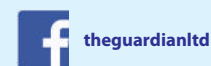




Professional Pest Control Services
FUMIGATION SERVICES
Export Containers and Warehouses using Methyl Bromide and Phosphine
+255 658 781861/ 022 2123565
www.pestguard.co.tz



LIKE & FOLLOW US

National Pg 4
Morogoro plans to end sugar scarcity



National Pg 5
Japanese embassy donates 206.5m/- to school



National Pg 6
Dangers of drinking during pregnancy



Sport Pg 20
Hales sets sights on England return



ATCL plane off to Mumbai on Friday

200 stranded Tanzanian nationals to board flight

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is expected to dispatch an Air Tanzania plane to Mumbai on Friday this week to enable the repatriation of Tanzanian nationals stranded in India amid the Covid-19 lockdown and travel restrictions.

Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) Managing Director Ladislaus Matindi said in an interview at the weekend that all preparations have been completed to ensure that Tanzanians wishing to return home do so smoothly.

Matindi said that at least 200 Tanzanians had so far confirmed the wish to return home, with the number likely to climb as more people were still registering.

The move has been organised by the government in consultation with ATCL, which was asked to facilitate the movement of the passengers. All passengers will be ferried by the airline's Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, he said.

Each passenger will meet the cost of his or her own ticket, with all arrangements being coordinated by the ATCL office in India.

"Initially the flight was scheduled for May 11 and return on May 15 but the Indian government postponed the trip, seeking more time for some necessary preparations," he said.

All preparations were now in place,



Initially the flight was set for May 11 and return on May 15, but the Indian government postponed the trip seeking more time for some necessary preparations

including the landing permit, after ATCL was informed that the prospective passengers had been allowed to travel to Mumbai.

Upon arrival, all passengers will undergo quarantine for 14 mandatory days before they can be allowed to rejoin their families, he said.

TURN TO PAGE 2



Police officers in Morogoro Region pictured in Morogoro municipality at the weekend overseeing the counting of 200m/- worth of 200/- coins which Morogoro district commissioner Regina Chonjo is reported to have impounded at the residence of officials of a gaming company owned by Chinese nationals. Sources said the coins were found in plastic bottles and sulphate bags for reasons yet to be established. Story on page 4. Photo: Correspondent Frank Kaundula.



Minister: Finish up work on Tanga REA projects by June 30

By Guardian Reporter, Tanga

ENERGY minister Dr Medard Kalemari has warned contractors implementing projects of the Rural Energy Agency (REA) that they should complete them before June 30 so as to go in tandem with the government's objective to connect all villages to the national grid by 2021.

He said that contractors who will fail to

TURN TO PAGE 2

ECA sifts coronavirus African exit strategies

ADDIS ABABA

EXPERTS at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) have released a new report proposing to African nations various coronavirus disease (COVID-19) exit strategies.

The plan relates to the period following the imposi-



ECA says that at least 42 African countries applied partial or full lockdowns in the quest to curtail the spread of the pandemic

tion of lockdowns that have helped to suppress the virus but with devastating economic consequences.

ECA says that at least 42 African countries applied partial or full lockdowns in the quest to curtail the spread of the pandemic.

TURN TO PAGE 2

Police hold five over zebra, giraffe killings

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

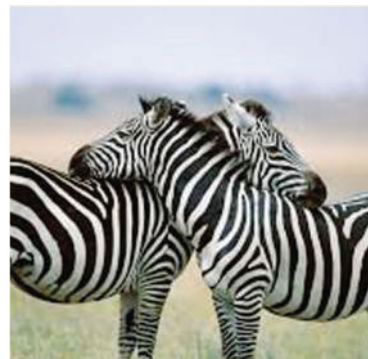
POLICE in Manyara Region are holding five people, residents of Minjingu village

in Babati District, in connection with the killing of 11 zebras and a giraffe calf.

They were arrested after police and warders from Tarangire National Park conducted a joint operation against poachers.

Speaking yesterday, Manyara Regional Police Commander Paulo Kasabango said the five are alleged to have committed the crime on April 22 between 6pm and 9pm.

He listed them as Maneka Gidungule (44), Gwadida Kwalisan (60), Gidafari Ngenoi (60), Paschal Gwandu (19) and Lwagegasi Gidun-



(32) all residents of Minjingu. "We have finalised investigations and the file has been sent to the

State Attorney for court procedures," RPC Kasabango said.

Babati District Commissioner Elizabeth Kitundu said she cannot understand why the crime was committed, as poaching activities had stopped in the area.

Kitundu said initial investigations show that the animals were killed as revenge after they had eaten crops of some local residents.

TURN TO PAGE 2

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



© 2020 CDC

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

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

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

- Fever
- Cough

- Shortness of breath

- Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19



9 770856 542009 >

ECA sifts coronavirus African exit strategies

FROM PAGE 1

One month full lockdown across Africa is estimated to cost the continent about 2.5 per cent of its annual GDP, equivalent to about \$65.7 billion per month. "This is separate from and in addition to the wider external impact of COVID-19 on Africa of lower commodity prices and investment flows," the ECA report indicated.

In the report entitled 'COVID-19: Lockdown exit strategies for Africa,' the ECA proposes seven exit strategies that provide sustainable, albeit reduced, economic activity. Exit strategies proposed and tried around the world are set out and the risks involved for African countries.

With the lockdowns came serious challenges for Africa's economies, including a drop in demand for products and services, it said.

Other effects are a lack of operational cash flow, reduction of opportunities to meet new customers, closure of businesses, plus changing business strategies and offering alternative products and services.

There was also a decline in worker productivity due to working at home, cumbersome logistics and shipping of products, along with difficulties in obtaining supplies of raw materials essential for production, the report underlined.

Among the most sensitive issues facing policymakers is the impact of

COVID-19 lockdowns on food security.

The seven lockdown exit strategies being proposed by the think tank are identified from proposals and trials around the world. They are assessed with respect to the extent to which each strategy minimizes uncertainty over infection rates and fatalities. "In most cases, countries are applying a combination of several strategies such as testing, contact tracing and gradual segmented reopening," the report noted.

African countries are improving testing, many retaining lockdowns until preventive or curative medicines are developed, it said. Contact tracing and mass testing, immunity permits, gradual segmented reopening, adaptive triggering and mitigation measures are also listed as being implemented at various levels.

Under adaptive triggering nations can ease lockdown once infections decline and re-impose if they begin to rise above intensive-care capacity. "These would require regular shutdowns lasting two-thirds of the year, making little difference to permanent lockdown from an economic perspective. African health-care capacity is limited meaning capacity would quickly be exceeded, potentially resulting in fatalities," ECA experts indicated.

Mitigation gradually allows the infection to spread across the population with some



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Developments ministry planning officers have a word with Standard Gauge Railway project engineers in Dar es Salaam yesterday on matters related to cooperating with the Tanzania Railway Corporation in ensuring work at major SGR major stations does not lead to the growth of unplanned urban settlements. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

social distancing measures in place. It is reportedly working in Sweden, where an estimated 25-40 per cent of Stockholm residents contracted COVID-19, but relies on good adherence to basic social distancing measures and strong health-care capacity. "This could imply considerable risk in African populations with low health-care access and unknown community levels of various morbidities," it said.

Firms surveyed by the ECA

reported to be operating at only 43 per cent on average, while 70 per cent of slum dwellers report that they are missing meals or eating less as a result of COVID-19.

Lockdowns, the report notes, forestall severe vulnerabilities and that testing, contact tracing and easing restrictions may be possible for countries with sufficient public health systems.

It is those that have contained COVID-19 transmission, put

in place preventive measures, engaged and educated communities and also minimized risks to vulnerable groups, it stated.

"Gradual segmented reopening may be needed in countries where containment has failed, with further measures to suppress the spread of the disease being required where the virus is still spreading," it said. The spread of the virus is still accelerating in many

African countries on average at 30 percent of new cases every week, the UN agency indicated.

It similarly said that active learning and data collection can help policymakers ascertain risks across the breadth of policy unknowns as they consider recommendations to ease lockdowns and move towards a "new normal."

The report urges African nations to take advantage of being behind the global

infections curve. "This may be an opportunity to learn from experiences of other regions and their experiments in reopening, and to use the 'extra time' afforded by the lockdowns to rapidly put in place testing, treatment systems, preventive measures and carefully design lockdown exit strategies in collaboration with communities and vulnerable groups," the report intoned.

Police hold five over zebra, giraffe killings

FROM PAGE 1

She said around Lake Manyara there are areas reserved for grazing but now some of them have been turned into farms.

"It is claimed that the zebras grazed on the maize farms and farmers decided to revenge by killing them using spears," she said.

She warned people in the area not to take the law into their own hands, signaling that if there are wild animals invading farms the right thing to do is to inform the relevant authorities.



Mwafrika Pharmacy Limited general manager Konain Naqvi (R) presents to Tanga district commissioner Thobias Mwilipwa face masks, sanitiser and liquid soap for use in the war on Covid-19. This was in Tanga city at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

Minister: Finish up work on REA projects by June 30

FROM PAGE 1

do so as per signed contract agreements will be deducted 10 per cent from their payments.

Dr Kalemami (pictured) issued the caution at the weekend during an inspection visit on work progress in connecting power to villages in Handeni, Korogwe and Lushoto districts in Tanga Region.

He said the contract agreements stipulate that all contractors implementing power distribution in all the districts are supposed to finalise the projects by June 30.

The 10 per cent to be deducted from defaulters will be remitted to the Treasury for payment to other firms which will be contracted to finish the projects, he specified.

"There is no excuse for failing to finalise the projects as per terms of the contract agreements as they have already received initial payments and all equipment are obtained in the country," the minister emphasized.

In the visit Dr Kalemami lit power for Kisasu village, Sindeni Ward in Handeni District, Kwasunga village in Korogwe District and Kwamsale village in Lushoto District.

He also appealed to local government officials who were in attendance to avoid large gatherings and take precautions against

Covid-19 infections, urging the people to continue paying the 27,000/- power connection cost.

He said that they should not agree to pay money for items like meters, poles, wires as the cost for these have already been subsidized by the government.

Dr Kalemami also visited Kilole electric substation in Korogwe district built in 1929 with 2.3MW capacity that is currently undergoing major repairs.

He called on the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) to finalise the work by June 15 to enhance power supply to Korogwe District residents.

On theft of power and power infrastructure, the minister said whoever will be found to commit such a crime will be regarded as an economic saboteur and legal steps will be taken against him.

He called on the local residents to work together with relevant authorities to protect power infrastructure.

He similarly urged Tanesco workers to work diligently and professionally, noting that some of them collaborate with acolytes to steal the company's equipment.

Handeni District Commissioner Godwin Gondwe pledged to see to it that the minister's directives are duly implemented.

ATCL plane off to Mumbai on Friday

FROM PAGE 1

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Dr Hassan Abbas, said in an interview at the weekend that the move comes after a request from Tanzanian citizens in India who for a long time have wished to come back home.

The plane was to have left for

Mumbai today May 11 and return on Wednesday May 13 but this was postponed to the May 15 plane departure from Dar es Salaam, he said.

Over 200 Tanzanians remained in India after March 23 following the imposition of a countrywide lockdown by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The restrictions were extended to May 17 as the earliest day for possible departure as part of efforts to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Dr Abbas, the Chief Government Spokesman, did not clarify on current plans with regard to repatriate other Tanzanians stranded in various countries.

He similarly did not elaborate on whether the government intends to subsidize cost for tickets, with reporters citing Kenyan government subsidies in repatriating Kenyan citizens constrained by lockdowns in China and India.

On Saturday May 9, the long-awaited repatriation flight (KQ

205) landed in Nairobi after picking up erstwhile stranded Kenyans in Mumbai.

About 234 passengers in the flight were expected to undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 days before being allowed to rejoin their families if they tested negative of the virus at the end of that period.

Ruvuma RC unhappy with report from CAG

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme is saddened by CAG report and has vowed to take stern measures against all workers who prompted Songea Municipal Council to receive dirty and uncertain financial certificate in the Controller and auditor General (CAG)'s report for the year ended June 2019.

According to her, there are some officials in the municipality who failed to deliver well thus leading to the loopholes.

She made the remarks here during the special Councilors meeting to discuss issues raised in the CAG's report of the year 2018/19, Mndeme said.

"Songea Municipal has got dirty certificate from GAG, this so distressing, I direct that all people who have contributed to this should be accountable, measures should be taken regardless he/she is councilor or executive official, we are so ashamed of this," she said.

She wanted authorities to commence an investigation

to find out those who were involved for immediate measures to follow.

She wanted all councils to work hard and ethically and avoid misappropriation of money allocated to implement several projects.

"Getting dirty certificate should now be awake call for all of us and make sure that we work hard and deliver on time. We have also to ensure that every concern or issue raised by CAG had to be responded," she said. For his part, the council's external auditor Deogratius Waijaha said that one of the reasons which prompted the municipality to receive uncertain certificate is failing to locate the whereabouts of 98m/- of internal revenues which it had been reported in its financial books.

"Everything is good for Songea Municipality but one thing which has ruined your good job is the fraud of 98m, uncovered."

Abdul Hassan, Mayor of Songea promised to work on all the directives and the job would commence immediately.



TBL's Mbeya plant manager, Godwin Fabian (R), pictured at the weekend presenting to Mbeya regional commissioner Albert Chalamila 500 litres of sanitiser for use in the war on Covid-19. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Zungu issues 10-day ultimatum on Kidatu dam impact report assessment

By Guardian Correspondent, Kidatu

MINISTER of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Mussa Zungu has issued 10 days ultimatum to Tanzania Environment Management Council (NEMC) and Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (TANESCO) to conduct impact assessment following increase in water levels in electricity dams.

Zungu said this while in a joint tour with his counterpart Energy

minister, Dr Medard Kalemami. The tour was aimed at inspecting the overflowing Kidatu dam which has led to flooding the surrounding areas.

"It is important to conduct impact assessment of overflowing of water as well as the extent at which the dam itself might have been affected by soil erosion," he said.

He said the dam might have been affected by mud thus releasing water out which might be

a wrong decision that would end up affecting the dam's capacity in power generation.

"The Rufiji Hydro Power Plant depends on the availability of adequate water from various sources. We need a proper assessment to ensure that there is enough water to supply the project in question," he said.

Zungu noted that since his ministry is entrusted with the role of environmental protection, he will make sure that water sources are

well protected in a bid to supply adequate water to Rufiji dam.

"The government has committed a lot of resources in making sure that the Rufiji project is coming to effect, thus it is our role as conservationist to make sure that the project is sustainable," he said.

The minister stressed on the need to emphasise on advocacy for environment conservation in the water sources especially by discouraging locals who are doing their activities on river banks and

generate up to .215 megawatts.

"I call upon Tanzanians wherever they are to protect water sources, that way we will be assured of availability of water for power generation and speed up economic development," he said.

For his part, Dr Kalemami said his ministry had already formed a task force to conduct impact assessment aimed ensuring that Rufiji dam is adequately supplied for smooth undertakings of the mega hydropower project projected to

shun floods during water seasons.

"The volume of water needed at Rufiji dam is 32 million cubic meters thus it is important that water sources are thoroughly protected to ensure adequate commissioning," he said.

The Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Loata Sanare said the regional government was educating people on the importance of conserving water sources as well as discouraging settlements near water sources and river banks to

The NEMC director general, Dr Samuel Gwamaka said the minister's directives have been received and already been worked upon, adding that report would be ready within the ultimatum time frame.

"We are at work and it is our optimism that our minister's directives will be implemented," Dr Gwamaka said, adding that the council was committed to address environmental challenges.

Don't let girls' education be another casualty of the Covid-19

By Special Correspondent

THE impact of COVID-19 on Africa's education system has been swift, triggering an education emergency of unprecedented scale. All but one African country has closed schools to slow the spread of the disease.

Interrupted learning and economic shocks brought on by the pandemic will exacerbate inequalities and threaten the futures of the most vulnerable children. Girls, especially from the poorest families, are particularly at risk. With more than 400 million girls out of school due to the closures, Governments must act now to keep girls safe during this pandemic and ensure the doors to education remain open.

When girls are out of school, they are more vulnerable to child marriage, adolescent pregnancy and gender-based violence - all of which decrease their likelihood of continuing their education. Girls with greater vulnerabilities,

such as refugees, the internally displaced, returnees, and those with disabilities, are at even higher risk.

If girls drop out at similar rates as during the Ebola crisis of 2014-2015 10 million secondary school-aged girls in low- and lower-middle income countries may never return, according to a projection by the Malala Fund. The pandemic could result in 2 million more cases of female genital mutilation and 13 million more child marriages over the next decade, according to estimates by the United Nations Popula-

tion Fund, with long-term social and economic consequences.

Africa cannot afford to let this happen. Crises exacerbate many of the factors that drive child marriage - including gender inequality, poverty, and lack of education. It is a vicious cycle: child marriage is both a cause and a consequence of poor educational attainment. Girls who marry young are more likely to drop out of school, and girls who are not in school or who have lower levels of education are more likely to marry young.

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

DATE: 08th May 2020

ADDENDUM TO REQUEST FOR INVITATION TO BID (ITB) No. ITB/2020/SUP/024

FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PHARMACEUTICALS

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Tanzania Representation office would like to draw your attention on the above invitation to bid ITB/2020/SUP/024 for the supply and delivery of pharmaceuticals.

1. The submission deadline is extended to 13th May 2020 – 16:00 HRS EAT
2. Please note that all terms and conditions of the tender documents remain unchanged except change of the submission date above.
3. In case you require further details or clarifications, kindly contact ishobeza@unhcr.org

Yohannes Hailu
Senior Supply Officer
UNHCR Representation Office Dar es Salaam

VACANCIES

Position: Logistics & Transport Manager
Reports to: Managing Director
Location: Dar es Salaam

Brief Function: The position is accountable for planning, organizing and coordinating and controlling company's transportation fleet as per company transportation policy. Ensure fleet availability to meet all requests by scheduling, forecasting and arranging current user/customer needs. Keep track for vehicle order or track system to the user department/consider request for immediate repair measures. Ensure that all log sheets are accurately maintained for all vehicles. Preparation of vehicle logs, registers and other documents required for fleet management. Prepare and develop transport safety, driving manual for drivers and internal report and for maintenance guidelines for vehicle availability and company use for money in repair and maintenance. To supervise drivers and ensure uninterrupted provision of transport services. Ensure correct maintenance of the vehicle register by making regular vehicle inspections and recommending the appropriate maintenance options and monitor operations on fleet repair and maintenance to make sure they are in line with the approved budget.

Preferred Qualifications and Experience: Holder of Bachelor's Degree in Logistics and Transport Management with at least 8 years of working experience from Logistics and Transport industry. Managerial skills is an added advantage.

Application Procedures: All applications should be sent via email: applications@unhcr.org or management@unhcr.org With the Subject "Logistics and Transport Manager" before 15th May, 2020. The applicant should attach a COVER LETTER, CV together with copies of certificates.

Position: Procurement Officer
Reports to: Managing Director
Location: Dar es Salaam

Brief Function: The position is accountable for being in a Department of Finance and Accounts, Implementing and Control Financial and Accounting functions. This includes: Prepare daily monthly quarterly and annual reports. Ensure inward and outward bills are maintained properly. Participate in Revenue and Expense budget. The role requires operational activities and promptly submit periodic financial and administrative reports including cash flow projections. Ensure proper accounting and control of capital and revenue expenditures. Review financial budget and cash flow projections. Facilitate auditing of books of accounts by the internal and external auditors. Coordinate and verify all expenditure items to ensure their credibility.

Preferred Qualifications and Experience: Holder of Bachelor's Degree in Logistics and Transport Management with at least 8 years of working experience. Experience in Logistics and Transport sector as well as costing and budgeting knowledge will be of an added value.

Application Procedures: All applications should be sent via email: applications@unhcr.org or management@unhcr.org With the Subject "Procurement Officer" before 15th May, 2020. The applicant should attach a COVER LETTER, CV together with copies of certificates.

POLYTANK

POLYTANK
100LTR
AVOID CONTAMINATION

Hands Free Washing Station

Foot Pedal Operated

Available in 100 Ltr & 225 Ltr Polytank, With Stand, Basin and Bucket with handle to collect waste water.

Soap and waste water Dispenser turns off & on by pressing the pedals with foot.

Supplied with White colored water tank for making water level visible.

Handled Bucket for collection of waste water.

MADE IN TANZANIA

Special Discount on Bulk Quantity Purchases

cotex Industries Limited

Manufactured by: COTEX INDUSTRIES LIMITED

E-mail : sales.cotex@cotexindustries.co.tz | Call : 0716 804 114 / 0657 801 444



African Explosive Tanzania Ltd office administrator Asnat Ibrahim (3rd-L) and her colleagues present face masks to OCD Joseph Bukombe (2nd-R) of Dar es Salaam's Oysterbay Police Station at the weekend in support of efforts to fight Covid-19. The firm extended similar support to daladala (commuter bus) drivers and bodaboda (motorbike taxi operators) in the city's Kinondoni District. Photo: Guardian Photographer

TANROADS warns vandals of infrastructure in Tanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

VANDALISM of infrastructure in the outskirts of Tanga city has become an issue of great concern to Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) in Tanga region who had warned that whoever vandalizes the infrastructures should be ready for court action.

Tanga Region TANROADS manager Alfred Ndumbaro said there are people who have started breaking up concrete pedestals that hold street lamps especially from Kwamichi area at Majani Mapana.

"They have already stolen three lamp batteries in the area, he said and added that they arrested one man and the case was in court.

He appealed to the vandals to stop doing so as the modern street lamps are very costly. He said one lamp costs over 1.3m/- and added that in addition to TANROADS regular patrols the people should also protect the infrastructures.

Speaking on infrastructures in Tanga region Ndumbaro said roads which had been damaged as a result of heave were now being repaired including Handeni-Mzia, Handeni-Songe, Korogwe-Bombo Mtoni and Umba Mkomazi-

Lushoto roads.

He said they have strategies to build all roads in the region at tarmac level and up to now they had started constructing Tanga-Pangani road and Pangani-Saadani roads at tarmac level.

He said the government has allocated sufficient funds for the construction of Handeni-Songe road at tarmac level but the process was still ongoing and construction is expected to start in due course.



They have already stolen three lamp batteries in the area, he said and added that they arrested one man and the case was in court

Moro Region urges owners to come up with plan to end sugar scarcity

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

AUTHORITIES in Morogoro region have called on sugar factories namely Mtibwa and Kilombero to come up with short and long term strategic plans to ensure that people in the region have access of sugar all the time.

Morogoro municipal direc-

tor, Sheila Lukuba made the call over the weekend when speaking to the business community, government officials from across the municipality.

She said that Morogoro region is braced with two major sugar producing plants in the country, "but I'm wondering as to why our people cannot get the commodity and my thinking was that the price

of sugar here would be the cheapest."

For her part, Morogoro District Commissioner Regina Chonjo directed the two sugar factories to allocate enough stocks of sugar for their customers.

DC Chonjo said despite having two factories, people in Morogoro are decrying over of shortage of the sweetener.

"This comes because our sugar factories do not allocate enough stocks of sugar for our people. I think it's high time they should start embracing this spirit," the DC said.

In Morogoro region, the price of the commodity has gone up despite the government's indicative price of 2,700/- per kg as per Sugar In-

dustry Act no. 26 of 2001 (cap 251).

DC Chonjo urged sugar factories to prepare long-term strategies to ensure that the region gets enough sugar from the factories.

Responding to question from one of supermarket owners in the municipality, who was arrested a week ago for selling sugar higher than

the government's indicative price, Chonjo said sugar prices in the municipality should be between 2,700/- and 2,800/- per kilogramme.

"Traders should not hike prices of goods during this Holy Month of Ramadhan, she said."

For his part, Morogoro municipal trade officer, Festus Herman, called on all traders

to adhere to the businesses' principles by ensuring that they issue receipts to customers.

"We have caught some business people running businesses without giving receipts, a situation which denies the government revenues, we will continue conducting prompt inspections for traders," he said.

TARI launches bid to reduce wheat shortages in Tanzania

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has embarked on a fresh strategy, seeking to revamp domestic wheat production in an efforts to curtail acute shortages of wheat in the country.

The initiative at the Institute's Hombolo Centre, among others, gears to research, innovate and distribute enough hybrid seed varieties to farmers as a way to boost production the cash crops within the country.

Statistics depict that 70 per cent of wheat used in the country is being imported as home production's capacity remains low, at only 30 per cent annually.

Moreover, according to Industry and Trade minister, Innocent Bashungwa, Tanzania annually spends 1.3trillion/- to import wheat, sugar, maize seeds and crude oil due to lackluster domestic production of the vital cash crops.

Senior plant breeder for TARI-Hombolo, Dr Lameck Nyaliyigwa, yesterday unveiled to The Guardian that the ongoing scheme, apart from eyeing to provide farmers with a number of hybrid seed varieties, focuses also to empower them (farmers) to adopt proper agronomical practices.

Despite being of high economic potential, he observed it was disheartening that wheat was among crops that receives poor attention in Tanzanian.

"Most of agricultural stakeholders and other key players are seemingly dedicating much efforts to research and develop only few crops, chiefly maize," he said.

He stated that the un-balanced support trend was diluting efforts among researchers to conduct enough researches for innovating hybrid wheat varieties.

He said currently, the country was with limited number of certified seed varieties, with tegemeo, nacol, masia, hakika and wahi having been the popular ones.

Apart from expressing over a need of political will to revamp the sector, Dr Nyaliyigwa however was optimistic that the ongoing stratagem by the centre will ultimately open a new chapter of increasing domestic wheat production.

"For instance, since December last year, we have so far managed to plant a total of 10,000 acres of the crop, purposefully to germinate and distribute enough seeds to farmers to help them in the next growing season," he expressed.

He added the plantation which has already been inspected and appreciated by the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) will play a vital role in enabling farmers to harvest bumper crop.

He said, however, a recent development by the centre to enter contract with Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) for researching and producing sorghum hybrid seeds varieties with needed grain tannin for brewing Eagle Beers is projected to revive morale by many farmers in the region to start cultivating the crop.

"Beforehand, most farmers skipped to grow wheat due to several challenges within the sector, but with the new strategy which assures them availability of improved seeds, and vast market from TBL, we're expecting the number of famers to significantly increase production," he observed.

As per the vital project's TBL will enter into key contract farming with a number of farmers in the region.



Ijala municipal (Dar es Salaam) mayor Omary Kumbilamoto (3rd-R) presents 500 bottles of sanitiser to Muhimbili National Hospital at the weekend in support of the war on Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Bonanza slot game firm in soup over possession of 200m/- coins

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

AUTHORITIES in Morogoro have arrested four Chinese nationals owners of Bonanza slot game machine allegedly for possessing coins worth 200m/- contrary to the finan-

cial institutions regulations.

The money was found in a house at Mwera area in Morogoro Municipality.

Speaking at the weekend, Morogoro Regional Commissioner Regina Chonjo said earlier they receive in-

formation from good citizens that they were suspicious of the movements of Chinese nationals who were coming in and going out very often from the house.

She said the money was in denominations of 500/- stuffed in bags,

plastic pails and paper boxes valued at more than 200m/- and plans were underway to remit the money to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

"Keeping such money in a house endangers their own lives and that of their workers as well, saying there

is a huge scarcity of loose change in Morogoro municipality," she said.

She said apart from endangering their security it was also discovered that the company was operating contrary to country's financial regulation.

Japanese embassy donates 206.5m/- to rebuild school buildings for Hai District

By Guardian Reporter, Hai

ALL is well for the residents of Kibohehe village in Hai district, Kilimanjaro region after the Japanese embassy in Dar es Salaam dished out 206.5m/- to rehabilitate infrastructure Kibohehe primary school. The infrastructure will include rehabilitation of six classrooms.

Hai district executive officer (DED) Yohana Sintoo confirmed about the donotaion by his office of 206,579,835/- from the Japanese embassy, saying the council was in the process of looking for contractor for the work.

On February 22 this year the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Dr

Anna Mghwira ordered closure of the school due to its extensive destruction during which a Std 5 student died and three others severely injured.

More than 150 students of the school were moved to nearby schools.

Sintoo said the funds were acquired after the Council made a written request to the Japanese embassy for assistance.

"I sincerely thank the embassy of Japan for funds to rebuild the infrastructure at Kobohehe primary school and added that residents have offered themselves to contribute funds and do other jobs towards the project," he added.



I sincerely thank the embassy of Japan for funds to rebuild the infrastructure at Kobohehe primary school and added that residents have offered themselves to contribute funds and do other jobs towards the project,"



Rotary Club of Arusha Mount Meru officials Anna Rweyemamu (2nd-R) and Leonard Mushi (R) symbolically present to a Saint Elizabeth Hospital nursing officer (L) six water tanks meant to help in the war on the spread of Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

Covid-19: Hadzabe clan faces new challenges

By Guardian Correspondent, Mkalama

THE Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children has been called upon to deploy medical experts in Singida region to support Hadzabe community in the fight against Covid-19 infections.

The community lives at Kipamba forest in Mkalama district, but mainly the Hadzabe clan live in the area bordering Singida, Manyara, Arusha and Simiyu

regions and largely depend on roots, honey, meat and wild fruits as their staple foods.

The call was made by Mkalama district council chairman, James Mkega at the Councilors meeting last week when he suggested that it would be better for the tribe to be involved to curb pandemic.

Councillor Eunice Kalaila supported the move and called on the ministry of health to work on the plan. Matongo Ward Councillor John Linza and his

Kinampundu counterpart Silvester Marmot supported the call, saying the Hadzabe should be allowed to join forces in the fight against Covid-19.

The Hadza, or Hadzabe, are an indigenous ethnic group in north-central Tanzania, living around Lake Eyasi in the central Rift Valley and in the neighboring Serengeti plateau. There are, as of 2015, between 1,200 and 1,300 Hadza people living in Tanzania, however only around 300 Hadza still survive exclusively based on

the traditional means of foraging. Additionally, the increasing impact of tourism and encroaching pastoralists pose serious threats to the continuation of their traditional way of life.

Genetically, the Hadza are not closely related to any other people. While traditionally classified with the Khoisan languages, primarily because it has clicks, the Hadza language (Hadzane), appears to be an isolate, unrelated to any other. Hadzane is an entirely oral language, but it is not

predicted to be in danger of extinction. Hadzane is also considered the most important factor of distinguishing who is and is not actually a part of the Hadza people. In more recent years, many of the Hadza have learned Swahili as a second language, which is the national language of Tanzania.

As descendants of Tanzania's aboriginal hunter-gatherer population, they have probably occupied their current territory for thousands of years, with relatively little modification to their basic

way of life until the past hundred years.

Since the 18th century, the Hadza have come into increasing contact with farming and herding people entering Hadzaland and its vicinity; the interactions were often hostile and caused population decline in the late 19th century. The first European contact and written accounts of the Hadza are from the late 19th century. Since then, there have been many attempts by successive colonial administrations,

and foreign missionaries to settle the Hadza, by introducing farming and Christianity. These efforts have largely failed, and many Hadza still pursue virtually the same way of life as their ancestors are described as having in early 20th-century accounts. In recent years, they have been under pressure from neighbouring groups encroaching on their land, and also have been affected by tourism and safari hunting.



WARIDI – WATER RESOURCES INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Job Opportunity

Winrock International, a US-based international development non-profit, and is implementing the USAID Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiatives (WARIDI) Activity as a subcontractor to Tetra Tech ARD Inc. WARIDI seeks to achieve improvements in health, water resources management, agriculture, climate change adaptation and the environment in Tanzania. Winrock International is advertising for a Senior Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) Engineer. All applicants should be Tanzanian citizens and be fluent in Swahili and English. The position is immediately available. Candidates must be able to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity and gender and have a demonstrated track record of effective monitoring and evaluation team leadership. Women are encouraged to apply.

Senior Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) Engineer, WARIDI Morogoro, Tanzania

Reports To: Water Services Technical Lead

Position Summary:

Winrock International is a subcontractor on the USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI). The Senior Water Engineer will monitor field-level water supply and sanitation construction activities. S/he will report to the Water Services Technical Lead and closely coordinate support activities with the engineering team, providing analyses and reviews of construction activities at key points in the construction management schedule. S/he will play a critical role in tracking and advising Winrock International to ensure successful and timely implementation.

This position will be approximately 30 hours/week and 75% travel. The position will require frequent travel to remote locations across Morogoro and Iringa Regions. Transport will be facilitated from Morogoro Town using project vehicles.

Education: Relevant graduate degree in civil engineering

Experience:

- Registered Professional Engineer
- Minimum of 10 years' experience working in the water sector especially in rural water supply in Tanzania.
- Experience designing water supply systems for rural areas including pumped and gravity schemes for populations of 1,000 to 20,000 people
- Recent hands-on technical experience ranging from, electrical installation to intake setting to a variety of other technical tasks
- Experience in contract management and supervising contractors on-site
- Experience working with local government and communities
- Strong management, organizational, conceptual, strategic and analytical skills

Skills/Knowledge:

- Excellent knowledge of various water supply designs and systems
- Familiarity with Tanzania and USAID environmental laws and regulations
- Ability to multi-task effectively and prioritize with competing deadlines and priorities
- Strong organizational skills and detail-oriented

- Demonstrated effective interpersonal skills, creative problem solving and ethical management.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Fluent in English and Swahili (written and oral)

Detailed Job Description

Provide reliable technical civil engineering support to water supply projects

- Facilitate design of water supply projects (including surveys, drawings, sketches and designs and supervision), providing written reviews and Quality Assurance Checks on designs and design changes as implementation progresses
- Provide technical advice and assurance that all activities related to water and sanitation, including environmental impact assessments and mitigation measures, are done effectively

Manage contractors for effective planning and implementation of water projects

- Review and monitor construction activities for on-going construction sites in close coordination with lead engineers
 - Review contractors plans and specifications for water projects for compliance with quality standards
 - Cross-check field construction activities in relationship to surveys and construction designs as appropriate.
 - Visit construction sites on a regular basis and provide useful reports on progress and compliance to quality standards
 - Review plans and specifications for water projects for compliance with quality standards and prepare recommendations to support continuous improvement in quality assurance and quality control areas.
 - Strategically and effectively support reviews of progress of implementation of water supply projects per contractor's schedule and support updates to schedules as needed
 - Support lead Engineers to address identified construction issues
 - Prepare and provide quality and timely technical reports on observations, recommendations, and conclusions as appropriate.
 - Facilitate the inspection, verification and confirmation for work in progress and for completed projects
- Build and maintain a continuous interactive exchange of information with other team members, partners and relevant stakeholders

Interested and qualified candidates should email a brief statement of interest, current curriculum vitae (CV) and 3 references to: WARIDI.HR@winrock.org. Subject of the email should include "WARIDI Senior QA/QC Engineer". Short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview. Selected candidate will be hired as soon as s/he is available. Compensation will be commensurate with relevant experience.

This position is open to Tanzanian candidates only. Winrock International is committed to diversity and gender equality and encourages applications from women and underrepresented groups. Winrock International is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Deadline for submission of applications: 22nd May 2020 at 16:00hrs



USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI)

Request for Proposal

For Construction of two (2) Pumping Water Supply Schemes in Kilosa District – Morogoro.

Winrock International is a sub-contractor to Tetra Tech the prime implementing partner for the USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI) pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with USAID Contract No AID-OAA-I-14-00068/AID-621-TO-16-00003.

WARIDI is a USAID funded five-year activity which seeks to achieve improvements in health, water resources management, agriculture, climate change adaptation and the environment in Tanzania. WARIDI promotes state-of-the-art approaches in cross-sectoral, integrated management of water-related resources and services.

Through this RFP, USAID/WARIDI requests for proposals from qualified locally registered contractors (Registration by Contractor's Registration Board is a must) to bid for the Construction of the following Pumping Water Supply Schemes;

WARIDI-0002-2020 – Kitete (Kilosa District, Morogoro Region)

WARIDI-0003-2020 – Mfulu (Kilosa District, Morogoro Region)

A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be obtained via email from Procurement Officer, Winrock International, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania, email: waridi.procurement@winrock.org no later than Monday May 18, 2020. Any questions should be sent by Monday May 18, 2020 at 5.00pm East African Time; and will be responded to in one all-inclusive written document provided to all bidders via email on Wednesday May 20, 2020.

Proposals must be received no later than 12:00 Noon East African Time on Friday, May 29, 2020. Late submissions will not be accepted. All quotations are to be submitted following the guidelines listed in the bidding documents. Telephone requests will not be honored.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, bid opening will be recorded on video and sent to vendors. Bid opening will take place at Winrock International offices, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania, at 2.00 pm, on Friday, May 29, 2020.

Winrock International



Singida regional commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi receives cash contributions from councillors in support of health officers attending to Covid-19 patients in the region. Photo: Correspondent Jumbe Ismailly

Babati DC orders arrest of 50 traders for hiking sugar prices

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

BABATI district commissioner in Manara Region Elizabeth Kitundu has ordered the arrest of 35 traders who were allegedly selling sugar above the government's indicative prices.

She issued the order at the weekend when speaking about the sugar situation in the district.

"We have made inspections in various shops and found 35 dealers contravening the government directives on sugar indicative prices," she said and added that they were fined and that the exercise was still ongoing.

The DC said they found only two wholesalers with sugar, one of whom had 80 bags and allayed fears among the citizens the basic commodity will continue to be available and requested them to order more sugar.

She said indicative sugar prices are 128,000/- for a 50kg bag of sugar, but said many small retailers claim they do not get

profit from selling sugar.

Babati town trade officer Nicolaus Yambi said among those who were nabbed, nine were from Babati town and the rest were from Babati district.

He said they were fined in accordance with the laws - 200,000/- per person and added that the fines can go as high as to one million shillings.

He said for those from Babati district they were fined 50,000/- each according to village by-laws.

A resident of Bashnet, Flaviana Laway speaking to this paper said the area has a very acute shortage of sugar.



We have made inspections in various shops and found 35 dealers contravening the government directives

EAC states directed to support local production of essential medical supplies to combat Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African Community Partner States have been directed to support local production of essential medical products and supplies including masks, sanitizers, soaps, processed food, and ventilators as part of efforts to combat Covid-19 in the region.

A Joint consultative meeting of Partner States' Ministers and Cabinet Secretaries responsible for Health, Trade, Transport and EAC Affairs via video conference held on May 8, this year to discuss a regional approach to Covid-19 further directed Partner States to facilitate farmers to continue farming activities during this pandemic and post Covid-19 period.

The consultative meeting

also directed Partner States to support agro-processing and value chains as an import substitution measure.

The ministers requested the ministries of finance in the partner states to establish special purpose financing schemes for small and medium enterprises, to cushion them from the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The ministers gave these directives in response to information availed to them that that the region's key productive sectors are already experiencing a slowdown as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, with sectors such as agriculture, trade, manufacturing and industry, tourism, offline retail and catering being the worst affected.

Among the negative impacts

on the regional economy are a food crisis in East Africa and severe disruptions in manufacturing and industry value chains. On the flipside are beneficial developments such as: increased production of face masks in the region; growing popularity of online retail using e-commerce platforms; growing popularity of online entertainment, and; increased Telecommuting and distance education.

The consultative meeting which was called by Dr Vincent Biruta, the chairperson of the Council of Ministers, and Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr Vincent Biruta, discussed progress made on the facilitation of the free movement of goods and services in the region; assessment of state

of play on cross border clearance of cargo and truck drivers at Malaba and Busia during the Covid 19 pandemic; Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the region's productive capacities and Impact on Macroeconomic stability.

The ministers commended the EAC partner states, WHO and Africa CDC for the efforts being made towards addressing the Covid-19, and the steps taken to contain the disease and prevent further spread in the EAC region.

On a harmonised approach to testing services across partner states, the ministers urged partner states to undertake standardized Covid -19 testing based on approved WHO methodologies.

The ministers requested the Ministers of Finance to analyse

the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the fiscal and monetary sectors of the EAC region and recommend an appropriate plan of action.

The EAC deputy secretary general in charge of productive and social sector, Christophe Bazivamo, informed the Ministers that the EAC Regional Task Force has finalised the EAC Regional Covid-19 Response Plan which aims to among other things, ensure a joint and well-coordinated mechanism to fight Covid-19 in the region; timely access to medical therapeutics and health technologies to effectively manage the Covid-19 pandemic in the region; as well as to minimize the number of people who become infected or sick with Covid-19.

The ministers directed the secretariat to submit the EAC

regional Covid-19 response plan to the partner states and urged the partner states to submit their inputs on EAC Regional Covid-19 Response plan within one week from the date of submission of the document.

On the supply of covid-19 test kits, equipment and other supplies to the partner states, Bazivamo informed the Ministers that EAC secretariat through the EAC network of public health reference laboratories for communicable diseases (Mobile Lab Project) had received a grant of €500,000 to support the strengthening of laboratory capacity for Covid-19 response in the partner states.

Bazivamo told the meeting that the funds were intended to, among other things, purchase and supply adequate tests to facilitate scale-up of testing in

East Africa (1,000 Covid-19 test kits per Partner State) and the supply of essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in addition to those already procured under the support to the Ebola response.

On the facilitation of the free movement of goods and services in the region, the meeting noted that the Partner States were experiencing challenges in facilitating movement of goods and services. Consequently, the ministers directed the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with Partner States to implement a sensitization programme to destigmatize truck drivers and Covid-19 recoveries in the region.

They further directed the EAC secretariat to coordinate the activities under the sensitization programmes in the partner states.

'Land offices start operating this month in 26 regions countrywide'

By Guardian Reporter

NEWLY established regional land offices will commence operating this month in 26 regions across the country in a new move aimed to bring services closer to the people.

Speaking yesterday here minister William Lukuvi said that the establishment of the offices is also part of implementation of President John Magufuli's directive for the ministry to ensure that it addresses several land challenges facing communities in various parts of the country.

According to him, people seeking services on land sector will no longer travel miles away to reach zonal or national headquarters but rather access them within the region.

"All services which are currently offered at zonal and headquarters will now be available at regional level, this is a great step in the sector," he said.

According to him, previously, residents in the regions of Kigoma and Katavi had to travel to Tabora to access land services, those from Tanga, Manyara na Arusha were going to Moshi while those from Iringa, Njombe, and Rukwa had to travel to Mbeya region to access the services.

"This was too expensive for the people, but we have now eased operations as part of major improvement plans in the ministry," he said.

Lukuvi said that all key documents including title deeds will be provided at regional level. This will also enable a person to use the certificate as a bond to access bank loans and thus promote economic growth.

"We have already equipped the new offices with enough workers and equipment for provision of timely and quality services...Several land planning and formalisation tools have been purchased and distributed in the regions and district councils to increase pace for formalising land services," he said.



"All services which are currently offered at zonal and headquarters will now be available at regional level, this is a great step in the sector,



Children from Kivule in suburban Dar es Salaam try a hand at fishing in a pond near their homes yesterday, oblivious to the danger they risked operating from water whose safety was far from guaranteed. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Expectant mothers drinking alcohol risk having kids with birth defects-council

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Drinking alcohol during pregnancy is the leading known cause of birth defects. The amount of alcohol required to cause fetal alcohol syndrome pregnant women are therefore advised to abstain from drinking alcohol altogether.

The range of effects of drinking during

pregnancy is great. The risk of miscarriage almost doubles for women who drink alcohol in any form during pregnancy, especially if they drink heavily. Often, the birth weight of babies born to women who drink during pregnancy is substantially below normal (less than 2.5 kilogrammes).

CHAIRMAN of Mbeya district council Mwalingo Kisemba has warned pregnant

women to stop taking alcohol.

He issued the warning at the weekend when speaking to this paper in his office.

Health experts have also warned pregnant women against alcohol consumption.

The caution comes at a time when several pregnant women, especially in Mbeya city, are increasingly seen taking alcoholic beverage.

He said a baby born can lack the ability to think properly and his rate of growth could be impaired.

He appealed to them to stop the habit and called for officials from the centres for public awareness to educate pregnant women on the dangers of taking alcohol while pregnant.

She said these institutions in collaboration with other stakeholders including Tanza-

nia Nender Networking Programme (TGNP-Mtandao) to educate the society on the types gender based violence and children up-keeping.

The chairperson of the centres for knowledge information in Mbeya district, Flora Mlowezi said many pregnant women who drink are young women who lack enough education of maternal health.



It's a new era for residents of Kwasunga in Korogwe District as the village is connected to the national power grid at the weekend, with Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani (L) switching on the light at one of the houses there. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Food security fear in Africa

By Amber Court

NEARLY 70 per cent of people across Africa said food and water would be a problem if they were required to remain at home for 14 days - and more than half would exhaust their money, according to an Ipsos survey released recently.

The survey included nearly 21,000 people from 28 cities in 20 African countries on potential Covid-19 stay-at-home measures. The results were released in global virtual conference hosted online by the World Economic Forum.

Among the countries surveyed were South Africa, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, the UK and US.

Two weeks ago, income decreased significantly for 13% of the respondents in South Africa.

The survey was done in two waves, the first on March 25-26 before stringent restrictions were imposed on movement and business and the second on April 11-12.

The waves showed that South Africa's respondents stocked up on food and other household goods as a result

of the pandemic.

In the first wave, 54.59 per cent stocked up, while 64.68 per cent did so during the second.

Chief executive of public affairs at Ipsos Darrell Bricker explained that it was a substantial research project that had to be conducted speedily to assist them in their battle with the coronavirus. World Health Organization (WHO) regional director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti, said people who were food insecure were not able to earn their daily bread at a household level.

Director of Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention John Nkengasong said unique attention needs to be devoted to the issues of food security.

"The committee that is governed by the AU Commission Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, are taking this seriously," he added.

Tatjana von Bormann from World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa said there were three components to food security in the country - there are less than 30,000 commercial farmers versus more than 2 million small-scale farmers, social issues were clear signs

'Safeguard women and girls' rights key in curbing Covid 19'

By Correspondent Kenneth

Simbaya

INTERNATIONAL human rights organizations have called on African countries to ensure their responses to the Covid-19 pandemic include specific protections for the rights of women and girls.

The organisations - Amnesty International, Women's Link Worldwide and the International Planned Parenthood Federation Africa Region (IPPFAR) made the call in their joint report dubbed: "Guide for African States to protect the rights of women and girls during the Covid-19 pandemic."

The report provides a roadmap

for governments and regional organisations for taking the necessary measures to protect the rights of women and girls, who are often disproportionately affected in crisis situations. It highlights states' obligations to guarantee the right to live free from discrimination and violence and calls on governments to ensure access to essential sexual and reproductive health services, commodities and information during the pandemic.

Marie-Evelyne Petrus-Barry, IPPF Africa regional director said that the current Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerability of women and girls.

"Their health and wellbeing is

not only negatively impacted by the disruption of essential sexual and reproductive health services such as contraceptives counseling, maternal and newborn health, gender-based violence (GBV), and testing and treatment for HIV and sexually transmitted infections; but also their livelihoods and even their lives are threatened when sexually based crimes go invisible and stay unpunished," she said.

Marie-Evelyne added: "This is why the African Union, regional economic commissions, governments and women rights defenders must redouble their efforts in ensuring that the sexual and reproductive health and rights of

women and girls are protected and upheld and violations of these rights are documented and dealt with by justice systems."

"We're calling for governments to take urgent action to protect the rights of women and girls, highlighting the specific gender risks which the Covid-19 poses."

"During times of crisis and turmoil such as the one we are living in, women and girls face an increased risk of suffering violations of their rights. This is especially true for women already living in marginalized situations. For this reason, it is urgent that we work to ensure that their rights are respected and guaranteed," said Viviana Waisman, President and

CEO of Women's Link Worldwide.

According to the report, the implementation of measures such as curfews, lockdowns or travel restrictions may lead to police brutality and violence which ultimately poses a risk for women and girls to being subjected to sexual violence. There are also concerns of increase in teenage pregnancies, as previously observed in Sierra Leone following the lockdown imposed to halt the spread of the Ebola epidemic. Governments should put safeguards in place to ensure women and girls are protected from sexual violence and have access to sexual and reproductive health services and commodities.

The organizations also call for better protections for refugee and migrant women. Africa hosts more than 25.2 million refugees and internally displaced people and houses four of the world's six largest refugee camps in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia. Refugee camps in the region usually provide inadequate and overcrowded living arrangements that present a severe health risk to inhabitants.

"As Covid-19 spreads across the region women and girls have reportedly already faced an increase in domestic violence. Restrictions on movement, social isolation and lockdowns can make it even harder for women

to access essential services like sexual and reproductive health-care and protection from domestic violence," said Samira Daoud, Amnesty International West and Central Africa regional director.

"It is necessary that women and girls' rights are protected as we fight to bend the curve of the pandemic. Women are now forced to stay at homes with their abusers and most of the attention is now directed to Covid-19, some women may face difficulties to report abuses they are experiencing" according to Navina Mutabazi, Program Coordinator at a youth led and youth focused NGO Youth Education Through Sports Tanzania (YES TZ).

HelpAge lauds the call by the UN secretary general

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HELPAge International has lauded the call by the UN Secretary General António Guterres for nations to respect rights and dignity of older people during response to Covid-19.

The HelpAge International Country director Smart Daniel said that over the week end that older people were the nation's treasure and therefore must be respected during the time of responding to Covid-19.

"We must respect, support and protect them. We need to stand for the right of older people," he commended.

For his part, the health and care programme manager at HelpAge International Dr. Edwin Mung'ongo said in some districts like Korogwe and Magu where HelpAge was implementing its health projects, for people over the age of 60, the NCDs Mortality Ratio was closer to 60 per cent.

"Older people are suffering from hypertension, diabetes, heart diseases. Furthermore because of ageing, socio-economic factors, their immunity is low, and this makes them more vulnerable if they come in contact Corona virus," he said.

The social protection manager at HelpAge International Jerome Sam De Mwaya advised Tanzanians not to abandon or neglect older people.

He the community must adhere to the call from the Minister for Health Community Development Gender Elderly

and Children and other government officials to protect older people from being infected with Coronavirus.

On 1 May 2020, when launching the report, Guterres our response to Covid-19 must respect the rights and dignity of older people".

The UN Secretary General also emphasised physical distancing and noted that while physical distancing was crucial, people should not forget that we were a community and belong to each other. "We need social support and smarter efforts to reach older people through digital technology," he said.

Against the backdrop of age discrimination, autonomy for older people, disparities in social protection and healthcare - as well as a lack of decision-making power.

He maintained that for older persons, the crisis is "exacerbating existing human rights protection gaps and socio-economic challenges".

"We need to stand up now for older person's rights", the UN independent expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons Rosa Kornfeld-Matte said

"Pervasive gerontophobia, the fear of age-related self-degeneration and death, nurtures prejudice against older people, discrimination and ultimately the denial of human rights in older age".

According to research from China and Italy older people and people with underlying health conditions showed high mortality rate than any other age group.

Irena and AU join to boost African renewables in response to Covid-19

By Christopher Hopson

THE International Renewable Energy Agency (Irena) and the Africa Union (AU) have agreed to work closer together to drive the expansion of renewables in the continent, including decentralised grid systems, in order to bolster Africa's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The cooperation aims to strengthen Africa's response to the coronavirus crisis by improving the ability of its rural health centres and communities to deal with the challenges caused by the pandemic by using renewables to power-critical services such as medical infrastructure and water pumping stations.

"The AU has made major strides to advance energy development in Africa through various programmes and partnerships," said Amani Abou-Zeid, the AU's commissioner for infrastructure and energy.

"It's time to use Africa's enormous renewable energy resources for the benefit of the African people in response to the coronavirus pandemic."

Irena director-general Francesco La Camera stated: "Renewable energy can cost-effectively supply the critical power needed in Africa's rural communities to supply health centres, facilitate the provision of clean water, support agriculture and help other productive sectors. Such measures are critical to the continent's ability to deal with the pandemic."

Among the areas for collaboration are initiatives such as the Desert to Power programme, initiated by the African Development Bank to provide electricity to the Sahel region - the vast semi-arid region, on the southern fringe of the Sahara desert that cuts across several African countries, that is believed to be the largest solar zone in the world.

Irena and the AU will also work together on Irena's Clean Energy Corridor schemes in east, west and southern Africa which focus on advancing the deployment of renewables through the creation of larger and more robust power markets encouraging cross-border trade of renewable power.

HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA



TANGAZO LA UUZAJI WA VIWANJA

Mkurugenzi wa Halmashauri ya Jiji la Dodoma anawatangazia Wananchi wote kuwa kutakuwa na zoezi uuzaji wa Viwanja kuanzia TAREHE 25/04/2020 katika eneo la wazi Manispaa ya zamani (karibu na Sabasaba) kuanzia saa 2:00 Asubuhi hadi saa 9:30 Alasiri.

Viwanja vinavyouzwa ni katika maeneo ya:

ENEO	MATUMIZI NA BEI TSHS KWA (SQM1)
Iyumbu New Town Centre, karibu na UDOM na mradi wa Watumishi Housing	• Apartment 7,500/=
	• Biashara 10,000/=
Njedengwa Investment Centre, Karibu na Mradi wa Nyumba 300 wa Kisasa	• Apartment 13,070/=
	• Biashara 18,876/=
Nala Industrial Area, Karibu na Kituo cha Malori	• Viwanda 5,000/=
Medeli Extension, Karibu na Jengo la Hazina na Benki Kuu	• Hotel 80,000/=
	• Taasisi 40,000/=
Mtumba (Karibu na Mji wa Serikali na Ikulu)	• ZONE II Makazi 6,000/=
	• Makazi na Biashara 7,500/=
Nala, Karibu na Chuo cha IFM	• Makazi 2,500/=
Mahomanyika, KM 2 kutoka unapojengwa Uwanja Mpya wa Ndege	• Makazi 5,000/=
Mapinduzi, Karibu na Kituo cha SGR	• Makazi 6,500/=
Kitelela, Karibu na Unapojengwa Uwanja wa Ndege Mpya	• Makazi 5,000
	• Makazi na Biashara 6,000/=
Ithumwa, Karibu na Itakapojengwa Bandari Kavu	• Makazi 6,000/=
	• Makazi na Biashara 6,500/=
Chahwa, Karibu na Ikulu	• Makazi 3,000/=

NB: Malipo yote yafanyike ndani ya Siku 90 baada ya kupata hati ya madai.

Kwa mawasiliano zaidi piga simu namba 0714 785513.

Tangazo hili limetolewa na:
Mkurugenzi wa Jiji,
DODOMA



UN Secretary General António Guterres

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

MONDAY 11 MAY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

MPs have a point on expanding reserves with oil price decline

MAKING good use of the drastic fall in global oil prices is something that has for good reason pushed members of Parliament to figure out how the country can make good use of the change in world market conditions. A parliamentary committee on energy was advising the government in the House on Friday that the government needs to take advantage of the relentless fall in oil prices on the world market to strategically boost the country's own reserves. They said this could be done through the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC).

The point they were making is that the downward trend of petrol caused by decreasing demand since the outbreak of Covid-19 should not be left to fizzle out without the country benefiting from the price boon. Once world economic activity restarts with gusto when the coronavirus threat is past us, oil prices will start climbing prices again, which means the time to tap up reserves is the current price doldrums.

Many of those who listened or followed up the presentation of views of the Energy and Minerals Committee chaired by Dunstan Kitandula (Mkinga, CCM) would have seen a lot of point in what the committee said. Not many people would dispute with the need for the country to take advantage of global oil price gaps to enhance reserves for the country's economy in the coming months, depending on ability to put up such resources while the price decline lasts.

While the committee noted that MPs were impressed by the supply of fuel and efficient procurement through the Bulk Procurement System (BPS), it emphasized that there is room to do more. It appears

that already steps were being taken to boost reserves, that between July 2019 and February 2020, the country had sufficient oil reserves for over 40 days of demand, whereas the usual required level is 15 days of demand. The question is whether there is an optimal level of back up for demand, and indeed how far there are extra resources to purchase more oil during the price doldrums. That is what MPs staunchly expect.

There is an expression that 'every cloud has a silver lining,' in which case the government could very well take up what MPs are suggesting if 'other things remained equal.' MPs are right that this time of low oil prices is appropriate to build reserves, but it is precisely due to the same Covid-19 pressures on the local and global economy that government revenue has fallen drastically in some areas, especially tourism. It is therefore evident that it isn't from public revenues that a large stock of oil could be built, but perhaps if there were synergies with the private sector.

TPDC is likely to have a strategic relationship with oil prospecting firms on the Tanzanian coastline and also with its partners in the bulk procurement process to be able to think out his reserves can be built up. The problem is how the profit would be handled, as using up resources to purchase plenty of oil is like speculative activity, and the tendency is to sell at normal process at present and after the pandemic has elapsed. TPDC can thus extend some incentives to its partners in bulk procurement to be able to build significant reserves while low prices last. The United States, Russia and Saudi Arabia are patching up their differences to push up crude oil as the oil industry is under throes.

Ending non-tariff barriers could unlock Africa's riches

NON-TARIFF barriers to trade (NTBs) or sometimes called Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) are trade barriers that restrict imports or exports of goods or services through mechanisms other than the simple imposition of tariffs.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) defines a non-tariff barrier as any obstacle to international trade that is not an import or export duty.

They may take the form of import quotas, subsidies, customs delays, technical barriers, or other systems preventing or impeding trade.

According to the World Trade Organisation, non-tariff barriers to trade include import licensing, rules for valuation of goods at customs, pre-shipment inspections, rules of origin ('made in'), and trade prepared investment measures.

One of the reasons why industrialised countries have moved from tariffs to NTBs is the fact that developed countries have sources of income other than tariffs.

This explains the fact that most developing countries still rely on tariffs as a way to finance their spending. Developed countries can afford not to depend on tariffs, at the same time developing NTBs as a possible way of international trade regulation.

The second reason for the transition to NTBs is that these barriers can be used to support weak industries or compensation of industries which have been affected negatively by the reduction of tariffs.

The third reason for the popularity of NTBs is the ability of interest groups to influence the process in the absence of opportunities to obtain government support for the tariffs.

With the exception of export subsidies and quotas, NTBs are most similar to the tariffs.

Many NTBs are governed by WTO agreements. NTBs in the field of services have become as important

as in the field of trade in goods.

The need to protect sensitive to import industries, as well as a wide range of trade restrictions, available to the governments of industrialized countries, forcing them to resort to use the NTB, and putting serious obstacles to international trade and world economic growth.

Thus, NTBs can be referred as a new form of protection which has replaced tariffs as an old form of protection.

In the same vein, African leaders underscored the urgent need to fast-track the continent's regional integration process in order to accelerate Africa's economic transformation.

The call was made at the opening ceremony of the Bank's 2019 Annual Meetings, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, with the theme: "Regional Integration for Africa's Economic Prosperity."

"Apart and divided, Africa is weakened. Together and united, Africa will be unstoppable," the Bank's President Akinwumi Adesina told delegates at the packed Sipopo Conference Centre.

Adesina urged African governments to work toward the elimination of non-tariff barriers. "Pulling down non-tariff barriers alone, will spur trade by at least 53 per cent, and potentially double trade," he said.

In his opening speech, President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo recalled that Equatorial Guinea, once one of the poorest countries in the world, has since been radically transformed with one of the highest per capita incomes on the continent.

"For me, development is not about per capita income, it is about expanding the opportunities for the people to live a more dignified life," Obiang Nguema Mbasogo said.

Integration is one of the Bank's strategic High 5 agendas to rapidly advance Africa's economic transformation.

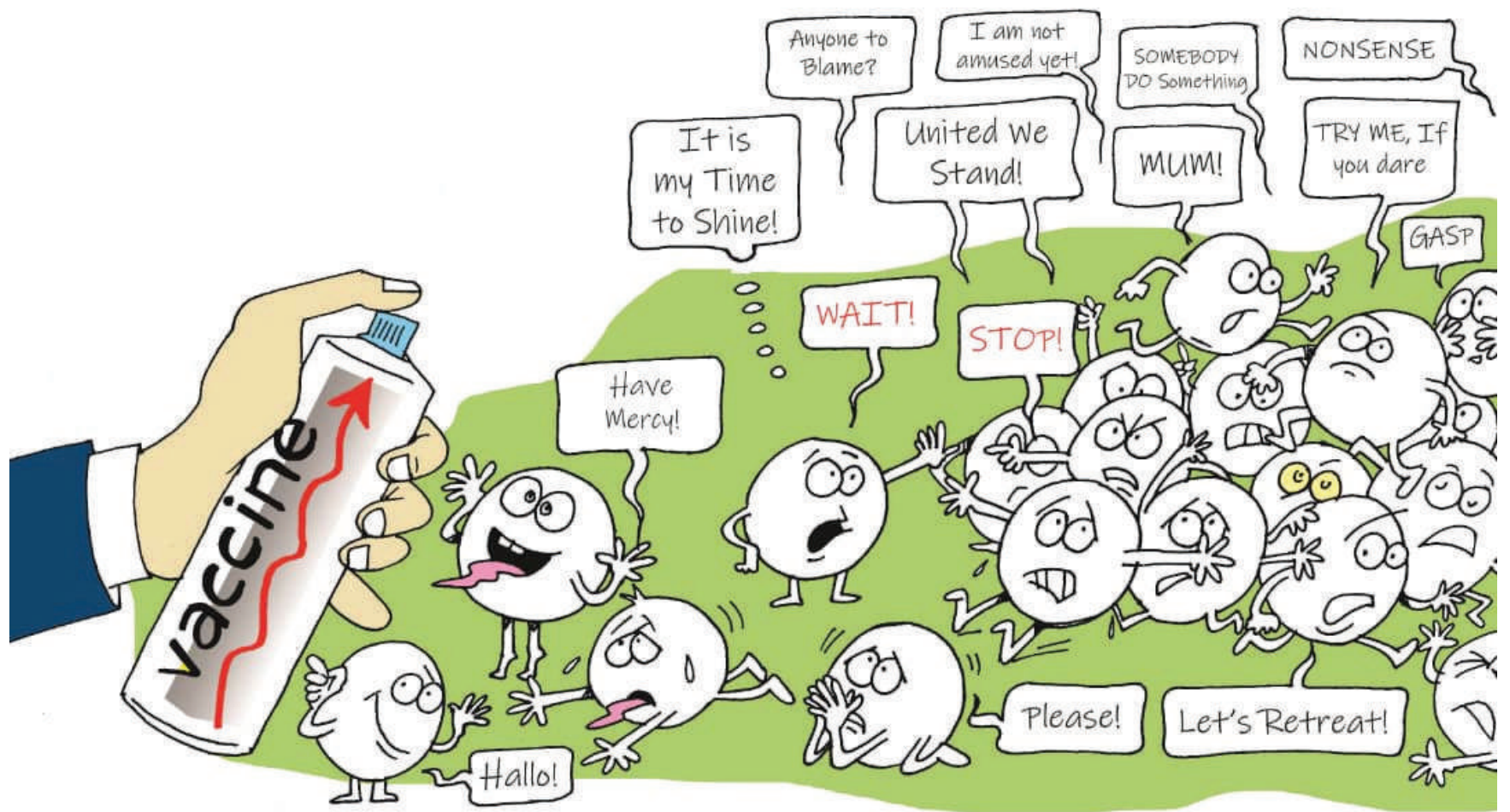
The Guardian Limited Key Contacts
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



In urgent need of an environmental ethic



By Ian Michler

IF anything has become patently clear from the Covid-19 pandemic it is that we need to change the way we think and live. Current paradigms are failing us.

While we know humans function best in a state of consistency, this must not be confused with what is now widely referred to as a "return to normality". Pre-pandemic normal is not an option.

Spreading rapidly across the globe, this pandemic has exposed the flaws and inefficiencies in nearly all forms of the modern economic system.

It has also laid bare the harsh inequalities of our societies, extremes and divides that have built up over decades through political and economic systems that have expressly sought to benefit those with the power and wealth. And it has called into question the extent of populist leadership and the poor responses in many countries around the world.

In short, current paradigms are failing us.

Yet, amid the current clamour to explain the ongoing tragedy, there has been a small sliver of hope: the natural world seems to have been the one component to have squeezed some benefit out of the global lockdown. Wild species are being seen in areas where they were long thought to have disappeared, fewer wild animals are dying from road kills, heavily polluted water systems are beginning to shimmer with life, trophy hunting species are being spared the bullet, and with far fewer fossil fuels being burned, carbon emission levels are falling, allow-

ing polluted skies above cities to open and clear for the first time in decades.

Documenting these joys comes with a harsh lesson though, one that has to date gone unheeded despite numerous earlier warnings. In only a matter of weeks, it has taken a global crisis to offer respite for the environment, something our politicians and their surrogates have been unable to do through decades of wrangling over public policy, climate mitigation and environmental protection measures.

And while the re-emergence of natural life is worth celebrating, we also need to view the process with perspective. Not all wilderness regions will benefit; with the precipitous decline of ecotourism in Africa and Asia, for example, poaching levels in protected areas are likely to rise. And the positive aspects to the natural world we are seeing are merely short-term trends, glimmers of hope as to what could be, which must not be confused with long-term change.

The change we need will only come from deep introspection, visionary leadership, and legislative action on a multidisciplinary basis. Opened by the pandemic, this window has exposed our failings but also provided us with a vital snapshot of information and data on how rapidly and readily the environment heals. It is a timely reminder and opportunity for the global community to reform our systems, but with the restoration of environmental integrity as the priority.

The immediate economic and social losses from this pandemic will be devastating and felt widely

across the world, but if we do not engineer a fundamental restructuring of the way we live, future consequences are likely to be even worse. And, given what we know regarding the state of our planet, there will be no point unless the world puts a vibrant environment at the very core of this change. Without intact planetary boundaries and fully functioning ecosystems with healthy biodiversity levels, every other sphere of humanity will come under increasing threat, if not be driven to catastrophe.

For well over a century, we have had an abusive relationship with the environment, a reality we can no longer deny or wish away with platitudes of greenwashing. Instead, an entirely new environmental ethic is needed, one that embraces the concept of intrinsic value with an ecological understanding of the planet and our existence within it, not above or outside of it.

This ethic must also confront the blatant contradiction of our time. Driven by an addiction to convenience in our lifestyles and ravenous consumption patterns, current paradigms demand unlimited economic growth and increasing wealth, yet we exist on a planet with physical boundaries and finite natural resources.

And with resource use, the extraction of materials such as biomass, fossil fuels and minerals, set to double by 2050, the way we currently live is by any stretch of imagination and ingenuity utterly unsustainable.

This truth is best revealed through the words of economist Kenneth Boulding (1910-1993): "Anyone who believes that ex-

ponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist." Boulding's work was influential in the mid-1900s.

The eternal optimists, often found embedded in the ecomodernist and sustainability platforms, will point to the significant advances that have been made over the past century. In general, medical and engineering breakthroughs, food quality, communication and transport systems and banking are just some of the many spheres that have all significantly extended lifespans or enhanced our levels of convenience immeasurably. Few can deny this, but in any holistic analysis these benefits are also deeply intertwined with the challenges we face. And part of our evolving analysis embraces the understanding that progress is now more about a different paradigm to improve levels of human well-being for all citizens without destroying the environment than it is about achieving simple Gross Domestic Product growth targets.

If anyone is still in doubt as to the massive challenge we face, look no further than the recent behaviour and type of leadership displayed by Donald Trump in the USA. After withdrawing his country from the Paris Climate Agreement in 2017, he subsequently set about gutting the Environmental Protection Agency. And now, as the US is recording consecutively higher daily death tolls from the virus, he is proposing to open access to 2.3 million acres of Federal Wildlife refuge to hunters. This will allow a range of animal and bird species to be shot on public wilderness land. He also went about claiming the moon for US companies by signing an executive order of government encouraging them to start mining its resources.

Changing our environmental ethic is not a luxury or even an option to be ridiculed by reactionaries like Trump; it is an imperative to avoid the collapse of our societies

My thoughts on supporting rural women during Covid-19: Using a gender lens

By Banky Njie

GOVERNMENTS all over are asking people to stay at home, and The Gambia is no exception. Whilst this is to curb movements to limit the transmission of COVID-19, these steps can have unintended consequences for the poorest & most vulnerable. Whilst the Nema and other agricultural projects have delivered outcomes and results that seek to ensure our rural population have improved livelihoods, increased food nutrition and a decent quality of life, the Coronavirus will no-doubt have dire negative effects on the gains registered by these projects, thereby posing a very devastating economic downturn for the poor rural beneficiaries, especially women.

70% of our food is being produced by our rural women, who are the primary food crop producers while men are more involved in animal husbandry or labour off the farm. Women are also often responsible for the care of children, the sick and elderly.

This means they could have increased exposure to COVID-19 with knock-on implications for food production, food preparation and child nutrition.

Although we have a youthful population, but young people tend to be less interested in agriculture and more likely to migrate to urban areas - although with innovative financing at various projects, we are reversing this trend with the likes of the Matching Grant Facility, thereby creating rural youth enterprises. It however still leaves a slightly older farming population that could be more vulnerable to the Coronavirus.

With land borders and the airspace now closed, and the lack of tourists coming through, tourism has taken a hit and thereby affecting the food supply chain, and small holders taken the brunt of it - considering the huge investment that projects have disbursed - in the various interventions. In the same vein, with closed borders we are going to be faced with food import challenges to meet local demand. It is therefore necessary to support our rural farmers with seeds, fertilizers and all necessary inputs NOW, so in 3, 6 and 9 months to come, they will have enough to feed themselves and the nation at large.

We have no option but to ensure the rural poor communities can survive because without them we don't have a community. While some voices have flagged the impacts on women, gender concerns are not yet shaping the decisions that mainly male leaders are making.

At the same time, many of the impacts of COVID-19 are hitting women hardest. We therefore need urgent action plans for our women folks.



Firstly, a big part of efforts must be focused on stemming the spread of COVID-19 itself. Crucial preventative measures - from promoting hand-washing and social distancing to imposing restrictions on gatherings and movement - will be essential to slowing the impacts of the virus including on food systems and producers.

It therefore means that support through proper sensitization, via various modes - radio, television, visual materials

and local communicators otherwise known as Kanyalengs (excuse my spelling), will be essential to help spread the message in various languages within the rural communities using the Agricultural project sites as entry points.

Similarly, the provision of Hygiene and Sanitary materials will be very vital

during these crisis as with the lack of income to buy basic food items, these things will not be considered as a necessity for the majority of the poor rural households.

Secondly, with the absence of a national social protection net in The Gambia, a one-off cash payment (prior

to full blown impact of the crisis as an early action to mitigate impact) or ensure multiple payments to help families meet their basic needs; providing complementary entitlements to offset loss of income by small-scale producers and exploring the use of food banks could be an option through the support and partnership with NGOs (Non-governmental organizations); enabling mobile payment systems where possible via our Mobile Technology Network operators (with mobile money services) to prevent disruptions in delivery of cash entitlements due to restrictions on movement;

Thirdly, the crisis is having an impact on women's health and safety. Apart from the direct impacts of the disease, women may find it hard to access much needed maternal health services given that all services are being directed to essential medical needs.

Availability of contraception and services for other needs may become disrupted. Women's personal safety is also at risk.

The very conditions that are needed to battle the disease - isolation, social distancing, restrictions on freedom of movement - are, perversely, the very conditions that feed into the hands of abusers who now find state-sanctioned circumstances tailor-made for unleashing abuse.

Finally, because the majority of frontline health workers - especially nurses are women, their risk of infection is higher.

So, while attention must be paid to ensuring safe conditions for ALL caregivers, special attention is needed for female nurses and carers - not only in access to personal protective equipment like masks but also for other needs such as menstrual hygiene products - that may be easily and inadvertently overlooked, but are essential to ensuring they are able to function well.

SA can ill-afford to overlook non-profit sector in its response to Covid-19

By Shelagh Gastrow

THE networks provided by non-profit organisations reach deeply into communities. In the 'new world' in which we will find ourselves, we will need the NPO sector even more to ensure that vulnerable people and all communities receive the support they need.

The UK government has announced that the charity sector in that country will receive a £750-million bailout to ensure that they can continue to operate during the Covid-19 pandemic. Of that, £360-million will be allocated to organisations that provide "key services", including victims' services, citizens' advisory offices and hospices, while the balance will support smaller organisations, including funds from their lotteries. In addition, the UK government will match donations from the public towards the independent National Emergencies Trust that is fundraising and distributing funds to charities during this crisis.

All the above is in recognition of the fact that charities play a "crucial role in the national fight against Covid-19, supporting those who are most in need". Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said: "For them, shutting up shop at this moment would be to contravene their very purpose, their entire reason to exist. Those charities have never been more needed than they are now, and they've never faced such a sudden fall in their funding."

In South Africa, we do not have reliable statistics on the size and scope of the non-profit sector. There are just under 250,000 registered with the Non-Profit Directorate in the Department of Social Development, but as this is voluntary, there are probably many unregistered organisations.

Our non-profits function in almost every sector imaginable, and in this current crisis, they have innovated and adapted to ensure services for the most vulnerable, while monitoring human rights. In fact, the country cannot do without them. While funds for welfare and food have been made available by the government, business and the donor community, it is the non-profit sector that is at the front line. Community-based organisations know their communities, they know who needs help, where the child-headed households are and they usually have a level



of credibility and trust.

For example, the HCI Foundation recently raised over R4-million through the eMedia Covid-19 Relief Fund, which was publicised and campaigned for on eNews. They will be partnering with their network of non-profits to ensure distribution of food.

The networks provided by non-profit organisations reach deeply into communities and in the "new world" in which we will find ourselves, we will need the NPO sector even more to ensure that vulnerable people and all communities receive the support they need. The Solidarity Fund is partnering with the Social Change Assistance Trust to distribute food in rural areas in the Eastern Cape. It is far more difficult, for example, for business to arrive in informal settlements to provide food. This is not just a short-term function during lockdown.

The networks provided by non-profit organisations reach deeply into communities and in the "new world" in which we will find ourselves, we will need the NPO sector even more to ensure that vulnerable people and all communities receive the support they need. This can relate to food and health, but also to gender-based violence, education, child care and issues pertaining to community needs such as water, sanitation, shelter and of course, access to legal aid clinics and legal sup-

port if required.

Importantly, the civil society sector should be part of engagement with the government around new developmental and economic policies. We should actually be quantifying what non-profits save the state and the taxpayer by providing the services that they do.

Yet, despite the critical role this sector is playing, the substantial funds that have been established to see SMMEs through this crisis do not include the non-profit sector. There is somewhat of a misplaced idea that charities (a sad word to describe what our non-profits do), don't deserve to be supported, that they are as needy as the people they help and should operate on a shoestring.

How many people or companies providing funds for food have considered the cost for organisations to do the distribution? The personnel, the transport, the protective gear, the communications costs, the financial accountability involved are not necessarily catered for. Somehow, they must just find these resources. Who is providing support to non-profit staff who are at home, who may be retrenched?

Nobody seems to be thinking about what it would mean to this country if thousands of non-profits floundered and closed. We don't know how many people they employ, but it is substantial, and yet it is a sector that is totally over-

looked.

Currently, most non-profits do not have reserves on which to rely. They cannot withhold dividends as this is not part of their financial model. Many donors do not like the idea of reserves and occasionally don't fund organisations that have them. This crisis has been a lesson in terms of non-profit financial modelling that reserves are essential, especially as it is this sector that is at the coalface of crises and needs to be flexible if necessary.

While the philanthropy sector has been extremely accommodating with grants already made to non-profits by agreeing that their restricted programmatic funds can be used for general purposes, this is not enough to sustain them. It is extremely difficult to fundraise in the current climate and donors are inundated with requests for support. Corporates are tightening their social investment budgets as the stock market has fallen dramatically and many companies are under lockdown. There is therefore no fat in their budgets going forward. Small businesses are collapsing, and many individuals no longer have extra money to donate.

There is no doubt that some key organisations will be closing as the economic downturn will mean a decline in funding. According to Richard Heditch, Director of External Affairs for the Association of Charitable Foundations

in the UK, "a financial and operational risk burden" is falling "disproportionately on NGOs and other implementing partners".

When it comes to government funding for non-profits providing services such as those dealing with welfare, the government should be taking care to ensure that funds are paid on time to avoid inefficiency or delays. There is no indication on the lotteries website that it is open for business, but this should be a key player in sustaining organisations and by now should have put out an urgent call to fund organisations assisting in Covid-19 service delivery. The requirements of our communities are no doubt going to escalate and at this time, we simply cannot afford to lose our active non-profit sector which is front and centre of the humanitarian response.

This then appears to be placing the burden on everyone to keep the sector open. When exploring the support for SMMEs, there seems to be a lack of understanding that non-profits are SMMEs, with a different financial model. This model means that any profits are not paid out to shareholders, but go back into the organisation for social good. Many NPOs are highly professional and are run as well as any business. They are registered, they have governing boards, they are audited, they employ people, they are accountable to their stakeholders and in-

creasingly generate their own income through services, reducing reliance on the donor community.

They are entrepreneurial and founders take the same risks as anyone establishing a company. They comply with labour legislation and other government requirements. Why their lack of profit-seeking precludes these entities from financial support is anathema to me. We know business cannot save the world and care should be taken not to sideline organisations that play a social role as we now see how indispensable they are in times of crisis. Without the Treatment Action Campaign, the HIV crisis would have resulted in many more deaths. And so it is now that our non-profits continue to play a key role.

The only fund that has taken note of the quandary that nonprofits find themselves in is the emergency fund established by the Charities Aid Foundation Southern Africa (CAFSA). This has been set up to support local organisations and has been supported by Oppenheimer Generations. A call for proposals from organisations that are distributing food has been made. Yet we need to go further and understand how important the viability of this sector is going forward and how it can communicate with government and the public at large about how it plays a critical role in our survival as a people and a country.

Managing the politics of Ethiopia's Covid-19 crisis

By Special Correspondent

DUE to the COVID-19 outbreak, Ethiopia has delayed elections slated for August and declared a state of emergency. Authorities should now consult with the opposition on how to manage the period ahead in order to smooth the country's stuttering transition to multi-party democracy.

The arrival of COVID-19 could not have come at a more sensitive time for Ethiopia, which was due to hold pivotal elections in August after five years of political turmoil. On 31 March, some two weeks after authorities announced the first coronavirus case in Africa's second-most populous country, the electoral board suspended preparations for the vote due to the public health risk. Then, on 10 April, parliament approved a five-month state of emergency, giving authorities sweeping powers to battle the disease. As elections will not occur before parliament's term ends in early October, an interim governing arrangement will likely be necessary.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed now faces the daunting task of stopping the virus from spreading while limiting economic harm to a vulnerable population that relies mostly on subsistence work. Key opposition parties have broadly accepted the emergency decree so long as the government does not use it as a tool for political repression. They have also signalled that they wish to be closely consulted in devising an interim arrangement for governing the country when parliament's term ends. Abiy should heed their calls, and then work with them to tackle longer-term threats to the country's democratic transition.

Addis Ababa's response to the COVID-19 outbreak has been uneven. Authorities first confirmed the disease's presence in Ethiopia on 13 March, two days

after the World Health Organization categorised it as a global pandemic. Since then, confirmed infections have climbed steadily to 82, with three deaths announced. Testing, so far, has been limited by a lack of capacity, adding to uncertainty about the extent of the virus's spread among a mostly rural population of around 110 million people. In the meantime, bucking policies elsewhere in East Africa, state carrier Ethiopian Airlines, whose hard currency earnings help fund essential imports, has continued flying wherever possible, including to Chinese and European destinations. While the federal and regional governments announced measures such as suspending large gatherings and inter-city public transport, authorities have not introduced a comprehensive lockdown to try to contain COVID-19. The disinclination to impose such measures probably reflects an effort to avoid what analysts predict could be at least one million job losses at a time when around two million young Ethiopians annually enter the labour market and the urban unemployment rate is approximately 20 per cent.

The coronavirus has the potential to sow chaos in Ethiopia due to the country's already formidable economic and social challenges. On one hand, the public health risks presented by COVID-19 are vast. Living and working conditions are highly conducive for transmission, as people live in crowded, inter-generational households that often lack running water. Allowing economic activity to continue unchecked could lead to millions of infections within months, with serious cases quickly overwhelming an already weak health system that has only a few hundred ventilators and fewer than 500 intensive care units. In 2016, only around 2 per cent of Ethiopia's clinics had oxygen delivery devices.



On the other hand, a lockdown would deprive millions of Ethiopians of their livelihoods, including many who subsist on daily earnings from the informal service economy. It could also squeeze domestic food supply at a time when annual inflation is at more than 20 per cent. Vital imports such as fuel, medicine and fertiliser may become scarce if dwindling hard currency reserves are depleted further because of reduced sales for top earners such as Ethiopian Airlines (which, although it continues to operate, has seen a dramatic decline in business) and flower exporters, combined with slowing remittances and other inflows.

Given these economic frailties, the country's leaders have sought a middle path between measures to slow the disease's spread and a more draconian approach that they rightly or wrongly fear would, because of its economic consequences, be even more harmful than the virus itself.

Either scenario (or some combination of the two) could

lead to serious unrest. If the virus grabs hold and many Ethiopians find themselves without sufficient resources to care for their families, they could turn against authorities whom they perceive to be incompetent. Alternatively, if the state takes public health measures that make it impossible for people to provide for themselves, it could provoke a similar reaction. The possibility of disturbances makes it all the more important for the government to bend over backwards to foster unity among diverse constituencies in support of the political path it chooses through the crisis, even as it arrogates to itself extraordinary unilateral powers.

State of Emergency

The declaration of a nationwide state of emergency - which, according to Ethiopia's constitution, can be invoked to deal with epidemics - gives the federal government sweeping authority to address the crisis. A federal minister told Crisis Group that the emergency will be managed by Abiy's cabinet rather than a committee of civilian, military and other security officials as in the past. In principle, the state of emergency could allow greater federal control over regional security operations, including an enhanced role for the

military, although it is not yet known whether the government intends to use this power.

The Attorney General's Office said it will publicise regulations ordered and actions taken under the decree, adding that violations could result in fines of up to 200,000 Ethiopian birr (\$6,033). It is not clear, however, exactly what those government instructions will be, with the Prime Minister's Office stressing the need for flexibility because of the pandemic's uncertain trajectory in Ethiopia.

The Attorney General's Office has announced initial measures including banning meetings of more than four people and making it mandatory to cover mouths in public places. They also prohibit companies from laying off workers unless in keeping with government guidelines. For now, senior officials have suggested that they will not issue a stay-at-home order due to the severe impact it would have on the poor.

Although many opposition parties have said they are ready to put politics aside to allow the government to focus on the immediate priority of tackling COVID-19, concerns are brewing among some of them about whether Abiy will use the decree and election

postponement to grab more power and consolidate tactical advantages ahead of future polls. Some opposition leaders note that, under the constitution, elections must be held no less than a month prior to the end of a parliamentary term, which in this case would be 5 September at the latest. They argue that because the election delay will run past that date, the administration is on a path to outstay its legal authority. They say a national unity government must therefore be formed to take the reins when that authority lapses.

Still, key actors have given Abiy some room for manoeuvre. The Oromo Liberation Front and the Oromo Federalist Congress, two allied opposition parties from Oromia (the country's most populous region, with almost 40 million people, and the epicentre of protests between 2014 and 2018) stated that they would not "hinder the collective fight against the pandemic", while also making clear that the government must use the state of emergency only to manage the health crisis and not to restrict political space.

How Abiy manages this situation will be critical to the success of Ethiopia's rollercoaster transition. Though COVID-19 represents a stark threat to Ethiopia, it also presents an opportunity for Abiy's government to use this moment of national solidarity to reboot a troubled journey toward multi-party democracy.

Since the prime minister took office, intercommunal violence has escalated and recently there has been renewed political repression, with tensions increasing as parties started mobilising for elections.

Additionally, electoral board preparations were behind schedule, raising the destabilising prospect of a delay beyond the constitutional deadline even before the pandemic arrived.

While the board now has additional time to finalise election rules and recruit poll workers, the government's management of the state of emergency and its ability to build consensus around the shape of an interim government will be critical. Failure by the incumbent and opposition to reach a common understanding on these issues, and how the elections are handled going forward, may well lead Ethiopia into yet more turmoil.

Inadequate economic responses to Covid-19 a mortal threat to SA's constitutional democracy

By Professor Balthazar

THE pandemic has the potential to dramatically alter the manner in which we (and here 'we' does not exclusively denote South Africans) are governed in the post-Covid-19 period.

Writing in the prestigious journal *Foreign Policy*, Harvard professor Stephen Walt says: "Coronavirus will accelerate the shift of power and influence from West to East. South Korea and Singapore have shown the best response and China has managed well in the aftermath of its initial mistakes. The governments' response in Europe and the US has been very sceptical and likely to weaken the power of the Western brand."

In similar fashion, Stanford's Larry Diamond argues in *The Atlantic* that "unlike authoritarian regimes—which can use force, fear, and fraud to control their populations—democracies rely on open information and the consent of the governed. Unlike China, democracies cannot cover up their failures for very long. If citizens lose faith in the legitimacy of democracy as the best form of government – if their institutions cannot function effectively during a crisis, and especially if a view takes hold that authoritarian regimes are managing the crisis more 'decisively' – many democracies will be at grave risk of failure."

Some will counter this gloomy prediction and point, for example, to South Korea as proof that democracy can provide better responses to Covid-19 and hence can still present the "Western brand" in the best possible light. Nobel Prize laureate Joseph Stiglitz, however, has argued that a total reassessment of the global supply chain is now necessary. He suggests that the pandemic has shown the drawbacks of concentrating production of medical supplies. As a result, the purchase of a range of imports will

go down and the production of domestically sourced goods will go up. As he says, South Korea may gain kudos, but lose markets.

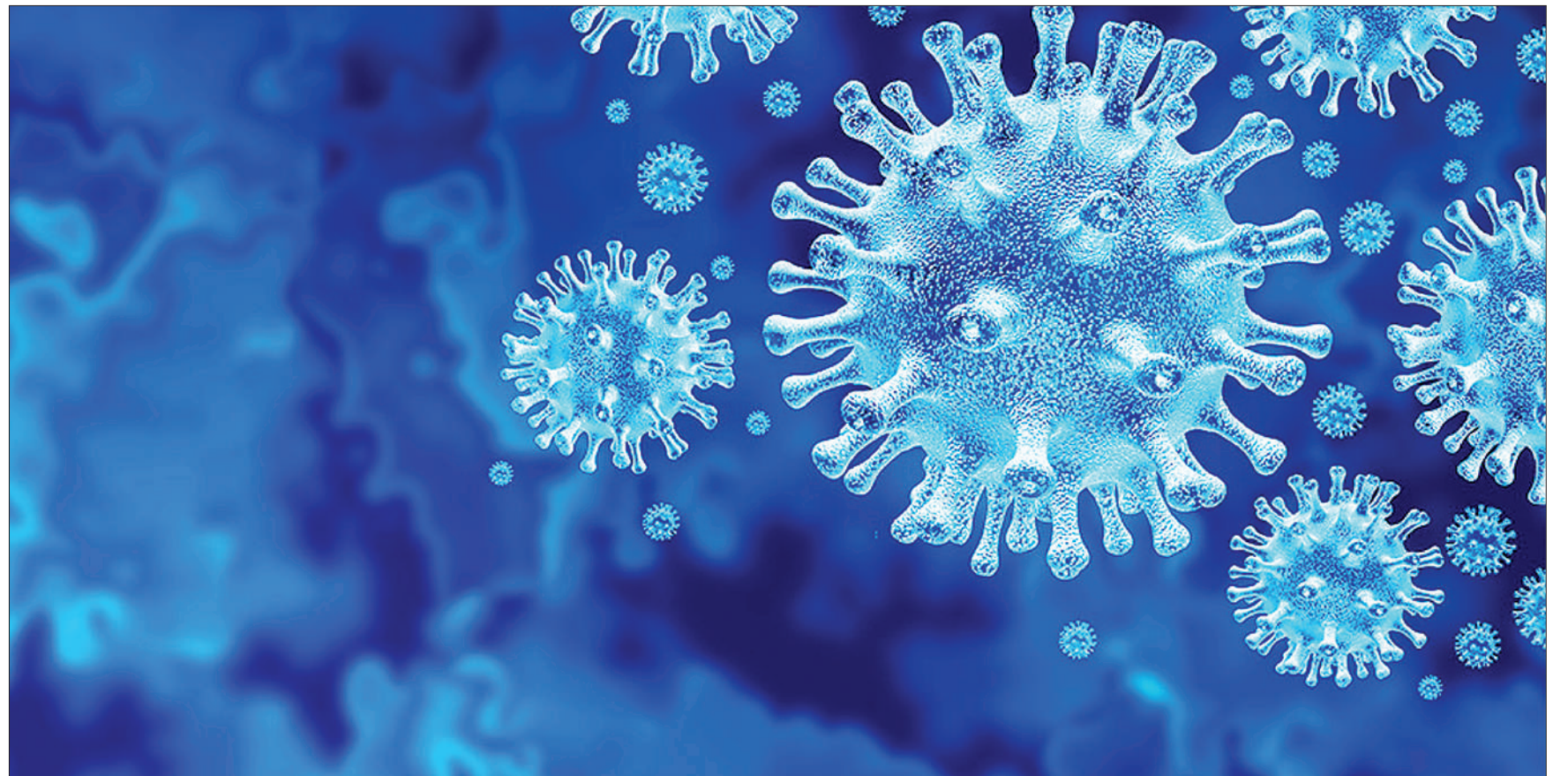
The upshot is that the post-Covid-19 world could strengthen the hand of nationalism and those who argue in favour of a president with total authority or a leader who is the commander-in-chief.

Quite obviously, these concerns are of the greatest relevance to South Africa. While most of the commentariat focus on the immediate problem, in this case, the excesses advocated by securocrats such as Police Minister Bheki Cele, as important as it is to hold the feet of this faction of the government to the legal fire, it's the longer-term implications that require urgent attention.

Take the warning of Professor Stiglitz of the turn to economic nationalism. That turn is already advocated by a clutch of local economists who claim to be of the left, as well as influential politicians. As an example, it has been argued recently that South Africa cannot look to the IMF for a loan as the kind of conditions that the IMF will impose before the grant of a loan will radically curtail our national sovereignty.

Hence it is suggested that South Africa would be better advised to turn to China or Russia for a loan, as if these two countries are so generous that they will dish out huge amounts of cash without any contemplation of extracting rents or other advantages from South Africa! Ironically, the IMF, given the Covid-19 crisis and the profound effect on the developing world, is now more inclined to ensure the complete jettisoning of the remnants of the Washington consensus. If it still existed, the consensus itself would definitely have been an insurmountable obstacle to accepting an IMF loan.

But if the myopic view prevails, the possibility of an IMF loan of, say,



\$12-billion, would not take place. An amount of some R200-billion, at the very least, is needed to add to our own resources if the country is to respond properly to the consequences of the lockdown and the restrictions that will doubtless follow.

The Institute for Economic Justice (download the full report here, and the summary here) has recently calculated that, inclusive of the loss of tax revenue caused by close to a 10% decline in GDP over this fiscal year, an amount of R415-billion is needed to support workers, the unemployed, the informal sector and business.

There are two further challenges: the capacity of the state to deliver to South Africans and residents most in need and the consequences of failure.

To date, the distribution of money to those most in need has simply not taken place in any meaningful way and this after more than

three weeks since the commencement of the lockdown.

It is small wonder that there have been outbreaks of protest in townships that sadly resemble scenes from the 1980s during the sustained resistance to the apartheid regime. A devastating combination of incompetence, bureaucratic bungling, and an almost analike insistence on compliance with legal requirements that never contemplated this kind of disaster has meant that the extreme urgency and the desperation lived by millions of people on a daily basis has not been grasped.

We should be doing better than Trump's rapidly imploding country.

The legitimacy of a state that is incapable of rising to the present emergency will doubtless be called into question. As social unrest expands, securocrats gain the upper hand and increased repression follows each

protest. Populists now enter the centre of the political stage, arguing for nationalisation of a range of industries and financial institutions as constituting the solution to the problem, together with expanded levels of expropriation without compensation. At the same time, they will argue that the country needs a decisive commander-in-chief, a leader empowered with absolute authority to solve the crisis.

In a country with egregious levels of inequality, where the Constitution has already been under attack on the basis that it has not helped to change the lives of millions, the danger of the collapse of constitutional democracy cannot be discounted.

In summary, the Covid-19 pandemic may well bring profound change to national governance. Instead of the logical response of better international governance (of which more in a subsequent column) following the catastrophe that has engulfed the globe, increased nationalism and populism are as likely to happen.

The decisive, statesmanlike and caring responses of President Ramaphosa notwithstanding, the lack of adequate economic responses and, at best tepid delivery to those most in need, pose a huge danger to the continuation of constitutional democracy in this country.

Ensure city poor and vulnerable are fed, amidst lockdown hunger risk, urges UN

ROME

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), warns that hunger and fatalities could rise significantly in urban areas, without measures to ensure that poor and vulnerable residents have access to food. In Latin America, cities are finding ways to keep food supplies flowing, despite the current restrictions on movement and supplies.

Several Latin American municipalities have been taking action to minimise the consequences of lockdown measures, and ensure that food systems do not break down, as work dries up.

In Quito, Ecuador, for example, authorities are using municipal buses as mobile food hubs, following the example of the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the pandemic is believed to have originated. Quito local government has also partnered with food banks, and mapped vulnerable areas, to make sure the food is distributed effectively.

In Lima, Peru, the supply of food products has been affected by the onset of the crisis, with restrictions on the movement of farmers put in place locally by city managers and leaders of rural communities.

There are fears that if these restrictions remain in place, the food supply chain in the

city could be badly disrupted. For now, market prices have remained stable, but they are being monitored to counter speculation and price gouging on the black market, and a mobile wholesale market is distributing food to various districts of the metropolitan area.

And, in Montevideo, Uruguay, the mantra has become, stay local, with citizens and organizations returning to "ollas populares"; a traditional model of home deliveries of fruit, vegetable and other foodstuffs, some directly from producers, with special attention paid to the needs of vulnerable people.

These kind of initiatives reflect the warning from the Food

and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), that the health risk for many urban citizens is high during the pandemic, particularly the 1.2 billion who live in slums, and other informal settlements.

Responses to the pandemic by city authorities worldwide, have included closing markets and small shops - making it harder for poorer citizens, who can't afford supermarket prices or delivery services, to buy food, and for those dependent on jobs in the food industry to make ends meet. Spikes in food prices can also occur, says the FAO, leading to civil unrest, as seen in many African cities during the 2007-2008 food crises.

To mitigate these side-effects

of lockdown measures, FAO recommends scaling up support for schemes that distribute food to vulnerable people; improving access to nutritious food for all; and promoting education campaigns to help citizens reduce food waste and buy food responsibly.

In addition, the UN Food agency makes a series of recommendations to improve the food supply situation in the short-term. For example, cities should use technology to map vulnerable people and their access to food, in order to develop more effective programmes.

And, whilst food stores are often named as essential services, strategies should be put in place

to allow markets to stay open; and food chains should also be designated as essential, so that workers and producers can continue circulating, whilst respecting health regulations.

But what lessons will be learned, once the worst of the crisis is behind us? For the FAO, the pandemic has exposed several severe, underlying failings of urban food systems, and the paper proposes a number of improvements that should be put in place, to ensure that cities are much better prepared for the next potential health crisis.

One example, which chimes with environmental concerns, is the promotion of local food suppliers. The pandemic has made

sourcing food from international sources more difficult, providing local suppliers with an opportunity to coordinate better and fill gaps in food distribution, and make cities more resilient.

Other recommendations include maintaining initiatives such as food hubs (which could have the added advantage of reducing congestion and carbon emissions), and studying ways to scale up e-commerce, in a way that facilitates access to food for all.

In these ways, hopes the FAO, the COVID-19 pandemic could turn out to be a catalyst for positive transformation of the way that food systems are managed in urban areas.

Mitigating COVID-19's impact on Africa's agri-food systems

By Atsuko Toda and Martin Fregene

WE are facing great uncertainty on the African continent. The global spread of COVID-19 and the rising number of coronavirus cases in Africa are fueling anxiety about negative economic growth, failing healthcare and collapsing food systems. We are already grappling with a locust outbreak in the Horn of Africa, drought and flood extremes due to climate change and increasing food importation costs of more than \$47 billion in 2019.

The convergence of all these sets the stage for an imminent food crisis unless measures are taken to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

Consider also that the U.S. dollar has surged against emerging market currencies, reducing the purchasing power of countries reliant on commodity imports and sparking higher consumer prices. Inflationary pressure on food staples can breed social tension and even unrest.

Anti-pandemic measures like nationwide lockdowns and border closures compound food shortages, especially of nutritious but perishable

foods like fruit and vegetables. Restrictions on movement and quarantine measures impede farmers' access to markets. In Nigeria, rice prices are 30 percent higher than in January, thanks to panic buying, transport restrictions and rising global prices.

Also, foreign direct investment and aid into Africa is expected to fall, or be delayed as international investors and development partners redirect capital to their local economies and into stimulus packages to combat COVID-19.

But Africa is coming up with its own solutions for these challenges, with the African Development Bank (AfDB) being prominently involved. To address the threat of food security, several short-term measures are being taken such as creation of a "green channel" for the free flow of food and agricultural inputs, creation of strong demand for agricultural inputs of fertilizer, seeds and agrichemicals through smart input farmer subsidies.

Other measures include preventing food price hikes by releasing food from government grain reserves and implementing anti-hoarding policy,



rapid scale up of food production technologies, including high-yielding, early-maturing, drought-tolerant, disease- and pest-resistant staple crops, livestock and fish through programs like the Bank's Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation initiative and feeding programs

for the worst affected and most vulnerable zones.

On medium to longer-term food security interventions include provision of recovery strategy support to key supply chain players like logistics companies and anchor farmers, strengthening food supply chain resilience via efficient production, processing and value addition as well as enforcing food safety, improved food quality and traceability policies in the post-coronavirus period and promoting digitalization and e-commerce in markets hit by COVID-19.

Guided by lessons learned from previous health crises, including the Ebola epidemic, the AfDB has responded to the pandemic by putting together a package of support for the public and private sector.

The COVID-19 Response Facility will mobilize up to \$10 billion to provide financial assistance to African countries fight the pandemic.

The bank also has raised a \$3 billion COVID-19 bond, proceeds of which will go to address fiscal challenges, as well as emergency procurement of drugs, ventilators and other health-related expenditures, as well as feeding programs, input subsidies and other economic interventions.

To rebound from the pandemic, Africa must maintain adequate food reserves, avoid protectionist policies and promote value chains that link domestic and international markets.

As the AfDB takes a key role in supporting African countries to design and implement coordinated policy responses, it will work with regional partners including the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, as well as international ones such as the World Trade Organization, the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, and other international partners.

Dr. Martin Fregene is the Bank's Director of Agriculture and Agro-industry.

Atsuko Toda is Director of Agricultural Finance and Rural Development at African Development Bank.

Kenyan feel pinch of climate change as lake water level hits decades' high

NAIROBI

WATER levels in Kenya's rivers and lakes have surged to the highest level in about five decades due to heavy rains in what is attributed to climate change.

The east African nation has experienced heavy rains in the last two seasons, October to December 2019 and this year's March to May, which is still ongoing.

During the two seasons, meteorological department director

Stella Aura notes most regions have been receiving up to 100 mm of rainfall in a day.

The rains have been the heaviest in western, Rift Valley, central and coastal parts of Kenya.

The worst affected, however, are western and Rift Valley, where at least 194 people have been killed and over 100,000 displaced, according to the Devolution ministry.

The waters of the rivers that flow in the two parts of country

have surged to unprecedented levels, equally pushing water in Lake Victoria to a new high.

The result is that most residents living in areas neighboring the rivers and the lake have been displaced and islands overrun by raging waters.

For most of the residents, the phenomenon is happening for the first time in their lifetimes.

"I have never seen something like this in my 48 years' life," Collins Mukadi, a resident

of Budalangi in Busia County, western Kenya, said on Saturday.

"I have lived all my life here and this is the first time the lake has broken its banks and the water invaded our villages. The lake is furious, and it is angry," he added.

He recounted that the lake's water in the region has expanded both vertically and horizontally.

"The waters have overflowed from the banks by about 30 me-

ters into our homes displacing many people. Over the years, the water has been receding but this time around the opposite has happened," he said.

As some of the residents grapple with flooding due to the lake, others have been displaced by water from River Nzoia, which drains into the freshwater body.

A similar plight is being experienced by residents in other parts of western Kenya who border the lake.

This include Migori, Homa Bay, Siaya and Kisumu. In the areas, residents had encroached the banks of the lakes knowing that it would forever recede, but climate change effects have overturned the norm.

"If you visit Dunga beach currently, you will not know that this is the place that teems with human activity because the whole area is submerged," said Felix Onyango, a resident of Kisumu, Kenya's lakeside port

town. The situation has been worsened by the fact that Uganda and Tanzania, which share Lake Victoria with Kenya, are also experiencing heavy rains.

Chief executive of Lake Victoria Basin Commission, an institution of the East African Community, Ally-Said Matano notes that in all the three countries, the lake's waters have risen to an average of 13 meters due to abnormally heavy rain

Training programme to promote value chains in tourism sector to start rolling next month

By Guardian Reporter

CAPACITY building training programme aimed at exploring the existing and untapped opportunities in the downstream tourism value chain across the country will start rolling out next month.

To be led by the Mwanza-based St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT), the programme is geared towards preparing tourism stakeholders to offer professional customer service to tourists when the sector starts picking up again in the near future after the Covid-19.

This was said in Mwanza over the weekend by the Vice Chancellor of Saint Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) Prof. Costa Mahalu during the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SAUT and Real PR Solutions (RPR).

The event which is also organised closely by Real PR Solutions (RPR) is to be held end of June this year.

He said that the training further aims to bring to light existing and untapped opportunities in the downstream Tourism Value Chain across the country.

According to the agreement, RPR will coordinate all logistics such as

raising funds while SAUT will lead the training program including issuing certificates to the participants.

"The effects of COVID - 19 pandemic are clearly seen; a fall in international tourism and the decline in energy consumption especially in the developed world among others. In Tanzania it is estimated that tourism labour force will decrease from about 600,000 to only 100,000 and the earnings will fall from the expected US\$2.6million or so, to less than US\$1 million just because of the fall of tourist's numbers."

"Thousands of livelihoods who depend on tourism are at risk. This calls for tourism stakeholders to come together and design the best way the country can rebuild tourism and bring it to where it was and or surpass that position. This is the main reason as to why SAUT cannot sit and wait. We will work in close consultation and with other partners to assist the tourism sector to ensure it recovers fully while taking all health precautions against the corona virus", Prof Mahalu said.

The First Phase of the training plan will be launched in Mwanza with an objective to onboard around 2,000 participants from the region.

He said the program will then move on to other five Lake Zone regions,

namely Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Mara and Kagera.

The trainings will observe all health precautions and guidelines, including social distancing, wearing of masks, regular washing of hands and sanitizing as a way to protect the training participants from contracting the Corona virus.

"The tourism industry is one of main contributors to the National GDP for many years, and thus we believe that if we equip our youth with the prerequisite skills to be absorbed in the tourism sector, and offer good services, it will be a big plus for the country" emphasized Prof Mahalu.

He said the move is also in support of President John Magufuli who recently urged Tanzanians to come up with ideas on how to support the economy during the corona virus pandemic.

The tourism sector has been among the biggest forex earners for the country for the past five years, raking in over 1 billion US dollars per year.

For her part, Real PR Solutions Director, Lake Zone, Magreth Laizer said the company which has vast experience in Public Relations, Media and Marketing said the task ahead needs joint efforts from all stakehold-



Saint Augustine University of Tanzania vice chancellor Prof Costa Mahalu (R) and Real PR Solutions director (Lake Victoria Zone) Magreth Laizer sign a contract in Mwanza city at the execution of a tourism capacity building training programme known as New Tourism During and After Corona. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ers to achieve the desired goals.

We are prepared to offer our services to ensure the tourism sector benefits the local people, especially the youth, in tapping in this vast economic opportunities", she said.

She said the program will also be held in the Northern Zone (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Manyara), Western Zone (Tabora, Kigoma, Rukwa

and Katavi as well as Southern Highlands (Mbeya, Iringa, Songwe, Njombe), South (Mtwara, Ruvuma and Lindi), Central (Dodoma, Singida) as well as Eastern (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Coast Region).

To add professionalism and tailor-made details in order to make the course relevant and industry valuable, PEAK Performance, a human skills de-

velopment company and a number of experienced personnel in the hospitality industry will team up with SAUT to jointly conduct the training.

"We see a lot of opportunities which can be seized upon by the youth to mitigate the impact of unemployment in the society," said Philemon Kisamo, PEAK Performance Managing Director.

Standing with China in fight against Covid-19: The case of selected West African economies

Economic and political relations between China and Africa go back to the 14th century, during China's Ming Dynasty, with the voyages of Admiral Zheng He in East Africa. In December 2019, an outbreak of unknown cause pneumonia occurred in Wuhan, China's Hubei province. Since Jan. 3, China has been regularly informing the WHO, relevant countries and regions and China's Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan on the pneumonia outbreak. Due to the alarming levels of spread and its severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on 11th March 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic was confirmed to have spread to Africa on 14 February 2020.

THE West African Region's Stand with China in the Fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic

There is no doubt that China has shown great competence and expertise in controlling the spread of coronavirus. During China's attempt to curtail its spread, several short term strategies spanning into long term effects were adopted.

Notable among the several strategies was the commissioning of emergency hospital facilities in Wuhan to treat infected persons, total economic lockdown, mass mobilization and masks and checks despite the effect these measures could have on trade, investment and overall GDP.

The World Health Organization's leader believes that China's battle with the coronavirus offers a beacon of hope, but others question whether other countries, especially Western African democracies, will or can afford to pursue China's strategy, given that there is a particular struggle for economic development in this region.

However, experts have been worried about COVID-19 spreading to Africa, and particularly West Africa, as many of the healthcare systems on the continent are inadequate, lack equipment, funding, have insufficient

training of healthcare workers, and inefficient data transmission.

It was feared that the pandemic could be difficult to keep under control in Africa, and could cause huge economic problems if it spread widely (see Maclean, 2020 and NPR.org.). There is a very low supply of ventilators in the region, with even basic supplies like soap and water subjected to shortages.

Control Measures Adopted by Selected Countries in West Africa

In Ghana, following the first confirmed cases, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo called for public awareness about the pandemic among Ghanaian nationals. Nine days later, Ghana saw an increase in the recorded cases of infected persons to 214 cases.

This resulted in the imposition of strict restrictions on movement, where residents of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area and Kasoa and the Greater Kumasi Metropolitan Area and its contiguous districts were told to stay at home for two weeks, in order to give the economy an opportunity to stave off the pandemic.

According to Ghana Health Service (GHS) statistics on COVID-19 in Ghana, as at 26th April 2020, there were 1,550 confirmed cases in Ghana. The number in-

cluded 11 victims who had succumbed and 155 people who had recovered.

To this effect, the government of Ghana enforced the active wearing of face masks as part of efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Also, considering the current hardship in the Ghanaian economy, the government of Ghana directed the Ghana Water Company Ltd and the Electricity Company of Ghana to ensure the stable supply of water and electricity during this period. In addition, there will be no disconnection of electricity supply, while the water bills for all Ghanaians will be absorbed for the next three months, i.e. April, May and June.

All water tankers, publicly and privately-owned, are also going to be mobilized to ensure the supply of water to all vulnerable communities. Furthermore, the government of Ghana, in collaboration with the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI), Business & Trade Associations and selected Commercial and Rural Banks, prepared to roll out a soft loan scheme of up to six hundred million cedis (GH¢600 million), which will have a one-year moratorium and two-year repayment period for micro, small and medium scale businesses.

All borders have also been closed while all social gather-



A health worker checks the temperature of a traveller in coronavirus screening at Kotoka International Airport, Accra, Ghana. (File photo)

ings of more than 25 people including all schools (both private and public institutions from preschool to universities) markets and club halls, churches, mosques and funerals were banned until further notice.

In Nigeria, the Federal government instructed institutions to shut down for 30 days as a lockdown measure to limit the spread of COVID-19. It has also banned public gatherings. The state government of Lagos further asked schools to close and banned public gatherings of more than 50 people, particularly religious gatherings (see Oyeleke, Sodiq, 30 April 2020).

However, unlike Ghana, in the case of Nigeria, there was no order from the government to shut down markets and club halls. Several schools in Nigeria have shut down, following the directives of the federal government at Abuja.

This led the management of one of the most populated schools in Nigeria, the Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri to declare an emergency holiday serving as a precautionary measure against COVID-19, stating that the emergency holiday will last for 30 days.

The Togolese government declared a three-month state of emergency to curtail the spread of the virus. In addition

to this, a curfew from 7 pm to 6 am local time was imposed, unlike what was experienced in Ghana and Nigeria. Again, Togo also responded by suspending flights from Italy, Germany, France and Spain.

Other international events are cancelled, and the borders remain closed. Restrictions were imposed on Lomé, Tsevie, Kpalime and Sokode but there is no national lockdown (UNDP Togo, April 2020; IPPF, 24 March 2020). To cushion the citizens against the restrictions put in place by the government, \$650 million has been set aside as part of the National Solidarity and Economic Recovery Fund.

The measures that have been set up also include a National Response plan. In partnership with development agencies, the response plan to COVID-19 aims to reduce the pandemic's socio-economic impact and to halt transmission of COVID-19 further.

The World Bank has approved \$8.1 million to assist Togo's efforts to further boost the fight against the disease. According to the World Bank (April 29, 2020), The Covid-19 Emergency Response Project will allow Togo to strengthen surveillance, early detection and confirmation of cases, which is in line with the Regional Disease Surveillance System Enhancement (REDISSE) project.

Benin's efforts in the fight against the pandemic have not been any different to those of the rest of the West African countries. Since the time Benin confirmed a case on March 17, 2020, several measures, such as enhanced screening and quarantine of individuals travelling into the country have been put in place.

The borders of Benin remain closed. In addition to the measures taken, one interesting measure is the use of social media and other digital platforms as a source of education on preventive measures and information dissemination (WHO International, 2020).

The authorities in Benin did set up a barrier around the 10 most affected cities and banned travel in and out of them. Social distancing and bans on social gatherings of more than 10 people are in force. The wearing of face masks in public has been made mandatory, while school remains closed until the middle of May. T

These mitigation and preventive measures have cost the economy about 0.1% of GDP, which amounts to \$17 million. Benin's policy has set out to accommodate the demand for loan rescheduling by firms and also to postpone renewable debt. Electronic payments are being promoted, and reference rates are being lowered to be close to the monetary policy rates.

Conclusion

In this global crisis, African economies are not being left out in the struggle alongside China to combat the pandemic. This period has seen many policy responses from different nations, economic blocs and development agencies.

Chief among them are measures taken to halt the spread of the virus - social distancing, sanitary practices, schools being shut down and fiscal and monetary policy actions.

These measures, especially fiscal injections, have proved to be a source of stability in this era of global negative shocks to output and productivity. Though African economies are still struggling to overcome and conquer the COVID-19 pandemic, commendation is in order for the efforts that have been made so far.

People's Daily

Coronavirus: A threat to Ghana's aged farmers and national food security

By Dr. Eli Gavah

THE outbreak of the coronavirus, also known as covid-19, is the new epidemic ravaging the world. The main coronavirus affected countries are Ghana's key trading partners and sources of our food imports, which is a threat to our national food security.

A March 20, 2020, publication by the U.S. Government's Feed the Future Programme on impact of coronavirus on food supply, cautions that a community spread of the pandemic in Ghana could create a situation com-

parable to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak which disrupted Food systems and increased food insecurity in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea between 2013 and 2016.

The population segment most affected by the coronavirus is the aged of over 60 years. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) stated in 2019 that, the average age of active farm workforce in the developing world, including Ghana as a lower middle income country, is 60 years. Each of these aged smallholder farmers cultivate 1.6-hectare land on average. Agriculture account for up

90 per cent of Ghana's food supply, 54 per cent of the country's GDP and 40 per cent of her export earnings as reported by the FAO Committee on Food Security.

It is worrying that the over 60-year-old group constitutes the largest proportion of coronavirus infections and mortalities. In Italy, the current epicentre of the pandemic, infection rates are 1.2 per cent in the 0-18 years' group, 25 per cent in the 19-50 years' group, 37.3 per cent in the 51-70 years' group and 36.5 per cent in the older than 70 years' group according to Statista data of March 22, 2020.

The loss of the aged farmers in Ghana will be grave for national food security and the quest for food self-sufficiency should the pandemic spread in Ghana. Ghana's life expectancy of 55-60 years already makes the situation dire even without the coronavirus outbreak.

Our aged farmers could be described, figuratively, as "endangered species." Losing them will greatly impact our local food production, increase food insecurity vulnerabilities, deepen our import dependency and defeat gains made in agricultural development in Ghana over the years.

Low youth involvement in well-developed, mechanised and profitable commercial agricultural ventures in Ghana, despite numerous public and private interventions to promote the transition of youth into agriculture, is a clear indication that youth in commercial agriculture intervention have not yielded desired outcomes.

Overreliance on aged farmers and use of poor technology in agriculture has not helped Ghana's agriculture and national food security. A Ghana trade report of March, 2020, showed that among Ghana's leading agricultural imports, rice is imported from Pakistan, Korea, India, Thailand, Japan, China, Vietnam and the U.S. Wheat is imported from the U.S., E.U. and Canada. The local poultry industry is not able to compete with foreign imports. An International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) report of 2018 on the Competitiveness of the Ghanaian Vegetable Sector, reported increasing annual imports of onion, chili and tomato from neighbouring countries. This, coupled with the coronavirus threat, achievement of only 50 per cent of our crop yield potentials and high postharvest losses of 30 to 50 per cent and beyond,

as data from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture indicates, presents a bleak picture for our future food self-sufficiency.

Concerted effort is needed to protect the nation's agricultural workforce of all ages and gender to help secure our food supply amidst the coronavirus outbreak and other unforeseen crises.

Proposed mitigation strategies for Ghana to manage the coronavirus and other threats to agriculture and food security:

Deepening coronavirus engagement with local farmers. Farmer education on coronavirus prevention protocols tailored to the literacy, language, understanding and technology level of local farmers should be intensified. The National Commission on Civic Education and Ministry of Food and Agriculture should produce and disseminate educational material to local farmers through social media, interactive rural radio programmes, farmer networks and bulk text messaging through mobile services.

Developing Block-Chain and e-Commerce technology for agriculture. Ghana's agricultural trade and services should be modernized through digitization, automation and tracking for efficiency. Integrating agro-commodity trade platforms, National Food Buffer Stock Company, community warehouses, market information systems, agro-financing, crop insurance, agro-logistics hubs, local markets, e-Extension services and Ghana Post GPS etc. in a block-chain.

Incentives for youth into commercial agriculture through irrigation development. Irrigation water should be directly delivered to crops from the One Village One Dam projects and Ghana Irrigation Development Au-

thority's irrigation schemes across the country. The farms should be laid out, developed and GPS mapped. Each farmer in the scheme should have at least an acre of production land irrigated by canal, drip or sprinkler and supported to mechanise operations.

Improving value addition to primary agricultural commodities. Primary commodities should be processed to improve their storability. Some farm products such as cassava, yam and pepper can be solar-dried. Fruits such as mango, pineapple and citrus can be stored as concentrates. Tomato can be turned into purees or paste and stored in hermetic containers. Local food processors should be supported to acquire simple processing equipment for value addition to fresh produce.

Amendment to the Free Zones Act to restrict food exports. The parliament of Ghana passed the "Imposition of Restriction Bill" to address coronavirus challenges. Movement of agricultural products out of the country in emergencies may also need to be curtailed. The Free Zones Act Mandates Free Zones companies to export 70 per cent of their products. Amendment to the Free Zones Act should allow 100 per cent sale of Free Zones products on the local market in times of crisis to guarantee national food security.

Promoting home gardening. Households can begin home garden beds constructed around the house or even convert lawns to farms. Old gallons, car tyres, crates, buckets, waste rice and polyethylene bags can also be recycled to grow crops. They can be arranged on paved or concrete areas and filled with amended topsoil, coco peat, bio-char, saw dust or rice husk to grow crops. The Department of Horticulture of KNUST, Kumasi, and other research institutions can provide technical support.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 81 00--

WORD-FIT

3 LETTERS: CRY, ICE, ORE
4 LETTERS: LOAD, SOME, ODDS, RACE, AIDE
GOLD, MALL
5 LETTERS: ADAPT, DODGE, SEMEN, ACRES
CHEER
6 LETTERS: EMPIRE, MAIDEN, AGENDA, ASSIST
ENDURE
7 LETTERS: MANDELA
8 LETTERS: CLIMATES
10 LETTERS: SUGARCANES

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across
1 New country in Africa
5 laid by female birds
7 a church decree
8 a tripod frame used to support an artist's canvases
10 deploy as a means of achieving something
11 to choose
13 a chemical substance soluble in water, sour in taste
15 a piece of writing on a topic
17 officials who watch matches to ensure that rules are adhered to
19 a thought
20 something forming an edge or border

Down:
1 stalk of a plant
2 to try to make someone to do something
3 a kind of freehold tenure based on interrupted possession
4 to awaken
6 the exchange of goods for money
7 part in the middle
9 responded to something
12 Lake Victoria in Kenya
14 fear, horror
16 a soft lustre on a surface
17 one of many narrow bones surrounding the chest
18 money charged for something

SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT
C R Y
L O A D
S O M E
O D D S
R A C E
A I D E
G O L D
M A L L
A D A P T
D O D G E
S E M E N
A C R E S
C H E E R
E M P I R E
M A I D E N
A G E N D A
A S S I S T
E N D U R E
M A N D E L A
C L I M A T E S
S U G A R C A N E S

CROSSWORD
1. E T H I O P I A
5. N E S T
7. T R A N S E M
8. T R I P O D
10. T E L E P O R T
11. C H O O S E
13. A C I D
15. E S S A Y
17. R E F E R E E
19. T H O U G H T
20. B O R D E R
1. S T A L K
2. P E R S U A D E
3. T E N E M E N T
4. W A K E N
6. T R A D E
7. M I D D L E
9. R E S P O N D
12. V I C T O R I A
14. F E A R
16. L U S T R E
17. R I B
18. T O L L

BUSINESS

INVESTMENT

Major GSMA fund to spur mobile internet adoption in Africa

LONDON

The GSMA Innovation Fund for Mobile Internet Adoption and Digital Inclusion has been launched to support start-ups or SMEs that help people in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia regions get online for the first time using mobile internet.

The Fund seeks to offer support of between £100,000 and £250,000 - out of a total fund value of £2.5 million - to about 20 winning projects to enable them scale their innovation over a 15- to 18-month period as part of efforts to help countries within these regions close their large usage gap.

"While the reach of mobile networks has expanded significantly in recent years, there is a huge 'usage gap', with 3.3 billion people covered by a mobile broadband network but who are not using mobile internet services," says GSMA's Marketing Manager for Connected Women and Connected Society, Rosie Leary. "Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia are the two regions with the largest usage gap globally which is why we are targeting countries within these regions for this Fund."

The Fund will support solutions that tackle barriers to greater mobile internet adoption, including accessibility, affordability, digital skills, safety and security. Start-ups and SMEs in the regions are targeted beneficiaries because previous grants show they have

the best track record of delivery and the greatest need for funding, Leary notes.

Mobile networks may have become the primary way of accessing the internet in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), driving economic growth, enabling access to life-enhancing services, and creating multiple opportunities for people and businesses to thrive. However, Leary adds that a significant portion of the population - citizens that tend to belong to the most marginalised groups and are disproportionately rural, female and illiterate - still remains offline.

"Based on current trends, 40% of the population in LMICs will still be offline by 2025," she said about the equity-free grant opportunity whose deadline for project submission is 22 May 2020. Also joining in an Africa-focused project-funding effort is Asoko Insight which just extended its digital DealRoom platform launched in January 2020 in partnership with the UK's Department for International Trade.

As a result, the deal origination platform - which has reportedly published over 40 opportunities from African firms and facilitated 34 matches with UK-based investors for further discussion, will now continue matching UK investors and businesses to fund-seeking African corporates for a further six months.



GSMA's Marketing Manager for Connected Women and Connected Society, Rosie Leary.

IMPRESSIVE

Vodacom defies biometric restrictions to maintain growth with M-Pesa onslaught

By Guardian Reporter

DEFYING the novel coronavirus pandemic Vodacom Tanzania Plc maintained its firm grip of the domestic market adding 1.4 million news subscribers for the first quarter of this year.

In its report for year ended March 2020, the country's largest telecommunications company said its customer base surged to 15.5 million which accounted for a 32.8 percent market share thanks to growth of its mobile money platform, M-Pesa.

The telco's Managing Director, Hisham Hendi said with an investment of 154.6bn/- to upgrade and expand its network and information technology infrastructure last year, the company attributed strong growth to an increase in service revenue which increased by 0.9 percent thanks to strong customer growth.

Hendi said the lower growth in the second half of 2019 was mainly as a result of the barring of 2.9 million non-biometrically registered customers and intense competitive pricing pressure which have since been addressed.

"Our customers continued to benefit from Vodacom's superior network quality on the back of our significant capital investment of 154.6bn/- in expanding our 4G coverage and improving the quality of network and services," he said.

In addition, Hendi said following improved digital payment offerings, M-Pesa revenue has reported an increase of 7.4 percent which contributed 35 percent to service revenue being an increase of 2.2 percent thanks to increased transactions per customer.

"M-Pesa continues to deliver on its promise of delivering financial inclu-



Vodacom Tanzania Plc managing director Hisham Hendi speaks at a past function.

sion in Tanzania, empowering customers to transact easily and contributing to economic growth. We now have 10.1 million customers using the service, processing 1.4 billion transactions worth 58.1trn/- in the mobile money system during the year," the Vodacom Managing Director added.

The Q1 report further indicates that data revenue grew by 9.8 percent contributing 17.7 percent to service revenue which represented an increase of 1.5 percent, supported by strong demand for mobile data services, investment in the data network and increased smartphone penetration in the market.

"We made considerable progress in the past the year in prioritising financial

inclusion through our mobile money platform, M-Pesa, while enabling a digital society through connectivity. This included introducing an affordable \$25 (over 50,000/-) smart-feature phone, offering more M-Pesa services such as our overdraft product as well as expanding our international remittance portfolio, supported by continuous investment in the network," Hendi noted.

The Vodacom CEO also made mention of the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on the company's business. "Following the COVID-19 pandemic that is affecting nations and citizens all around the world, Vodacom Tanzania's priority is around health and safety of our employees while continuing to deliver

services and support to our customers as well as assist the government where possible, to cope with the COVID-19 situation," he stated.

He pledged to continue closely monitoring the latest guidance from World Health Organisation as well as Ministry of Health on developments relating to the pandemic. "We have a dedicated team working to maintain the level of service our customers expect from us and have made available various digital offerings to assist enterprise clients," he promised while noting that the telco expects the COVID-19 pandemic to have an impact on its operational and financial performance this year.

COVID-19

Ramaphosa calls for debt cancellations for poor African countries

PRETORIA

President Cyril Ramaphosa has called for the waiver of interest payments and possible cancellation of debt for Africa's low-income countries to manage the fight against the spread of the coronavirus.

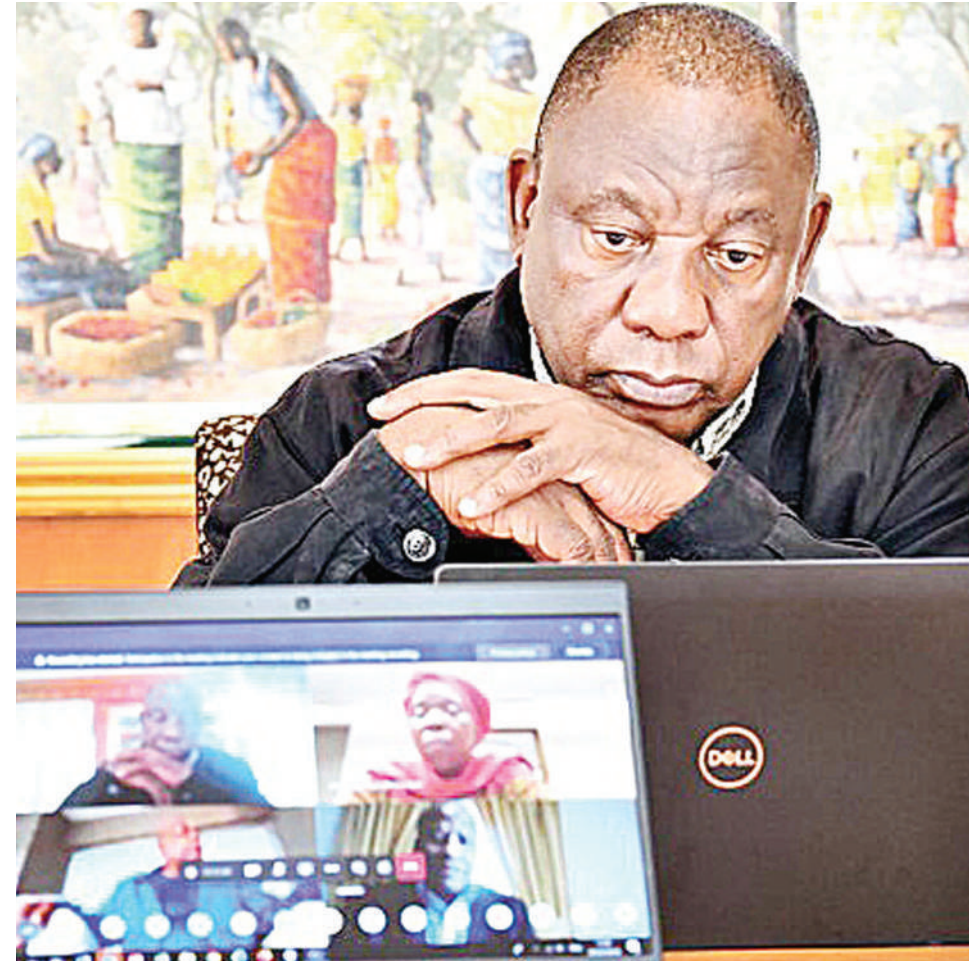
Ramaphosa said this during a virtual meeting with heads of state from South Africa's neighbouring countries. In April, after he addressed the G20, the world's largest economies agreed to a nine-month debt standstill for low-income countries, mostly in Africa.

Ramaphosa, however, said he believed in order for the economies of African countries to recover, they would need a debt standstill of two years. "In other meetings, we have also been saying that there should be consideration of debt cancellations."

During the meeting, Ramaphosa argued for a waiver of all interest payments on multilateral and bilateral debt. This, he said, would provide the necessary fiscal space for African governments to devote all available resources to response and recovery.

African economies are expected to be the hardest hit by lockdown regulations which in turn will affect businesses and trade. The African Union (AU) has predicted the continent will be strangled by the pandemic, with nearly 20 million jobs, both in the formal and informal sectors, threatened if the crisis continues.

Ramaphosa has also argued for a co-



Cyril Ramaphosa chairs the virtual AU meeting.

ordinated approach in the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE)

with South Africa's neighbours. PPEs have become the world's hottest commod-

ity with supplies running low for frontline workers such as nurses and doctors. To

mitigate against the demand, governments have urged civilians to use cloth masks to allow healthcare workers first dibs.

In South Africa, healthcare workers have raised concerns over PPE shortages. Nehawu went so far as to take Health Minister Zweli Mkhize to court, challenging the state to make facilities more conducive for frontline workers.

Between provincial health departments, the national department and Solidarity Fund, R755 million have already been spent on PPEs in April. "As the AU Bureau, we met with several of Africa's business leaders to seek their assistance in ramping up local production of these items and sourcing them from other parts of the world.

"I have appointed Zimbabwean businessperson Strive Masiyiwa to assist with efforts to source personal protection equipment for the region and the continent," said Ramaphosa. The AU had also engaged with the leaders of Cuba, China, Russia, France, Canada and the US to ask for support for the continent, he added.

FORECAST

IATA and Universal Postal Union warn of air capacity shortage

GENEVA

Air capacity for postal services is insufficient and governments need to do more to support the movement of mail by air during the Covid-19 crisis, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) warned on Monday.

"Owing to the drastic 95 per cent reduction in passenger flights, which are

typically used to transport mail, and a 25-30 per cent increase in demand for e-commerce as customers and businesses resort to online purchasing in response to social distancing restrictions, postal administrations are facing a challenge in sending and delivering international mail, in particular, cross-continental mail," the two organisations said.

IATA and UPU also called on governments to remove border barriers, allow

the flow of trade to continue and avoid "unnecessary regulations and fast-tracking the issuance of permits for chartered operations."

Airlines have been hit hard by the coronavirus crisis and the travel industry has come to a virtual halt. The pandemic has grounded more than half the world's planes and is set to plunge the global economy into its deepest recession since the Great Depression of the

1930s.

"The cancellation of more than 4.5 million passenger flights - the primary means of transporting post - has meant that capacity is scarce, costs more and takes longer," said UPU director general Bishar A Hussein. "Action needs to be swiftly taken to address the shortfall in air cargo capacity and to keep the mail moving."

IATA and UPU also said they are work-

ing to support posts' use of cargo flights in addition to commercial passenger flights. "Airlines have been required to cut passenger services in the fight to stop the spread of Covid-19," said Alexandre de Juniac, Iata's director general and chief executive. "So, it's vital that everything is done to support the smooth movement of mail which is an important component of society."

G20 governments, at their recent

emergency meetings pledged their commitment to "minimise disruptions to trade and global supply chains" and identified the need to prioritise keeping air logistics networks open for efficient functioning. The Universal Postal Union is a United Nations specialised agency and the primary forum between its 192 member countries and postal sector players.

SETBACK

Edenville Energy suspends Rukwa coal production owing to rains and Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

PRODUCTION of coal in Sumbawanga district of Rukwa region by Edenville Energy Plc has been suspended since last month due to the coronavirus outbreak and heavy rains pounding the country currently.

In a press statement, Edenville CEO, Alistair Muir said mining operations which had restarted in early March were suspended indefinitely because of the pandemic but also poor infrastructure destroyed by rains.

Muir said since early March, the company was able to bring the plant back online after further upgrades and continued to process stockpiles of coal for sale to a long-term customer in Arusha, who purchased and received in excess of 500 tonnes of washed coal during the month.

He however, said given the government's advice and that of its customers,

Edenville decided to stand down Rukwa employees and suspend production with immediate effect until the situation is resolved. With the rainy season expected to draw to a close later this month, the company is optimistic that with an improvement in the situation Edenville will be able to commence mining at short notice.

"As with much of the world, our operations have naturally been impacted by the rapid spread of COVID-19. Our principal focus must always be on the safety of our employees, as well as the moral obligation to do what we can to reduce the spread of the virus," Muir stated adding that, "Whilst to date there have been few cases of COVID-19 in Tanzania, we fully support the government's initiatives which will hopefully ensure the country remains as sheltered as possible from the pandemic."

He emphasised that Edenville places the safety and wellbeing of its



An Edenville employee stands by a coal stockpile at Sumbawanga mining site in Rukwa region.

employees and contractors as the highest priority. Accordingly, in response to the pandemic, a business continuity programme has been introduced to protect staff while ensuring the

continued safe operation of the company.

"We believe the steps taken now should enable us to return to mining as soon as practicable. The order book for our coal

remains healthy and we have seen consistent demand given our primary market is currently regional industrial players, meaning Rukwa's location gives it cost advantages over certain

other operations," the Edenville Energy Plc chief noted. Edenville Energy Plc is listed at London Stock Exchange's alternative investment market.

RETROGRESSIVE

Coping with lockdown, Nigerians turn to baking but wheat prices soar

LAGOS

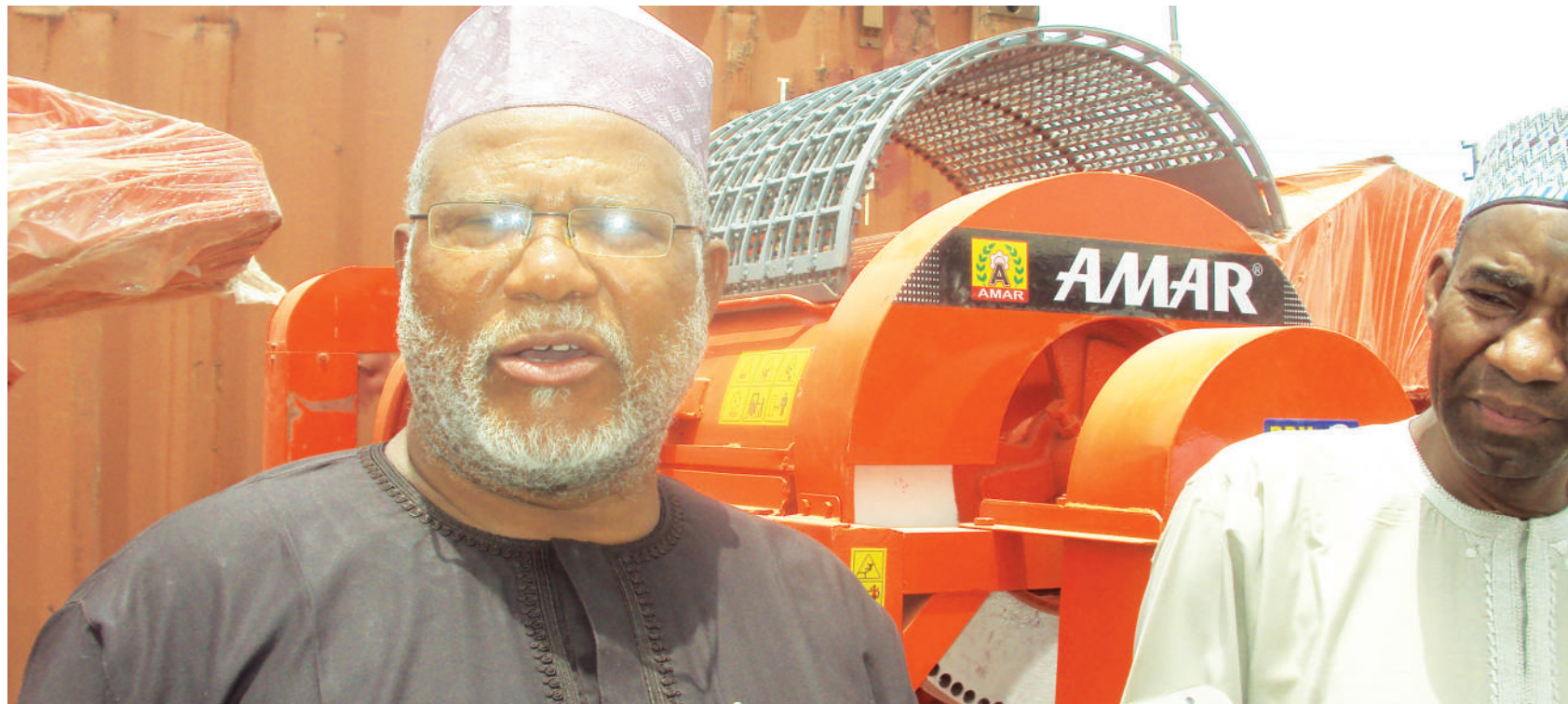
As millions of Nigerians across the country witnessed varying levels of movement restrictions, it appears many people resorted to baking of bread and confectionaries, at least as revealed by data from internet search giant, Google.

In the 30 days prior to May 4, the top trending search term on Google Nigeria was 'how to make bread,' this was followed by 'who is Abba Kyari', with Google reporting that the top 20 trending questions from Search in Nigeria were dominated by food and current affairs questions. According to Google, Search trends information is gleaned from data it collates based on what Nigerians have been searching for and asking Google.

Top ten trending food questions in Nigeria over the past 30 days were: How to make bread; How to make pancakes with flour; How to make chinchin; How to make fish roll; How to make egg roll?; How to make pizza; How to prepare vegetable soup; How to make cookies; How to make Akara and; How to make Egusi soup.

Out of these top ten queries pertaining to food, seven are derivatives of wheat-based flour, which is predominantly used in Nigeria. However, wheat production in the country is currently challenged as farmers have been unable to harvest their crops from the farms, while preparations for the next planting season are uncertain.

While the price of flour varies by location and usage (based on volume) it has increased by as much as 20 percent in some places, from N10,000 per 50kg bag to N12,000 in the last two months. Even for bulk users such as bakeries and producers of confection-



Salim Muhammad, president, Wheat Farmers Association of Nigeria speaking at a past event.

aries who previously bought it for less than N9,000, they now have to pay as much as N10,500 per bag.

In 2019, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed Nigeria imported at least N401 billion worth of wheat, retaining its position as Nigeria's highest agricultural import. In 2018, wheat importation gulped N362.4 billion, representing 42.5 percent of the N852 billion officially captured by NBS to have been spent importing agricultural goods. "If you look at the rate of consumption per capita, we consume more wheat than rice in this country," said Salim Muhammad, president, Wheat

Farmers Association of Nigeria.

Muhammad had noted during a webinar by the Guild of Nigerian Agriculture Journalists (GNAJ) this week that there is a high demand for wheat products in Nigeria as well as high consumption of wheat. However, production has struggled to increase over the years as the sub-sector appears to be suffering neglect from government and policymakers, with Muhammad describing wheat as a 'political crop.'

"Every Nigerian household consumes bread, noodles, and pastas. But what is my country doing to produce enough wheat for the consumption locally in the country?" he asked.

Presently, wheat farmers who should be harvesting their crops between April and May have been caught in the middle of COVID-19 restrictions, and some already fear that part of their farm harvests would already be lost if they eventually gain access. Not just to enter the farms, but also with harvesting requirement required for wheat.

"If you look at the derivatives of wheat, it is top line food for the younger, (upper and lower) middle income class, and that population is growing," Ayodeji Balogun, country manager, AFEX Commodities Exchange Limited, told BusinessDay in a previous

phone interview. "The population of people eating pasta will continue to increase, and every sachet of Noodles is a part of wheat. That number will keep growing and wheat is not a crop we have any efficiency in producing," he added.

Even though the price of flour is increasing, "If you change the prices of loaves of bread, nobody buys because people simply have no money," said Kabiru Ibrahim, of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria. "We must allow the production of wheat and encourage its production because the amount of wheat that we consume is colossal."

DIVERSIFICATION

Zimbabwe street vendors sell cloth masks to make ends meet

HARARE

Zimbabwe market stall owner Aaron Makaya saw a new business opportunity when President Emmerson Mnangagwa made face masks mandatory in public places to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The 21-year old had been stuck at home in the capital Harare and living off meagre savings since the start of

a nationwide lockdown at the end of March. Confinement measures were extended by two weeks on May 1 - another month without income for informal workers like Makaya.

Meanwhile, factory-made face masks turned out to be unaffordable for most in a country crippled by poverty and hyperinflation. Police patrol the streets of Zimbabwean capital Harare as the country enters

a 21-day "total" lockdown that will curtail movement, shut most shops and banks, and suspend flights in and out of Zimbabwe.

Makaya and other informal workers jumped on the opportunity to make money by sewing and selling cheaper cloth masks at intersections. "We started selling these masks on Monday when we noticed that people intending to board buses were being

turned away," said Makaya, standing on the side of the road with a stock of brightly coloured masks.

"We are selling for 15 bond (around \$0.6). People are buying because they are afraid of being arrested in town." Factory-made masks cost between \$1 and \$2 in Zimbabwe. But those caught outside without a face covering are fined and risk a beating by security forces.

Sharing face masks

Some people have been sharing face masks as a result. Others keep masks dangling below their chin and pull them over their mouth and nose at the sight of police officers. "It seems most people are wearing the masks for the wrong reason," said Harare resident Wright Chirombe. "They are doing it more out of fear of arrest than for their own safety."

COVID-19

Africa's wealthiest city says 1m people need food aid

JOHANNESBURG

Almost one million people in Johannesburg, South Africa's commercial hub, are in need of food aid due to movement restrictions imposed to curb the coronavirus pandemic, according to its mayor.

While South Africa has less than 9,000 infections, it's still one of the highest numbers on the continent. The government imposed a lockdown late March that shuttered schools and businesses and only allowed essential workers out of their homes. Today, about 300,000 households in Johannesburg require food assistance, mayor Geoff Makhubo said in an interview.

"As more and more people get unemployed, the incidences of poverty and food insecurity start to increase," Makhubo said by phone. "Social distress is something that is real."

Even before the measures, 45% of the city's 5.5 million inhabitants lived in poverty and 20% were food insecure, he said. The City of Johannesburg is planning food support for vulnerable households and will use the national social security agency's data alongside its own as it seeks to find those that aren't in the welfare system, he said.

Dollar millionaires

National short-term relief measures, including an additional 50 billion rand in welfare grants for the poor and unemployed, are assisting the city's efforts. Inequality is rife in Johannesburg, which is home to thousands of undocumented migrants as well as 19,000 dollar millionaires who make up almost half of the country's high-income individuals. Chief executives and top lawyers make as much as 20 million rand (\$1.1 million) a year while the official minimum wage is just over 20 rand (\$1.08) an hour.

The lockdown, even though it was eased slightly on May 1, is likely to exacerbate that inequality. The country's biggest business grouping, Business for South Africa, earlier this week urged the government to accelerate the restart of the economy to minimize hardship, hunger and desperation.

"If there's going to be unemployment, here in Johannesburg we're going to be hardest hit," Makhubo said. "If people start to struggle in other provinces, they are going to move to Johannesburg thinking there's opportunity."

The city is reviewing its spending plans after revenue fell by 800 million rand in April due to reduced economic activity, he said. Electricity sales to commercial and heavy-use industries is the largest contributor to collections, Makhubo said. It also expects its 1 billion rand portion of the national fuel levy grant, which is calculated based on fuel use in the city, to be "greatly reduced," he said.



Johannesburg city mayor Geoff Makhubo.

FRUSTRATION

Tesla sues California county in virus factory closure fight, threatens to leave

CALIFORNIA

Tesla Inc sued local authorities in California on Saturday as the electric carmaker pushed to re-open its factory there and Chief Executive Elon Musk threatened to move Tesla's headquarters and future programs from the state to Texas or Nevada.

Musk has been pushing to re-open Tesla's Fremont, California, factory after Alameda County's health department said the carmaker must not reopen because local lockdown measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus remain in effect.

In a blog post on Saturday, Tesla said the county's position left it no choice but to take legal action to ensure Tesla and its employees can go back to work. The company said it had worked out a thorough return-to-work plan that includes online video training for personnel, work zone partition areas, temperature screening, requirements to wear protective equipment and rigorous cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

The company said it had informed health authorities in Alameda County, where the Fremont factory is located, about its restart plans, but claimed the acting official did not return calls or emails. Alameda County's Public Health Department, which earlier on Saturday said it had been "communicating directly and working closely with the Tesla team," did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Tesla filed a lawsuit against the county in San Francisco federal court on Saturday, calling the continued restrictions a "power-grab" by the county since California's governor had said on Thursday that manufacturers in the state would be allowed to reopen.

The company said Alameda was going against the federal and California constitutions, as well as defying the governor's order, the lawsuit said. Alameda County is scheduled to remain shut until the end of May, with only essential businesses allowed to reopen. The county said it does not consider Tesla an essential business.

The outspoken Musk also took to Twitter on Saturday to complain and threatened to leave the state. "If we even retain Fremont manufacturing activity at all, it will be dependent (sp) on how Tesla is treated in the future," he tweeted, referring to the San Francisco Bay area facility that is Tesla's only U.S. vehicle factory.

Alameda County said on Saturday that it has been working with Tesla to develop a safety plan that "allows for reopening while protecting the health and well-being of the thousands of employees" that work at the factory and that it looks forward to coming to an agreement on a safety plan very soon.

Fremont Mayor Lily Mei expressed concern about the potential economic implications of continuing the

shelter-in-place order without provisions for manufacturers such as Tesla to resume. Mei on Saturday urged the county to work with businesses on "acceptable guidelines for re-opening."

Musk had told employees on Thursday that limited production would restart at Fremont on Friday afternoon. Tesla last year built nearly half a million vehicles at the Fremont plant and moving the entire production facility would be a massive undertaking.

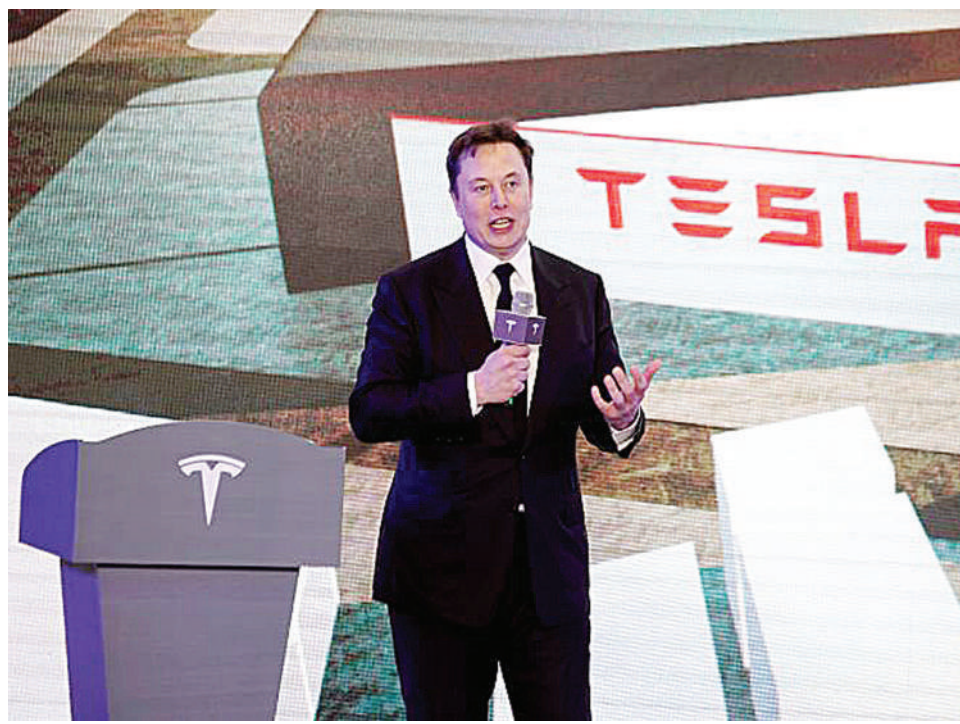
Dan Ives, a Wedbush analyst, on Saturday estimated it could take the company 12 to 18 months to relocate production. The threat to relocate the facility comes as Tesla aims to ramp up production at Fremont of its Model Y sport utility vehicle, which it expects to generate record demand and profit margins.

Musk, who sparred with California officials in March over whether Tesla had to halt production at Fremont, had criticized the lockdown and stay-at-home orders, calling them a "serious risk" to U.S. business and "unconstitutional."

Tesla shares have risen 127% since March 18, their recent closing low, including a 16.8% gain in the last trading week to close at \$819.42 on Friday.

Meanwhile Tesla Inc.'s CEO filed a lawsuit against Alameda County claiming its coronavirus-related orders prevent the electric vehicle maker from resuming operations at its main plant in California.

"Tesla is filing a lawsuit



SpaceX founder and chief engineer Elon Musk speaks at a post-launch news conference to discuss the SpaceX Crew Dragon astronaut capsule in-flight abort test at the Kennedy Space Center.

against Alameda County immediately," Musk said in a Twitter (TWTR) post on Saturday. "The unelected & ignorant 'Interim Health Of-

ficer" of Alameda is acting contrary to the Governor, the President, our Constitutional freedoms & just plain common sense!"

Musk made the comments in reaction to Alameda County's interim public health officer's assertion that health orders to contain

the coronavirus outbreak in the region were still in place. This in turn meant that Tesla was not able to resume vehicle production at its main U.S. car plant in Fremont, California yet. The U.S. electric automaker was planning to restart production on Friday afternoon.

"We will continue to put people back to work in a safe and responsible manner," Tesla said in a separate statement on Saturday. "However, the County's position left us no choice but to take legal action asking the court to invalidate the County orders to ensure that Tesla and its employees can get back to work."

Furthermore, Musk threatened to move the carmaker's operations out of California. "Frankly, this is the final straw. Tesla will now move its HQ and future programs to Texas/Nevada immediately," Musk said on Twitter. "If we even retain Fremont manufacturing activity at all,

it will be dependent on how Tesla is treated in the future. Tesla is the last carmaker left in California."

This is not the first time the outspoken billionaire, who has 33.9 million Twitter followers, voiced his controversial views on the lockdown orders tied to the coronavirus pandemic. Earlier this month, Musk told investors that the virus-related regulations are a "key risk" to the business and called lockdown orders "fascist" demanding people should get their freedom back.

Since the beginning of the year, Tesla shares almost doubled in their value and were trading 5% higher at \$819.42 as of Friday in U.S. trading. Five-star analyst Adam Jonas at Morgan Stanley on Thursday maintained his Hold rating on the stock with a \$680 price target, and presented a cautious outlook on the shares.

IMPACT

Chocolate market weakens with fewer treats in lockdown

LONDON

Better-than-anticipated European and Asian grindings – where beans are turned into products used in chocolate bars – recently suggested that demand may have proved fairly resilient to the coronavirus crisis. But analysts and traders say that was fuelled more by processors ramping up output ahead of potential supply-chain disruptions, rather than real consumption.

There are already signs that demand is falling as lockdowns shutter some retail outlets and prompt fewer impulse purchases. Chocolate companies like Nestle SA and Mondelez International have reported easing sales or warned about confectionery demand, and there are worries that rising unemployment and lower incomes will curb spending on treats.

"These sales figures and other anecdotal evidence are suggesting a disconnect between grind and consumption," said Jonathan Parkman, co-head of agriculture at Marex Spectron Group in London. "The evidence is beginning to stack up that the increase in grindings may have had more to do with filling up the supply chain than any increase in sales."

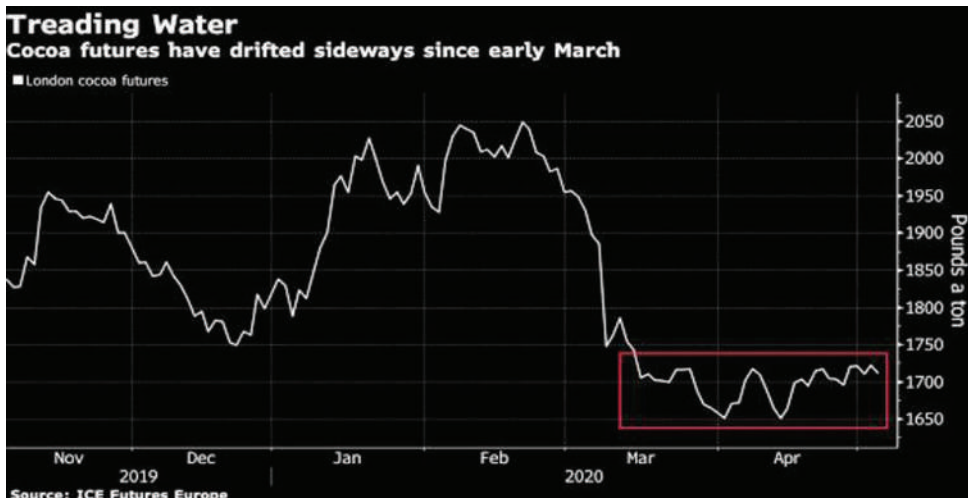
It's likely that lockdowns will reduce chocolate gifting, impulse buying and purchases of premium products, he said. Even though first-quarter grindings largely fared better than expected, Nestle and

Hershey saw declines in confectionery sales volumes during the period. While supermarket and online sales of chocolate snacks in Europe were fairly steady in April, that's unlikely to compensate for slumping sales of at least 80% elsewhere at places like fuel stations, specialist stores and vending machines, said Maxime Boucher, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence.

In Europe, the biggest chocolate-consuming region, chocolatiers offered steep discounts last month to entice buyers. Companies have so far remained quite tight-lipped about demand prospects, but Lindt & Spruengli and Hershey have withdrawn their 2020 outlook. Lindt's first-half sales will probably drop 14%, Bank Vontobel estimates.

Mondelez's chief executive officer last week warned that sales growth in categories including chocolates and biscuits will slow, while processor Barry Callebaut said its gourmet and specialties volumes will be particularly impacted by waning out-of-home consumption.

The fallout from the pandemic will be reflected in second-quarter grindings and earnings from chocolate companies, said Eric Bergman, vice president at JSG Commodities in Norwalk, Connecticut. "Falling chocolate demand has the potential to turn global grindings growth negative for the current year," he said. "This significantly narrows the expected deficit and may even put the current year into surplus."



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

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

WORLD

Officials worldwide highlight lack of evidence regarding origin of COVID-19

BEIJING

OFFICIALS and scholars around the world have recently stressed there is no scientific evidence to support Washington's repeated allegations that the novel coronavirus emanated from a research lab or a wet market in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Sunday agitated for "significant evidence" on the virus' origin from Wuhan. However, he did not specify what the evidence is nor deliver any concrete proof to validate his claims.

The origin of the novel coronavirus behind the COVID-19 pandemic remains unclear, according to Army General Mark Milley, U.S. chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Did it come out of the virology lab in Wuhan, did it occur in the wet market there in Wuhan or did it occur somewhere else? And the answer

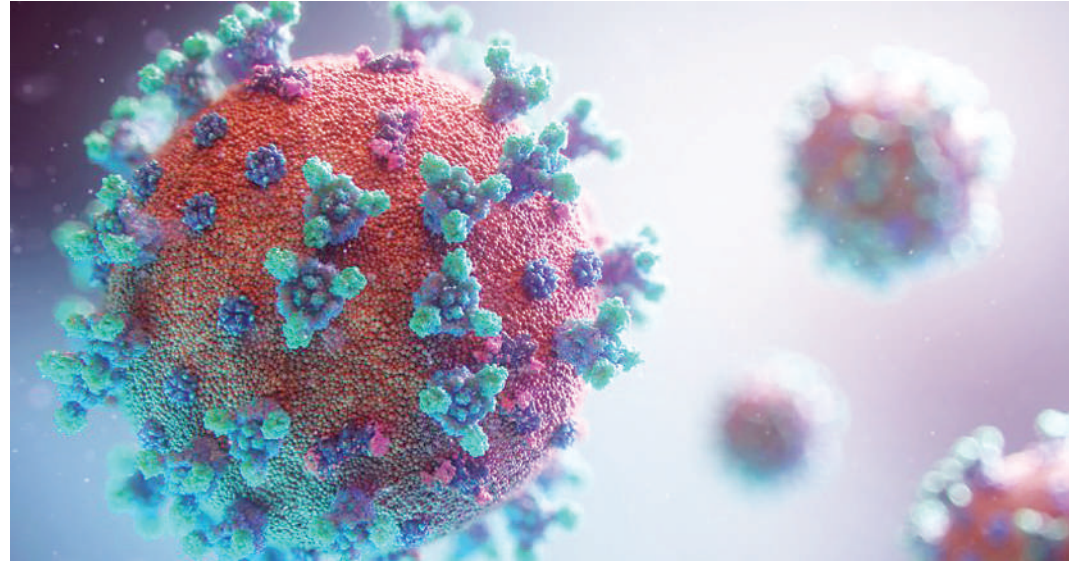
to that is we don't know," Milley told a press conference earlier this week.

Top U.S. infectious disease expert and health official Anthony Fauci clarified that the current scientific evidence shows it is highly unlikely that the virus was manmade.

"If you look at the evolution of the virus in bats and what's out there now, (the scientific evidence) is very, very strongly leaning toward this could not have been artificially or deliberately manipulated," he noted in an interview published on Monday by National Geographic.

The virus "evolved in nature and then jumped species" as "everything about the stepwise evolution over time" strongly indicated, said Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

During a Senate hearing on Tuesday, Republican Representative John Ratcliffe failed to answer questions on



the virus' origins purported by U.S. President Donald Trump, who had nominated him as director of national intelligence, the country's top spy agency.

According to CNN, when Senator Angus King asked Ratcliffe whether he had seen evidence that the virus originated in a lab, he said he had not. When Senator Tom Cotton asked Ratcliffe if he had seen evidence that the virus originated in a Wuhan market, he said he had not.

The U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) has agreed to the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified, according to a statement from the Office of Director of National Intelligence last week.

"The IC will continue to rigorously examine emerging information and intelligence to determine whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan," the office said. For its part, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that the Trump administration's claim on the virus' origin remains "speculative," as the organization had not received any data or specific evidence from the U.S. side.

"If that data and evidence is available, then it will be for the United States government to

decide whether and when it can be shared, but it is difficult for the WHO to operate in an information vacuum in that regard," Michael Ryan, director of the WHO's health emergencies program, told a virtual press briefing on Monday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told CNBC on Tuesday that without proof, the U.S. accusations on China for the virus' origin were serious and wrong, because the U.S. government did not deliver any proof.

"We consider it not a proper time, being somewhere in the middle of a severe crisis, an unprecedented crisis, to try to blame everything on the international health organization (the WHO) or, the next day, on China," Peskov said. Britain has also seen little evidence that the coronavirus is man-made, British Health Minister Matt Hancock was quoted by Reuters as saying.

The novel coronavirus spread extensively around the world since late 2019 and the single "Patient Zeroes" is absent in most countries, the latest study by the University College London Genetics Institute has shown.

"The results add to a growing body of evidence that SARS-CoV-2 (novel coronavirus) viruses share a common ancestor from late 2019, suggesting that this was when the virus jumped from a previous animal host, into people," the university said in a statement on Wednesday."

Xinhua

S.African ruling party condemns opposition's call to end lockdown amid pandemic

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) party on Saturday condemned the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) party's "ill-timed and irrational" call to end the nationwide lockdown amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The levels of incitement by DA leader John Steenhuisen (pictured) and the call for civil disobedience remain reckless and childish, and cannot go unchallenged, the ANC said after a virtual parliamentary caucus meeting. "Politicizing COVID-19 in-

terventions smacks of high levels of political immaturity and should be dismissed with the contempt they deserve," ANC Chief Whip Pemmy Majodina said in a statement emailed to Xinhua.

The lockdown measures have been taken in the paramount interest of ensuring the preservation of life, an issue that does not seem to matter to the DA, Majodina said, adding ending such measures would be "suicidal."

"As the ANC Caucus, we cannot afford to lower our guard," she said. South Africa has so far recorded over



9,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 186 deaths. The Western Cape, the only province run by the DA, remains the country's epicenter of the pandemic, having reported 4,809 cases and 95 deaths as of Saturday. Although the country eased the na-

tionwide lockdown from level five to level four on May 1, allowing certain businesses to resume operations, the ANC has urged Cape Town and other high-risk areas in the Western Cape to be placed back under level-five restrictions.

On Friday, Steenhuisen said the lockdown was unnecessary as "the real tragedy playing out here is no longer the coronavirus, but the lockdown itself."

"Describing the DA as being bent on undermining the nation's anti-epidemic efforts through a filibustering posture, Majodina said that "over the

past five weeks, most South Africans have adhered to the lockdown regulations and as a result, we have managed to slow the spread of the virus."

"We are also mindful that dozens of other countries have imposed curfews such as the one that is currently in place in South Africa," she said.

"We must continue to stick to the World Health Organization preventative measures," she said, urging "all peace loving and patriotic South Africans to stay focused on the bigger goal of flattening the curve and saving lives."

Xinhua

Obama slams Trump's Covid-19 response, stresses urgency for Democrats to retake White House

WASHINGTON

FORMER U.S. President Barack Obama in a recent private conversation blasted the response to the coronavirus pandemic by the current administration of President Donald Trump as "absolute chaotic disaster," vowing to tirelessly help unseat the incumbent president in the upcoming general election.

A tape recording of Obama's remarks, rendered during a chat with members of the Obama Alumni Association on Friday and obtained and first reported by Yahoo News, showed that the former president said the current occupant of the White House has made selfishness, tribalism, division and animosity "a stronger impulse in American life," which has impeded the containment of the coronavirus pandemic globally.

"What we're fighting against is

these long-term trends in which being tribal, being divided, and seeing others as an enemy - that has become a stronger impulse in American life," Obama said.

"And by the way, we're seeing that internationally as well. It's part of the reason why the response to this global crisis has been so anemic and spotty."

Obama continued: "It would have been bad even with the best of governments. It has been an absolute chaotic disaster when that mindset - of 'what's in it for me' and 'to heck with everybody else' - when that mindset is operationalized in our government."

"That's why, I, by the way, am going to be spending as much time as necessary and campaigning as hard as I can for Joe Biden," he added, referring to the former Vice President serving during his presidency who now is the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee.



Former U.S. President Barack Obama

Obama has criticized his successor over the COVID-19 outbreak in the past, but seemed to have shown more restraint, saying the current administration lacked a "coherent national plan" to address the crisis.

"While we continue to wait for a coherent national plan to navigate this pandemic, states like Massachusetts are beginning to

adopt their own public health plans to combat this virus -- before it's too late," the former president tweeted last month.

The much more combative criticism of the Trump administration's handling of the public health crisis came only during the latter part of the conversation, in which Obama first slammed the Justice Department's decision Thursday to drop the criminal charges against Michael Flynn, Trump's first national security adviser who was fired after the revelation of his lies to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) about his contacts with Russia during Trump's presidential transition period.

"The news over the last 24 hours I think has been somewhat downplayed - about the Justice Department dropping charges against Michael Flynn,"

Obama said, adding that "the fact that there is no precedent

that anybody can find for someone who has been charged with perjury just getting off scot-free."

The former president misstated Flynn's charge, though. The former national security adviser, whom Obama had warned Trump not to hire, was not charged with perjury, but with lying to the FBI.

The charges against Flynn led to his ouster by Trump in February 2017 and became part of the U.S. investigation led by Special Counsel Robert Mueller into Moscow's alleged meddling to help Trump win the presidency in 2016.

Flynn pleaded guilty in 2017 to his lying to the FBI about his conversations with then Russian Ambassador to the United States Sergey Kislyak, but the 61-year-old retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General withdrew his guilty plea earlier this year, alleging prosecutorial misconduct.

Xinhua

WHILE the COVID-19 pandemic has gone rampant around the world, certain American politicians played the trick of "political blackmail". After the World Health Organization (WHO) informed the world of the COVID-19 pandemic, they gloated over the calamity and made complacent assertions that the pandemic "is not a problem" and everything was "under control".

"Any country that looks at the experience of other countries with large epidemics and thinks 'that won't happen to us' is making a deadly mistake," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned at the end of February. However, some U.S. politicians claimed that "the CO-

Putting the blame on others is bald-faced political blackmail

VID-19 symptoms are very mild," "people will self-cure," and "the disease is going to disappear miraculously one day."

People cannot help but ask: Why does the U.S., having the strongest healthcare system in the world and enough time to respond, fail to contain the disease and even suffer a heavy loss as the number of coronavirus cases surpasses one million and the death toll reaches 70,000?

Perhaps the reason lies in the following aspects: the U.S. coronavirus testing failure, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s failure to give information to the American

public, the uncoordinated policy response, and the lack of funding, execution, and treatment for patients.

The inability of the U.S. government to cope with the disease has ignited anger among the public. To shift the blame, the U.S. politicians fabricated such claims as "the Chinese government intentionally concealed the severity of the coronavirus from the international community," and "the coronavirus originated at a lab in Wuhan," setting a stage for holding China responsible and seeking compensation from the country. However, such accusations are supported by no

evidence.

In addition to passing the buck to China, the U.S. politicians also increased pressure on the WHO by labeling the organization as "China-centric", halting funding to the organization and threatening to investigate it.

They think their political trick could cover the truth. However, in the eyes of reasonable people, this is nothing but buck passing. Those thinking they could deceive the public are actually an insult to the intelligence of the international community.

The bald-faced blackmail of the U.S. politicians is intolerable for too many people in the

world, who have stood up to expose the farce.

In a March 17 paper published by the journal Nature Medicine, scientists from the U.S., the UK and Australia said that the coronavirus has a natural origin and scientific evidence shows it is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus. The WHO reiterated on May 1 that the coronavirus is believed to be "natural in origin".

The start of the COVID-19 pandemic is "highly unlikely a lab accident," according to Jonna Mazet, an epidemiologist at the University of California, Davis, who has worked with and

trained researchers from the Wuhan Institute of Virology in the past. This is because "the lab's samples don't match the new coronavirus; the lab implements rigorous safety protocols; the coronavirus is the latest in a long line of zoonotic disease outbreaks; everyday people are more likely to get infected than researchers who wear protection," she explained.

Such facts- and science-based conclusions could not be denied by certain U.S. politicians who go around touting about their absurd opinions.

The "responsibility" argument is even more absurd, and

Patriotism is Russia's national idea, says Putin

MOSCOW

PATRIOTISM is Russia's national idea, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday, cautioning, however, against flag-waving moods.

"Yes, it's patriotism, I think there can be nothing else here," Putin said when asked about the Russian national idea. But patriotism should not be spurious, he stressed in an interview with the program "Moscow. Kremlin. Putin" a fragment of which was uploaded to the Instagram page of its presenter Pavel Zarubin.

According to the president, "patriotism means devoting oneself to the development of the country, its progress". "But this does not mean that we must keep clinging to our heroic past, we must look ahead, into our no less heroic and successful future, and this is the ticket to success," the Russian leader stressed.

In December 2019, President Putin addressed the topic of patriotism at his annual news conference, saying that he saw it as the only possible ideology of the modern democratic society.

"In my opinion, patriotism is the only possible ideology in the modern democratic society. Patriotism in the broadest and best sense," the Russian leader said back then. "It must be depoliticized and aimed to strengthen the inner framework of the Russian state," he stressed. **Agencies**



European countries commemorate 75th anniversary of WWII victory, call for unity in COVID-19 fight

BEIJING

As Friday marked the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), a number of European leaders and heads of international organizations commemorated the anniversary and called for unity in the fight against the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Seventy-five years ago, at least 55 million people died during World War II (WWII) and around 6 million Jews fell victim to the Nazi Holocaust throughout Europe.

Today, the world is hit by COVID-19, which has infected more than 3.8 million people with over 270,000 deaths globally, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally Friday.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, massive celebrations and street parties planned to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII had to be canceled in some countries. Britain, locked down by COVID-19 restrictions, celebrated on Friday the anniversary by a mixture of social distancing and virtual gatherings, while the enormous public events planned for central London were unable to go ahead.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II made an address to the nation from Windsor Castle Friday night, saying "Today it may seem hard that we cannot mark this special anniversary as we would wish. Instead we remember from our homes and our doorsteps. But our streets are not empty; they are filled with the love and the care that we have for each other."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson described in his VE Day message how people fought with courage, ingenuity and endurance on the frontline. "This country triumphed thanks to the heroism of countless ordinary people, and because of this, hundreds of millions of people now live in peace and freedom today. Today we must celebrate their achievement, and we remember their sacrifice."

Referring to the virus outbreak, the prime minister said it demands the same spirit of national endeavour as shown during wartime.

"We can't hold the parades and street celebrations we enjoyed in the past, but all of us who were born since 1945 are acutely conscious that we owe everything we most value to the generation who won the Second World War," Johnson said.

Poland marked the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII with a handful of modest ceremonies organized at a local scale due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Poles fought on all fronts of WWII, Polish President Andrzej Duda said after a wreath-laying ceremony in Warsaw, adding that

"We are not forgetting about the sacrifice of those who fought on the fronts of World War II, all Poles who died during World War II, who were killed and suffered during World War Two."

According to Germany's federal disease control agency, the Robert Koch Institute, COVID-19 cases in the country increased by 1,209 within one day to 167,300 on Friday, with the death toll from the disease increasing by 147 to 7,266. And the reproduction rate of COVID-19 in Germany picked up slightly from 0.65 to 0.71. **Xinhua**

it is purely a "political blackmail". China is the first to report the epidemic to the world. It has fought the virus nationwide, achieved remarkable results in epidemic prevention and control, and helped the global fight against the pandemic. China is never the one to be blamed.

China is working closely with the WHO. Its prevention and control practices and diagnosis and treatment programs are used by other countries in the world. The country has sent 15 batches of medical experts to 16 countries, and it is working overtime to produce anti-pandemic materials for the world. China is never the one to be blamed.

People's Daily

Contactless dining becomes trendy amidst epidemic prevention

RESTAURANTS, including some well-known Chinese- and Western-style chain restaurants, have opened contactless diners amidst epidemic prevention and control in places such as Beijing and Shanghai.

As a solution to reduce contagion risks and retain customers, the service, jointly rolled out by restaurants and the China Hospitality Association, has garnered wide attention after its debut.

"Before launching the contactless service, we found that customers were hesitated before they entered our restaurant," said Zhang Yuming, general manager of E'mei Restaurant, a Sichuan food restaurant in Beijing. Now the QR code placed at the gate of the restaurant enables customers to pay for and take away food from outside, which reassures them to place orders, Zhang added.

Meituan Cashier, a payment system of China's service-focused e-commerce giant Meituan Dianping, timely upgraded its food ordering service by enabling customers to place orders on its application and get food without having to enter a dining hall.

The application encourages restaurants to paste QR codes outside their dining halls, so customers can order meals by simply scanning the codes. No human contact is involved in the process.

As a matter of fact, self-service machines have been available at a number of fast food restaurants in China, even before the outbreak of COVID-19.

According to Burger King senior vice president Zhu Fuqiang, the contactless dining will be trendy in the future as more restaurants provide such service. In addition, the service model also caters to the consumption habits of young people.

In the second half of 2019, popular milk tea brand Heytea set up intelligent cabinets for customers or couriers to take orders. During COVID-19, the facilities were adopted for non-contact service and played a role in epidemic prevention and control.

The cabinets can be opened by customers through an app on their smart phones, and are disinfected each hour to ensure food hygiene.

Many of China's top 100 restaurants have employed robots to serve the



A customer orders food on his mobile phone outside a restaurant in Rugao, a county-level city in Nantong, east China's Jiangsu province, Feb. 7, 2020. Photo by Wu Shujian, People's Daily Online

customers for the latter's demand for clean and safe food.

A robot named "Peanut" is employed by a hot pot restaurant in Shanghai to deliver food to diners. After receiving orders, it is able to send food to the customers skillfully.

Besides, the robot, able to show QR codes to the customers, also serves as a contactless and mobile cashier.

It could deliver 300 to 450 dishes per day, which is twice to three times the efficiency of a manual labor, said Chi Xiaomin, the chief public rela-

tions officer of Keenon Robotics Co., Ltd., the developer of the robot.

In addition, the operation of the robots is closely monitored by an operation and maintenance team of Keenon Robotics. Once a malfunction occurs, the staff will contact the restaurant immediately to find the cause of the problem and offer solutions, Chi introduced.

In the post-epidemic era, Chinese customers are particularly concerned about health issues in public places. In this regard, the robotic delivery service has not only avoided contagion through contact and transmission through air droplets, but also demonstrated the measures restaurants have taken in protecting public health, earning customers' trust for the catering industry, said Li Tong, founder of Keenon Robotics.

Contactless dining has not only promoted food safety, but also boosted consumer confidence. Under regular epidemic prevention and control, customers and restaurants are together embracing a new dining trend.

People's Daily

US responsible for impasse over UN COVID-19 move, says China

UNITED NATIONS

THE United States is responsible for an impasse in the Security Council over the adoption of a resolution on COVID-19, a Chinese diplomat said on Saturday.

Security Council members had agreed on the text of a draft resolution thanks to the great efforts by France and Tunisia, the co-penholders. China supports the text. The United States also expressed its support.

Surprisingly and regrettably, the US later reneged, making it impossible for the Security Council to adopt a resolution.

The US undermined the unity of the Security Council and should take full responsibility for today's situation, the Chinese diplomat said.

China has demonstrated maximum flexibility. China will continue to stick to the current text. China favors a Security Council resolution that supports the UN secretary-general's appeal for a global cease-fire, promotes humanitarian response and ensures the safety and security of UN peacekeepers, the Chinese diplomat said.

China favors a resolution that supports the World Health Organization (WHO). This position is favored by all council members except one, said the Chinese diplomat.

The WHO plays a central role in the coordination of the global fight against COVID-19, in providing essential public health assistance, he pointed out. The WHO is essential in helping developing countries, including African states, cope with the pandemic, added the Chinese diplomat.

The WHO's role was fully reflected in a Security Council resolution on Ebola. The resolution won broad support of the council members.

Xinhua



The US undermined the unity of the Security Council and should take full responsibility for today's situation, the Chinese diplomat

European countries eye cautious easing of lockdown, WHO forecasts COVID-19 deaths in Africa

BEIJING

SOME European countries are preparing to gradually ease lockdown measures placed to contain the spread of COVID-19 as positive signs have been seen, while the World Health Organization (WHO) has forecast more cases and deaths in Africa if mitigation measures fail.

CAUTIOUS EASING IN EUROPE

Western Europe has seen a decrease in daily infections in the last four weeks, Hans Kluge, WHO regional director for Europe, said Thursday. "Slowly but surely, we are seeing positive signs."

Kluge (pictured) also confirmed that 32 of 43 countries across the European region, which had implemented partial or full domestic movement restrictions, were moving to carefully ease some of the measures. France would

start to ease restrictions from May 11 through "a very gradual process," which would stretch over several weeks at least to avoid a resurgence of COVID-19, French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said Thursday, adding that the exit would be differentiated among regions.

This week, about 1 million children and 130,000 teachers will return to school. Some 400,000 companies will resume business. Libraries and small museums may reopen while access to beaches could be allowed at the request of mayors.

Under the new rules, France maintains restrictions on public gatherings of over 10 people and keeps borders closed until further notice. Mask-wearing will be mandatory on public transport. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Thursday announced a plan for the second phase of reopening in the country.



World Health Organization regional director for Europe, Hans Kluge, speaking at a press conference.

According to the plan, restaurants, retail shops and malls are allowed to reopen from May 11. Some schools, libraries and religious communities will gradually reopen from May 18.

In Britain, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said Thursday that Prime Minister Boris Johnson will announce a roadmap to ease the country's lockdown measures.

Changes in lockdown measures will be "modest, small, incremental and very carefully

monitored," Raab said, stressing the need to maintain social distancing in the coming weeks.

Greece is also gradually returning to normalcy. After the national lockdown was eased earlier this week, more shops, restaurants, open-air cinemas and museums are scheduled to open in May and June, Greek Culture and Sports Minister Lina Mendoni said Thursday.

In Spain, nearly all 17 autonomous regions have asked the government to allow them to advance on May 11 to the second phase of the country's four-stage plan to ease coronavirus restrictions.

The second phase will see bars allowed to open their terraces at 50 percent capacity, while social gatherings of up to 10 people will be allowed and small shops permitted to open at 30 percent of capacity.

WHO Europe said that the European region, with a total of 1.6 million cases and almost

150,000 deaths, accounts for 45 percent of cases and 60 percent of fatalities worldwide.

The agency is also concerned over a worsening situation in the eastern part of the region as Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian, Ukraine, and Tajikistan have seen increases in new cases over the past week.

CONTINUED SURGE IN AFRICA

The African continent is on the spot as COVID-19 cases surged 50,000. According to the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention, caseload across Africa has reached 51,698 as of Thursday morning.

The WHO on Thursday said that between 83,000 to 190,000 people in Africa could die of COVID-19 while an additional 29 million to 44 million are likely to contract the disease if containment measures fail to work. "While COVID-19 likely won't spread exponen-

tially in Africa as it has done elsewhere in the world, it likely will smolder transmission hotspots," said Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa.

Moeti said that robust mitigation measures are key to averting widespread transmission of the disease that could overwhelm already fragile health systems in Africa.

Since the first case was reported on Feb. 14 in Egypt, the disease has so far affected 53 states except for Lesotho, the WHO African regional office noted in its latest update.

From Nigeria in the west to South Africa and Kenya in the east, COVID-19 cases are accelerating at an alarming rate as most countries engage in mass testing. The United Nations on Thursday launched an updated COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan that requires 6.69 billion U.S. dollars to help fragile countries cope with the pandemic. Xinhua

Coronavirus exposure: Top US health officials self-quarantine

By Bloomberg

THE heads of the US Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are entering quarantine after coming into contact with someone who tested positive for the coronavirus.

FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn (pictured) told staff about his self-quarantine plans in a note on Friday, according to an emailed statement from the agency. CDC Director Robert Redfield, 68, will also go into quarantine, and will telework for two weeks.

The pair are members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force. Both are among Trump administration officials scheduled to testify to a Senate hearing on Tuesday.

One of the highest-profile task force members, Anthony Fauci, will not quarantine, said a spokesperson for the National Institute of Allergy



and Infectious Diseases, where Fauci is the director. Fauci, 79, had minimal exposure to a known infected person, the spokesperson said. He's tested negative for Covid-19 and will continue to be tested regularly.

He later told CNN that he's doing a "modified quarantine," where he will primarily work from home and wear a mask continually for 14 days. If he's called to the White House or Capitol Hill, he will take every precaution on those trips, CNN reported.

The FDA didn't identify the infected person with whom Hahn, 60, had come into contact, but his Covid-19 exposure comes as several aides working in the White House recently have tested positive for the virus. The Washington Post reported that Redfield's exposure came at the White House on Wednesday.

Vice President Mike Pence's press secretary, Katie Miller, tested positive for coronavirus on Friday. Miller is the primary spokeswoman for the task force.

Miller's diagnosis followed a positive test result earlier in the week for a member of the military who works as a valet to President Donald Trump. Miller is married to one of Trump's closest aides, Stephen Miller.

Separately, Ivanka Trump's personal assistant also has tested positive for Covid-19, according to a person familiar with the matter who asked not to be named discussing a private health situation. That aide doesn't work on the White House campus.

Hahn, an oncologist, has led the FDA since December. The FDA has been playing a central role in the federal government's response to Covid-19, which has claimed more than 78,000 American lives so far.

The most recent publicly-disclosed meeting of the White House task force was Thursday. Pence, who leads the group, traveled to Iowa on Friday for a round-table discussion on the US food supply chain.

Agencies

Russian government approves support measures for systemic companies

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S government has approved the list of support measures for systemic enterprises and the order of their provision, according to a statement released on the website of the cabinet of ministers yesterday.

"Systemic organizations affected by the coronavirus aftermath will be able to receive state support. The list of measures and order of their provision have been approved by the government's decree," the statement said.

Currently the list of systemic companies contains 1,151 enterprises. Each of them can apply for a loan at a subsidized rate.

Additional aid will be provided to particularly affected companies, including reimbursement subsidies, tax and advance payments postpone-

ment, as well as state guarantees required for restructuring of existing or provision of new loans and bonded debts, according to the statement.

"Organizations should pass stress testing to receive aid. Applications of those of them who were found in the risk zone following the test, should be verified and considered at the meetings of the Cross-agency commission and Governmental commission on raising sustainability of development of the Russian economy," the statement noted.

Moreover, Russia's Economic Development Ministry has been tasked with approving the order of conducting financial sustainability assessment (stress testing) of systemic companies applying for state support measures in 2020 by May 15, 2020.

The ministry should also greenlight the order of considering applications of systemic organizations on providing state support measures and the order of analyzing their financial and economic activities required for defining the amounts and terms of provision of state support measures in accordance with approved rules.

Organizations should pass stress testing to receive aid. Applications of those of them who were found in the risk zone following the test,

Chinese enterprises show sound momentum in work resumption

CHINA'S tax and fee cuts totaled 742.8 billion yuan (about \$105 billion) in the first quarter this year, according to a recent press conference held by the country's top tax watchdog briefing the country's tax reduction progress and improvement of tax services.

Data released by the State Taxation Administration (STA) indicated that the preferential tax and fee measures unveiled in 2020 to support economic development and the containment of the COVID-19 epidemic cut a total of 318.2 billion yuan, while another 424.6 billion yuan were reduced as a result of the

implementation of a larger scale of tax and fee cut policies rolled out since last year.

Cai Zili, director of the revenue planning and accounting department of the STA, said China also introduced taxation policies such as expanding automobile consumption, continuing inclusive finance and preferential tax under the Western Development strategy, as well as various measures to help market players, especially micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, overcome difficulties.

Tax and fee reduction has brought rapid effects and accel-

erated the resumption of work and production, said Gong Huiwen, a researcher with the tax science and research institute under the STA.

The country rolled out 23 preferential tax and fee policies in five batches, which offered strong support for epidemic control, as well as economic and social development, Gong added.

The tax and fee reduction policies, together with the shrunk tax base in the epidemic, brought down China's tax revenue (after deducting export tax rebates) by 16.4 percent from a year ago to 3.48 trillion

yuan.

The tax revenue drop was expected to significantly narrow in the second quarter, as China's economic and social development gradually returns to normal in regular epidemic prevention and control, and the resumption of life and production was accelerating, Cai said.

Big data was employed by the STA to monitor enterprises' resumption of production and sales based on their daily performance.

Statistics revealed that Chinese companies' sales revenue recovered to 95 percent around this same time a year ago, and

the figure was rising week by week since Feb. 20, when the pandemic eased and work resumed.

From Feb. 10 to 14, Chinese enterprises recovered 20 percent of their revenue from a year ago, and further improved the percentage to 62.2 and 82.3 at the end of February and March. The figure hit 94.8 percent last week.

The manufacturing sector saw a relatively rapid resumption of production and sales, with nearly half of the companies performing even better compared to this period last year. Their sales revenue reached

99.1 percent compared to this period in 2019, 21.8 percentage points higher from March, and 4.3 percentage points higher than the overall level. Among the sector's 31 categories, 15 have fully recovered their sales revenue last year.

The sales revenue of China's high-tech industries stood at 102.6 percent of the comparable income from last year, while those of new businesses, such as civil telecommunication services, internet services and digital cultural services accounted for 138 percent, 116 percent and 105 percent compared to this period in 2019, respectively.

Besides, China's transportation and logistics generally returned to normal. Sales revenue in the sector amounted to 96.6 percent of last year's comparable income, among which postal and express delivery, water transportation and warehousing reached 122.5 percent, 106.6 percent and 101 percent, respectively.

Sales revenue of the road freight transport sector, which accounts for nearly 50 percent of the country's transport industry, amounted to 98.7 percent of that of comparable period last year.

People's Daily



Vanessa Bryant

Vanessa Bryant files claim over crash-site photos

LOS ANGELES

VANESSA Bryant filed a claim against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, contending deputies shared unauthorized photos of the site where her husband and daughter died in a helicopter crash in January.

The claim, which is a precursor to a lawsuit, was filed Friday, the Los Angeles Times reported. Retired Los Angeles Lakers great Kobe Bryant and the couple's 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, were killed along with seven others in the Jan. 26 crash.

In the claim, Vanessa Bryant contends that Sheriff Alex Villanueva "personally assured her" that the family's privacy would be protected as it related to the crash site in Calabasas, Calif. Her husband and daughter were part of a group traveling to a youth basketball tournament via helicopter.

"In reality, however, no fewer than eight sheriff's deputies were at the scene snapping cell-phone photos of the dead children, parents, and coaches," according to the claim, the Times reported. "As the department would later admit, there was no investigative purpose for deputies to take pictures at the crash site. Rather, the deputies took photos for their own personal purposes."

In February, the Times reported that

graphic photos of the crash scene were shared by deputies. Villanueva later acknowledged that he ordered the eight people to delete the pictures.

"We've communicated in no uncertain terms that the behavior is inexcusable. I mean, people are grieving for the loss of their loved ones. To have that on top of what they've already gone through is unconscionable. And, to think any member of our department would be involved in that."

Among those who had the photos was a trainee deputy, who reportedly was overheard at a bar discussing the pictures. Villanueva said that led to the sheriff department's knowledge of the photos' existence.

"Mrs. Bryant was distressed to learn that the department did not initiate a formal investigation until after the L.A. Times broke the story," according to the claim.

Her claim alleges that those who took and shared the photo invaded her right to privacy, caused emotional distress and are liable for negligence.

Vanessa Bryant also filed a wrongful death suit in Los Angeles in February, with the owner and operator of the aircraft and the pilot listed as defendants. Ara Zobayan flew the helicopter and perished in the accident.

REUTERS

ATP tour chief not ruling out 2020 return

MUMBAI

DESPITE the growing possibility of a total wipeout of professional tennis this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, ATP Tour chief Andrea Gaudenzi is refusing to give up on 2020 just yet.

The tennis season was suspended in early March due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and the hiatus will continue at least until mid-July with many countries in lockdown to contain the virus.

Wimbledon has been cancelled and the French Open postponed from its usual May start to September, while the status of the U.S. Open, scheduled to take place in late August, is still unclear.

Many people, including 19-times Grand Slam winner Rafa Nadal, have voiced doubts about whether the sport can return in 2020 because players would need to travel around the world to compete in tournaments.

"It would be unwise to call it quits now," Gaudenzi told Reuters. "Nobody knows what will happen, we want to keep an optimistic overview."

"Obviously, there could be a subset of options, which is playing with closed gates or deciding how to deal with travel restrictions. But we have not made these decisions so far because they are all hypothetical scenarios."

The ATP is working on a time frame of six to eight weeks to decide on tournaments.

"We have set a deadline of May 15 for the tournaments in July, post Wimbledon," said the Italian, who reached a career-high singles ranking of 18. "And June 1 for the tournaments in August."

"So we are, in principle, dealing it on 1

would say six to eight weeks in advance in time for making a decision. Longer than that, it would be foolish to make decisions in my opinion."

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) is in charge of the U.S. Open, scheduled to run from Aug. 31-Sept. 13 on the hardcourts of New York.

"Their announcement might be a little bit later, we don't know," Gaudenzi said. "Once we get to the beginning of June, we will probably know more about the U.S. summer."

While professional soccer leagues around Europe are gearing up for a return to action, international travel restrictions make it tougher for tennis to restart.

"You can have an estimate that it's going to be fairly difficult and unlikely that all these countries will align to one single policy relating to travel restrictions," Gaudenzi said.

"Australia today for example is probably in a completely different phase than the United Kingdom. You look at Sweden, they have taken a completely different approach. So we could play a tournament in Sweden probably today. But can we travel 100 players to Sweden today? No. So that's the challenge."

GREAT EFFORT
The ATP and the WTA, which runs the women's circuit, recently joined forces with the International Tennis Federation and the boards of the four Grand Slam tournaments to raise over \$6 million to help lower-level players affected by the shutdown.

REUTERS

Changing patterns of singing in Bongo entertainment

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

WITH the gradual decline of solo talking in a hyperactive manner on stage, as this kind of shouting music depended excessively on quasi-teenage audiences, a changing pattern of dance music is being noticed in airwaves in the city of Dar es Salaam. One part of dance music has remained traditional but anchored increasingly in sound arrangement as commerce, thus taking up a blues kind of environment, despite being traditional. The most notable shift in this aspect is taarab, which has become rhythmic by privileging the piano, instead of traditional instruments.

Thinking about the way modern taarab is being arranged professionally one is reminded the case of Mzee Yusuf, a veteran name in that field who opted to quit the stage, despite that he still had years of entertainment eligibility ahead of him. Both on the side of taarab professionals in the Isles as well as on the Mainland early retirement isn't usually favored, and the same is true of dance music, that one practices the profession for as long as he can perform. There were stories of sentimental shenanigans in relation to his quitting the stage but they weren't of much import.

What could be noticed in some of the last songs, or say final album, was a sound innovation of prolonged endings of a chorus, such that it becomes a special chorus of its own. Still it was quite different from the routine rhythms of his lady colleagues as they aren't shy of singing in a directly rhythmic manner



Mzee Yusuf

in like manner as a choir song. That may have formed part of the pressure for Mzee Yusuf both to innovate and then perhaps opting to quit, as the kind of thrust his special chorus was instituting was unlikely to be followed in each song, despite what he felt.

While the matter has never been brought up to the wider public, those who are familiar with his Swahili poetry declined as a mass art will have a grasp of the issue, that upper class language stakeholders in the coastal areas and even in state bureaucracy don't like the choir patterns. In the late 1960s when poems of writers like Shaaban Robert, Mathias Mnyampala and K.H.A. Akilimali 'Snow-White' were being sung in schools and over the radio. All of a sudden an innovation crept up which ended the fluid singing and substituted a coast-like twisted groan.

Choir-like singing of poems has

singing, the poems were simply forgotten in schools and on radio. One would hear such poems over Radio Tanzania and it would appear that those who had altered the cultural mood of singing the poems expected to popularize the new mood, but to no avail. Taarab music began in those moorings of a deep set culture where cultural aspiration of coastal people was to their Arab overlords of yesteryears, etc.

Were it up to the traditional Swahili upper classes to decide, the piano would be removed totally from modern taarab singing, to retain things like the flute, and even then use it a bit carefully, so that the choir pattern doesn't come out. That is why innovations by Mzee Yusuf were both an elation and somewhat intriguing as they brought out clearly the kind of twists and prolonging of a certain kind of yearning or sentiment, whereas there was a hidden intent. It was to dampen a little of the traditional choir aspect that now dominates taarab singing, and it pleases the crowds.

Taarab like some aspects of traditional dance music which is also under the influence of modern composes and music arrangers, has remained traditional in its exhaustive singing pattern. It is as if someone was emptying her heart in terms of her feelings especially to sentimental rivals in the streets who wish that something nasty happens to that person, and taarab music is about this ill will being doomed to fail. Extensive explanation is an illustration that the number is firstly the work of the concerned artiste, while producers when they have the upper hand, take up minimal singing and structure instruments in that inclination. The rhythm then dominates, not the singing.

Instead of changing Swahili poems to be sung with the twisted groan that can only be understood by those who speak Arabic and have an inclination to its forms of

Jagger, Dylan, Quincy Jones react to death of Little Richard

NEW YORK

REACTION to the death of rock 'n' roll pioneer Little Richard, who died Saturday at 87.

"I'm so saddened to hear about the passing of Little Richard, he was the biggest inspiration of my early teens and his music still has the same raw electric energy when you play it now as it did when it first shot through the music scene in the mid 50's," Mick Jagger wrote on social media. "When we were on tour with him I would watch his moves every night and learn from him how to entertain and involve the audience and he was always so generous with advice to me. He contributed so much to popular music. I will miss you Richard, God bless."

"Absolutely heartbroken this morning at hearing the news of the passing of my brother & friend, the great Little Richard. From our connection through our mutual mentor, Bumps Blackwell, to recording 'Money Is' & 'Do It To It' for the \$ soundtrack, to doin' the hang-thang at countless awards shows & industry events, every moment spent in Richard's company was a thrill," Quincy Jones wrote on social media. "An innovator whose influence spans America's musical diaspora from Gospel, the Blues & R&B, to Rock & Roll, & Hip-Hop, there will never, ever, ever, be another Little Richard... God Bless you Richard... May your soul Rest In Peace."

"I just heard the news about Little Richard and I'm so grieved. He was my shining star and guiding light back when I was only a little boy. His was the original spirit that moved me to do everything I would do," Bob Dylan



FILE PHOTO: Entertainer Little Richard performs at the Crossroad festival in Gijón, northern Spain, July 23, 2005. REUTERS

tweeted. "In his presence he was always the same Little Richard that I first heard and was awed by growing up and I always was the same little boy. Of course he'll live forever. But it's like a part of your life is gone."

"With his exuberance, his creativity, and his refusal to be anything other than himself, Little Richard laid the foundation for generations of artists to follow. We are so lucky to have had him. Sending all my love to his family and friends today," Michelle Obama tweeted.

"It is with a heavy heart that I ask for prayers for the family of my lifelong friend and fellow Rocker 'Little Richard.' He will live on always in my heart with his amazing talent and his friendship! He was one of a kind and I will miss him dearly. God Bless his family and fans. Rest In Peace, my friend. Love Eternally," Jerry Lee Lewis said in an emailed statement.

"Without a doubt - musically, vocally and visually - he was my biggest influence. Seeing him live in my teens was the most exciting event in my life at that point. Goosebumps, electricity and joy came from every pore. His records still sound fresh and the opening

few seconds of "Tutti Frutti" are the most explosive in music history," Elton John wrote on social media. "I was lucky enough to work with him for my 'Duets' album in 1993. He was shy and funny and I was SO nervous. The track we recorded 'The Power' is a favourite in my catalogue. We also played live at the Beverly Hilton and I felt like I'd died and gone to heaven. He influenced so many and is irreplaceable. A true legend, icon and a force of nature. #RIP Little Richard."

"God bless little Richard one of my all-time musical heroes. Peace and love to all his family," Ringo Starr tweeted.

"So sad to hear that my old friend Little Richard has passed. There will never be another!!! He was the true spirit of Rock'n Roll!" Keith Richards tweeted.

"Rest In Peace To One Of The True Creators Of Rock And Roll. This Is The Commercial I Directed With Little Richard And Michael Jordan, 1991," Oscar winner Spike Lee tweeted.

band at the Newport Lounge in Miami and boy were they good."

"#LittleRichard was a genius, pure and simple. He paved the way for (code for he was ripped off by) so many artists. Watch his YouTube performances to see what I mean. I met him on 'Down and Out in Beverly Hills', in which he was hilarious. What a legacy. God bless you, Richard," Bette Midler tweeted.

"Love you Little Richard," Bruno Mars posted to social media.

"#LittleRichard Rest in peace and power," Carole King tweeted.

"Little Richard was one of the original rock 'n' rollers-- He was THE ORIGINAL GLAM ROCKER, and he took a lot of abuse for being in the first wave. He forged a path for all of us who followed," Joan Jett tweeted.

"The loss of a true giant. My sincerest condolences go out to his family and friends," Nile Rodgers tweeted.

"MESSAGE FROM IGGY: „Dear Little Richard, thank you, RIP," Iggy Pop tweeted.

"The King Of Rock And Roll. Zero Questions. Journalists Do Your Job. Not ARCHITECT not PIONEER, not HITMAKER. This man was literally THE BLUE-PRINT of all the world took from. LITTLE RICHARD IS THE TRUE KING. LONG LIVE THE KING," Questlove wrote on Instagram.

"I'm very sorry to hear about Little Richard. He was there at the beginning and showed us all how to rock and roll. He was a such a great talent and will be missed. Little Richard's music will last forever. Love & Mercy," Brian Wilson tweeted.

AP

ADVERTISING



Jordan Henderson was nearly sold after one disappointing season with Liverpool, now he's about to add a Premier League title to last year's UCL crown. (Agencies)

How Jordan Henderson became Liverpool's most important player

BY NICK MILLER/ESPN.COM WRITER

JORDAN Henderson's Liverpool career was over. It was the summer of 2012, and a swap deal with Fulham for Clint Dempsey had been lined up. Liverpool prepared to cut their losses on the player they had signed from Sunderland for around £16 million only a year before. Brendan Rodgers had just been appointed to replace Kenny Dalglish, and his mind was made up. Henderson was out.

Henderson said no. There was no meek acquiescence, no admission that this meant his still-nascent Liverpool career had failed. He just said no. He had only just turned 22, and he later admitted that he shed a tear at what amounted to immediate rejection by Rodgers. And the more people you speak to who have known Henderson for years, the more you realise this was entirely in character.

"A lot of people would've just accepted it," former Ireland midfielder David Meyler, who came through at Sunderland at the same time as Henderson and knows him better than most, told ESPN. "Oh, the club doesn't want me, I'm off to Fulham." But he said, no, you know what, I'm gonna stay here. I'll prove you wrong." Under three years later, with Rodgers still in charge at Anfield, his mind emphatically changed, Henderson replaced the retiring Steven Gerrard as Liverpool captain.

It seems strange now to think back to then, when Henderson was chucked in the same rejects bucket as Stewart Downing, Charlie Adam and Andy Carroll, as another of the expensive mistakes Liverpool made in the transfer market at the start of the 2010s. Henderson was almost a punchline, a byword for wasted money; over 350 appearances later and after lifting the Champions League trophy and the Club World Cup, with the Premier League presumably to be added at some point, he has proved an absolute bargain.

Back then, in his younger days, there was a puppyish quality to Henderson, a midfielder who resembled a Labrador who would run around relentlessly and retrieve things, but not really do anything with any sort of subtlety. It was easy therefore to dismiss him, easy to pick up on any perceived flaw as a reason to write him off. Sir Alex Ferguson's rather weird comment that Henderson had a suspect gait, that he "ran from his knees with a straight back, while the modern footballer runs from his hips" is one that stuck for a while, and almost felt like an academic citing for anyone who didn't rate Henderson: "Fergie thinks he's no good, so it must be true."

But even when he was barely out of his teens, there was something slightly different about Henderson. "We might have to report for training at 9 o'clock," Meyler said of their days as youngsters at Sunderland. "He's in at 8, doing work in the gym. After training, he's doing work outside, working on his passing. All that kind of stuff, he did it."

"I remember when we were 18 or 19, we would play a reserve game before we broke into the first team. If we won, the whole team would go out, but Jordan wouldn't. Jordan's never drunk. He always had that desire, dedication, commitment to be successful. He made the sacrifices young."

Dedication to training and abstinence from alcohol is all well and

good, but you wouldn't exactly call it special -- a slightly heightened level of professionalism perhaps, but not exceptional. But Henderson did still have something that others didn't. Something a little more intangible, but still obvious.

"We've got a saying in France," Damien Comolli, the former Liverpool director of football who signed Henderson, told ESPN. "We say, 'Every part of his body was sweating leadership.'" Liverpool were first attracted to Henderson because their analytics suggested he was worth pursuing, but it was only after meeting him that Comolli became convinced that they had to have him. Comolli had an immovable, maximum budget of £15 million for Henderson, and not a penny more. He paid £16.75 million.

Comolli recalled being impressed with an anecdote told to him by the people at Sunderland, about the time Henderson was dissatisfied with a free kick he took against their local rivals Newcastle. The next day in training he took over 300 dead balls, driven by an almost manic obsession with self-improvement.

"We talk a lot about extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation," Comolli said. "He's somebody who has got where he's got because his intrinsic motivation is off the charts. When I met him, that's what came across the most. This sheer desire to succeed, to improve every day, refusing to lose, refusing to give up an inch."

"I was convinced at the time that he hated losing more than he liked to win. I think the way he plays now, it shows -- he walks onto the pitch thinking, 'You're not going to beat me today.'"

Comolli had left the club by the time Liverpool had decided Henderson was no longer for them. Indeed, he has said it was partly because the club's hierarchy blamed him for overspending on Henderson that he was dismissed, but while Comolli might have made mistakes at Anfield, Henderson wasn't among them.

"I think I called his agent and said, 'What the hell are they doing here?'" Comolli said of when the Fulham deal was in the air. "I was laughing at what I was hearing, that they were trying to sell him. I thought this is another Gareth Bale, when Harry Redknapp tried to sell him to Nottingham Forest."

Now Henderson is the captain of the champions-elect, and if any individual awards are handed out, he will be in pole position -- as arguably the most important player in the most dominant team in Premier League history -- to receive plenty of them. When his role as the coordinator of a Premier League-wide effort among players to donate money to medical professionals dealing with the coronavirus crisis was mentioned to Meyler and Comolli, both barely reacted. Not because they don't think it's a noble cause, but because it's so utterly unsurprising that Henderson was at the heart of it that it's barely worth remarking upon. All of this, they said, was clear all of those years ago.

Back then, you could look at this bundle of barely finessed energy and dismiss him as merely a willing runner, not someone to really take too much notice of. But a few people looked closer, and those who knew him best always thought he was the real thing. They were right.

Why Chelsea's Willian, a club leader under Lampard, could end up at Arsenal or Spurs

LONDON

NOT many players achieve cult status before a ball has been kicked, especially not a 25-year-old Brazilian winger arriving in England with a modest reputation after spells with Anzhi Makhachkala in Russia and Shakhtar Donetsk in Ukraine. But when Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich attempted to hijack Spurs' £30 million deadline-day transfer in 2013, Willian fast-tracked his name into folklore by becoming a willing accomplice.

Tottenham thought they had their man. Willian had agreed terms and undergone a medical, only for Chelsea to declare their hand. He spent eight hours in total at Spurs Lodge before eventually being released to move across the capital, earning him instant affection among gleeful Blues fans.

The soundtrack to a journey comprising more than 300 appearances and five major trophies was defined from the outset, a chant reveling in how "the s---s from Spurs, they bought his flight, but Willian, he saw the light." Renditions have been a near-weekly occurrence during his seven years at the club.

Yet circumstances are now conspiring to deliver the ultimate irony: Willian's time at Chelsea ending with him joining a London rival. The 31-year-old is out of contract on June 30, with Arsenal and Tottenham among several clubs eyeing a bargain in what will be a depressed summer transfer market as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

With Willian returning to England this week, following compassionate leave, and Premier League clubs gearing up to restart group training, the veteran playmaker faces the curious prospect of trying to secure a Champions League spot for a club he will not be contracted to -- at the expense of another club he could soon join. How did it come to this?

Frank Lampard recognized a kindred spirit in Willian as a player. Lampard's final season in Chelsea blue was Willian's first, the 2013-14 campaign in which they lined up together 26 times. As teammates, Lampard saw reflections of himself in Willian's work-ethic and professionalism -- characteristics he would inevitably value when returning to manage the Blues last summer.

Only a hamstring injury curtailed Willian's involvement in the formative weeks of Lampard's tenure as manager, which began at the start of the 2019-20 season. Willian missed the first five matches, including Chelsea's UEFA Super Cup defeat to Liverpool, before he quickly established himself as a mainstay of a team progressing well at home and abroad. Between Sept. 1 and Feb. 1, Willian started 25 of a possible 26 matches in the Premier League and Champions League.

"I think our style of play has helped me, but not only that, the freedom the manager gives to us is important as well," Willian said in October. "I don't have to stay on the right side. I can move around, I can move between the lines, I can move to the left side as well. I feel good playing in this way, and that's why I have been playing better and better. I hope to continue like this."

Yet the elephant in the room remained. It's not uncommon for players in the final year of their contracts to avoid postmatch interviews for fear of bringing a private negotiation into the public domain, even if that can sometimes prove beneficial by applying pressure to the other party. In stark contrast -- refreshingly so for those of us asking the questions -- Willian has provided something approximating a running commentary on talks about his future, and every time he does, Lampard is asked for his response.

"That's up to the club to do," Lampard said on one such occasion in November. "But everyone sees how much I'm relying on him and picking him, and in what he is producing, I love him at this football club. So there's my answer."

Lampard is not directly involved in contract negotiations, with Chelsea



Willian and Lampard were teammates when the Brazilian first arrived at Chelsea, and their rapport is still strong. Yet the club is hesitant to give the 31-year-old a long-term deal, given their policy of offering only one-year contracts to players over 30. (Agencies)

club director Marina Granovskaia running that aspect of operations, but the different viewpoints held in the manager's office and the boardroom are palpable. Willian turns 32 in August but is in excellent physical condition. A diligent professional and versatile on either flank, he was one of Chelsea's most consistent performers under Lampard prior to a downturn in form shortly before the coronavirus disrupted the season.

Despite supporters continuing to revel in that chant -- a particularly satisfying airing came when Willian struck twice in a 2-0 win at Tottenham just before Christmas -- but fans, like the club itself, are somewhat divided over whether he is worth the three-year extension he is seeking. The club are certainly not convinced.

Chelsea operate on a strict policy of offering only one-year deals to players over the age of 30. They eventually buckled by doubling the length in re-signing defender David Luiz in May 2019, only for Lampard to jettison him in the summer. Willian has been offered a two-year deal, which he confirmed in February after Chelsea were outclassed by Bayern Munich in the Champions League last 16, first leg tie at Stamford Bridge.

"Chelsea offered me two years, and they are not going to change what they offered," Willian told Esporote Interativo after Chelsea's defeat by Bayern Munich. "I said I wanted three more years. The situation is difficult because of this. I really don't know if it will be possible."

Lampard vowed in response that it is "an ongoing situation -- it is not over." Yet last month, Willian stated in another interview, this time with Expediente Futbol, "We're not talking anymore. There won't be a negotiation."

Sources close to the talks told ESPN that Lampard enlisted the help of technical director Petr Cech, the club's legendary former goalkeeper and another of Willian's former teammates, to help break the deadlock, but all to no avail. Chelsea, for their part, believe they have offered a fair compromise.

Football's return is shrouded in uncertainty, but assuming a resumption is realised in some form, Willian will be one of the roughly 57 players asked to complete the season despite being technically out of contract on June 30. The season will certainly run into July

and perhaps August, with many in the game concerned about the conflicts of interest this could raise.

Alan Pardew, who left his role as manager of ADO Den Haag after the Dutch Eredivisie was cancelled last month, said April 30: "The motivation of players who are out of contract on June 30 would be a problem, especially if they have agreed a contract with a new team. They will tell managers that they do not want to put themselves at risk."

Other Chelsea players, Pedro and Olivier Giroud, also rank among the 57, though the former is waiting for talks to determine his future and is indifferent to staying, and the latter could yet sign a one-year extension after failing to secure a move in January.

Willian has never agitated for a move or asked for an increase on his £120,000-per-week wage. He has remained respectful of Chelsea at all times, if dogmatic in his stance toward contracts. "If I had to play on those dates, in these months, I think it would be no problem for me to end the league in a way which would be loyal to the club, as they always were with me," he said in March. Yet a caveat that might worry Chelsea supporters has crept into his rhetoric.

Value will be at a premium in whatever transfer market exists once the coronavirus restrictions ease, and some of Willian's experience will be in higher demand than usual. Barcelona have long been linked with a move, but intriguingly, Arsenal and Tottenham have emerged as suitors, with intermediaries believed to have told both clubs that a deal could be possible if they do what Chelsea won't and offer him a three-year deal on £120,000-per-week. Willian said as much last weekend. "If I leave Chelsea with no trouble and leaving the doors open, it would be fine to move to a rival club," he told YouTube channel Desimpedidos.

Willian is settled in London with his wife and two children. He co-owns a restaurant called Babbo with Luiz in the capital, and he has spoken of his fondness for the city's shopping and taking walks in Hyde Park. He has applied for a British passport. He recently set up an online course to help aspiring young footballers deal with the mental challenges the game poses. In what could readily be interpreted as a charm offensive move, Lampard voluntarily

attended and even spoke at the launch.

Even so, outside influences abound. Tottenham head coach Jose Mourinho was Chelsea manager when Willian joined the Blues, and pickpocketing his former employers would tickle his Machiavellian streak. Arsenal's technical director Edu also has a preexisting relationship with Willian from his time working with the Brazil national team. Both clubs will operate with limited budgets and could easily view Willian as the sort of reliable option they should seriously consider in the post-coronavirus world. Champions League qualification will impact all three clubs in their ability to attract players and compete in the market, making Willian's pursuit of a top-four finish at Chelsea a potentially conflicted endeavour.

Revised thinking could be necessary at Stamford Bridge, too. The prospect of their late acquiescence to a three-year deal might be more palatable and, in a sense, serve as a more straightforward mode of squad strengthening. Chelsea have already signed Hakim Ziyech from Ajax and possess alternatives in wide areas with Callum Hudson-Odoi and Christian Pulisic, in addition to Mason Mount, who has played in a more advanced left-sided position on occasion this season. But if Pedro and Willian depart, it could leave Chelsea a little light in the creative department ahead of what all clubs recognise will be an extremely tough transfer window.

Chelsea's youngsters have made a tremendous impact this season, but experienced hands will be needed to guide them in the future. The success of winning two Premier League titles, one Europa League, one FA Cup and one League Cup yields a lot of institutional know-how to lose if Willian leaves. If he ends up joining a London rival, the crowing from across town will be in Chelsea's direction this time.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



NAVIGATOR | ALLIGATOR | INVIGILATOR

ARE YOU GUYS RELATED?

Kiemba calls for better structure in soccer

SPORT

Vanessa Bryant files claim over crash-site photos

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

FORMER Simba SC midfielder, Amri Kiemba, is adamant there ought to be a lot of football academies in Tanzania, should the country's players boost their chances of plying their trade abroad.

Kiemba pointed out the present structure in domestic soccer frustrates the players from making the most of their talent in either Europe or other parts of the world.

The veteran player disclosed domestic football coaches should hardly be blamed for failing to



Dar es Salaam's After School Soccer Centre youths showcase their skills in training at Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

properly nurture players and ultimately help them enjoy successful career outside the country.

Kiemba, who as well featured for senior national team during his heyday, was of the opinion the coaches mostly start coaching players when the latter are aged between 25 and 27.

He disclosed the players are, at the mentioned age, facing

plenty of responsibilities which are among others meeting their respective families' needs.

He disclosed there will be extremely few players from Tanzania that will make it at the professional level in Europe, should there be no efforts to set up to more academies.

"I, for instance, found out I can play professional soccer outside

the country when I was 25 years old. I was instead supposed to start planning for the move when I was much more young," he noted.

"A player should be groomed for professional career when he or she is 10 years old. We should not wait for the move when they are much older."

"It is in most cases much more

difficult for domestic players to start seeking professional stint elsewhere when they are a bit old, as they are by then facing a lot of responsibilities."

He disclosed parents in most cases do not show interest in monitoring their kids' progress in soccer, the parents will mainly get information on their children's talent from neighbours.

Kiemba noted the parents though are, later on, eager to reap rewards of their children's participation in soccer after the children had signed for well established clubs and earn good salaries.

"The players will, at that time, never think of pursuing professional career in more established countries in the game, given he is playing for either Mtibwa Sugar or other famous clubs and is paid well."

"Coaches at domestic clubs won't manage to groom the players for professional career because the players are concentrating on seeking good payment and meet families' needs."

Kiemba defended Tanzania's football coaches, insisting the tacticians start coaching players when the latter are taking care of their respective families.

He pointed out it is therefore difficult for the tacticians to mould the players into accomplished players at professional level

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
15:30 Bongo Hits
15:30 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor
And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus
It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Sri Lanka captain Karunaratne praises Arthur, eyes top-four rank

MUMBAI

SRI LANKA cricket captain Dimuth Karunaratne lauded the impact of new coach Mickey Arthur on Sunday and said his side must target a top-four spot in the world rankings for both the test and 50-over formats.

South African Mickey Arthur was appointed as Sri Lanka's head coach on a two-year contract in December.

Former first class cricketer Arthur has previously been head coach with the national teams of South Africa, Australia and Pakistan.

"Mickey is a no nonsense cool bloke with loads of experience to back him and his brand," Karunaratne told Sri Lanka Cricket.

"At the international level, planning and role clarity is a norm. What is very important is the belief he has instilled among us in his own and subtle way. It sure helped and the results always speak for itself."

Since Arthur's appointment, Sri Lanka lost a two-test series in Pakistan before defeating Zimbabwe at home. The are currently ranked fifth in the format.

The team languish at eighth in one-day internationals but managed to defeat a dangerous West Indies side 3-0 in their last series before the COVID-19 shutdown.

"Rankings is the key word. I'd say Sri Lanka needs to be in the top four of not just ODI cricket, but test cricket as well," Karunaratne, 32, said.

"That would indirectly mean semi-finalists to say the least and you are perhaps two games away from the plum. There onwards, it's anybody's guess and if you do well on your day you could end up being World Champs."

Test captain Karunaratne was himself handed an olive branch to resurrect his limited-overs career and lead the side in ODI cricket when he was brought back last year ahead of the 50-over World Cup in England for the first time since 2015.

The top-order batsman found success with the willow but was unable to lead his side into the last four of the competition.

Karunaratne is, however, positive about the future. "The boys and the respective squads are enjoying their cricket and that makes my job that much easier," he said.

"If you like what you are doing and the environment to do so is conducive, the balance at this level of sport becomes that much more beneficial."

REUTERS

Hales sets sights on England return while in career-best form

LONDON

ALEX Hales has claimed he has "matured as a player" since his deselection from England's 2019 World Cup squad after a failed recreational drugs test, and declared that the past six months have been "the best I've played in my career" as he presses his case for an international return.

Hales has not played for England since it became public in the weeks before the World Cup that he had been serving a 21-day ban due to a second violation of the ECB's recreational drugs policy, which caused the England limited-overs captain Eoin Morgan to publicly lambast his "lack of regard" for his international teammates, citing a "complete breakdown of trust" for his omission from the World Cup squad.

This week, Morgan said that the "door is still open" for Hales, but reiterated that the crucial element would be rebuilding that trust. "I don't think you can put a time limit on gaining back that trust, and that's not just with me; that's with every member of the squad, the backroom staff, the selectors," he said.

In an interview with the Daily Mail, Hales said that he has matured in the last 12 months, but admitted



Alex Hales has not played for England since his deselection from their World Cup squad. GETTY IMAGES

it would be difficult to address his relationship with the rest of the England squad while outside the squad. Since the start of the 2019/20 Big Bash League, Hales has averaged 42.89 in 22 T20 innings for Sydney Thunder and Karachi Kings, and said that he has never played better across his career.

"Like Morgs has said, I guess time is the biggest healer," Hales said. "I just

don't know how long that is going to go on for, that's the only thing. I honestly have no idea. Obviously, I'd love to get my place back. Playing international cricket is the highlight of any player's career and I still think I've got a lot to offer, particularly in T20.

"I certainly feel I have matured, as a player and away from the game, and hopefully I'll get the chance to show that in the

group environment again. It can be tough to rebuild that trust when you are not in the close-knit circles.

"This is the best I've played in my career. My England career has been pretty good so far in T20 and that's not even playing to the best of my ability. I'd love to get that chance again. I've moved on and grown from the mistakes I've made in my private life and, hopefully, people

can forgive and forget. Hopefully, I get that chance again because I feel I'm in a good head space.

The fact that the reason behind Hales' ban was kept confidential last year led to a change in the ECB's recreational drugs policy ahead of the 2020 season, under which Hales' fine would have been doubled for his second violation, but he would not have had to miss any games. Hales' absence was explained by Nottinghamshire as a break for "personal reasons", but the trail was laid for reporters, and the reasons became public after the Guardian broke the story.

Under the new regulations, which the ECB said took into account "the important consideration of player welfare", Hales' fine would have been doubled but he would not have been banned, suggesting that the second failed test would have remained under wraps.

Hales said that his involvement in the Bristol incident and the resulting trial and Cricket Disciplinary Commission hearing "took a lot out of me mentally", and suggested that he had struggled to cope with the public spotlight surrounding the case.

"Stuff like that, you may not appreciate at the time but it took an awful

lot out of me mentally," he said. "I'm not blaming that on some of the mistakes I made off the field, but it certainly didn't help with how I felt away from the game. It was mentally exhausting. It put me in a really dark place.

"I feel on top of everything and the chapter of Bristol and its aftermath is firmly closed now. I am just looking forward to enjoying the next few years of my career and, more importantly, my life, and just see where it takes me. If you speak to any coach I've played under in the last 12 months, I feel I've matured as a player."

Hales also said that while he never managed to get tested for Covid-19, he was "pretty sure" he had contracted the virus. Hales had told Pakistan Super League officials that he had developed symptoms upon his return to the UK, which led to the tournament's semi-finals and final being postponed indefinitely.

"There was a point when it was 5am and I was lying in bed, drenched with sweat, feeling sorry for myself. But I knew deep down it wasn't enough to put me in hospital. I never managed to get a test but speaking to a couple of doctors, they were 99 per cent sure it was Covid."

AGENCIES

Flexibles by David Chikoko

