koumoutsakos said, welcoming the aid pledged by the EU to deal with the new double challenge, the refugee, migrant flows and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March this year, the European Commission pledged the allocation of further 700 million euros to Greece to deal with the refugee and migrant ros will be available via the emergency

also in lockdown mode as the entire European support instrument for tackling the COVID-19 crisis once the "green light" is given by the European Council and the European parliament, he noted. Koumoutsakos also welcomed the Austrian government's pledge to send 181 special containers to Greece for the accommodation of migrants and refugees, as confirmed in a video conference with Austrian Interior Minister Karl Nehammer, he told the press

Furthermore, Greece welcomed the "symbolic" gesture by Luxemburg and Germany to accept respectively 12 and 50 unaccompanied minors from Greece most likely next week, said Koumoutsakos. Currently they were 5,240 unaccompanied minors in Greece, Koumoutsakos said.

Greece doing everything possible to protect refugees, migrants amid Covid-19 with EU support - official been diagnosed so far in two camps mainly on five Aegean Sea islands in and delivered within a short time to

ATHENS,

GREECE is doing everything possible to protect the health of refugees and migrants across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the support of other European Union (EU) partners, Greek Alternate Minister of Migration and Asylum Giorgos Kou-

moutsakos said on Thursday. A total of 1,955 confirmed infections, including 86 deaths, have been registered nationwide since the first case was diagnosed in Greece on Feb. 26, up 71 in new cases and 3 in new deaths since Wednesday, according to the latest official count released on Thursday by the Health Ministry.

Only 28 confirmed infections concerning refugees and migrants have in the mainland, about an hour's drive north of Athens, and no death, Koumoutsakos told a press briefing by teleconference hosted by the Foreign Press Association of Greece.

Currently about 70,000 asylum seekers are hosted in 38 facilities around Greece, according to the data from the Ministry for Migration and Asylum.

More than one million people reached Greece since 2015 from Turkey and continued their journey to other European countries, fleeing wars and extreme poverty until the closure of the Balkan route in 2016 and although arrivals have dwindled, tens of thousands still arrived last year, official statistics showed.

Today some 39,400 are stranded

camps which have been overflowing for months, according to latest figures given from the Ministry of Citizen Protection on Wednesday. Moria camp on Lesvos island, for ex-

ample, now hosts 18,774 people while its capacity is 2,757. "There are no ideal solutions in emergencies. We have acknowledged on the Prime Minister's level that the situation is not ideal.

We are doing whatever possible to protect refugees and migrants, as we are protecting local communities. It is not a favor we are doing, but our duty," Koumoutsakos stressed.

Greece did not have the infrastructures to address the extra pressure from the novel coronavirus epidemic, new camps cannot be constructed kos said, adding "There is a framework.

crisis, while an extra 190 million eu-

Guardian



Citizens in Shanghai restore a thriving night life as the city gradually go back on its nor-

China seeks to boost economy by maximising consumption potential

AU reaffirms unwavering support to WHO

Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, in leading the global response

to the pandemic, Ramaphosa said in a statement distributed by his office on

As the world grapples with the challenge of the coronavirus, there is a need for

Ramaphosa said that it is within this context that he, as AU Chairperson and

President of South Africa, reaffirms his appreciation for the exceptional leader-

ship of Tedros as the Director-General of the WHO from the very earliest stages

The AU "notes with a sense of satisfaction" the various initiatives and meas-

ures that are continuously undertaken by the WHO to mitigate the spread of the

pandemic such as mobilizing resources, sharing the real-time information and

"On a daily basis, the WHO has been an essential technical and scientific part-

ner to the African Union and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion (Africa CDC), as we work to mitigate the pandemic which has now reached

The AU has seen Dr Tedros in action before when he and the world-class WHO

health experts led global efforts to fight against Ebola Outbreak in the Demo-

cratic Republic of the Congo, and in appreciation of these efforts, the AU extends

The AU calls upon international community to join hands to support the ef-

While all the countries are facing daunting and frustrating tasks to contain

the spread of the pandemic, they should avoid temptation to apportion blame

to any individual, institution or any country at a time when they should all be

working together, he said. "We should work together to confront our common

enemy in the form of COVID-19; and we should not allow ourselves to be dis-

tracted by anything else. Our success against this pandemic will only be realized

through collaboration, cooperation and most importantly through global soli-

forts of Dr Tedros and the entire WHO family as they lead global efforts to fight

its unwavering support to the WHO and its Director-General, Ramaphosa said.

solidarity, unity of purpose and better coordination to ensure that the world be

able to overcome this common enemy, Ramaphosa (pictured) said.

providing the technical and material support, Ramaphosa said.

CHINESE government departments recently issued a notice on unleashing consumption potential amid the epidemic in a bid to stimulate economic growth.

The notice, issued by the Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission and the National Health Commission, emphasized the importance of expanding traditional consumption, of which one important aspect is the stabilisation of automobile consumption.

The automobile industry has a relatively long industrial chain and high consumer value, and plays a major role in bringing about employment and economic growth, said Ren Xingzhou, research fellow at the Institute of Market Economy under the Development Research Center of the State

The document also pointed out the need to help vegetable markets resume operations and improve logistical networks to ensure the supply and sales of agricultural products.

From January to February, enterprises above designated size saw retail sales of cereals, oils and foodstuffs

THE African Union (AU) recognises and ap-

preciates the good work that has been under-

taken by the World Health Organization (WHO)

in combatting COVID-19. South African Presi-

dent Cyril Ramaphosa said in his capacity as AU

The AU also commends the management of

of this unprecedented global health crisis.

nearly every member state," said Ramaphosa.

this pandemic, said Ramaphosa.

CAPE TOWN

Chairperson.

Wednesday night.

increase by 9.7 percent year-on-year, with meat and vegetables growing by 37.8 percent and 27.1 percent respectively.

China will also seek to develop new forms of consumption by promoting the integration of online and offline channels in the business sector and encouraging e-commerce platforms to team up with supermarkets, convenience stores, business buildings, and communities to innovate their business models, the document said.

It will also support the digital transformation of small- and medium-sized businesses seeking to develop services such as e-commerce, unmanned retail and smart supermarkets, which Ren believes will improve the consumption process and efficiency.

New forms of consumption, such as online shopping, have developed during the pneumonia outbreak. In January and February, the online retail sales of physical goods saw a year-onyear increase of 3 percent against the impact of the outbreak, according to data from the National Bureau of Sta-

People's Daily

UK lockdown to continue as coronavirus deaths keep rising

LONDON

BRITAIN'S coronavirus lockdown is to continue as the country heads towards one of its biggest holiday weekends of the year while the death toll keeps growing, it was announced Thursday.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, standing in for Prime Minister Boris Johnson, announced the decision after chairing a meeting of Britain's emergency COBRA committee.

He announced there had been a further 881 hospital deaths linked to the virus in the previous 24 hours.

It brought Britain's death toll to 7,978. The good news was that Johnout of intensive care after nearly four days in an intensive care unit, but remained in hospital.

A No. 10 spokesperson said the prime minister will receive close monitoring during the early phase of his recovery. "He is in extremely good spirits," the spokesperson said.

Johnson introduced the lockdown on March 23, telling all citizens to stay at home, with outside journeys lim-

The fear was that a relaxation of the lockdown could risk seeing millions of people heading to seaside resorts and tourism hotspots during the four-day Easter holiday which starts Friday and

son was on Thursday evening moved lasts until Monday.

Raab urged people to stay at home during the holiday rather than head-

There had been speculation that the lockdown could have been made more stringent.

"At this stage, the government continues to gather data to determine the effects of the lockdown and physical distancing measures," he said. He said it was too soon to say conclusively whether the measures were working.

But Raab said most people were following the instructions to limit their activities and to practice social distancing.

US ambassador to ROK discussing plans to resign

SEOUL

US Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (ROK) Harry Harris has said privately that he does not plan to stay on beyond the November US presidential election, regardless of whether US President Donald Trump wins another term, five sources told Reuters.

Harris, a 40-year veteran of the US Navy who started in Seoul in 2018 after Trump appointed him, has expressed increasing frustration with the tensions and drama of his tenure, the sources said, all speaking on condition of anonymity because of the diplomatic sensitivity of the issue.

"He's been wanting to stay only until November rather than serving in the second term even if Trump wins it," one source with direct knowledge of the issue said.

A spokesman for the US Embassy in Seoul did not directly address Harris' plans, but said the ambassador "remains energized to continue to serve the United States.'

"His commitment to strengthening the US-ROK alliance through active engagement with government interlocutors, the wonderful people, and the independent media in the Republic of Korea remains ironclad," the spokesman said.

The US State Department did not immediately respond to a request for

Harris' predecessors each served about three years and generally enjoyed good personal rapport with ROK people. But his time in Seoul has been marked by increasing acrimony between the two longtime allies.

The US ambassador has become the public face of what many ROK people see as overbearing policies embraced by the Trump administration in the name of "America First."

Although polls show wide ROK support for the alliance in general, people there have balked at Trump's demands that Seoul pay billions of dollars more for a US troop presence in the country.

The military cost-sharing agreement lapsed in December, and the failure to strike a new deal has led to more than 4,000 ROK workers being put on un-



US Ambassador to the ROK Harry Harris

paid leave.

In December protesters destroyed portraits of Harris during a demonstration outside the US Embassy as they chanted "Harris out! We are not a US colony! We are not an ATM ma-

Friction also developed over US insistence that the ROK limit its engagement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) until Trump had made progress in denucleariza-

moned Harris in August after US officials expressed disappointment over its decision to end an intelligence-

"He would've never imagined something like that, because both countries, as allies, would usually put on a nice face once you get out of the meeting room even if there's a disagreement," a second source said of Harris' reaction to the foreign ministry's public disclo-

Before being named ambassador, Harris was an admiral leading US Na-

It is unclear whether Harris has already tendered his resignation, but

as part of his retirement plans he has built a house in Colorado, three sourc-

Besides the politics, Harris also was the target of racially charged acrimo ny over his Japanese heritage.

Born in Japan to a Japanese mother and an American father, Harris faced increasingly personal attacks - even from high-level ROK officials - as a simmering historic dispute between Seoul

and Tokyo erupted again last year. Some ROK people mocked Harris' moustache by likening it to those worn by the Japanese colonial leaders who ruled Korea from 1910-45.

Harris said in January that he was aware that his moustache had become "a point of some fascination here" but he was the American ambassador to And Seoul's foreign ministry sum- Korea, "not the Japanese-American ambassador to Korea."

> The first source said that Harris never complained about the pressures of the job, but that it had become clear some of the personal attention was weighing on him.

"He wouldn't openly say he's stressed out or like 'life is hard' - he's a four-star admiral and has been through a lot," the source said.

"But no one likes to deal with people who are ungrateful for your hard work, and throwing racist slurs isn't the right way to treat an ally who has such deep ties and fondness for your

In October a group of ROK students climbed over a wall into the grounds of the ambassador's residence in Seoul to protest against the US troop presence in the country, sparking complaints from the State Department over lax security by ROK police.

sharing pact with Japan.

sure of the acrimonious meeting.

vy's Pacific Command.

country," the source added.

Russia seeks to hold on to position of top global wheat exporter

MOSCOW

RUSSIA plans to retain the position of the biggest global wheat exporter, press service of the Agriculture Ministry reported with reference to Minister Dmitry Patrushev on Friday.

"Russia will continue boosting food trade both with Saudi Arabia and other priority markets in the future, due to which we

particularly plan to retain the position of the biggest global wheat exporter," the minister said.

Russia supplied the first batch of wheat to Saudi Arabia in early April, which Patrushev believes has become an important step in development of trade relations between the two countries.

"Last year's talks at the

through in that direction 33.5 mln tonnes from 35 allowing expansion of the mln tonnes. cooperation potential as we managed to open the market of one of the biggest Middle Eastern wheat consumers for domestic exporters," Patrushev said.

The US Department of Agriculture downgraded earlier Russia's wheat export outlook for this agrilevel of heads of agriculture culture year (from July 1, 36 mln tonnes of wheat.

agencies became a break- 2019 to June 30, 2020) to

The downgrade is connected with low supply rates and quotas on export of certain grain crops set by the Russian government that will expire at the end of June.

The Russian Agriculture Ministry projects grain export of 45 mln tonnes, with

Moscow, Damascus slam US presence for harming sanitary, epidemiological situation in Syria

MOSCOW

THE unlawful US presence in Syria is the main obstacle to achieving good sanitary-epidemiological conditions in Syrian regions beyond Damascus' control, the coordination headquarters of Russia and Syria said in a joint statement.

"The unlawful presence of the US and their allies on the Syrian Arab Republic's soil is the main obstacle to establishing the proper sanitaryepidemiological wellbeing of Syrian civilians who live in the regions outside government control," the statement says.

The document underscores that the humanitarian issues of the Rukban refugee camp are, according to the international law, the responsibility of the US, who illegally occupy this

"Russia and Syria have repeatedly called for the prompt evacuation of everyone who chooses to leave the Rukban camp to government-controlled territory, where proper conditions have been established for these people, and where infection control measures are being taken.

However, neither the relevant UN bodies, nor the US side, which controls the At-Tanf area, have fulfilled their obligations to rescue the remaining population of the camp, delaying its [the camp's] dismantling under various contrived pretexts,' the statement reads.

Both headquarters consider all US demands to the Syrian government, put forth amid the unlawful US sanctions that prevent the restoration of the Syrian health system and shipment of drugs and medical equipment required to fight coronavirus, the pinnacle of hypocrisy.

"In the meantime, the US-led coalition's press service reports regarding large shipment of humanitarian aid to the 'Syrian Democratic Forces' who guard the Daesh [IS - outlawed in Russia, terror group] detention center in northeastern Syria, evokes bewilderment," the statement runs.

"A logical question arises: what prevents the US from providing the same aid to internally displaced camps within their zone of control, including Rukban and Al-Hawl, as required by international law?"

According to the HQs representatives, the answer to this question is obvious. Washington's true intention is to provide the militants under their control with food and essentials at the UN's expense. **Agencies**

Hundreds of US nationals repatriated from South Africa

CAPE TOWN

HUNDREDS of U.S. nationals were repatriated from South Africa on Thursday, with more to fly home the next day, the U.S. embassy said. "This afternoon, two repatriation

flights for citizens of the United States departed South Africa," it said in a The two afternoon flights took off

from Cape Town International Airport and the O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, according to the statement.

"We anticipate a third flight departing Cape Town tomorrow morning. Together, these flights, all bound for Washington D.C., will bring over 900 Americans from South Africa back to the United States," the embassy said.

Xinhua

Chinese communities abroad help countries in fight against Covid-19

CHINESE communities overseas have been working with people in China to help gather donations for other countries in the fight against the COVID-19

darity," Ramaphosa noted.

pandemic. Italy is fighting the worst COV-ID-19 outbreak in the world. Restaurants, businesses, and schools have been suspended. Although quarantined at home, many Chinese have chosen to lend their hand in the battle against the pandemic.

Chen, a young volunteer, has organized the Chinese community in Bologna to make donations. Within 48 hours, Chen and fellow volunteers received 21,731 Euros from the local Chinese community, made up of 56 children and 111 adults. The children donated their lucky money they received from their parents or grandparents during the Chinese Lunar New Year. The money was donated to the Sant'orsola Hospital in Bologna.

Qiu Nan, who also helped with the donation efforts, told the Global Times that many Chinese people in Italy had shared their spare face masks, which have been in high demand due to shortages, with their neighbors, colleagues, and friends. Some, including Qiu, have handed out face masks to strangers on the street.

Xinhua

The local Chinese Chamber of Commerce donated 30,000 face masks to local medical institutes, Qiu said. "Our face masks are purchased and mailed from China," Qiu added, "Via local Chinese people, the government here also have been seeking to purchase medical supplies from China."

Chinese communities in the UK have helped with local prevention efforts in the fight against COVID-19. For example, Chinese doctors issued a bilingual statement in Chinese and English at Addenbrooke's Hospital, calling for donations.

Li, a Chinese-British man in

London, told the Global Times that many Chinese are engaged in coordinating donations from China to the UK, aiming to help with shortages of face masks, protective gear, goggles, and gloves.

Spain is also facing a dire situation. The country announced on March 26 that it has received 8,578 new COVID-19 cases in 24 hours, bringing the nationwide infection number to 56,188. Sun Xinbo, who is also president of a Chinese student association, said

many Chinese in Spain offered to help the locals and donated face masks to local people and hospi-

Last week, Chinese communities near Madrid gathered 3,000 medical face masks and donated them to a local hospital. Aside from donations, some Chinese made short videos to educate people on fighting the virus and

maintaining hygiene. Recently, Wuhan University alumni associations in Chinese for donations for North America and Europe as countries in both regions are combating COVID-19. "We still remember when medi-

cities issued a statement calling

cal personnel in Wuhan were short of medical supplies, our alumni overseas offered help and sent medical supplies. Now, the epidemic is rampant overseas, so we are raising donations for them," the statement said.

Global Times

Guardian www.ippmedic.com

PORT



In this file photo dated Monday, Sept. 30, 2019, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica, gold medalist in the women's 100 meters, reacts during the medal ceremony at the World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar. Moving from their sports field to the living room, many athletes around the world are doing their bit to boost public health during the coronavirus pandemic lockdown, and one of them is two-time 100-meter

Olympians become trainers to help those stranded at home

DÜSSELDORF, Germany

MOVING from the track to the living room, many athletes around the world are doing their bit to boost public health during the coronavirus pandemic.

There's been an explosion of athletes offering free online fitness classes and tips to an audience isolated at home.

It helps others keep fit, and especially for sports like track and field, it's a way to stay relevant in a year without the Olympics.

"The onus is all now on the parents and for kids you're stuck in whatever space you've got at home," former marathon world record holder Paula Radcliffe, who is preparing an upcoming online class for World Athletics, told The Associated Press.

"So it was just trying to make that a fun way to get everybody active together and try to restore a little bit of normality."

Radcliffe previously organized family running events to keep people active. Now that more people are at home, she's taking the initiative online.

World Athletics, the governing body of track and field, has been left with an empty schedule as meets around the world have been canceled. It is filling the gap with a range of online exercise tips and educational resources, particularly aimed at children.

Besides Radcliffe, other Olympic athletes involved include two-time 100-meter champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Prvce of Jamaica. who is reading her children's book, and 2012 100 hurdles champion Sally Pearson of Australia, leading a pre-natal workout class.

The trend spans sports and countries. England cricket player Jos Buttler has been demonstrating pilates exercises on In-

stagram with his wife Louise, a professional trainer. Sometimes he's even done it in full gear, with helmet, pads and bat.

In Germany, world long jump champion Malaika Mihambo led an after-school sports club for young children. Now she's taken it online, with daily German-language You-Tube workouts packed with motivational chat for the kids she calls her "world cham-

"Even when parents try hard to keep the general uncertainty away from them, children have finely tuned antennas and sense something like that anyway," Mihambo said on the German track federation website. "If I can make my little contribution to putting a bit of structure in their everyday lives in this time, to make them enthusiastic about sport, then I'm happy to do that."

Spanish soccer coaches and French athletes have joined in, too, while the Slovakian soccer federation published a video showing Jan Gregus, a midfielder with Minnesota United in Major League Soccer, doing a playful routine. Copying his high-energy mix of abdominal exercises and ball tricks will challenge anyone stuck at home.

Radcliffe said athletes can adapt during the pandemic, and help others, thanks to the "resilience" many have built up when their training options are limited by inju-

"It's the same mentality as if you're injured. You focus on doing what you can do to maintain, so that when you can come out and compete, you compete well and build on that base," she said. "The world's a bit injured right now and we're all just trying to focus a bit on what we can do to help everybody else get through it." AP

Tokyo Olympics CEO hints games could be in doubt even in 2021

S the coronavirus spreads in Japan, the chief executive Games said Friday he can't guarantee the postponed Olympics will be staged next year - even with a 16-month delay.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe issued an emergency declaration this week to battle the virus, putting the country under restrictions after it seemed it had avoided the spread.

"I don't think anyone would be able to say if it is going to be possible to get it under control by next July or not," Tokyo organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto said, speaking through an interpreter at a news conference conducted remotely. "We're certainly are not in a position to give you a clear answer."

Olympics postponed last month with a new opening set for July 23, 2021, followed by the Paralympics on Aug. 24.

Abe has been criticized for being slow to act against the coronavirus. Opposition political leaders suggested he downplayed the severity of the virus and have said it may have been tied to wanting to hold the Olympics this year.

"We have made the decision to postpone the games by



In this June 11, 2019, file photo, Toshiro Muto, CEO of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics organizing committee, listens to questions from the media during a news conference in Tokyo. As the virus spreads Muto acknowledged he can't guarantee the games can go forward next year. The Olympics were postponed last month with a new opening just under 16 months away. (AP Photo)

means that all we can do is work hard to prepare for the games. We sincerely hope that come next year mankind will manage to overcome the coronavirus

alternative plans to 2021.

one year," Muto added. "So this put in all of our effort," he said. "Mankind should bring together all of its technology and wisdom to work hard so they can development treatments, medicines and vaccines."

Japan has reported about Muto was asked if there are 5,000 cases and 100 deaths. The country has the world's oldest "Rather than think about population, and COVID-19 can be alternatives plans, we should especially serious for the elderly.

Muto was asked several times about the added costs of postponing, which has been estimated by Japanese media at between \$2 billion-\$6 billion. He said it was too soon to know the price tag and who would pay.

He also acknowledged that Tokyo Olympic organizers had taken out insurance.

"Tokyo 2020 has taken out several insurance policies," he said. "But whether the postponement of the games qualifies as an event that is covered is not clear yet."

He was also asked about the Olympic flame, which was taken off public display this week in Fukushima prefecture. Muto had an away-from-the-microphone talk with Tokyo spokesman Masa Takaya before talking about the

"After the Olympic torch relay was canceled, the Olympic flame was put under the management of Tokyo 2020," Muto said. "Obviously in the future there is a possibility it might be put on display somewhere. However, for now it is under the management of Tokyo 2020 and I'm not going to make any further comment on the issue."

There International Olympic Committee is thinking of taking the flame on a world tour, hoping to use it as a symbol of the battle against the virus. However, any tour would be impossible until travel restrictions are lifted.

Taking the flame away from Japan could also upset the hosts.

No Masters, so Tiger Woods battling son Charlie for green jacket

FLORIDA

TIGER Woods should have been trying to keep his Masters green jacket out of the clutches of the world's top golfers over the next four days, instead he will battle his 11-year-old son Charlie for it over putting competitions.

The Masters, which Woods won in magical fashion for a fifth time a year ago to claim his first major since 2008, has been postponed until November because of the coronavirus pandemic which has shut down world sport on an unprecedented scale.

Like his rivals, Woods, 44, has been kicking his heels at home, waiting for the day the PGA Tour can restart.

While he has enjoyed the family time, including 2,000-piece jigsaw puzzles and cup cakes, Woods admits being "wired" to play but not preparing for



Tiger Woods won his fifth Masters in 2019. (Agencies)

Augusta's first tee has been difficult.

His local course (Medallist) in Hobe Sound, Florida has remained open, however, and playing against Charlie has meant he can sharpen his competitive instincts.

"We've been able to go out there and compete," Woods said in an interview with Discovery-owned golf streaming service GOLFTV.

"He's got a lot better at throwing the needle at me now and he's accepting it faster and reversing it back. We have a deal,

in the backvard generally every night we'll play putting matches and the winner gets to keep the green jacket in the closet.

"Occasionally it's gone into his closet. Primarily it's stayed in mine but the fact he's been able to earn it off me because there are no wins that are given in this family.

"It's been fun to see him tease me about beating me and being able to wear the jacket and have it in his closest where he says it belongs.'

As a defending cham- year, said.

"We had cupcakes and milkshakes for dessert. So it was exactly what I was going to serve. As I said, Masters Dinner quarantine style with my family. "It got a little bit interest-

ing at the end, a little ugly, where icing was flowing across people's hair and face! We had a little bit of fun at the end."

Joking aside, Woods says the Masters postponement is tough.

"This is not the way that I would've wanted to keep the jacket for a longer period of time," he said. "I wanted to get out there and compete for it and earn it again.

"I'm wired, I've been doing it for 25 years now and so it's hard to find the wire, those circuits now, I do feel a little edgy. I want to get there and play - I want to compete."

Apart from playing golf with Charlie, Woods says cycling has been a way of relaxing during the lockdown. His long injury layoffs have also helped him deal with the current situation he describes as "a war with an invisible enemy".

REUTERS

Ugandan leader, who once belted out a rap, releases workout video

KAMPALA

UGANDA's 75-year-old leader, known for his folksy style, released a workout video on Thursday, saying it shows citizens how to exercise in confined ing a national lockdown prompt-

ed by the new coronavirus. Donning a gray Nike track suit, bald-headed Yoweri Museveni jogged laps on a red carpet in his office, before stretching out to do press-ups on a white towel as flashbulbs popped. Count: 30.

"It's good to go outside, outdoors when there's no problem," the former soldier said at the beginning of the video here "But harshest measures in Africa to

when there's need you can go indoors.'

On Wednesday the veteran leader, whose Twitter profile features his signature largebrimmed beige hat, told his followers that too many Ugandans spaces as they stay at home dur- were exercising outside and

crowding urban areas. People jogging in groups and close to one another could expose them to contracting the novel coronavirus, the pathogen that causes COVID-19 disease, he said. Uganda has so far recorded 53 cases of COVID-19 but no

The oil-rich East African nation has imposed some of the

dusk-to-dawn curfew, shuttering all businesses except the most essential and banning all private and public transportation without an official's permission.

The ban even applies to medical emergencies, and some mothers in labour have died trying to reach hospitals to give

Museveni, who has ruled Uganda since 1986, has often sought a personal connection with citizens as anger grows at corruption, nepotism and crumbling public services and police break up opposition rallies.

He often publicly meanders into offbeat tales like the prov-

contain the disease, including a enance of his long-horned cattle, eliciting bemusement from visiting diplomats.

> In 2010, shortly before an election, he released a rap song dubbed "you want another rap," aimed at younger voters that got plentiful play on radios and in

> But he is expected to face a young challenGer with his own public pedigree in next year's polls: the musician-turned-lawmaker popularly known as Bobi Wine. Last month Wine - known for his politically pointed hits released a popular reggae track warning about the dangers of coronavirus.

REUTERS



pion, the build-up to the

Masters is unique. Not be-

ing able to host the Cham-

pions Dinner, or enjoy the

par-three event held the

Woods held an impro-

day before, has left a void.

vised Champions Dinner

at home with partner Er-

ica Herman and children

same. We had steak and

chicken pieces, sushi and

sashimi," Woods, who bat-

tled back from knee and

back injuries to claim his

15th major at Augusta last

"We had exactly the

Charlie and Sam instead.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, does push-ups to keep fit at the State House, in Entebbe, Uganda April

Six Barcelona directors quit, throwing club into crisis

SPANISH La Liga champions Barcelona were in turmoil on Friday after six board directors resigned criticising the clubs's handling of a social media scandal and the financial implications of the coronavirus crisis.

Two of the club's four vice presidents, Emili Rousaud and Enrique Tombas, were among those to quit, joined by directors Silvio Elias, Josep Pont, Jordi Calsamiglia and Maria Texidor.

In a letter to fans, the directors pointed a finger at president Josep Maria Bartomeu and expressed doubts about the board's ability to handle the implications of the pandemic, which has slashed income and led to a 70% players' pay cut.

They asked Bartomeu to call presidential elections as soon as possible and criticised the club for hiring a third party, I3 Ventures, earlier this year to monitor social media coverage of Barca.

Bartomeu has denied accusations the company created social media accounts to smear future presidential candidates, and former and current players, but he anyway rescinded the club's contract with the firm. I3 also denied any wrongdoing.

"We have arrived at this point because we cannot reverse the way the club is managed in the face of important challenges in the future, especially in the post-pandemic

BARCELONA forward Lionel Mes-

si has denied reports linking him

with a move to Italian side Inter Mi-

lan, branding a story suggesting the

In a post made on his Instagram

account on Thursday, Messi also

said that a story suggesting he post-

ed former teammate Ronaldinho's

\$1.6 million bail this week is made

of a story saying he could move to

Inter and writing on it "the first lie."

In the same image, he branded a

report saving he was behind Ron-

aldinho's bail, which was posted in

Paraguay this week, "the second

Messi's future has been the sub-

ject of plenty of speculation since it

was revealed last year that he could

potentially leave Barca for free this

summer despite the fact his con-

Sources have told ESPN that Man-

chester City are monitoring his

situation, and this week, former In-

ter president Massimo Moratti said

that signing the six-time Ballon d'Or

La Liga chief Javier Tebas heavily

criticised Serie A's finances -- say-

ing even Messi couldn't help fix the

league's woes -- following talk Inter

could be a realistic destination for

winner was no longer a "forbidden

tract runs until 2021.

BARCELONA

contrary a lie.

Messi calls Inter rumours,

Ronaldinho bail help 'lies'

era," said the letter, which appeared in Spanish media on Friday.

"We also want to show our displeasure over the unfortunate episode about the social media accounts, known as 'Barcagate', which we learned about through the press.

"As our last act of service to the club, we recommend that elections are called as soon as circumstances permit so that the club can be managed in the best way possible and deal with the important challenges of the immediate future."

There was no immediate reaction from Barcelona or Bartomeu.

Barca have won eight of the last 11 La Liga titles and led the standings when soccer in Spain was indefinitely postponed last month. Spain has suffered one of the worst outbreaks in the world, with 15,238 deaths and more than 150,000 cases.

Barcelona players, including club captain Lionel Messi, have taken an additional pay cut to guarantee non-playing staff will receive full salaries while soccer is paused.

Bartomeu, who is unable to stand for re-election as he has served two terms, became Barca president in 2014 after Sandro Rosell's resignation. He has faced increasing criticism from supporters, who staged noisy protests against him in the last two matches at the Camp Nou and called for his resignation.

Messi has also been critical of the club's hierarchy.

Messi, but the rumours have per-

inho, whom Messi played with at

the Camp Nou, was granted house

arrest on Tuesday following 32 days

in prison for attempting to enter

It's the third time this year that

In February, he engaged in a war

of words with Barcelona's sport-

sible for former coach Ernesto Val-

eventually released by all the play-

ers, Messi criticised members of the

Barca board for leaks claiming the

players were reluctant to play their

part by taking a wage cut to help the

club alleviate the financial effects of

and the sparring with the board --

who are also warring among them-

selves, with president Josep Maria

Bartomeu asking four directors to

resign this week -- Messi has reiter-

ated his desire to remain at Camp

In an interview with Mundo De-

portivo in February, he said Bar-

celona is his home but warned the

club they need to build a team ca-

pable of winning the Champions

(Agencies)

League around him.

Despite his contract situation

the coronavirus pandemic.

Then last week, in a statement

Messi has used social media to send

a message.

verde's sacking.

Messi attempted to put an end to ing director, Eric Abidal, when the

the recent rumours he might leave Frenchman suggested in an inter-

Barcelona by posting a screenshot view that the players were respon-

Paraguay with falsified passports.

Meanwhile, ex-Brazil star Ronald-

REUTERS

A tribute to Pape Diouf, Africa's pioneer into European football

BY ED DOVE, SPECIAL TO ESPN

HE world of African footwas plunged into mourning on March 31, following the news that Senegalese journalist-turned-agent Pape Diouf, the first black chairman of a club in a major European league, had become the continent's first highprofile sporting loss to the coronavirus.

Various African football figures throughout history could reasonably be classed as pioneers, but Diouf, who was appointed Olympique de Marseille president in 2005, held a position of power, prominence and influence within the European game that no other black personality has matched before or since.

No other figure represents, more emphatically than Diouf, the bridge between the worlds of African and French sports.

Born in 1951 in Chad to Senegalese parents -- his father was a member of General Charles de Gaulle's Compagnon de Liberation -- Diouf was raised in Richard-Toll, on the Senegal-Mauritania border, and in Dakar.

At 18, with independence having already swept through Africa, he was sent to Marseille to complete his studies by his father, who served in Chad while the country was still a French colony.

He arrived on April 25, 1970, and despite complaining about the wind and cold, he began a longtime and profound love affair with the Phocean City.

After prematurely curtailing his studies at Sciences Po, Diouf opted against following his father's wishes that he join the military, and he instead embarked on a career as a sports journalist, initially as a freelancer with La Marseillaise, with the club at the heart of the city, OM, his

It was here, at this junction between sport and Africa, that Diouf met the legendary Cameroon goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell, who facilitated the young man's entrance into the inner workings of French football and set him on his way to a prominent role in one of Europe's great institutions.

"When I arrived in Marseille in 1985, he was a local journalist, so we became friends and were friends for years," Bell told ESPN in a conversation punctured by laughter and anguish.

"[It's important] to have someone we know when we get somewhere new, someone we can talk to freely.

"We spoke well together every day, we saw each other at training in the morning, and then at 4 p.m., we'd spend time together every day until 7 p.m. and then talk together again on the phone in the evening.

"What links you together is shared values, and for him, money was good, but money didn't really count. So even as a professional player at Marseille, I could spend time with him -a journalist -- without any problems, and we could talk about all subjects. There was nothing we didn't discuss."

After 12 years with La Marseillaise, Diouf joined a newly launched daily, Le Sport, as its regional correspondent, but he was forced to seek a new line of work when the new venture folded in June 1988.

At this point, Bell, then coming to the end of his time as OM's No. 1 and seeking new pastures, suggested that his friend seek a new profession managing players, overseeing their financial responsibilities and contracts, and seeking new employment opportunities.

"This friendship allowed us to establish complete trust, so I asked him to become my agent," Bell told ESPN. "I didn't really need an agent, but I'd had a white agent, and I thought that if others can do [this job], then [Pape] can do it, too.

"We talked every day about the problems facing players, and together we thought that he could do this well. Early on, I told him what he should say to players or to club officials, but his only problem was getting players.

"When you're a lawyer, you still need someone to give you that first dossier. Once you have a high-profile



Rest in peace, Pape: Marseille remembered a city legend with this banner displayed on the bridge of the Cours Lieutaud. (Agencies)

dossier, then people see you and know you. It's the same thing with agents. Once one player signs and others see the TV reports, the photos, the line in the paper, then others will know of him.'

When Bell signed for Bordeaux in 1989, he ensured that Diouf accompanied him to the contract signing to garner visibility and a measure of authenticity. Before long, Diouf had added Abdoulaye Diallo, Senegal international Pape Fall, Cameroon's Francois Omam-Biyik and Ivory Coast-born France international Basile Boli to his stable of clients.

In the following years, some of the great names of French football fell under Diouf's guidance.

"Clearly, he's a pioneer in all that he did," former Liverpool midfielder Mohamed Sissoko told ESPN.

"In the domain of journalism, he left his mark. In the job of being an agent, he was one of the first African agents, and he oversaw big players who had a great career, like Marcel Desailly and others.

Marc-Vivien Foe, Wildier Drogba were among high-profile figures to work under Diouf, and more recently, he had a hand in the career progress of Samir Nasri and the Ayew brothers, Andre and Jordan. Many of his former charges paid testament to his warmth and loyalty after his death.

"Trust isn't given, it's earned," Fall told ESPN, "and this gentleman was someone truly sincere who you could trust.

"We're sad but also proud that the sports world -- and even beyond that -- have honoured a guy who was, simply, a great, great man.

"He was an icon, a man of conviction, engaged, generous, a great humanist. He had integrity, was cultured and a rare example of a guide, a guide who is both dignified and sincere."

Boli described his late friend as a "big brother" upon learning of his death, and others remembered how Diouf's personal and human qualities, as well as what he once described on French television as his "African values," underpinned his professional success. "Few people in the world

of football have touched me or had an impact as you were able to have in my life or on my career," Nasri wrote on Instagram. "You were always a

mentor, you were my first agent, you were my president, and it's with a heavy heart that I must say goodbye. You left too early, and I will never forget you."

Diouf's work with so many prominent stakeholders at OM -- players

Current France coach Didier Deschamps was appointed OM manager in May 2009, but a month later, Diouf left his post -- a consequence of personal disagreements with club chairman Vincent Labrune and a lack of silverware.

"As president of Marseille, he achieved great things," Sissoko said, "and it's a person to whom we owe respect.

"He's the kind of person who opened doors for us [black Africans], who showed us how to carry ourselves and to have real respect toward people. For me, Pape was someone



and club officials alike -led to his appointment in 2004 as the club's general manager, responsible for overseeing sporting affairs.

liam Gallas, Bernard Lama, at the start of the 2004-05 beautiful person." Frederic Kanoute and Di- campaign and concerns raised about the management of the club, Marseille president Christophe Bouchet -- another former journalist -- stood down in the autumn, with Diouf appointed as his successor.

> "Primarily, he was first a supporter," Bell said. "He arrived when he was 18, and at Marseille there is nothing apart from l'Olympique.

"When he became the sporting director, it was a bit like a son of the city had arrived at the heart of the club, without leaving his own home. The conditions were favourable to do something good, and he made an impact."

For the next four years, Diouf oversaw a renaissance in Marseille's fortunes. The Ligue 1 title proved elusive, but the team posted three topthree finishes in successive seasons between 2006 and 2009 and were regular UEFA Champions League qualifiers.

by David Chikoko

who has all of my respect.

"I met him several times. we had the chance to talk together, and really, he's a person who I admire enor-Following poor results mously, and he was a very

Diouf was subsequently indicted -- and acquitted -- on a charge of irregular financial dealings related to player transfers, and in 2012, he was awarded a Legion d'honneur -- the highest French honorary decoration -- by former French president Francois Hollande.

He also invested in the European School of Communication and the European Institute of Journalism in Marseille, and in late 2013, he stepped into local politics but failed to win a seat on the city's municipal council in the 2014 elec-

Bell said the latter move was a misguided venture, albeit one motivated by Diouf's enduring love of the city and desire to serve Marseille, as Diouf -- an eloquent, articulate and engaging speaker -- mistook sporting popularity for broader civic popularity.

"He confused the 40,000 fans at the Stade Velodrome for the population of the broader region of Marseille," Bell said in a blunt assessment of his friend's political career.

Despite this failure, banners were hung in the city to commemorate Diouf upon his death more than a decade after he left his role as OM president, and L'Equipe dedicated its front page in tribute to 'Our Pape."

"He didn't dream of being the first to do this or that, and when he became an agent, we didn't talk about how cool it was," Bell said. "It was just that the opportunity had presented itself, and we had to do it.

"Diouf was the first black agent, and now you have black agents everywhere, and it doesn't surprise anyone, which means he had a positive impact. When the first one is good, it opens the door for others.

"The problems agents face and the questions they must answer are whether they are moral or whether they are people of integrity. Clearly, he has been judged favourably because of all who have followed. People still talk of him because he was the first ... and the only."

Diouf, who lived between Senegal and Marseille in his latter years, had been in ill health before he contracted the coronavirus and was hospitalised in March in Dakar.

"I knew he had been unwell, to tell the truth. He had a bad back," Bell said. "But we joked together. You never actually imagine death."

After he was placed on a respirator, plans were put in place to transfer Diouf to Nice for treatment, but he was too ill to make the trip and succumbed to the illness on March 31.

For Sissoko, Diouf's legacy is not confined to sports or football but is an example of how an African upbringing, values and business spirit can underpin a successful entrepreneurial career in Europe and the transition between continents

"His impact was his spirit," Sissoko said.

"The impact he had in the domain of football was an example for all young entrepreneurs, an example for the youth, an example in Europe, in France, in Marseille and for all of the continent.

"We can see the journey of Pape Diouf is very respectable and honourable, so for us, he's an icon, and he's someone who opened certain doors for us in order for [Africans] to affirm ourselves within the domain of football."

Pape Diouf, journalist, agent and club administrator, born 18 Dec. 1951, died 31 March 2020.

Mane told to leave Liverpool to further career

SADIO Mane may need to leave Liverpool in order to achieve his ambition of winning the Ballon d'Or, the most prestigious individual award in football, according to former Senegal international Diomansy Kamara.

Mane finished fourth in the voting for the 2019 award, and in an interview with The Times on Tuesday he reiterated his desire and outlined his determination to become only the second African player after George Weah in 1995 to be honoured.

However, Kamara, who enjoyed seven years in British football with the likes of Fulham, Leicester City and Celtic, is concerned that his compatriot's ambitions won't be realised at Anfield.

"If Mane, one day wants to win the Ballon d'Or, he may have to leave

Liverpool as the club are maybe not the best advocates for him, despite their outstanding performances," Kamara told ESPN.

"He needs to continue on the road he's going down, as he wasn't too far from finishing on the podium, and even for me he maybe deserved to win it this year.

"Now he needs to continue to work, and maybe even change clubs, because we've seen that Liverpool don't really play to Mane's strengths and [people] gave their votes to Virgil van Dijk even though Mane and to a lesser extend Mohamed Salah

were equally in the running." Van Dijk ultimately finished second in the 2019 Ballon d'Or voting on 679 points, seven behind eventual winner Lionel Messi but comfortably ahead of Cristiano Ronaldo (476 points), Mane (347) and Salah

(Agencies



Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Dar soccer clubs yet to match top African outfits, says Manara

A tribute to Pape Diouf, Africa's pioneer into **European football**

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International return for Kolpaks would need CSA to 'swallow their pride' - Harmer

THE loss of the Kolpak route into English cricket could be to the benefit of South Africa, although it would require CSA to build bridges with the players who have stepped away from the international set-up. That is the view of Simon Harmer, the off-spinner who gave up on his South Africa career to join Essex in 2017 and has since flourished in county cricket, this week being named one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year for 2019.

Harmer, 31, has taken more than 200 first-class wickets in three seasons with Essex, helping them to two County Championship titles and also captaining the team to the T20 Blast trophy. And while Keshav Maharaj has performed well as South Africa's firstchoice spinner, the Test team has suffered a dip in form, losing each of their last three series - most recently a 3-1 home defeat to England.

The UK's expected departure from the EU has clouded the issue of Kolpak status, however. Harmer is contracted to Essex until the end of the 2022 summer, but may have to feature as an overseas player from next year - something which would potentially allow for a South Africa comeback. Speaking to ESPNcricinfo for a forthcoming edition of the Switch Hit podcast, Harmer admitted he had not given up on the thought of playing international cricket again, but said it would require CSA to be "proactive" on the matter.

"There haven't been any proactive discussions from Cricket South Africa's side about what would happen," he said. "And obviously, I don't know how happy Essex would be if there was a three-month tour during the English summer, to just release me and be like, yep, you can go. So I think my main responsibility lies for the foreseeable future with Essex.

"I think there'd need to be a lot of discussions between Cricket South Africa and what they were willing to put on the table before I would consider that option but it's still a long way off yet and a lot can change.'

Although there had been talk towards the end of last season about Harmer qualifying to play for England through residency, the complexities of the UK visa system have rendered that an unlikely outcome. Harmer's tier five visa does not allow him indefinite leave to remain, meaning he cannot buy property in the UK, while his girlfriend is only able to visit during the summer on a six-month tourist visa.

"It started in the press, with people who didn't really know how it all worked saying that I'd become England qualified in 2020, and was the plan? Or can we get him involved? So I think it's all talk. The way that the visas are structured at the moment, the power lies with the ECB. All the Kolpak players are currently on a tier five visa, which means that you would have to be in the UK for 10 years before you could apply for indefinite leave to remain. There is the possibility of moving to a tier two visa but the ECB doesn't want to explore that.

"English cricket has given me the opportunity to become a better person and a better player. So I would ultimately like to get a British passport and naturalised in the UK, especially for my future family. But there's a lot of unanswered questions and a lot of dead ends at the moment. So I think in terms of playing for England, as far as I'm aware, that's off the table for the foreseeable future."

Harmer, who was in South Africa during the southern summer playing in the Mzansi Super League, watched on as CSA went through significant restructuring including appointing Graeme Smith as director of cricket and Mark Boucher as head coach of the men's team - and suggests "they are starting to move in the right direction". Repairing relations with players who have turned Kolpak, such as himself, Kyle Abbott, Duanne Olivier and numerous others, could be the

AGENCIES

By Correspondent Joseph

OCCER outfits in Tanzania have no financial muscle compete with fellow top African outfits for continental titles and honours in CAF tournaments, Simba SC information officer, Haji Manara disclosed.

In a monitored interview with Arusha-based radio station held on Thursday, Manara said local teams' investment has yet to reach the heights of many top African football giants.

said with the current investment in domestic football it is a far fetched dream to reach the levels of such top African football giants like Egypt's Zamalek and Al Ahly, Morocco's Raja Casablanca, Democratic Republic of Congo TP Tunisia's Esperance, South Africa's Orlando Pirate and Kaizer



Chiefs and other giants.

Young Africans SC (Yanga), Azam FC and Simba SC are so far local clubs that are financially stable but Manara said the squads do not have the purchasing powers to compete with other top African sides.

"I don't want to live in 'fool's paradise' where one believes that anything can be achieved, there are some other things which cannot be achieved, the

football investment in the country is just small, we can not compete with other top African teams which make huge investment," he noted.

"The sides buy top players at more than \$500,000 while majority of the local clubs can splash USD 20,000 to buy a player and sometimes such a player is mediocre, given he has failed to play top football."

local newspaper article linking us (Simba)with football. a player from Enyimba Manara FC of Nigeria, we can not described compete with Enyimba on

he said. Simba SC had in the 2018/2019 season reached the last eight of the CAF Champions League which is regarded as a great indicator of success and

the market, they are a big

side with big investment,

they are capable of buying

a player of their choice,"

a measure of progress in

though achievement as a fluke.

"Our teams can reach any level of CAF club competitions by fluke, they can even win the events' trophies but it is through fluke, not design. After that glory the owners (top African clubs) will come and take it, that is how our football is," he

there is a need for investment for local teams to reach the levels of other top African teams.

Manara issued the comments when he was commenting on the 20bn/- which Simba SC investor Mohamed Dewji invested into the

He could not directly say if the 20bn/- was deposited into the club accounts, but said Simba are getting the interest of more than 130,000m/- every

The Simba SC official also disclosed that his club annual budget is 5bn/- not 1.3bn/- as it has been reported in the media.

agreements was that the investor (Dewji) should open a fixed account and we will get the interest, whether money deposited or not, is not the issue," he noted.

"We are getting something like 139m/every month from that account, that money complementing our budget which is 5bn/- annually, we get sponsorship money from Sport Pesa, Azam Media, Mo Energy and other sources but that money is not enough

we complement it with

the money from the

bank interest," he said.

Ally Choki targets solo career



Ally Choki

FAMOUS dance artiste, Ally Choki, is targeting to go for a solo career after his contract with Mwanzabased band Super Kamanyola had come to an end.

Choki had been performing with the band from 2018.

The musician, who rose to fame in domestic dance music scene with African Stars Band, pointed out he does not harbour plans to sign contract with any other band, given he wants to rest and seek to make the most of his talent.

"It is too early to contemplate on my next step in music, but I have no plans to perform for a band," he noted.

He disclosed he wants to rest and he will then announce his next step.

He pointed out domestic dance music encounters plenty of challenges that include lack of considerable air time in radio stations and televisions.

Choki disclosed he has thus felt he should give himself time to think of his next

"What matters most is I do not want to be employed by a band because I have performed for bands for many years, I should rather go for solo career," he noted.

He pointed out he still has what it takes to perform well in the music industry and he has much potential.

He was adamant he will keep on putting his skill to show even when he is old.

"Fans that know me well hardly doubt my potential. I'm thus sure they will fuly support me when I plan to get back to the industry the same way they are doing now," he stressed.

Choki has performed for various bands which include African Stars, nicknamed 'Twanga Pepeta', TOT-Plus and Extra Bongo, a band he had formed and excelled with in dance mu-

There had been rumours that Choki is planning to bring Extra Bongo Band back after his contract with Super Kamanyola Band had ended.

He has nevertheless quashed the rumours, insisting he has no plan to bring Extra Bongo Band back.

