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National Pg 2
'152 million children in employment'

National Pg 3
Impact of Covid-19

National Pg 4
Songea man linked to 'suicide'

National Pg 5
Bugando to have cancer ward

Sanitisers: Sugar firm donates alcohol

By Guardian Correspondent

Kilombero Sugar Co. Ltd has donated 30,000 litres of alcohol to the government to enhance the availability of the raw material, which is a key component in the production of hand sanitisers.

The support, which the Morogoro-based firm extended at the weekend, is meant to complement the government's initiatives towards mitigating the pandemic in Tanzania.

Since the detection of the first case of Covid-19 in the country earlier this month, the demand for hand sanitisers has increased appreciably, creating greater need for the commodity and hence more demand for alcohol for production purposes among local manufacturers.

Kilombero Sugar Company has accordingly decided to donate the alcohol, which is produced from molasses - a by-product in sugar production. The alcohol, which was donated through the Industry and Trade ministry, is a relief for the availability of the raw material to local manufacturers of hand sanitisers.

Speaking of the contribution, KSC commercial director Fimbo Butallah said the company recently had an audience with the Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa.

"From him we learned that one of the major challenges facing the country during this crisis is limited availability of affordable hand sanitisers as well as increased demand for alcohol for manufacturers of the sanitisers," he said.

"From our meeting with the minister, it was established that there is immense need of alcohol for local manufacturers

From him we learned that one of the major challenges facing the country during this crisis is limited availability of affordable hand sanitisers as well as increased demand for alcohol for manufacturers of the sanitisers

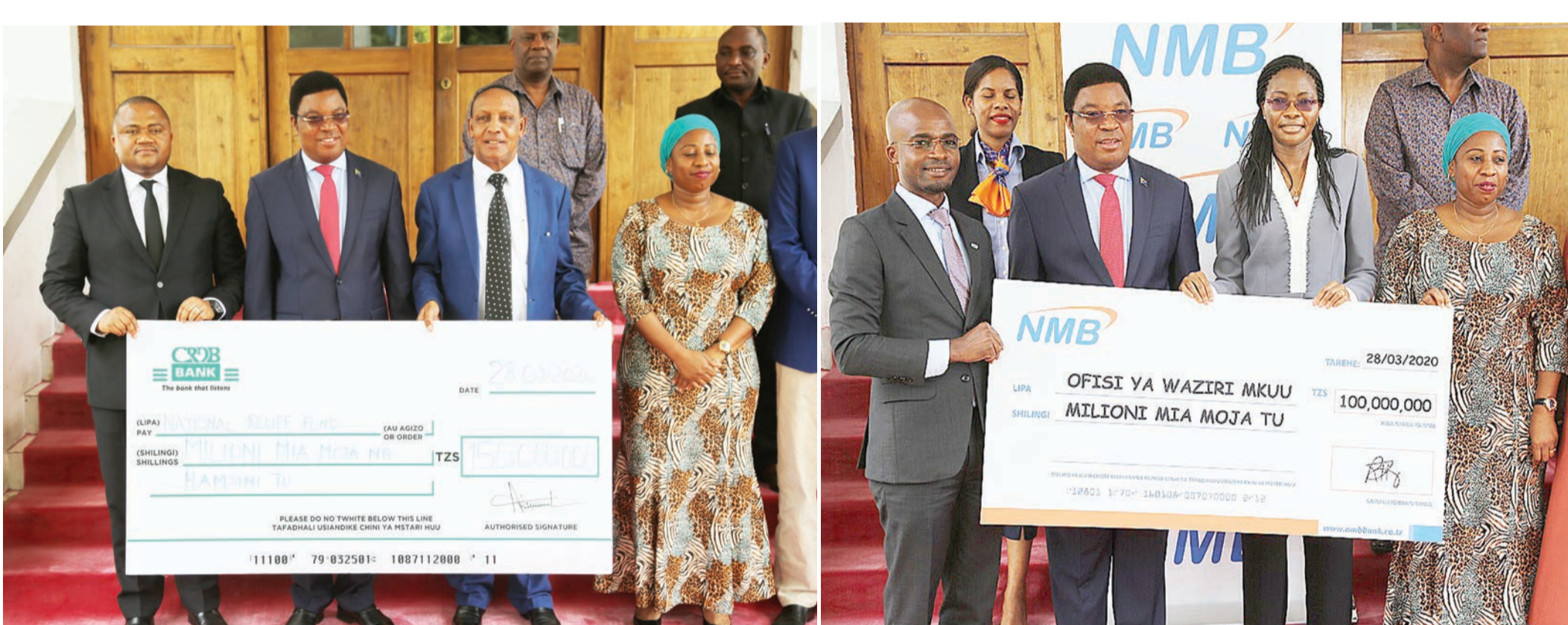
to enable them to produce the item as per the current demand and sell the sanitisers at affordable prices," he elaborated.

The director expressed hope that with KSC's contribution, manufacturers of the commodity "will be incentivised and ultimately produce enough sanitisers for the market and sell at reasonable prices."

To further cement its efforts to complement the government's initiatives towards curbing the spread of Covid-19, KSC has issued a 22 per cent discount on the price of the alcohol it sells to manufactures.

"We used to sell the alcohol to manufacturers at 1,280/- per litre but, with this discount, our alcohol will now

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LEFT: Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa receives a dummy cheque for 150 million/- from CRDB board chairman Ally Hussein Laay (2nd-R) in Dar es Salaam at the weekend in support of the war on Covid-19. With them are CRDB bank managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (L) and Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu. **RIGHT:** The prime minister similarly receives a dummy cheque for 100 million/- from NMB Bank PLC managing director Ruth Zaipuna (2nd-R) in Dar es Salaam at the weekend for the same cause. Looking on are NMB's chief of wholesale banking, Alfred Shao (L), and minister Umyy Mwalimu. Combo photo courtesy of PMO

Buses must be disinfected - DC

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

“OPERATORS of commuter and upcountry buses in Dodoma must disinfect their vehicles or risk revocation of their licences, the government has warned.

They must also have hand sanitizers to be used by all passengers before embarking, whether for long distance journeys upcountry or commuting within the capital, District Commissioner Patrobas Katambi has directed.

DC Katambi told this paper at the weekend that the decision has been made as a containment measure in the wake of several cases of coronavirus being confirmed in Dar es Sa-

“
We have decided to make hand washing habit permanent to fight other infectious diseases such as cholera

laam, and others in Arusha, Kagera and Zanzibar.

All commercial spots such as markets, bars and shops must have hand washing facilities during this period of taking measures against spreading the virus.

"We have decided to make

hand washing habit permanent to fight other infectious diseases such as cholera," he stated.

Tanzania now has 14 cases after Ministry of Health in Zanzibar on Saturday announced the confirmation of a third case in the Isles. Other regions with confirmed cases are Dar es Salaam (8), Arusha (2) and Kagera (1). There has been no fatality in the country and patient zero has recovered.

As of yesterday, global confirmed cases surpassed 680,000 with over 31,000 deaths and over 140,000 recoveries, on the basis of an update by the Johns Hopkins University which monitors the disease.

Spain recorded another 838 deaths in 24 hours - the highest daily rise in fatalities so far. This

brought the number of deaths in the country to 6,528. A leading adviser to the UK government, Neil Ferguson, warned the country's lockdown will need to be in place "probably until the end of May, maybe even early June."

US President Donald Trump backed away from the idea of quarantining New York after the state's governor Andrew Cuomo said the idea was "preposterous."

South Korea said all overseas arrivals will have to go into mandatory quarantine for 14 days as of 1 April.

Iran announced 123 more coronavirus deaths, raising the total number to 2,640. The number of

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Shock kills trader with market stall burned out

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TRADERS at the Samunge market in Arusha City are counting losses after their stalls and merchandise were reduced to ashes by fire on Saturday night.

The total loss occasioned was not immediately established as the fire was still raging yesterday morning, but going by the size of the popular market hundreds of millions of shiings worth of

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Alarm as charcoal stove misuse wipes out family

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

RESIDENTS of Ngilimba village in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region yesterday woke up to a threat posed by charcoal stoves after four family members died due to faulty use of the stove.

On Saturday night, the family reportedly lit the stove and closed windows and doors to warm the house since it was too cold with the heavy rains that pounded the area. None of them woke up.

Regional Police Commander ACP Debora Magiligimba (Pictured), said here yesterday that the four died of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning after toxic gas from the charcoal stove filled their



sleeping rooms.

"They wished to keep the house warm and make their sleep comfortable without knowing that gas emitted by burning charcoal would fill the house," she said.

The fatal mistake was to tightly close windows and the door, keeping out the wind, inadequate oxygen and non- exit of carbon monoxide from the burning charcoal, she said.

The deceased persons are Masanja Emmanuel (35), Mngole Masanja (25), Holo Masanja (5) and Matama Masanja whose age

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity. Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

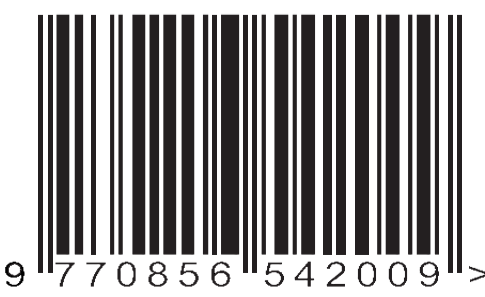
FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people. For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

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



Covid-19: Fear and information is not enough, we need young ideas

By Chris Desmond

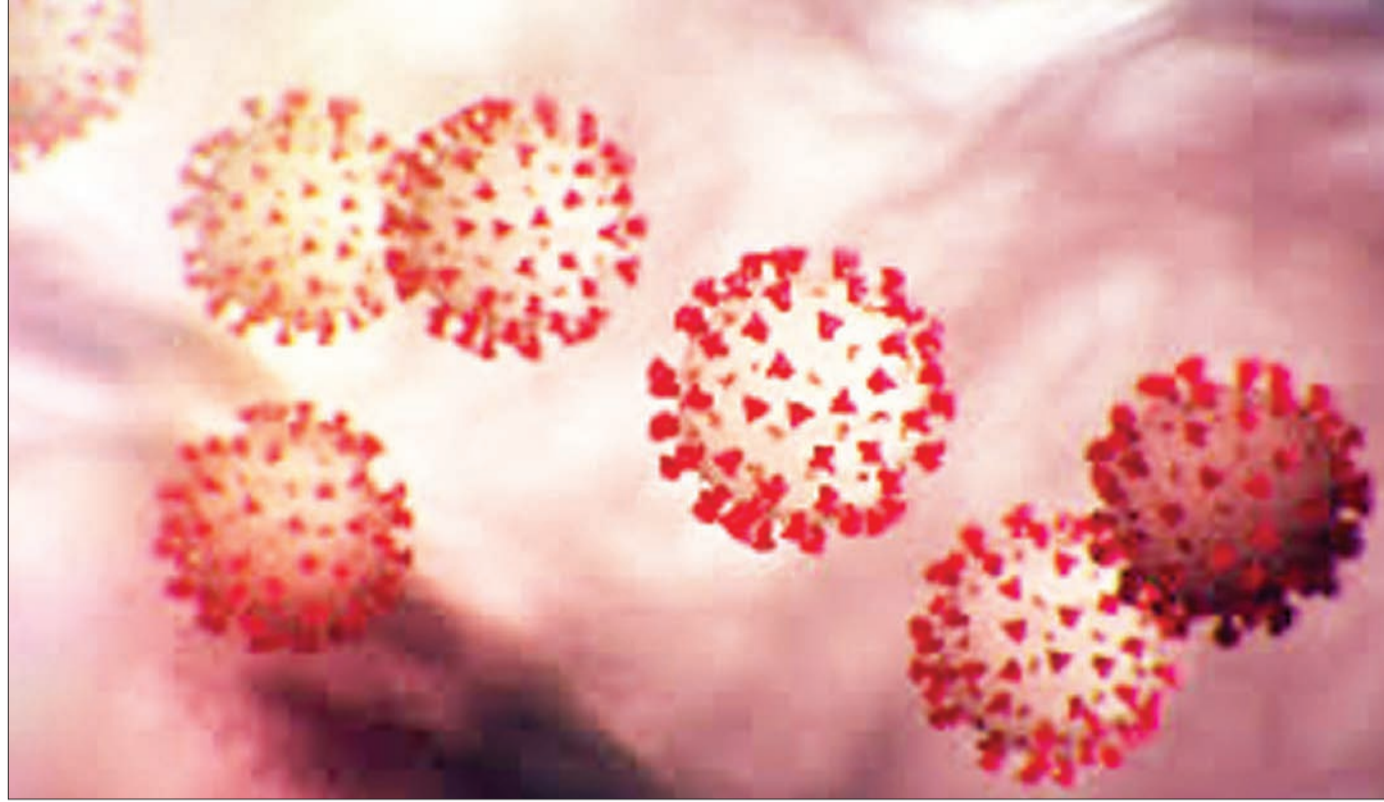
THIS is a crisis, and in times of crisis we must draw on the resources we have. The young people of South Africa are perhaps our greatest resource. There is no other group with the energy, creativity and understanding of multiple different contexts than the youth. And they are more connected and interlinked than the rest of us.

In South Africa, we have faced challenges concerning health-related behaviour change before. Not least among these challenges has been HIV. Mistakes were made in our response, but we learned from them and that learning is critical now. We learned that information is not enough, and that it is a mistake to see young people as part of the problem and not part of the solution.

HIV is relatively simple to protect against - don't have unprotected sex. Yet, despite campaign after campaign many people have continued to have unprotected sex, putting themselves at risk of HIV infection, and for some, getting infected as a result.

While for many people the provision of accurate and clear information on health risk and ways to protect against it is enough, for others it is not. Just think of all the people who continue to smoke. The interesting thing about smokers is if you ask them what the health risks of smoking are, they typically overestimate them. But if you ask them what the risks are for them, they underestimate them. They have the information but are convinced that while smoking is bad, the bad things won't happen to them!

People have an amazing capacity to deny risk. I would hazard a guess that almost everyone, if not everyone, has done something risky, not because they carefully weighed the pros and cons, but because they convinced themselves that they would be fine. It is not rational, but it is the way we



function in the world - without such denial, we might all be hiding out at home for fear of a million risks that going out would elevate. The problems come when that denial of risks ends up putting you in significant danger. And in the current context, putting you and everyone else in significant danger.

Think now of the young people celebrating spring break in the US or young and old in pubs in London or breaking lockdowns in Italy. Are they uncaring callous people? Or have they somehow convinced themselves that it will be fine and that their actions will not harm themselves or others? I often catch myself trying to find arguments that prop up my hope that everything will be okay. We don't know where this pandemic is going. There is a long list of reasons to think that the situation in South Africa may be worse than elsewhere in the world:

weak healthcare infrastructure, high rates of untreated HIV and latent TB, crowded public transport and informal settlements and a highly mobile and interconnected population.

There are also reasons why it may not be so bad: early intervention, higher average temperatures may help, as well as humidity in some regions and lower average age of the population. I find comfort in the reasons that it may not be so bad; I want to believe them. I find myself looking for scientific papers which argue that weather like ours will help, and am disappointed when I find arguments to the contrary. I have to push myself to acknowledge the many factors which elevate our risk. Human nature is to try and feel

safe, not to be safe.

So are we lost? Will those prone to deny risk do so and put us all in danger? Possibly, but not necessarily. If we repeat the errors of our HIV response and focus too much on simply providing information, we will have problems. Such an approach is not only likely to be ineffective, but also dehumanising. It would fail to acknowledge the complexity of people's thinking and self-management. It casts them as computers, simply processing information. Not as people balancing multiple motives and stresses to manage as best they can. Sometimes it is hard to acknowledge a risk, denial in such circumstances feels like the only way.

We need to provide informa-

tion. Indeed, information on Covid-19 should have been seen, at this time, as a basic right. But we have to think about multiple framings, presenting the same information in different ways that speak to the different ways in which people are thinking about the issue. We need to appreciate that some people will need more convincing, some will be actively resistant to the information (for example if compliance will cost them their livelihood), some will be despairing and fatalistic and need motivating, some will respond to gloomy projections, others to a call to be responsible.

Government is already giving information in the "protect yourself and your family" frame. To some extent, they are pushing the "be a good citizen" frame. What else do we need? For a start, I would argue that we need more of the second frame. We need to argue to people that these measures are necessary and we must all do our part, regardless of how you think it will affect you or your family. You must do it to be civic, to be a contributing member of society, not because of the risks you face. But this may speak more to what I value than to what will work and I fear that it will not be enough. We need to be more creative and we need to involve more people, not just experts, in the discussion as a few cannot understand how everyone else thinks.

This brings me to how we think about, and engage with young people. Currently, around the world, young people are being seen as a problem. They are less likely to abide by the advice and regulations, and as they are at lower risk of serious illness, are seen as uncaring and selfish. Through the HIV epidemic we have seen that it is easy to cast young people in this light, and we have seen that it does not help. Is there not a better way to think about young people at this time? This is a crisis, and in times of crisis we must draw on the resources we have. The

young people of South Africa are perhaps our greatest resource. There is no other group with the energy, creativity and the understanding of multiple different contexts than these members of our society. And they are more connected and interlinked than the rest of us.

The president and minister of health must acknowledge that the experts alone will not be able to understand how to promote safer behaviours. Our leaders must directly ask young people to figure this problem out, to mobilise them. They can help us formulate the multiple frames needed. This could be done through social media or through encouraging family members or contributing to the design of campaigns - I am sure that if there are answers to be had, it is from this group that they will come, and it is through this group that they will be carried forward. I hope we ask them, and I hope we remember their help once this is done, and do more for them in the future.

I have taken some monumentally stupid risks in my life, despite knowing them to be monumentally risky at the time. But every time I was convinced I would be fine, and most of the time I was right, and many of these risks paid off. I am (almost) convinced that I will be fine during this pandemic. But I place a high value on civic behaviour, and so I am doing all that is asked of me. That is the frame that works for me. I don't know how many others my frame will work for. Others have their own stories. They must find their own frames. Or perhaps someone who understands them can find one for them.

But everyone needs a story that works, to bring them to safer behaviour. One that recognises their challenges, that recognises their humanity, its depth and frailty. This is not a time to ignore the complexity of human nature. If we do that, we will lose touch with each other, and we will lose this fight.

Covid-19: Liberians must fasten belts for global economic fallout

By James Thomas

LIBERIA has inevitably registered its first case of the COVID-19. We must all pray for the speedy recovery of our victims as a manifestation of our national solidarity to confront and overcome the enormous challenges ahead. And let me encourage you further, I live at less than 7kms from the epicentre (a city of more than 15 000 souls) that was declared one of the first COVID-19 cluster zones in France - long before the epidemic spread throughout the country. The city mayor was quarantined, deaths continue among mostly the fragile, elderly persons, schools/churches closed down, gatherings banned, and the rest of us still alive now need official "Passes" to get out of our homes for what ever reason. The penalty for not respecting the law is 135 euros. And what an irony, the eternal glittering and congested boulevards of France are deserted for fear of a mysterious "virus" and not a war.

But looking back, if had we not snubbed China from the onset and applied its communist discipline methods, perhaps the world would have avoided the spread of the coronavirus with some concerted efforts. But not, we were too democratic, powerful and capitalist money conscious to imitate a potential rival - and yet our biggest creditor, investor and manufacturer.

Now, what is reassuring in poor Liberia is President Weah's exemplary disciplinary action against the first coronavirus victim. While it may be seen as expeditious or disproportionate, it is also consistent with the government's long anticipated draconian measures put in place to avert the spread of the COVID-19 - testing kits, establishing a quarantine center, folkloric awareness campaigns, etc. But as usual, Liberians do not take their government seriously. Notwithstanding, these actions taken around the time the epidemic was at its peak in China, and just when the

Western Powers - playing the-big-and-bad - were hurriedly airlifting their citizens from China instead of extending a helping hand. Well, they forgot to realize that while the Chinese were applying the radical measures to contain the virus, they in turn were importing and exporting it around the world.

Highly focused, though, the Liberian government had continued to act and prepared itself for the worst case scenario. In a significant symbolic gesture the National Legislature presented an official message of solidarity to China through its Ambassador near Monrovia. On the other hand, just few days before the virus was confirmed in Liberia, the government - with immediate effect - constituted a special Presidential Advisory Committee headed by the President himself, as the Commander-in-Chief of our nation. The members of this committee include our key international "partners" such as WHO, World Bank and UNICEF (see: www.liberianobserver.com/news/president-weah-chairs-special-advisory-committee-on-coronavirus-prevention-in-liberia/ - March 13, 2020). And though I am not a fan of the World Bank and Co., but we are very grateful for help from anywhere it may come to save our people and nation.

In fact, the battle is just beginning and far from being over. And I believe our fight will be two-fold: defeat the virus and stir the economy. It is no secret that our poor health system cannot withstand an influx of cases from the epidemic and at same time attend to patients from the regular illnesses. These developed nations are even having very tough times to properly organize; so definitely it should not be any better for us. Nonetheless, I am very optimistic as to the outcome because of two reasons. First, from all that we have heard thus far it would seem that keeping away the epidemic requires self-discipline and changing our behavioural patterns. And second, I have the strongest feeling that the world cannot afford a prolonged



global lockdown as the consequences could be colossal economically, politically and socially.

And that brings us to the other important aspect: stirring the national economy. The paralysis and crumbling down of the global economy as we are already witnessing are bound to impact every nation and even more devastating than the virus. And the worst of all we are living at a period where the "everybody for self and God for all" instinct has replaced the habitual outburst of international solidarity and generosity. Imagine, it is only China - the first victim of the virus - that has come to the aid of Italy, France and other affected European countries with a huge consignment of masks and other medical supplies and not our Great United States. Oh, I forgot, it is the other way around: "Make America Great Again." And I guess we have not gotten there yet; as a result we have not heard about the COVID-19 Task forces, Doctors without borders, and countless NGOs en route to save Africa from extermination. This tells us that we should be fully prepared to stand on our own two little feet.

From this backdrop, I want to give a few words of advice to the government

and ourselves as a people.

Avoiding The Ebola Pandemonium

We definitely have in our subconscious mind the sad spectacle of the Ebola epidemic when some of our government officials abandoned their functions in precipitation and ran to the United States to live and enjoy their ill-gotten wealth. Then when their bellies were full to boredom, they began theorizing all the possible scenarios to bring down the government in Monrovia. Of course, during this time our poor people were left unattended and dying in droves even from unrelated Ebola diseases.

Well, we note today that the COVID-19 has proven to possess no official passport or border - it is not an African disease, and it not a Chinese made either; it is not White neither is it Black; it does not favour the rich and disfavours the poor. Put bluntly - it is a Global DISEASE, clearly depicting the pathetic state of our today's world - unpredictable and no cure in sight.

Simply put, going into panic and running from your poor country at the first announcement of the coronavirus case will in no way be a life saving guarantee. All the indications are that your best bet is to stay port, self-confinement,

respect the health protocols rigorously, etc. And for the rest you must trust in God to strengthen your resolve to go through it all - the stress, anxiety and uncertainties.

And second, a maximum of national unity, solidarity and sacrifices are required. We should put aside our political differences and rally around our government to go through this crisis as quickly, peacefully and successfully as much as possible. Let us all be "our brother's keeper."

An Example Of The Grassroots Economic Impact

I should have been in Liberia as of the first week in March with a 3-member team, but had to immediately postpone the trip as soon as my area was declared a COVID-19 cluster zone in late February. Truly, for the nationalist I pretend to be, I never wanted be considered or even suspected of being a carrier of an epidemic to my poor and struggling nation. Surprisingly, it was not too long I came across this announcement on the internet from the National Public Health Institute Of Liberia: "Travel Advisory On The Precautionary Observation Of All Persons Arriving From Countries With Widespread And Active Human To Human Transmission Of COVID-19 Within 14 Days Of Departure."

This document, most likely ignored by many Liberians, was dated February 28th. I could not believe it - a very precise, responsible and professional instrument from a government we so often scold as incompetent and irresponsible. What is more, according to a famous French journal the measure taken by the government had placed Liberia ahead of France with respect to (at least meeting one of the conditions) of compliance to the required international norms to curtail the spread of an epidemic as the COVID-19. I was deeply impressed, and it comforted the cancellation of my travel.

But I can never stop thinking on those pro-poor market women who sit daily before the Benson Street super-

markets (between Mechlin and Newport streets), the catholic junction and also near the ELWA junction for whom I am a faithful customer. They would definitely be deprived of some little extra earnings since I usually stop by every other day to buy fresh fruits, eddoes, cassava, fish, etc. whenever I am in Monrovia. Then there are also the many poor family members who come in to say "hello", the car rental, cook, driver, and the list goes on. This is all part of the micro- economy on which most Liberians survived daily.

Now, considering this petty financial lost at my poor man level of expenditure, can we imagine the greater economic impact from all the other many travellers who have also cancelled their travel plans: Liberians, foreign businessmen/women, tourists, and others. Or the airlines that are suspending their flights to and fro Liberia; local businesses slowing down; workers not getting pay, etc.

So yes, folks, the economic challenges ahead cannot be underestimated. The consequences could have far reaching implications if we do not unite, have patience and be understanding.

Until then, and as we wait and fasten our belts for any eventuality, I appeal to the government to include these few ideas into its immediate contingency plan:

- The government should make sure there is enough LS reserve (if not yet) at the National Bank to keep the local economy afloat, pay civil servants, meet government obligations/operations, etc..

- Like rice, gasoline has now proven to be a major national security product; thus there should never be any shortage of both rice and petroleum products in the country. In fact, the country should have its own large reserve of rice and petroleum for national emergencies; or else the government must simply take full control of the importation and distribution of these essential commodities in the country to guarantee our national security.

Some headway made in improving level of nutrition, but millions of children and women still facing challenges

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DESPITE significant improvements in recent years, Tanzania has high level of malnutrition among children and women, calling for support by different stakeholders

The national prevalence of global acute malnutrition among children under five years has decreased from 3.8 per cent in 2014 to 3.5 per cent in 2018 but the situation on the ground calls for more concerted efforts for further improvement.

It is estimated that there are 440,000 moderately acute malnourished children and approximately 91,000 children who suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) by 2019 according to the last Tanzania National Nutrition Survey (TNNS).

An integrated project for the rights to water, health and nutrition in Dodoma and Iringa regions have shown that the problems are deeply rooted in the Tanzanian communities.

The project implemented by two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of doctors with Africa (CUAMM) and lay volunteers international association (LVIA) shows that many people in the regions, especially rural population face high risk of dying if they do not receive appropriate treatment.

According to the 'Scale up plan for the integrated management of acute malnutrition' developed by the government, CUAMM doctors with Africa and LVIA Tanzania have been implementing a 3-years program funded by Italian Agency for International Cooperation (AICS), aimed at supporting the national health system in increasing the coverage of integrated management of water (LVIA) and nutrition services for IMSAM (CUAMM) in the regions of Dodoma and Iringa.

"At least 31 per cent of rural households have been surveyed with unimproved drinking water source and 63 per cent with unimproved sanitation facilities," said Guilio Montalbano, QUAMM national representative.

Speaking with The Guardian about

the project, which is at its winding up stage, LVIA Director, Francesco Riedo said according to the data collection made during the intervention period in 23 supported facilities in Dodoma and Iringa region, between April 2017 to March 2020 3,813 children under five were admitted to severe acute malnutrition treatment.

Out of these 1,454, being 38 per cent were treated as inpatients and 2,359, equivalent to 62 per cent were treated as outpatients whereby 3,489, being 91 per cent of patients on treatment were discharged. Among them 2,890, equivalent to 82.8 per cent were cured, 429, being 12.3 per cent defaulted, as 170 or 4.9 per cent died because of severe acute malnutrition.

Riedo said the project has stressed to the competent local authorities the importance of self-sufficiency of the council districts for supply of therapeutic food to health facilities, saving-life medicines, ensuring the sustainability of the intervention.

The medical staffs have been trained on integrated management of acute malnutrition but more has to be done to keep the health workers updated about last best available treatments and procedures for malnourished children.

The performance of 20 rural water schemes and the availability of clean water in 15 of the supported health facilities have been strengthened.

The intervention has supported simultaneously the improvement of IMAM services management and quality and quantity of drinking water through trainings, supervisions and capacity building, for the benefit of facilities and communities.

The project faced different challenges and learned practical lessons on the field on how to manage nutrition in peripheral health centres and within village communities, emphasising the relevance and effectiveness of integration and good communication between communities and health centres.

We deemed of crucial importance the role played in these three years



by the Community Health Workers, in following, each own village, the most problematic cases related to acute and severe malnutrition.

"With the support of the Italian Cooperation Agency we were able to create expertise of local actors about monitoring and support of rural water scheme and management services at village level in Dodoma and Iringa Regions for more than 40 villages and more communities" said.....

In order to offer sustainability, a training course was conducted for rural water managers in Dodoma and Iringa in partnership with VETA.

The short course brought benefit for the 60 students coming from the villages and related communities, as sources of income and employment for the students, sustainability of water schemes through increase of water revenues and proper accountability.

"The course is very useful especially for managing rural water scheme and also it will add enough knowledge which can use also for raising income even by having chance to work as private operator especially on operation and maintenance of their scheme infrastructures within the village or even outside the village" Hussein Athuman, a resident of Izazi village and VETA rural water manager student graduate at VETA Iringa.

Furthermore with the new Wash and Water Act number 5 of July 2019, the course will be an opportunity for many persons to get employment within the new rural water entities at rural areas that are in need of professional staffs.

During the three years there was enhanced capacity building in water schemes monitoring at district levels in Dodoma and Iringa regions in-

volving the use of ICT instruments and practical tools for data collection and analysis.

There were also improved access to water, health facilities functionality at village level in Kongwa, Iringa, Chamwino, Iringa and Mufindi districts through a low cost of 16000 meteoric water collection systems built in 20 health facilities in Dodoma and Iringa regions.

Water, sanitation and health intervention in Tanzania focuses on improving access to sustainable and clean water and sanitation services in the rural areas of the country.

The priority of this goal is strongly recognized both by the government and by international organisations: availability of clean and safe water is a human right and also a key element of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Therefore, the most recent document drafted by the government about the water sector, the National Rural Water Sustainability Strategy (July 2015 - June 2020), proposes initiatives pointed at recruiting and training more workers for helping water management entities system, establishing centres of excellence to support operation and maintenance activities, developing community awareness campaigns and also quality data management system

LVIA is an Italian NGO founded in 1964, and currently operating in 10 African Countries: namely Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, and Tanzania.

The vision of LVIA's development interventions is to empower people to develop more ef-

fective livelihood strategies, increasing the value of their assets and creating new opportunities for living a healthy and productive life.

This will be achieved through the identification and wise use of local resources, supporting local initiatives and innovations and by promoting appropriate technologies to tackle poverty in a sustainable way.

LVIA is based in Kongwa, Dodoma region and has been working in the area since 1986 supporting the community development with an expertise in the water, agriculture and wash sector.

LVIA is currently being conducted together with the local institutions, several activities in Kongwa and Chamwino districts rural areas, in order to strengthen the resource management capacity of the villages.

CUAMM has been working in Tanzania since 1968 in support of the national health system and focusing on increasing access to MNCH services.

CUAMM was established in 1950 to train doctors to provide lifesaving care in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Organisation currently operates in seven sub-Saharan countries where 157 technical providers, including national and international staff work on 33 health system strengthening projects.

It is known for its expertise in community health, sub-national system strengthening, and comprehensive approach to reaching mothers and children across the continuum of care, especially in rural and remote areas. In Tanzania, CUAMM focuses on accessible and equitable quality health services by strengthening health initiatives.

CUAMM currently operates in Iringa and Njombe addressing both demand and supply side factors influencing nutrition, maternal, newborn and child health services, and in other areas of the country focusing on HIV/AIDS (Shinyanga), chronic and acute malnutrition (Simiyu and Ruvuma) and, last but not least, integrated HIV/cervical cancer activities (Morogoro).

Helpage International appeals for enhanced protection of rights of older persons

By Guardian Reporter

HELPAGE International has called for full protection of the rights of older persons in the response to COVID-19 and once the pandemic is over.

According to the organisation COVID-19 is exposing the ageism, age discrimination and denial of rights older people face

in their everyday lives.

"We applaud the UN independent expert on older persons for calling out the unacceptable ageism and age discrimination that older people are being subjected to in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic", Bridget Sleep, HelpAge's senior rights policy advisor said following a statement by the UN's independ-

ent expert statement on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.

"We now hope that UN bodies will provide greater leadership and guidance to ensure that countries around the world stop this happening", she said.

Sleep noted that older people's rights are under threat as lockdown, self-isolation and

'social distancing' policies isolate those who are already isolated and digitally excluded.

She said the senior citizens have been subjected to discriminatory age-based self-isolation policies and no-visitor policies in care homes that impose more severe restrictions on their rights than on other people. "We welcome the independent expert's call for tri-

age guidelines to be developed to ensure everyone has equal access to the life-saving treatment they need. And we hope this happens as soon as possible", she noted.

She insisted that older people have the same rights as everyone else hence the need to be included in governments' and others' responses to the pandemic.

According to HelpAge Interna-

tional, older people's rights have been undermined including the rights to lead dignified, autonomous and independent lives, enjoy an adequate standard of living, receive social protection, participate fully in society, access information and enjoy a private and family life

Their equal access to health care is being denied. Some have even been found dead in care homes,

not having been taken to hospital to access the healthcare they need.

Care and support services for those who need them in their own homes and communities have been disrupted, including under emergency measures that suspend assessments of their care and support requirements.

Namibians adopt measures to improve public safety amid COVID-19 outbreak

WINDHOEK

NAMIBIANS are adopting hygiene and safety measures in public spaces to curb the further spread of COVID-19.

Namibia's health ministry has so far recorded 11 confirmed coronavirus cases.

Local retail and shopping centres have designated sanitation dispensers and stations. While other shops in Namibia's capital Windhoek implement other hygiene measures for customers before entering the shop.

Wessie van der Westhuizen, general manager of Windhoek-based Wernhill Shopping Centre in the central business district, said that the centre had increased hygiene measures in all outlets to fight the spread of coronavirus.

"The centre availed sanitation stations as per guidelines set by the health ministry to enhance safety within the shopping centre as a public space," he said.

Shops have also marked standing points to ensure that queues comply with the prescribed social distancing of one or more metres.

Shoppers have also since maximized on the sanitation points and hygiene practices to protect themselves.

Selma Erastus, a Windhoek resident, said that she ensures her hands are sanitized and thoroughly washed in public spaces.

"The shops offer sanitation facilities. So before I enter and exit shops, I make sure I sanitize my hands. I also make sure I keep my distance in the queues," Erastus said on Friday.



President Hage Geingob of Namibia

In the labour fraternity, institutions have also adopted precautionary measures to ensure the safety of clients and employees.

To comply with the national response measures, the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia (EIF) has suspended access to its national building amid the COVID-19 virus outbreak. "All our engagements will be restricted to virtual platforms, such as telephonic and teleconference means during this period," said Lot Ndamanohata, the head of communication and corporate services at EIF.

Meanwhile, government through the office of the minister has since instructed public institutions through a circular, to promote hygiene awareness to all staff members.

George Simataa, secretary to the

cabinet urged public institutions to develop contingency and response continuity plans to prepare workplaces for possible COVID-19 outbreak in institutions.

"As a precautionary measure, it is recommended that institutions put sanitizing hand rub dispensers in prominent places around the workplace. Where possible, hold meetings online instead of all staff seated in one room," Simataa said.

Beyond the city boundaries, the regional structures have also embarked on robust public education.

The Outapi Town Council in Namibia's Omusati region in northern Namibia is rolling out best hygiene practices to stakeholders.

Ananias Titus, Chief Executive Officer of Outapi Town Council, said that the aim was to raise awareness. According to Titus, the session entailed verified information sharing on social distancing, avoid-

ing mass social gatherings and crowded places. They also raised awareness on hand washing, and how the public member should conduct themselves socially.

"The aim is to create a safe public space through individual responsibility. When our people are informed, they will know how to conduct themselves for their safety and that of others. Also, to ensure adherence to the guidelines provided to create safe public spaces to curb the spread of coronavirus," he said. Temporarily, the transport sector has since adopted a similar measure to prevent further spread of the virus.

The City of Windhoek external communication officer, Lydia Amutenya, said that the municipal buses are cleaned frequently.

"Sanitizers are also provided on-board. Further, the City also limiting the number of passengers and providing protective gear to all the drivers," she said.

Tanzania, Vietnam agree to continue strengthening their bilateral relations

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Vietnam have agreed to continue strengthening existing bilateral relations including the development of diplomatic relations which is now 55 years since established.

The agreement was reached yesterday in Dodoma during the meeting between Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Co-operation ambassador Col. Wilbert Ibuge and the Vietnam ambassador to Tanzania Nguyen Kim Doanh.

Ambassador Doanh paid official visit to the foreign ministry in Dodoma following a call from ambassador Ibuge.

During their meeting the officials held talks on relations between Tanzania and Vietnam, including the issue of Vietnam investment in the country through Halotel telephone company.

In their negotiations, the leaders agreed to continue strengthening bilateral relations, including the development of diplomatic relations where the relations between Tanzania and Vietnam had reached 55 years this

year. Ambassador Ibuge said the investment opportunities in the country continue to be strengthened thus enabling the Vietnam government who own Halotel mobile company to invest in the country.

Ambassador Ibuge also informed the ambassador Doanh that the government of Tanzania will continue to encourage investments from Vietnam in accordance to the laws of the country.

For his part, ambassador Doanh expressed continue initiatives to support Tanzania. He reminded Vietnam companies including Halotel mobile company to comply with the country laws to ensure mutual benefits.

Tanzania and Vietnam established diplomatic relations since 1965-Vietnam has an embassy in Dar es Salaam which is mandated to serve all of East Africa. In 2014, trade volume between Tanzania and Vietnam was around USD 156 million with Vietnam exporting over USD 105 million worth of goods to Tanzania.

Medical diplomacy to face the global health challenges: A case study of COVID-19

By Dr. Mory Sumaworo

MEDICAL diplomacy (MD) has gained more credence and foreign relations weigh over the last two decades in nation's policies. According to Oslo Ministerial Declaration - global health- as a pressing foreign policy issue of our time, published by the Lancet in 2007 "As Ministers Foreign Affairs, we will work to increase awareness for our common vulnerability in the face of health threat by bringing health issues more strongly into the arenas of foreign policy discussions in order to strengthen our commitment to concerted action at the global level; build bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation for global health security".

The Former Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Mrs. Margaret Chan said in recognition of neediness of MD as useful contemporary foreign policy tool in her opening addressing, to the Executive Board of WHO at its 132nd session 'Health Diplomacy works'. It helps in addressing global medical and health crises both real and potential.

Having said that, the Covid-19 has set itself as the greatest threat to the world. It can be metaphorically considered as the WW3. Although there are neither Allies nor Axis Powers as they were in the WW2, but both are fighting against the common enemy, coronavirus. Considering this nature of the pandemic, and its rapidly spread all over the world, especially in the highly sophisticated health systems in Europe, Asia and the United States of America. It presents the never before neediness of the health and MD to control the situation that is now threatening not only the poor countries as usual contagious disease outbreaks do. Nevertheless, the fatality of the Covid-19 cannot be de-emphasized in China, the second largest economies in the world, Japan the cradle of technology, Singapore, the spot of innovation and hygiene, the US the largest economy and the world's most powerful nation on earth, Saudi Arabia, one of the wealthiest nations on the in the world, the United Kingdom with its reliable and excellent healthcare system, and the EU with all it has achieved medically, economically and developmentally.

Worrisomely, the pandemic has penetrated the fragile medical systems in some parts of Asia and Africa. The aid-providers are the aid-solicitor now, not necessarily to build their infrastructures or create economic prosperity as the aid normally does, but to

use MD in combating the Covid-19 that is controllably spreading. So, what is the aid that is urgently needed by all? What are the roles of every country in the comity of nation towards this common whipper (Covid19)?

The answer is to accentuate and effectively use health and medical diplomacy among the nations. It is, however, means in this context, medical, clinical with their related collaboration and sharing information to uproot and deracinate the virus from the World. Medical diplomacy or MD is the concept, which persuades the members of the comity of nations to support the efforts of their counterparts and international organizations like WHO to defeat disease; Covid-19. Besides, Global Health Diplomacy (GHD) as it is at times acronymized as the international and foreign relations practice through which the governments along with Non-State actors medically coordinate to address global health issues such as Ebola, HIV-AIDS and Coronavirus.

Academically, its nomenclature may suggest that it solely falls under Political Science and International Relations. However, in practice, it is a multi-disciplinary subject that brings several areas of studies together including, Medicine, Law, Politics, Management, Sociology, Economics, Trade Policy and others. This is why, in order for a nation to institute an effective medical diplomacy, it should not only focus on conventional diplomats or medical doctors or healthcare professionals. It may need a conglomerate of different specialists from other related disciplines to actualize its objectives.

It is worth mentioning that many foreign missions do focus on conventional political concerns, education, culture and trade. Embassies and foreign missions have a special attaché for these interests. However, it hardly heard about the medical attaché at foreign representations in the host nations.

Medical Diplomacy (MD) can sometimes be applied even by political rivals who might not be on the same political boat. For instance, when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans of the United States of America on August 29, 2005, Cuba took several steps to strengthen and apply its relations with the US through medical diplomacy. The moment the information reached Dr. Juan Carrizo, a Cuban famous medical doctor, academic and former Dean of the Latin American Medical School reacted within a military precision as it is rightly put by Andrew Jack in Financial Time article: 'Cuba's Medical Diplomacy' Dr. Carrizo mobilized 1100 medical doctors and nurses to be sent to assist addressing medical needs resulted from Hurricane Katrina. This was the first step taken by Cuba.

The Second step was the political statement by Fidel Castro, then the President of Cuba, when he stated "Our country was closest to the area hit by the hurricane and was in the position to send over human and material aid in a matter of hours. It was as if a big American cruise ship with thousands of passengers aboard were sinking in waters close to our coast. We could not remain indifferent" It is immaterial whether the US should have accepted the offer or not, that is not the central of this



discussion.

What really matters here is, Cuba's approach to uphold medical diplomacy when it was needed either by the US or for the best interest of Havana and Cuban People in general. It can be extrapolated from Fidel's speech that medical diplomacy can be urgently needed and stringently required when there is a global or regional threat such as Ebola and Covid19. Notwithstanding the Cuban intended medical assistance was not accepted by the United States, but it set a great precedent for usefulness and usage of medical diplomacy even between the two political rivals.

Importance of Medical Diplomacy:

It is noteworthy to state that medical diplomacy (MD) is very paramount in today's international relations and politics due to its never before globalized nature of goods and services that leads to never before the movement of the people. A medical crisis in the Far East may easily affect the West, Africa and the rest of the world in no time. For example, 2014 Ebola outbreaks in the West African countries; Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leon affected the United States and many other African nations in a very short period of time. Equally so, the Covid19 that emerged in Wuhan had affected more than 160 countries in less than six months. International trades and transportation had been seriously wounded by the outbreak. Paradoxically, allies are restricting the movement of their friends in fear of the pandemic.

The United States' President J. Donald Trump suspended all flights from Europe excluding the United Kingdom and later on, it had been included in the suspension. This is very strange in the US-EU or Europe relations. However, the decision was made by Washington because of the gravity and rapid spread of the virus with its advert impacts on peace, security, trade and economies,

basic human rights and civil liberties, it might even be considered as the WW3 thought there are neither Allies nor Axis powers. But the common enemy is the Covid 19, which medical diplomacy being played to defeat. Based on the above, the medical diplomacy is significant for contemporary foreign relations for several reasons. Some are as follows:

Since the early 1990s, when Harvard University's pundit, Joseph Nye, Jr., introduced the cotemporary concept of soft power in his popularized book "Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power as opposed to hard power, medical diplomacy has been playing a major role in addressing many burning international political issues in lieu of radical diplomatic business. It shows the goodwill of the giver to the receiver. According to Marrogi and Al-Dulaimi in their article- Medical Diplomacy in Achieving US. Global Strategic Objectives- published by Join Force Quarterly (2014) "Although the concept of soft power is not universally embraced, using economic, cultural, scientific and healthcare resources can create a dominant soft power, when carefully applied, might generate favorable behavior from other nations and their leaders and build enduring partnerships to promote regional and global security".

It solidifies and strengthens the national, regional and continental efforts to address medical and health crises such as Ebola, HIV-AIDS and Coronavirus.

It may help to reduce and de-escalate political tensions between/ among the nations.

It is more selfless tool within the realm of politics to serve the humanity. Unlike trades and politics between/among the nations, which are mainly based on interests with disregarding some social and humanitarian concerns such as pollution and political crises because of the interest of

politically heavy-weight nations.

It indirectly helps to destress local healthcare and medical infrastructures.

It leads to sustainable development growth. A healthy world is a wealthy globe, and a wealthy globe is bound for sustainable development and shared happiness and prosperity.

It helps to secure the future of globalization. Covid 19 has clearly illustrated that pandemic is the biggest threat to globalization even between and among friends and allies. Donal Trump's pronouncement to suspend all flights from Europe including the United Kingdom serves a great lesson for magnitude of healthcare crisis against internationalization and globalization.

It has been pointed out by Suleman, Ali and Kerr in their article ' Health diplomacy : a new approaches to Muslim World' published by Globalization and Health, that the nicest field of health diplomacy provides a political framework which aims to deliver the dual goals of improved health in target populations and enhanced governmental relations between collaborating countries.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF MEDICAL DIPLOMACY DURING EBOLA AND CORONAVIRUS:

Firstly, the United States of America has a diverse group of healthcare industries accounting \$2.8 trillion, 17.8 percent of its GDP. Through this, the US delivers healthcare assistance through hospitals and support medical research institutions. As a result, these activities play a pivotal role in US asymmetric response to unpredictable challenges overseas both directly through the care of patients and more generally in the economic benefit (Marrogi & Al-Dulaimi, 2014). The US foreign aid package normally includes billions of dollars in support of healthcare system around the World. For instance, the largest government-owned referral hospital in Liberia, JFK medical centre was built by the US. The Center was constructed at the request of Liberia's former President William V.S Tubman when he visited the States in 1965 and met with President John F Kennedy. The USAID funded the project with \$ 6.8 million loan and \$9.2 million in grants from USAID and a \$1 million contribution from the Liberian Government. The center was opened in 1971.

Draft national youth policy 2030 offers a glimpse into how uncoordinated state machinery is

By Njabulo Zwane

THE Draft National Youth Policy 2030 is said to be a 'cross-sectoral' one whose interventions will be implemented by an 'integrated' youth development strategy. But, reading through its assessment of the challenges faced by previous implementation strategies, one gets a glimpse into how

uncoordinated the state and its government machinery is.

The National Youth Policy (NYP) 2020 notes that "young people feel excluded, largely due to high unemployment rates and their inability to participate economically". This observation is indicative of the cold inter-generational war in South Africa. In February, the Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, called for

public comments to a draft of the latest iteration of the policy (NYP 2030).

In its online petition to the minister, asking for an extension of the 16 March 2020 deadline, the advocacy NGO Amandla.mobi says that "the draft document is a copy-and-paste of this current policy". Considering that the department had five years to conduct a review and update its proposals accordingly, this is quite an indictment, and can be read as adding fuel to the feelings of anger and resentment that young people have towards the older generation. I agree with Amandla.mobi that the amount of consultation for this process (if any) was inadequate; the less said about the closing date for public input the better. In lieu of a submission to the minister, the following can be read as my response to the policy.

My longstanding criticism of much of the discourse around "the youth" is that it tends to treat young people as a homogenous group, without any racial and/or class differences. Besides the usual government-speak of "the intent to redress the wrongs and injustices of the past", the Draft NYP 2030 is guilty of glossing over the structural dimensions of South African society.

Because it merely assumes and does not articulate these differences, the draft policy fails to account for why the problem of generational transition into the economy seemingly occurs in the black community only. I say this because the white and wealthy sections of our population are known to use their private school and university alumni networks to facilitate economic inclusion.

The repeated failure of the ANC to facilitate a genuine "generational mix" reminds one of Gramsci's interregnum, because it is clear that the old is refusing to die (or at least step down) for new ideas to flourish.

Following from the document's failure to articulate the racial and class differences in society is its superficial reading of social cohesion and nation-building.

The research that the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (Mistra) conducted as part of the Indlulamithi South Africa Scenarios 2030 found that intergenerational trauma is rife among young black people. This immense sense of woundedness is said to be a key driving force for the prospects of

social cohesion, but one wonders if the drafters of the NYP 2030 are aware that the "unity of purpose" the document strives for is impossible if we cannot agree that apartheid was a crime against humanity, for example.

The participation of young people in elections is seen within the frame of nation-building, and in this regard the document says that "there has been [an] increase in voter registration". This is bizarre if one thinks back to the talk about young people's disillusionment with the electoral system that flooded the public discourse in the lead-up to the 2019 general elections.

Mistra's election report contradicts the NYP 2030 and finds that: "The 18-to-19-year-old demographic has had both the lowest voter turnout and the lowest registration rate of all age groups in the country in 2019. The 20-to-29-year-olds followed with slightly higher electoral interest, yet they were also still far behind the rest of the age categories."

Again, this is indicative of the pessimism, which manifests itself as apathy and/or disillusionment, among young people. Because it assumes that the past has passed (which contributes to its superficial reading of socio-economic relations), the NYP 2030 fails to give a concrete way out of what Prof Njabulo Ndebele referred to as the "space of anguish" that the (black and poor) youth of this country are locked in.

The Draft NYP 2030 is said to be a "cross-sectoral" policy, whose interventions will be implemented by an "integrated" youth development strategy. But, reading through its assessment of the challenges faced by previous implementation strategies, one gets a glimpse into how uncoordinated the state and its government machinery is.

The incapacity of the state is a major reason why the proposals of the current policy have yet to be implemented. Disappointingly, except for a change in order and headings, the policy interventions are exactly the same as the ones proposed in the NYP 2020. One wonders if this is the result of laziness or a sense of optimism in the current administration to finally get things done, but one thing is for sure: the lack of co-ordination and capacity in the state makes many of the wide-ranging and good-intentioned proposals sound like pipe dreams.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =00 76 00=

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

9 letters: BELLICOSE
 6 letters: SESAME, OBLATE
 5 letters: BLAST, LOOSE, DEIGN, ANNUL, UNITE, MADAM, DENTS, SNAKE
 4 letters: IMAM, CONE, OKRA, BEEN
 3 letters: OWN, MOW, ADO, ELL, TIE, MID, DEN, IRE, DAN, SAY, AID

CLUES: ACROSS
 1 Brotherhood (10)
 5 Thump (3)
 6 Give intense pleasure to (9)
 10 Small formal detail specified within a set of rules (12)
 11 Put on again (7)
 15 Another name for lake Malawi (5)
 17 Expression of creative skills (4)
 18 Use teeth to cut something (4)
 19 Boredom (5)
 20 Reign of an emir (7)
 21 Mischievous person (5)
 22 Make a journey (6)

CLUES: DOWN
 1 Doubter (11)
 2 Second largest continent (6)
 3 Rodent resembling a large mouse (3)
 4 Come to an end (4)
 5 Lowest point of something (6)
 7 Union of all the Arab states (3-7)
 8 Become affected by an Ulcer (8)
 9 Enrol (6)
 12 Christian hermit (7)
 13 Operator (4)
 14 Thing which emits (7)
 16 Plant of the daisy family (6)

WORD FIT: LANGUAGES, VULGARITY, BELICIOUS, SESAME, OBLATE, BLAST, LOOSE, DEIGN, ANNUL, UNITE, MADAM, DENTS, SNAKE, IMAM, CONE, OKRA, BEEN, OWN, MOW, ADO, ELL, TIE, MID, DEN, IRE, DAN, SAY, AID

CROSSWORD: 1 Brotherhood (10), 5 Thump (3), 6 Give intense pleasure to (9), 10 Small formal detail specified within a set of rules (12), 11 Put on again (7), 15 Another name for lake Malawi (5), 17 Expression of creative skills (4), 18 Use teeth to cut something (4), 19 Boredom (5), 20 Reign of an emir (7), 21 Mischievous person (5), 22 Make a journey (6)

Comments: 0789 43 73 09

BUSINESS

TECH SAVVY

Africa mobilises drone builders, pilots

LILONGWE

Twenty-six youngsters from eight African countries are now able to construct and pilot drones, having recently graduated from the African Drone and Data Academy (ADDA) in Lilongwe, Malawi.

The graduates from Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Botswana, Nigeria, Tanzania and host Malawi will now be able to integrate drones into a supply chain system and analyse data. They can also process drone images to, among other things, identify flood-prone areas and prevent cholera outbreaks by creating vulnerability maps of areas that lack basic hygiene infrastructure.

They can use drones for a wide range of applications that include delivering medical commodities, collecting aerial imagery for predictive analytics to identify mosquito breeding sites and help combat malaria. Using Artificial Intelligence, the graduates will now also be able to classify aerial photographs of crops to improve food security and help prevent malnutrition.

A statement from UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) noted that Malawi and neighbouring countries lack qualified and skilled personnel needed to seize the opportunities offered by drone and data technology.

To address the demand for drone and data expertise in the region, UNICEF, together with its partners, Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), Virginia Tech and Daeyang University have collaborated to offer

training.

MUST Vice Chancellor Prof. Address Malata said ADDA represents a major opportunity and a reminder to all that if given a chance to claim their space, the youth can significantly contribute to national and global development through science, technology, engineering and innovation.

"By participating in delivering some of the courses, MUST is already becoming a continental hub in drone related technologies," said Malata. UNICEF Malawi Representative Rudolf Schwenk said: "While there are a handful of local drone companies within Malawi, they have difficulties finding trained staff, to keep up with the growing demand by both national and international institutions. It therefore makes perfect sense to provide training and facilitate the development of local expertise."



While there are a handful of local drone companies within Malawi, they have difficulties finding trained staff, to keep up with the growing demand by both national and international institutions. It therefore makes perfect sense to provide training and facilitate the development of local expertise

WARNING

Moody's: Coronavirus a major threat to Africa's sovereign credit ratings

JOHANNESBURG

The coronavirus global shock is having a severe macroeconomic and financial impact on African countries, according to a new report by Moody's Investor Services.

"Even with the country-specific fiscal and monetary stimulus measures announced by a number of African governments and central banks, the global shock will significantly constrain regional growth, says David Rogovic, a Moody's senior Analyst and co-author of a new report on the matter.

The report does not constitute a ratings action. Rogovic says that, while the number of coronavirus infections in Africa is considerably lower than elsewhere, it is increasing. "To avoid a widespread pandemic that would overwhelm Africa's generally less-developed healthcare sectors and add to the fiscal cost through higher health spending, several governments have closed borders and instituted lockdowns to prevent the virus' spread," he notes.

Given the already-weak fiscal position of many African sovereigns, the report, therefore, foresees that the combined

effect of border closures, global trade disruption, commodity price declines and financial market volatility linked to the coronavirus pandemic will weaken credit conditions for many African sovereigns.

Declining export revenue is expected to increase pressure on balance of payments and aggravate external vulnerability of countries. At the same time, it expects financial market dislocation and investor aversion towards weaker debt issuers will exacerbate government liquidity risk.

In November last year, Moody's downgraded the outlook for its credit rating of the South African government from "stable" to "negative", the final step before it strips SA of its "investment grade" Baa3 long-term foreign-currency and local-currency issuer rating, which will leave it at "junk".

Even before the coronavirus pandemic started to make its presence felt in South Africa, a Bloomberg survey indicated that Finance Minister Tito Mboweni would be having the avoidance of a Moody's downgrade in mind in his Budget 2020 in February.

GROWTH

CRDB mulling plans to establish subsidiary insurance company

By Guardian Reporter

SUSTAINED profitability and strong growth of CRDB Insurance Broker Limited over the past four years may lead to the establishment of a complete insurance subsidiary company of CRDB Group Plc within the next two years.

CRDB Insurance Broker Limited's General Manager, Arthur Moshia said in Dar es Salaam on Friday that the company's sustained growth since being separated from CRDB Microfinance Bank in 2016 and a robust market will likely see establishment of CRDB Insurance Company in two years.

"We have the capital needed but also qualified and experienced manpower to become a complete insurance company and not just a brokerage firm," Moshia said noting that introduction of bancassurance regulations has made the market more robust.

He paid tribute to Bank of Tanzania and Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority for introducing bancassurance regulations in the market and give banks licenses to provide insurance services to clients.

The insurance brokerage firm which is the second largest in the market, is a complete subsidiary of CRDB Group alongside CRDB Microfinance Limited and CRDB Burundi. Moshia whose management has seen the company record



CRDB Insurance Broker's general manager Arthur Moshia briefs the media in Dar es Salaam last Friday. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

sustained growth from premium collection of 12bn/- in 2014 to over 25bn/- in 2016, said the growth path is set to continue this year.

"Last year we collected over 44.2bn/- in premium with life assurance, health and motor insurance being the frontrunners," he added while stressing that the company's good performance

is strongly backed by mostly the bank's own customers who constitute over 60 percent of clients.

Established in 2011 as an agency for two insurance companies, CRDB Insurance Broker has risen from collecting between 7-800m/- in premium annually to 3.5bn/- in 2012 before becoming a separate company

in 2016.

"For us the sky is the limit because we have all that it takes to have our own insurance company," he noted saying currently the brokerage firm serves several companies unlike the two that it used to served over five years ago as an agency.

CHARITY

UBA backs anti-Covid-19 campaign with 230m/- donation

By Guardian Reporter

TO back state efforts to contain the coronavirus outbreak in the country, United Bank for Africa Tanzania Limited has donated US\$ 100,000 (about 230m/-) to the government through Prime Minister's Office.

UBA Tanzania CEO, Usman Isiaka said in Dar es Salaam on Friday during the handing over ceremony to Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa that the donation is aimed to provide support to the state to in meeting the heavy burden of providing Covid-19 safety gear and materials to protect the public.

"We place high value on our relationship with government of Tanzania and are committed to positively impact the business environment in Tanzania for the good of the country and the general wellbeing of its citizens and other residents," Isiaka said.

He said the donation is part of the US\$14 million relief fund which UBA Group through its corporate social responsibility arm, UBA Foundation has provided to all governments of the 20 African countries where the Pan-African bank operates.

"As a responsible corporate citizen, we believe that we are in this challenging situation together and we must all make our modest contribution towards the fight against the corona virus to stay safe," Isiaka added.

UBA Tanzania which is a subsidiary of United Bank for Africa Plc



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with UBA Bank Tanzania CEO, Usman Isiaka (3-R) and non-executive director Farhiya Warsame (L) after they presented a dummy cheque for 230m/- in support of the anti-Covid-19 campaign in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo courtesy of UBA.

made the donation as part of its relief support to drive a comprehensive Pan-African response to the fight against the Covid-19 global pandemic.

"We commend efforts of being done by the government of Tanzania and are keen to partner and contribute resources to the collective effort, that will ensure the response to the pandemic is swift and effective," he noted.

Speaking during the ceremony, UBA's

non-Executive Director, Farhiya Warsame said the Covid-19 is a global crisis that cannot be left to governments alone to fight hence responsible corporate citizens and individuals back.

"We need to support all initiatives and efforts of the government, as we are all in it together," Warsame said.

Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa who is also Chairperson of a National Covid-19 Committee, lauded UBA Tanza-

nia's support of the government's fight against the pandemic and emphasized that the state will ensure proper allocation of the funds and scale up its efforts to curb transmission of the disease.

Operating in 20 African countries and with presence in the United Kingdom, the United States and France, the United Bank for Africa has a strong record of supporting its communities during challenging times.

Expect a rapid rise in mobile money transactions - GSMA



Akinwale Goodluck, Head of Sub-Saharan Africa, GSMA.

JOHANNESBURG

Countries in Africa, including South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, continue to urge consumers to use digital banking services and mobile money platforms to transact, as cash exchange is increasingly seen as a risk amid the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). The GSM Association (GSMA) suggests that the health crisis will push up the number of mobile transactions.

According to the organisa-

tion's annual 'State of the Industry Report on Mobile Money' 2019 marked a major milestone for the mobile money industry, with over one billion registered accounts and close to US\$2-billion in daily transactions. For the first time, digital transactions represented the majority, 57%, of mobile money interactions.

The GSMA adds that the industry is witnessing increasing user trust and relevance. With 290 live services in 95 countries and 372 million active accounts,

mobile money is entering the mainstream and becoming the path to financial inclusion in most low-income countries. For consumers, this marks a shift away from cash towards digital payments – for school fees, e-commerce, international remittances, savings, credit, pay-as-you-go utilities and more, it says.

John Giusti, Chief Regulatory Officer, GSMA, says "Increased mobile connectivity and innovative services such as mobile money are building stronger

and more inclusive communities. Surpassing one billion mobile money accounts represents a major milestone for an industry that did not exist just over a decade ago. The reach of mobile money agents is now 20 times that of bricks-and-mortar banks. Almost 1.7 billion people remain financially excluded, but the collective strength of the industry holds the potential to ensure that everyone can be part of the new digital economy." Akinwale Goodluck, Head of Sub-Saharan Africa, GSMA,

confirms the expectation that COVID-19 pandemic will trigger a spike in mobile money adoption.

"The adoption of mobile money has been growing steadily in sub-Saharan Africa particularly in new markets like West Africa coupled with increasing depth and sophistication of services in older markets like East Africa. Mobile money adoption and increase in transactions will see a surge following the COVID19 pandemic as governments seek to reduce

cash transactions, reduce face to face transactions and employ mobile money for P2G payments and distribution of government cash palliatives to citizens."

Management behind South African micro transaction platform Ukheshe says South African banks are turning to cashless transactions and that mobile money transfers, online, debit and credit card transactions are being encouraged as opposed to cash, which is a possible source of transmission.

GENEROSITY

PM salutes NMB Bank for donating 100m/- to fight Covid-19 outbreak

By Guardian Reporter

AS the government mobilises its resources to fight back against coronavirus outbreak in the country, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has paid tribute to NMB Bank Plc's management for backing such efforts.

Majaliwa said in Dar es Salaam over the weekend after receiving a 100m/- donation from the bank that the fight against coronavirus pandemic needs a united front by both public and private sectors.

"NMB's support has come at the right time as we are making steady progress in the fight against the pandemic," said Majaliwa adding that all the support being received by the state from different actors, will serve

the majority of the public.

"What we have received today from different organizations is a true testimony that they are with us even at difficult times and they have come to join hands with the government in the fight against COVID - 19," he noted.

NMB's acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna said the donation is the bank's response to back the government's efforts to battle against the Covid-19 for the safety and good health of all Tanzanians.

"As a bank we have decided to join hands with the government in the fight against the pandemic by contributing 100m/- to be used in the fight against virus outbreak," Zaipuna said while advising the public to seriously follow government's instructions to contain the pandemic.

"The public should follow directions and advice on how they can protect themselves including washing hands regularly and changing the way we greet each other," Zaipuna said.

The country's largest bank in terms of profitability and physical branch network has 225 branches in almost all administrative districts of the country, over 6,000 agents and more than 800 ATMs. NMB has over three million customers and employees over 3,000 people.

It is listed at the Dar Es Salaam Stock Exchange and its largest shareholders are the strategic partners Rabobank of Netherlands with a 34.9 percent shares and Treasury has 31.9 percent while the public and other minority shareholders owning the remaining shares.



NMB Bank Plc acting CEO Ruth Zaipuna.

CALL

Wild animal activist group wants ban on ball pythons' trade

By Francis Kajubi

THE government should impose a permanent ban on ball pythons trade to protect the serpent from disappearance.

World Animal Protection in Africa's Campaign Manager, Edith Kabesiime said in a statement on Friday that ball pythons' global trade is escalating hence threatened by extinc-

tion.

"We are starting to realize that demand of the exotic animal is a high price not worth paying thus the only solution is to impose a total ban on the trade," Kabesiime said.

She pointed out that ball pythons and other wild animals continue to be targeted by exotic pet traders hence putting the giant serpent at risk of ex-

inction.

Kabesiime blamed online platforms that are driving an increase in demand of the rare python species. She said e-commerce has made it easy for consumers as markets are readily available.

According to her, ball pythons as exotic pets are a massive global trade that has depleted millions of the serpents

and other related wild animals in Africa over the last several decades.

"These animals suffer cruelty from capture, throughout a life of captivity," she lamented while stressing that action by governments is urgently needed to end the exotic pet trade, not only for animal welfare and biodiversity, but also to protect human health as Covid-19 out-

break has shown.

She pointed out that investigations by the organization done in West Africa, the EU and North America, revealed that over 90 percent of all ball pythons global supply originate from only three West African countries of Togo, Benin and Ghana.

She asserted that ball python capturing in the three coun-

tries involves being physically dug out from burrows, stuffed into sacks often filled with other snakes that can result in distress, injury, death and disease.

Kabesiime said thousands of exotic pets are thought to be in homes around the world, with reptiles amounting to 51 percent of the almost nine million exotic pets in US homes alone.



Health minister Umy Mwalimu (2nd R) receives some of 150 mattresses and 100 bed sheets from GSM Group's Head of Business, Allan Chonjo (L) in support of government efforts to fight the Covid-19 outbreak at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo courtesy of GSM.

MOBILIZATION

African Development Bank issues world's biggest social bond in virus fight

ABIDJAN

The African Development Bank said it issued the world's biggest social bond yet by selling \$3 billion of notes to fight the impact

of the coronavirus on the continent.

Africa's biggest multilateral lender received \$4.6 billion in bids for its Fight Covid-19 social bond, it said in a statement Friday. More

than half of bids for the three-year bond, which will pay interest at a rate of 0.75%, was allocated to central banks and official institutions, the lender said.

The bond issuance,

AfDB's biggest yet in dollar terms, is the first of the bank's measures in response to the virus that has so far seen the confirmation of more than 3,000 infections across the continent. "We are here for Af-

rica, and we will provide significant rapid support for countries," AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina said in the statement.

The continent needs an immediate emergency economic stimulus of

\$100 billion to combat the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Banks involved with AfDB's bond sale included

Credit Agricole SA and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. At least 37% of the bonds were allocated to European institutions, 36% to U.S. and 17% to Asian investors, AfDB said.



Namibia's finance minister, Calle Schlettwein.

OBSERVATION

Namibia budget trick to tap local retirement funds

WINDHOEK

Namibia's budget speech to its parliament is nearing, and the question is how finance minister Calle Schlettwein is going to fund the mineral-rich country's state spending after pension funds were indirectly used last year.

The nation of less than 3m people relies heavily on developmental aid from South Africa - in the form of customs revenue sharing - to fund its public outlays. Namibia, however, has a large pool of investment money relative to its economic output.

It was this segment that the country's finance ministry targeted last year and the year before. In a similar vein to SA, Namibia's retirement fund industry is forced to buy a certain amount of "domestic assets," or local assets - be they shares or bonds.

In Namibia, the threshold was 35% local assets and in SA it is 70%, excluding investments in the rest of the continent. By the end of 2018, as Namibia's fiscal situation deteriorated, the finance ministry retrospectively forced pension funds to shift money from abroad back into the country.

The government issued amendments to the country's Pension Fund Act - the same one that is also used in SA, albeit amended - which increased the local asset requirement to 40% on 31 August 2018, 42.5% on 30 November 2018 and 45% by the end of March last year.

Earlier in 2018, the SA government increased the allowance for offshore (excluding the rest of Africa) exposure for local pension funds from 25% to 30%. When the rest of the continent is included, SA pension funds can move a maximum of 40% of their assets out of the country.

The problem with the rest of the continent is the lack of investable and liquid shares listed on stock exchanges. This was the case in Namibia when fund managers had to bring up to N\$20bn back into the country. The Namibian Stock Exchange has 40 listed shares and eight exchange-traded funds. "The government created legislated demand for bonds," says James Mnyupe, managing director of Allan Gray Namibia.

"It increased the local asset requirement from 35% to 45% for our non-discretionary savings pool (retirement and insurance funds). Over a year or so we attempted to repatriate anything between N\$15bn and N\$20bn. You need to remember that the size of the economy is only about N\$190bn. So, we tried to inject 10% of GDP in a few months."

This led to a ballooning in the returns on Namibian government bonds as asset managers scrambled to find healthy investable assets amid a dearth of stocks. "If I look at the Namibian All Bonds Index over the past year, their total returns are in the middle double digits," says Mnyupe.

"Typically, the Namibian 10-year bond is yielding somewhere in the area of 9% to 10%. So, for the return to exceed 15% to 16% means there was significant capital appreciation in the price of those bonds over the year in question."

When bond prices rise, Mnyupe says there may be two reasons for it. Firstly, the quality of the issuer could have improved significantly and therefore justifies a higher price for its bonds. It means the risk, also called credit risk, of the issuer not repaying the bond or future coupons (interest payments) has decreased, he explains.

"Secondly, decreasing interest rates could also drive up bond prices," he says. Due to the inverse relationship between bond prices and yields, a decrease in the interest rate will lead to an inverse increase in the price of bonds, he explains.

RETROGRESSIVE

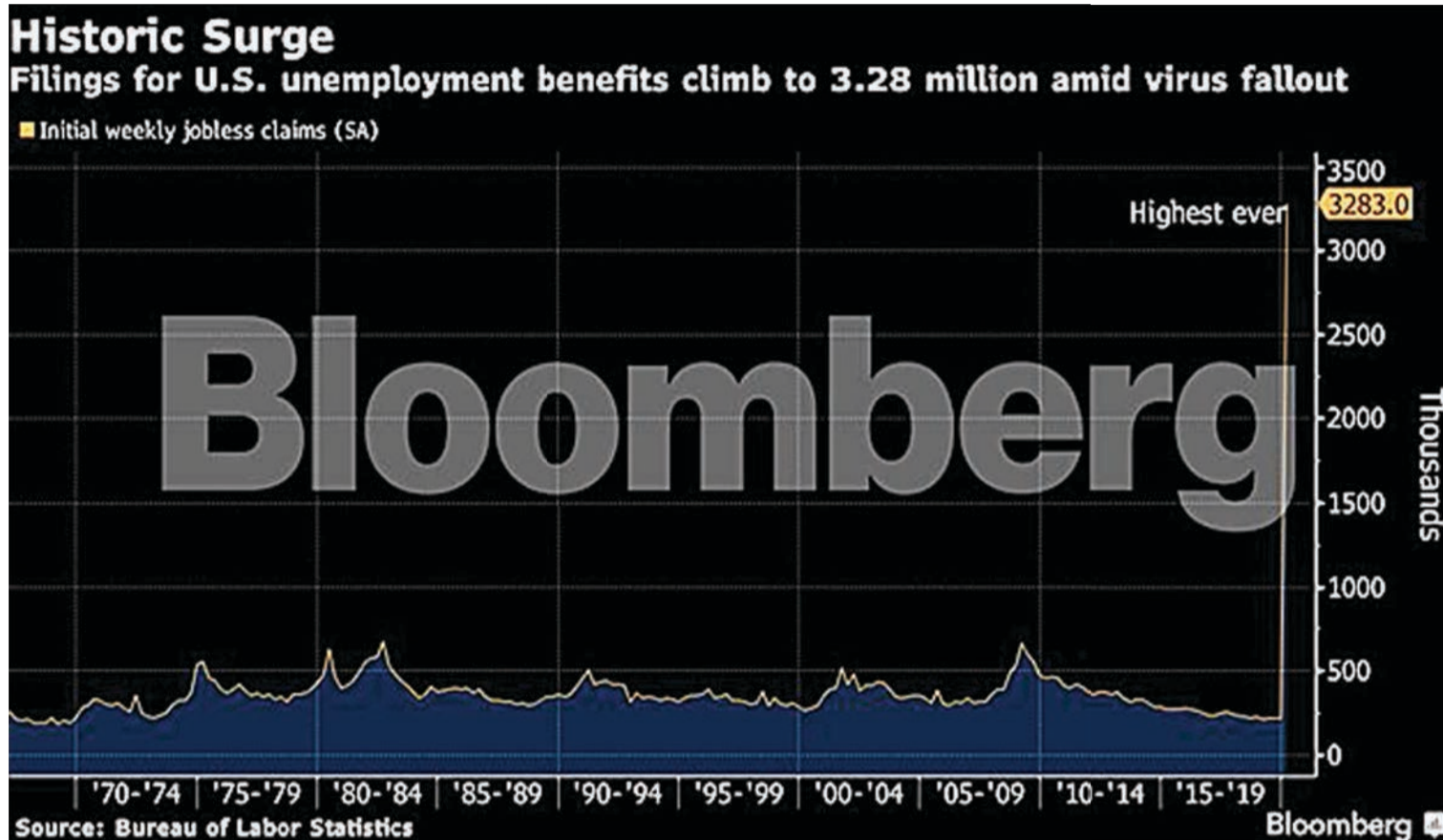
US jobless claims surges to record 3.28 million, says report

NEW YORK

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits surged to a record 3.28 million last week as businesses shuttered and laid off workers as part of efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

In the biggest insight yet into the economic toll the pandemic is already inflicting, initial jobless claims in the week ended March 21 surged from 282 000 in the prior week and more than quadruple the previous record high of 695 000 in 1982, according to Labour Department figures released Thursday. The data date back to 1967.

Economists' projections for the figure ranged as high as 4.4 million. "This shows the severity of the downturn and the speed of



it," said Michelle Meyer, head of US economics at Bank of America. "It speaks to the unusual nature of this recession - it is an abrupt plunge into recession versus prior downturns, where the shock has time to multiply. We could have very high numbers continue for the next few weeks."

Claims increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, with nine states reporting increases of at least 100 000 from the prior week. The state data below aren't adjusted for seasonal fluctuations: Pennsylvania reported the biggest number of claims, with 378 900; California claims rose by 129 200 to 186 800; in New York state, where approximately half of all known coronavirus cases in the US are located, claims rose by 66 000 to 80 300; Ohio claims rose to 187 800; Illinois claims rose to 114 700; Florida claims rose to 74 000; and Michigan claims jumped to 129 300.

The surge reflects reports from state-level unemployment offices across the country last week citing

unprecedented levels of web traffic and exponential increases in applications for unemployment benefits. The reported claims likely represent just the beginning of millions of virus-related job losses as more states order non-essential businesses closed.

US lawmakers are aiming to boost benefits for those laid off. As part of a \$2 trillion stimulus package waiting to be approved by the House of Representatives, unemployment insurance would be extended and expanded.

The sharp rise in claims signals the unemployment rate could rise several percentage points in coming months, after matching a 50-year low of 3.5% in February, which reflected 5.8 million unemployed Americans. The sudden stop of the nation's economy paired with a consumer retrenchment have several economists predicting gross domestic product will shrink in the second quarter by the most in quarterly records dating back to 1947.

ON-RECORD

Know of first ever non-stop A380 flights from Australia to London?

SYDNEY

Australian airline Qantas will fly the first-ever non-stop A380 service from Australia to the UK in a move to work around coronavirus travel restrictions. The route will run from Darwin to London.

One of Qantas' most popular routes is its Sydney-Singapore-London flight, but from March 23, Singapore has suspended entry for short-term visitors and transit passengers, rendering Qantas' Kangaroo flight path non-viable.

To get around this, the airline plans to make the journey from Sydney, via Darwin in northern Australia. From there, it will continue directly to the UK with an expected flight time of 16 hours and 45 minutes. Qantas already fly from Australia to London non-stop, but the Perth to Heathrow service is operated via a Boeing 787-9.

According to Airline Route, the last Qantas flight to depart Australia bound for London is scheduled to depart Sydney on that day. It will fly to Darwin to refuel, but passengers will remain on board the aircraft. It will then fly 9,266 miles (14,912 km) to London Heathrow.

The return journey will be one of Qantas'

last international flights before it grounds all passenger flights at the end of the month. It will leave London on Friday March 27 and will also stop in Darwin on its way back to Sydney. Travellers on this flight have a slightly longer trip before them with a flight time of 17 hours and 50 mins.

The longest A380 flight in operation On March 23, Singapore authorities suspended entry at Changi International Airport for short-term visitors and transit passengers. The trip will be the longest scheduled A380 flight currently in operation.

Emirates' Auckland to Dubai service typically holds this title - but that flight was suspended on Tuesday after UAE authorities announced a two-week flight suspension for passenger air travel. Travel restrictions, flight suspensions and country lockdowns put in place to curb the spread of Covid-19 over the last few weeks have forced airlines to cancel, suspend and modify flight routes.

Singapore's significant tightening of restrictions on those who can enter or transit via Singapore has had a major impact on flights operating in and out of the country. Several other nations, 38 at last count, have taken this step even further, grounding all passengers flights operating in and out of the country.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

MONDAY 30 March	TUESDAY 31 March	WEDNESDAY 01 April	THURSDAY 02 April	FRIDAY 03 April	SATURDAY 04 April	SUNDAY 05 April
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 Habari	6:00 Habari	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
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10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu
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13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
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16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base
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18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi
18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo	18:45 Kesho leo
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19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45	21:05 Dakika 45
22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost	22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost
23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTW	02:00 DWTW	02:00 DWTW	02:00 DWTW	02:00 DWTW	02:00 DWTW	02:00 DWTW



A Qantas A380 on the tarmac at London Heathrow. Qantas will fly direct from Australia to London in a bid to beat coronavirus restrictions on transit travel in Singapore.

WORLD

Xi's G20 speech charts course for global COVID-19 fight - experts

BEIJING

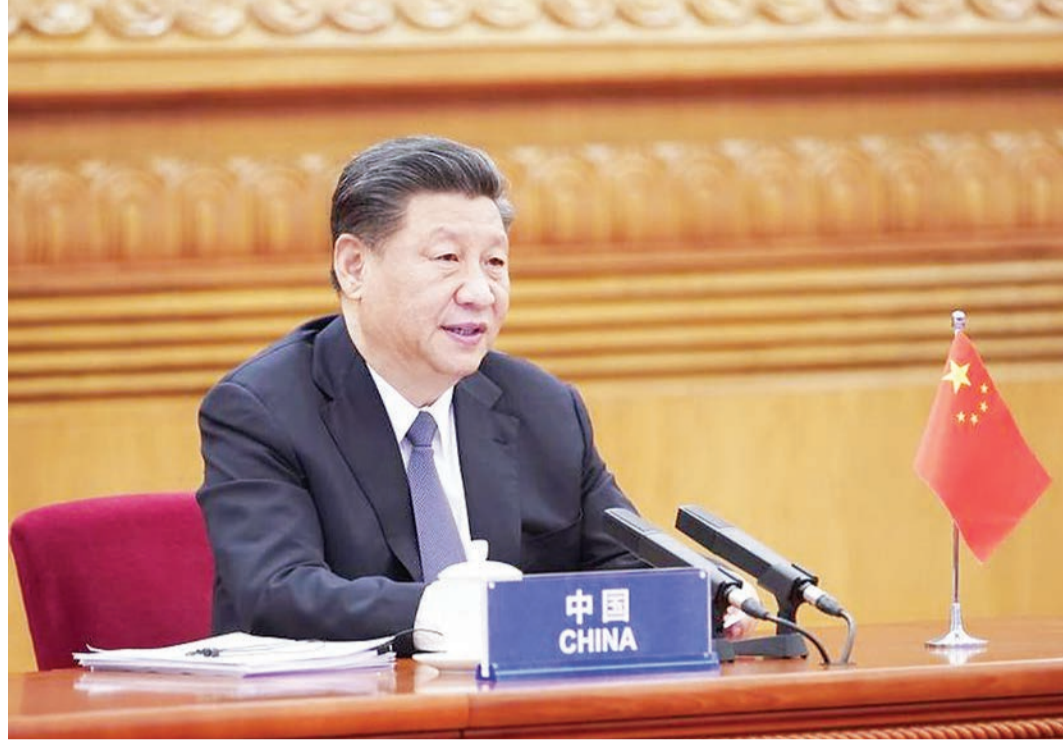
CHINESE President Xi Jinping's keynote speech at the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit, which stressed a coordinated response to the common threat of COVID-19, has charted a course for the global fight against the pandemic, experts have said.

Xi put forth four proposals at the G20 summit via video, calling on G20 members to be resolute in fighting an all-out global war against the COVID-19 outbreak, make a collective response for control and treatment at the international level, support inter-

national organizations in playing their active roles and enhance international macro-economic policy coordination.

"This was an inspiring speech, concise and succinct, a leadership speech and call to collective action at a time of great stress and peril for the citizens of the world," said Cambridge University professor Alan Barrell.

Xi's proposal of a G20 health ministers' meeting to improve information sharing, strengthen cooperation on drugs, vaccines and epidemic control, and cut off cross-border infections would be "a good start to a different approach to health issues," Barrell



People wearing masks are seen on the street in Xiaogan, Central China's Hubei province, on Monday.

said.

Echoing Barrell's remarks, William Jones, Washington bureau chief of the US publication Executive Intelligence Review, said Xi's call for a meeting of the G20 health ministers is "a step in the right direction," creating a forum for a detailed discussion of measures in dealing with the crisis.

Xi's proposal of a high-level meeting on international public health security will be "an urgent requirement in the post-COVID era in order to create a mechanism by which the world will next time have an early-warning system and a ready strategy to deal with any outbreak," he said.

Xi's speech inspires hope, said Rose Fumpa Makano, a Zambian peace and development expert at the Copperbelt University, adding that China has demonstrated its commitment to im-

plementing measures aimed at enhancing global trade.

Commending the China-proposed notion of a community with a shared future for mankind, Mohamed Faye Farahat, head of the Asian Studies Program at Cairo-based Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, said: "The world is now facing a common threat against humanity, which shows the necessity for global cooperation to tackle COVID-19."

"China's means and methods were impressive," said Nicholas Platt, a former US diplomat, expressing his appreciation for China's efforts "to reach out to other parts of the world and to share equipment and to share knowledge."

"We all must face this challenge together," Platt added.

Xinhua

President Trump drops idea of New York lockdown as US death count crosses 2,000

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Saturday that he would issue a travel warning for the hard-hit New York area to limit the spread of the coronavirus, backing off from an earlier suggestion that he might try to cut off the region entirely.

"A quarantine will not be necessary," he said on Twitter.

Trump's announcement came as the U.S. death count crossed 2,100, more than double the level from two days ago. The United States has now recorded more than 122,000 cases of the respiratory virus, the most of any country in the world.

Since the virus first appeared in the United States in late January, Trump has vacillated between playing down the risks of infection and urging Americans to take steps to slow its spread.

Trump said on Saturday afternoon that he might impose a ban on travel in and out of New York and parts of New Jersey and Connecticut, the U.S. epicenter of the disease, to protect other states that have yet to bear the brunt. He offered few specifics.

Critics promptly called the idea unworkable, saying it would cause chaos in a region that serves as



President Donald Trump

the economic engine of the eastern United States, accounting for 10 percent of the population and 12 percent of GDP.

"If you started walling off areas all across the country it would be totally bizarre, counter-productive, anti-American," New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said on CNN.

Hours later, Trump dropped the idea, saying he would instead ask the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to issue a "strong Travel Advisory" that would be administered by the three states' governors.

The CDC later warned the states' residents against non-essential domestic travel for 14 days. It said the warning did not apply to employees of "critical in-

frastructure industries" including trucking, public health and financial services.

It was the latest reversal for Trump, who has been reluctant to order U.S. companies to produce much-needed medical supplies, despite the pleas of governors and hospital workers.

Tests to track the disease's progress also remain in short supply, despite repeated White House promises that they would be widely available.

On Saturday, Trump appeared to soften his previous comments calling for the U.S. economy to be reopened by mid-April. "We'll see what happens," he said. Graphic: U.S. coronavirus - here

Though Trump has apparently opted not to impose checkpoints

on highways and airports leading out of New York, some states have imposed limits of their own.

New Yorkers arriving in Florida and Rhode Island face orders to self-isolate if they intend to stay, and the governors of Pennsylvania and West Virginia have asked visiting New Yorkers to voluntarily self-quarantine.

New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu on Saturday asked all visitors to his state who don't come for work reasons to voluntarily self-quarantine.

New coronavirus cases in China leveled off after the government imposed a strict lockdown of Wuhan, the epicenter of the disease.

The body count continues to climb in Italy, where authorities have blocked travel across the country and prevented people from leaving their houses for all but essential reasons.

Any travel restrictions, voluntary or not, might be too late.

The number of coronavirus patients in California hospitals increased by more than one-third overnight, Governor Gavin Newsom said.

Officials in Louisiana, where Mardi Gras celebrations late last month in New Orleans fueled an outbreak, reported 17 additional deaths and 569 new cases on Sat-

urday.

The disease has proven most fatal among the elderly, but Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker said on Saturday that an infant had died in his state. Graphic: Tracking the spread of the global coronavirus - here

American healthcare workers are appealing for more protective gear and equipment as they face a surge of patients.

Doctors are also especially concerned about a shortage of ventilators, breathing machines needed for those suffering from COVID-19, the pneumonia-like respiratory ailment caused by the highly contagious novel coronavirus.

Hospitals have also sounded the alarm about scarcities of drugs, oxygen tanks and trained staff.

On Saturday, nurses protested outside the Jacobi Medical Center in New York, saying supervisors asked them to reuse their masks, putting their own health at risk.

One medical trainee at New York Presbyterian Hospital said they were given just one mask.

"It's not the people who are making these decisions that go into the patients' rooms," said the trainee, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Agencies

Wuhan resumed the outbound and inbound transportation

AS OF 29 March, in mainland China, 45 new confirmed cases were reported during the past 24 hours, among which 44 are imported cases; the total number of imported confirmed cases reaches 693; in accumulative terms, 81,439 confirmed cases have been reported, among which 75,448 were cured and discharged from hospital, and 3,300 died.

The spread of COVID-19 nationwide, particularly in the epicenter of Wuhan, has been effectively stemmed.

As the situation continues to improve, Wuhan resumed the outbound and inbound transportation yesterday after 65-day lockdown since 23 January.

Currently, China has adjusted its containment approach to focus on preventing both case importation and domestic resurgence to sustain the hard-gained positive momentum.

To achieve that, the Chinese Government has decided to temporarily suspend the entry into China by foreign nationals holding visas or residence permits valid to 26 March from 28 March. Entry with diplomatic, service, courtesy or C visas will not be affected.

As of 28 March, more than 520,000 confirmed cases and over 24,000 deaths have been reported outside China. In Africa, 3,924 confirmed cases and 117 deaths have been reported in 46 countries.

The Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit on COVID-19 was held successfully on 26 March. It is a positive sign that G20 members are working together to meet the challenges of the pandemic and maintain the stability of the world economy.

In his speech at the Summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping called on the international community to strengthen confidence, act with unity and work together in a collective response so that humanity as one could win the battle against COVID-19.

The Chinese government has announced emergency aid to 83 countries, WHO, the African Union and other international organizations, many of which have already been delivered to the recipients.

Moreover, China has shared the Clinical Protocols for the Diagnosis and Treatment of COVID-19 with 180 countries and over 10 international organizations.

To assist Tanzania to prevent and control the epidemic, the Chinese Government and the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania plan to donate some urgently needed medical and protective supplies, which are in the process of procurement and collection in China.

Tanzania has received its share of donation provided by China's Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Foundation last Tuesday, which includes 100,000 masks, nearly 20,000 testing kits, 741 sets of protective clothing and 1,111 face shields.

Furthermore, a group of Chinese enterprises have funded the construction of isolation and admission centres in Arusha, while others are working hard on the provision of medical supplies to Tanzania.

Uganda intensifies recruitment of health workers as COVID-19 cases rise

KAMPALA

THE number of COVID-19 cases in Uganda continues to rise putting pressure on the country's health system as more cases are anticipated.

The Ugandan Health Ministry announced earlier this week it is recruiting over 200 health personnel to join the country's currently thinly spread workforce.

Diana Atwine, permanent secretary of the ministry, said the health professionals would be assigned a six-month contract to work at quarantine centers, intensive care units (ICUs) and treatment centers across the country.

The ministry is also going to call upon volunteers to support frontline health workers, Atwine added. Uganda has designated three hospitals as treatment centers.

The ministry said the country is also strengthening support in terms of equipment and personnel in other referral hospitals at the regional level to cater to anticipated increase in patients.

"We are expanding our capacity at regional referral hospitals. We want to be prepared to make sure our ICUs have ventilators and beds," said Atwine.

Ekwaro Obuku, a member of the Uganda Medical Association, an umbrella organization that brings together doctors in the country, proposed that there should be a mechanism where private practitioners are involved in the fight against COVID-19.

The Ugandan military has dispatched a team of medical personnel to join their civilian colleagues in the fight against the virus.

According to the ministry, the force is under obligation to respond to emergencies. The public, including corporate organizations, has rallied support toward the government's efforts to contain the spread of the disease.

Xinhua

China shares TCM experience with Tehran to combat COVID-19

CHINESE medical volunteers dispatched to Iran have shared their experience of using traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), which has been proved effective, in preventing mild cases of COVID-19 from developing into severe ones. TCM is expected to be promoted among the treatment of COVID-19 pneumonia patients in the Middle Eastern country.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has sent medical teams to Iran and Iraq to help fight COVID-19, and also dispatched medical staff to Italy, Chen Zhu, president of the RCSC, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

A volunteer group of five health experts arrived in Tehran, capital of Iran on February 29 with medical supplies, according to a video conference held on Tuesday by the RCSC.

Iranian hospitals and officials asked the Chinese team to provide documents on the clinical experience of convalescent plasma therapy and TCM before adopting these therapies,

said Zhou Xiaohang, who is the head of the expert team to Iran, at the video conference.

Iran says it will conduct clinical trials before pushing forward with TCM after it has been confirmed to be effective, according to the conference.

Gao Fu, head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, who also attended the conference, said Chinese experts will collect the current papers on clinical experience and China's therapy scheme, and translate them into Persian for Iran.

Significant effect

Lei Genping, a deputy director of the Affiliated Hospital of Shaanxi University of Chinese Medicine, told the Global Times that the advantage of TCM is its remarkable curative effect in treating COVID-19 patients.

Lei is also the captain of the medical team supporting Wuhan's Jiangxia Fangcang makeshift hospital, which is the only TCM makeshift hospital in China

that accepted patients with mild cases of COVID-19.

In other makeshift hospitals, the percentage of mild cases turning severe ones ranges from 5 to 13, while not a single one in the 564 cases received in Jiangxia Fangcang hospital turned severe, Lei said.

Wen Minyong, the captain of a medical team supporting Wuhan from the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, told the Global Times on Tuesday that the inpatient area his medical team took charge of received 119 patients, and 109 of them have been discharged after accepting TCM treatment. The rest are expected to be discharged in the next two days.

"Most of our patients were of severe and critical symptoms, and we turned their cases mild and cured them (after treatment)," said Wen.

In 2003, when the severe acute respiratory syndrome broke out in South China's Guangdong Province, the 73 infected patients received by Wen's hos-

pital all survived without being transferred to other hospitals, and no health care workers were infected.

Different with Western medicine, TCM does not kill viruses, but restores organ's functions and reinforces immune systems to fight against viruses.

Regarding the treatment of COVID-19 patients, no anti-virus medicine has been found to be significantly effective, while TCM has seen a good result in preventing mild cases from becoming severe and critical ones, said Wen.

Wen is confident TCM will achieve positive results as TCM treats patients based on syndrome differentiation. "Different patients show different symptoms even when they are infected with the same virus. TCM customizes patients' prescriptions based on their constitutions and symptoms," said Wen.

Challenge and opportunity

"When we promoted TCM therapy in Wuhan, community residents were initially reluctant to accept it. After wit-

nessing TCM's effectiveness, people were happy to accept it," Tong Xiaolin, an academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences and head of the treatment group of the National Administration of TCM, said at the video conference.

Different from Western countries, Iran does not have the preconceived bias against TCM, but it just does not understand it, Li Weijian, vice president of Middle East Institute of China, told the Global Times. He said that once Iranians recognize that TCM is indeed effective in preventing the epidemic, they will accept it.

"Iranians are very focused on results," he noted.

Wang Chen, a senior respiratory physician and president of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, expressed his concern at the conference that it is difficult for some Iranians to accept the bitter taste of TCMs and pointed out capsules may be easier to take than instant granule.

China should show the successful

clinical cases of TCM therapy in detail and translate relative research reports into Persian to boost awareness.

"Translation will be a problem," Lei told the Global Times, fearing that improper translation may not adequately convey TCM's benefit in other countries.

"Literal translation is far from enough to express the essence and culture behind the (TCM) terms," he said.

Supporting Iran with TCM is a challenge as well as an opportunity, said Lei. He said the remarkable effect of TCM in fighting against the COVID-19 in China will speak aloud for itself.

To make suitable TCM treatment plans, prior surveys should be conducted to know their syndromes before sending a TCM physician team to Iran as different people in different environment show different symptoms, he suggested.

Global Times



The largest Fang Cang makeshift hospital in the epicenter Wuhan, in Central China's Hubei Province, purposely built and designed for COVID-19 treatment, closed on Monday. The two doctors are happy celebrating for it. Photo by People's Daily

Hubei on path to normalcy

MILLIONS of residents in Wuhan and other places of Central China's Hubei Province have spent a prolonged vacation amid a tight city lockdown since the coronavirus outbreak. With visible progress in epidemic prevention and control, such as continuous fall in new confirmed cases, the virus-stricken region is gradually easing restrictions to allow some enterprises to restart operating and local residents to return to normal life.

While Business is expected to pick up in the region, which has been fighting the epidemic at a painful price, local authorities have been urged to come up with more carefully designed policies to ensure economic recovery and prevent a rebound in infections. They are advised to avoid being over-optimistic and/or losing vigilance in the coronavirus battle.

Hubei provincial government on Wednesday allowed businesses to gradually return to normal, categorizing different areas with high, medium and low risks to implement differentiated policies.

In the capital city of Wuhan, some companies, especially those related to epidemic prevention work, daily necessity production and those crucial to the supply chain, could resume work with strict epidemic prevention measures after receiving the approval of authorities. Other companies can't restart work before March 20.

Outside Wuhan, cities and counties in the province, following different categories and arrangements, would allow companies to gradually resume work.

For example, in areas with medium

risks, in addition to businesses in essential sectors, firms in agricultural production, construction, software services, legal and accounting sectors could resume, according to the official announcement.

The region, hit hard by the epidemic, is embracing the spring season, which marks a new beginning and recovery. Central and local authorities have come up with flexible approaches to help the society return to normal.

President Xi Jinping's inspection tour to Wuhan on Tuesday injected confidence, sending a message that the coronavirus fight had entered a new phase, observers said.

During his inspection tour, Xi said that the situation in Hubei and Wuhan has shown positive changes and progress, but the task of prevention and control remains arduous.

Some local residents in Wuhan said they have been told to be prepared to return to work, including applying for a health code through a mobile app that will allow people from medium- and low-risk areas to travel freely, as the region has been under strict lockdown since January 23 and about 56 million under quarantine.

This mobile-based monitoring system aims to facilitate work resumption, as local residents could connect to local social services mini-programs and report personal information and health conditions, or they could also connect to the system through WeChat or Alipay, the apps developed by Chinese internet giants Tencent and Alibaba.

Global Times

Rwanda to downgrade genocide commemoration amid outbreak - official

KIGALI,

RWANDA'S 26th commemoration of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi will take place, but with limited events to be held due to the coronavirus outbreak, a senior official said Saturday.

Jean-Damascene Bizimana, executive secretary of the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide, said on Rwanda TV that the commemoration, due on April 7, will take place, but not in the usual ways.

"The commemoration will be launched at Kigali Memorial site as usual with bowing in silence to pay respects to more than 1 million peo-

ple killed in the genocide, laying of wreaths at the graves, and lighting of a flame," he said. "But the ceremonies will be brief and with limited number of people."

Bizimana (pictured) said similar ceremonies will take place in districts countrywide, but with limited number of participants, as the Ministry of Health reported six new confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, bringing the total to 60.

The Walk to Remember, an event



which normally takes place in the afternoon, will not be held across the country in order to avoid large gatherings in the face of COVID-19, he said, adding a night vigil, which usually follows the Walk to Remember, will not take place, either.

Bizimana said that the two events will be replaced by discussions aimed at educating people about the genocide through different media platforms.

The national mourning week will begin on April 7 and end on April 13, during which the country will remember those killed in the three-month genocide.

Xinhua

Experts say closer US-China collaboration key to global fight against COVID-19



NEW YORK

CLOSER U.S.-China collaboration, a significant part of broader global cooperation and coordination, is key to the fight against an unprecedented pandemic like the ongoing COVID-19, several former U.S. diplomats and healthcare experts have said recently. "COVID-19 should be a wake-up call about the cooperation that will be needed to ensure that any future pandemic -- particularly one that is even more lethal than the coronavirus -- can be dealt with most effectively by the international community," Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation and former U.S. ambassador to Cambodia, told Xinhua via email on Wednesday.

There are now more than half a million confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide, including more than 20,000 deaths, according to the latest figures by the World Health Organization.

Experts called for joint efforts by Washington and Beijing to tackle the severe global public health crisis, underscoring the significance of collective response by the international community.

"COVID-19 offers a unique opportunity to take an extremely positive step that could help restore some of the previous stability that characterized the bilateral relationship," said Quinn, who had a 32-year career as a U.S. diplomat.

The two sides are encouraged to work together to confront the corona-

virus outbreak and defeat future pandemic diseases, from wherever in the world they might emanate, said the veteran diplomat.

"The two most significant countries on our planet in terms of scientific expertise and research capacity need to be partners in ensuring human triumph over the threat of a devastating global cataclysm," he stressed.

Nicholas Platt, who served as U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Pakistan, Philippines, Zambia, and as a high-level diplomat in various countries including China, echoed Quinn on the urgency of U.S.-China collaboration, especially when the world has seen a sharp surge in the number of infections.

"We should focus on working together and not blaming each other for what's happened in the past," Platt, also former president of the Asia Society, a non-profit organization in New York City, told Xinhua in a phone interview on Wednesday.

"The doctors in the United States understand and agree with doctors in China about the virus and what to do about it," he said. "We should be learning as much about each other and exchanging as much information as we possibly can."

Wafaa El-Sadr, director of the Global Health Initiative and ICAP at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, said "this virus does not discriminate, and we are all vulnerable."

The seasoned expert said that by strengthening collaboration on various fronts such as scientific research,

China and the United States can contribute to the tackling of major global public health threats.

Facing epidemics like the coronavirus, mankind is a community that shares weal and woe, and concerted wills and actions by the global community are highly urged, said experts. "We're all in this together ... we all must face this challenge together," said Platt, adding that joint efforts by nations across the globe can contribute to the general health of all.

"This is the time to build bridges, not walls, between peoples around the world," said El-Sadr, adding she was "encouraged to see the sharing of information and scientific data across borders," which is "critical" in working towards controlling this pandemic.

Quinn urged "continued full sharing of information in terms of the situations within each country, including about the efficacy of drugs and therapies that are being tested and utilized," in order to contain the virus.

Since the onset of the outbreak, China has taken rigorous measures to contain the epidemic, and has been sharing critical information with the world in an open, transparent and timely manner, providing as much assistance as it can for hard-hit countries and those with fragile public health systems.

The Group of 20 Extraordinary Virtual Leaders' Summit on COVID-19 was held on Thursday in an effort to coordinate global response to the fast-spreading coronavirus.

Xinhua



Johnson on virus: Things to get worse before they get better

LONDON/MADRID/ROME/MONTREAL/MOSCOW

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson is warning Britons in a letter to 30 million households that things will get worse before they get better, as he himself self-isolates in Downing Street to recover from the novel coronavirus.

Britain has reported 17,089 confirmed cases of the disease and 1,019 deaths and the peak of the epidemic in the country is expected to come in a few weeks.

In the letter to be delivered to homes, Johnson (pictured) urges people to stick with the lockdown measures that his government has imposed to try to prevent the state National Health Service from being overwhelmed by a surge of cases.

"We know things will get worse before they get better," Johnson writes. "At this moment of national emergency, I urge you, please, to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives."

Senior minister Michael Gove said on Sunday the government is "very concerned" about the death toll. He also said the country has boosted the amount of testing for the virus.

"The number of tests being carried out has hit 10,000 a day. We want to increase that to 25,000 a day."

The UK government is loosening also its bankruptcy rules to allow struggling businesses to continue trading if they can't pay their debts because of the impact of the coronavirus.

In another sign of how the pandemic is forcing governments to upend policy,

Business Secretary Alok Sharma said the changes would allow British companies being reorganized to access supplies and raw materials, and not be placed into administration by creditors.

There will also be a clause that temporarily removes the threat of personal liability for company directors during the pandemic.

Italy, Spain look for answers

Italy's coronavirus death toll topped 10,000 and Spain reported its deadliest day yet, leaving leaders of both countries groping for ways to tackle the crisis with Europe split along economic fault lines.

While the data suggest the pace of infections may be leveling off, the human carnage and economic damage aren't letting up. Spain recorded 832 deaths on Saturday, though Italy's fatal cases slowed to 889 on a Friday record of 969.

With the goal of "flattening the curve" at stake, Italy's Giuseppe Conte and Spain's Pedro Sanchez took to the national airwaves with comments that raised the level of unease.

Agencies

Passengers on 'Death Ship' plead for rescue after virus strikes

FOR passengers on a Holland America Line cruise ship, a fun-filled voyage on the luxury liner is quickly turning into a nightmare with deteriorating conditions on board and fears of a full-blown coronavirus outbreak after four travelers died and two others were infected.

"We are stuck on this death ship," said Yadira Garza, who is on board with her newly-wed husband. "We are freaked out and terrified that we will be infected too. It's just a matter of time if we stay on the ship."

Passengers on the Zaandam, currently off the coast of Panama, say they are desperate to get off the liner after Chile wouldn't

allow the vessel to dock. The company also said all ports on the ship's route have also refused entry. Guests and their family members have taken to Twitter to plead for help.

Then came some good news on Saturday: the ship's captain announced Holland America is moving some passengers to a sister ship, the Rotterdam, because so many crew members have gotten sick, said Garza. The Panamanian government also agreed to let the Zaandam sail through the Panama Canal, reversing an earlier decision to block passage.

Meanwhile, relatives of crew members on board the ship say

they are being asked to work despite falling sick, or shortly after recovering from fever. Food is being delivered uncovered, with Garza describing finding hair and eyelashes on their plates of food.

Holland America, a subsidiary of Carnival Corp., didn't respond to an emailed request for comment on conditions for crew aboard the ship. It said in a tweet it's working with Panamanian authorities on the transit.

The Zaandam is the latest vessel owned by Carnival, the biggest cruise line in the world, to be struck with outbreaks of coronavirus, plunging the ships into dramatic public health

crises that gripped the world's attention. Now, some angry passengers say they weren't screened adequately, even as governments, including the US, advised citizens to avoid cruise ships.

Garza and her husband say they were reassured by Holland America that health screenings and temperature checks would be conducted on passengers getting on board. Health screenings consisted of a self-reported questionnaire of symptoms, she said, and they didn't see any temperature checks done.

"We thought that since it's a very well-known company, they would take severe measures,"

said Garza.

The couple, both in their 30s and from Monterrey, Mexico, boarded the ship March 7 in Buenos Aires for their honeymoon.

And they're not getting off anytime soon. Joel Gonzalez, Garza's husband, had a slight and brief fever a few days ago and they've been told they wouldn't be transferred to the Rotterdam. They are seeking help from Mexican consular officials.

The captain of the ship, originally carrying 1,243 passengers and 586 crew, asked guests to quarantine themselves on March 22 after a number of

people on board reported influenza-like symptoms, said the cruise line. Four "older" passengers on the ship died and two individuals have tested positive, it said Friday, heightening anxiety on board.

A total of 53 guests and 85 crew members have reported to the medical center with flu-like symptoms, it said. And when Garza complained about long waits for service, a ship doctor told her Saturday that 40% of the crew are now sick, she said.

Three relatives of crew members say they're worried that their family members working on board and many of their co-workers haven't been tested.

Two of them say their sick relatives are being asked to work, with many of them working overtime.

Relatives of crew members have been discussing working conditions via a message group and they have asked not to be identified because crew members were recently instructed to not speak with the media about conditions on board.

In an announcement to passengers on Saturday, the captain seemed to acknowledge the staffing shortage. The Rotterdam is delivering medical supplies and kits to test passengers and crew for Covid-19.

Agencies



MultiChoice Group Chief Executive Officer Calvo Mawela.

MultiChoice supports local entertainment industry during COVID-19 pandemic

By Guardian Correspondent

EVERYDAY various sectors across the African continent are adjusting and finding ways to deal with challenges brought about by the current Coronavirus pandemic.

Given the MultiChoice Group's position in Africa's video entertainment sector, the firm is acutely aware of the challenges its partners in the industry face. At this time, the firm disclosed, it would like to stand by them.

Across the continent MultiChoice are seeing disruptions and delays. Production has been impacted across many countries and production has come to a complete halt in South Africa as the industry adheres to the national lockdown.

For many years the company has been a leader in the sector and it is a leading investor in local content production.

MultiChoice have deep rooted partnerships and long-standing commitments that have grown the industry for the benefit of many, both in front and behind the camera.

It is for this reason that MultiChoice Group has decided to implement several measures, aimed at safeguarding the incomes of cast, crew, and creatives as well as the sustainability of production houses.

With these measures, the company said, it can hopefully steer the industry through this tumultuous time.

MultiChoice has set aside R80 million (10.4bn/-) to ensure that current productions are able to pay full salaries of cast, crew, and creatives for the months of March and April, by when hopefully they will have the worst of the disruptions behind us.

The need to secure salaries for their creatives goes a long way in creating income stability for them and their families.

MultiChoice believe this to be critical for the industry and in the firm's view, this is simply the right thing to do.

Through the MultiChoice Talent Factory the firm will be launching an online learning portal that will support over 40 000 members of the industry to gain access to courses and online master classes.

The portal will help the industry's artistes continue to hone their craft whilst adhering to the public health measures of social distancing and isolation.

Furthermore, the firm has committed to guaranteeing the incomes of freelancers in SuperSport Productions, who are currently unable to work due to the suspension of sports events and the national lockdown.

This extends to guaranteeing the income of freelancers in their broadcast technology environment.

MultiChoice Group Chief Executive Officer Calvo Mawela said: "Our main concern is to ensure as much as possible that we secure the incomes of creatives, cast and crew over this period. We want to ensure that they and their families are not negatively impacted as work has come to a standstill."

As an industry made up of thousands of freelancers which include actors, producers, directors and camera operators, Africa's video entertainment industry is particularly vulnerable at this time.

These people play a critical role in keeping our viewers and communities informed, entertained and connected. All the whilst contributing significantly to the economy.

Can Bakari Mwamnyeto strengthen Simba SC defense?

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IT is that time of the year again. No, we are not talking about the return of the suspended Vodacom Premier League. It is the time of the year which sees media outlets link players with big-money moves to Simba SC, Yanga and Azam FC.

Simba are in desperate need of at least one new centre-back. This season has proved beyond all doubt the outfit's central defensive duo of Pascal Wawa and Erasto Nyoni cannot be relied upon throughout the season.

Nyoni has been in and out of the side due to a combination of form and fitness while Wawa appears to be on his last legs as much as he is still capable of decent performances.

It therefore comes as no surprise Simba head coach Sven Vandebroek is reported to be set for a defensive overhaul of his squad. Several defenders are now linked with a move to Simba SC.

Several media outlets have claimed Simba are planning on making a serious attempt to bring Coastal Union defender Bakari Mwamnyeto to the former, based at Msimbazi Street in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga are also reported to retain an interest but at the moment they cannot compete with rivals, Simba, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', financially.

Mwamnyeto might not be what coach Vandebroek has



Coastal Union defender Bakari Mwamnyeto.

in mind, though it is safe to say he is the number one defensive target by the club hierarchy.

Given their wealth and continental requirements, fans might expect Simba's ambitions to be a little less modest than Mwamnyeto, a 24-year old relatively inexperienced defender. However there are lots of pundits who believe Mwamnyeto is special.

Mwamnyeto's coach at Coastal Union believes the tall light skinned defender is up there with the very best the Tanzanian football scene has to offer.

So, what makes Mwamnyeto attractive to Simba? Unsurpris-

ingly given his height, he is aerially dominant. He reads the game well and can shift quite quickly despite his size.

On paper, then, Mwamnyeto has all the physical and technical attributes to make it at a higher level.

Indeed, he has already begun his ascent by earning five caps for senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars.

His Taifa Stars debut was an international friendly outing against Rwanda. He repelled most things on the day, winning 67 percent of his aerial duels, 75 percent of his tackles and com-

pleting 86 percent of the 44 passes he attempted. It was a decent debut.

He has not looked out of place in his two seasons in the top flight and his performances have helped Coastal Union climb to fifth in the table.

Coastal Union currently sit just eight points behind second-placed Azam FC.

Unlike Mwamnyeto, Wawa and Nyoni are heavily involved in the overall team build-up play.

For instance, both Wawa and Nyoni are not just playing simple five-yard passes to midfielders. They both act as deep lying play-makers.

They can play passes between the lines and over the top of the opposition's defence. They spray passes all over the pitch. They are not just hopeful balls over the top.

They are precise, pinpoint passes. And that is what separates them from others in this position and it would be no surprise if Wawa gets another contract renewal at the end of this campaign.

This is the area where Mwamnyeto needs to improve to catch up with the experienced duo.

He still ticks quite a good number of the boxes required for a modern-day centre-back.

And, given these players are hard to get in Tanzania, being able to capture a local player with all the potential to improve, it makes a move for him a no-brainer.

However it would be a risk to assume Mwamnyeto is a better replacement for Wawa and Nyoni at the moment.

Oprah on coronavirus: 'Playing it as safe as I possibly can'



This Feb. 8, 2020 file photo shows Oprah Winfrey speaking at "Oprah's 2020 Vision: Your Life in Focus" tour in New York. Winfrey says she's playing it safe when it comes to the rapidly spreading coronavirus. The 66-year-old entertainment icon said that she has been quarantining and practicing social distancing at her home. Winfrey has been busy working despite being stuck at home. She interviewed actor Idris Elba, who tested positive for the coronavirus, through FaceTime for an episode of "Oprah Talks: COVID-19" on Apple TV. (AP)

NEW YORK

OPRAH Winfrey says she's playing it safe when it comes to the rapidly spreading coronavirus.

The 66-year-old entertainment icon told The Associated Press on Friday that she has been quarantining and practicing social distancing at her home – even if that means longtime partner Stedman Graham has to stay in the guest house.

"I have now-grown girls from South Africa here (but) Stedman's on lock down at the guest house. He's still there, asking: 'When can I come? When can I come to the main house?' He's still got, hmm, till Monday," she said.

Earlier this week Winfrey posted a video of her talking to Graham as he poked his head outside of the guest house window. She said he must stay in the guest house because he had been recently flying and they're trying to be safe.

"I'm getting ready to take him some food down there now for lunch. But I'm

playing it as safe as I possibly can. Nobody goes out and nobody comes in," she said.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

Winfrey has been busy working despite being stuck at home. She interviewed actor Idris Elba, who tested positive for the coronavirus, through FaceTime for an episode of "Oprah Talks: COVID-19" on Apple TV.

When asked about how she's continuing to do work from her home, she said: "What did we do before Zoom is what I'd like to know? How could we do it without Zoom? I don't even know."

She also said she's enjoying the downtime: "Don't be hating because I'm having a really good time. I'm really OK in retreat from everyone. I'm really OK with it."

AP

Delayed Tokyo Olympics likely to open in July 2021 - media

TOKYO

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Japanese organisers are in final stages of talks to set the opening date for the Tokyo Games in July next year, Japanese media said.

The Tokyo event, postponed last week due to the coronavirus pandemic, will most likely have its opening ceremony in 2021 on July 23 and closing ceremony on Aug. 8, each a day earlier on the calendar than the original 2020 plan, said public broadcaster NHK on Sunday, citing unnamed sources.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a delay of about one year on Tuesday after a call with IOC

President Thomas Bach. It is the first postponement in the 124-year history of the modern Olympics, although several – including the 1940 Tokyo Games – were cancelled due to war.

The delay is a huge blow to Japan, which has invested \$12 billion in the run-up, although financial markets initially cheered by the decision, as some investors had anticipated cancellation.

Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said on Sunday the government, now compiling economic-stimulus measures that Abe said will be the biggest ever, will take into account that the Olympic delay will push back several trillions of yen (tens of billions of dollars) of demand to next year.

"If demand is being pushed back until next year, that means the same amount of demand will evaporate this year. We'll take this into account" in compiling the stimulus package, Nishimura told a television programme.

Meanwhile, Tokyo 2020 Olympics organising committee president Yoshiro Mori has told international federations that deciding who foots the bill for postponing the Games to 2021 will be a "major challenge". Olympic news website insidethegames here reported on Saturday.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Japanese organisers this week postponed the July 24-Aug. 9 event due to the coronavirus pandemic – the first such

delay in the modern Games' 124-year history.

Japan invested \$12 billion in the run-up to the Games and IOC President Thomas Bach had warned that the price tag will rise further.

"The extra cost that will arise from this postponement is inevitable," Mori wrote in a letter addressed to the 33 international federations of sports that make up the Tokyo Games programme. "Deciding who will bear these costs and how it will be done will be a major challenge."

Mori also issued a rallying cry to deliver the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 next year and show that humans had "triumphed over the coronavirus". REUTERS



FILE PHOTO: The Olympic rings are pictured at dusk through a steel fence, at the waterfront area of the Odaiba Marine Park, after the postponing of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, due to the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID 19), in Tokyo, Japan March 25, 2020. REUTERS

UEFA president now admits that current season may not finish

ROME

THE head of European soccer's governing body said that the current season could be "lost" if it is unable to re-start by the end of June, although he did not rule out extending it into the next season.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin told the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* that there were a number of options for concluding the season, which has been brought to a halt around Europe by the coronavirus pandemic.

"There is a plan A, B and C. The three options are to start again in mid-May, in June or at the end of June, if we don't succeed, the season will probably be lost," he said.

However, he then added: "There is also the possibility of starting again at the beginning of the next, starting the following one later. We will see the best solution for leagues and clubs."

Ceferin has said the finishing domestic leagues was the priority, even if it meant playing be-

hind closed doors.

"It's hard for me to imagine all the matches behind closed doors, but we still don't know whether we'll resume, with or without spectators.

"If there was no alternative, it would be better to finish the championships anyway," he said. "But I can say that I don't think about the finals of the European club competitions behind closed doors."

Ceferin said that the decision to postpone Euro 2020 until next year "has shown that every emergency is our emergency and every club is our club."

He said that a videoconference with representatives of clubs, leagues and players was "a fantastic demonstration of unity and solidarity."

He was also talking to FIFA and its president Gianni Infantino despite recent differences.

"It is important to forget personal interests and disagreements," he said.

REUTERS

Athletes, musicians help raise 625,000 euros to fight virus

MADRID

ATHLETES and musicians took part in an online global music festival organized by the Spanish league that raised more than 625,000 euros (\$690,000) for the fight against the coronavirus on Saturday.

Barcelona's Gerard Pique, Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos and tennis star Rafael Nadal were among those who participated in the charity event organized to raise funds for the purchase of medical supplies and to support fans confined to their homes.

Celebrities in the festival also included singers Aitana, Alejandro Sanz, Beret and Luis Fonsi, actress Danna Paola, music bands Morat and Taburete, and Chinese pianist Lang Lang.

"It's a very difficult situation, and for the league to be able to do something like this, it makes players, clubs and fans very proud," Barcelona captain Pique said.

"It's nice to see that when people need us, we can unite. I'm proud to be part of something like this," Pique added. "It will be difficult, we will have to go through some difficult moments. People close to us will suffer, some of us will suffer first-hand, but together we have to overcome this, and I believe that together we are invincible."

The athletes and celebrities participated from their homes in the four-hour event shown live to 180 countries through the league's international broadcasters and streamed via YouTube and Facebook.

Players from all 20 first-division clubs participated, along with other Spanish athletes such as swimmer Mireia Belmonte and badminton player Carolina Marin. Among the soccer players were Ivan Rakitic of Barcelona, Jesus Navas of Sevilla and Chinese forward Wu Lei, one of the members of the Espanyol squad who tested positive for the coronavirus.

"Together we'll succeed in convincing people about the importance of staying at home at this time, whilst raising money to buy medical supplies, which are in such high demand at times like

these," league president Javier Tebas said.

Spain, where stay-at-home restrictions have been in place for nearly two weeks, has been one of the hardest-hit countries by the coronavirus pandemic. It reported 832 more deaths on Saturday in its highest daily count yet, bringing the total to 5,690. Another 8,000 confirmed infections pushed that count above 72,000. Only Italy has more deaths than Spain.

The Spanish government said it will order a two-week ban on commuting to all non-essential businesses starting on Monday to intensify efforts to stem the virus outbreak in the country.

"We are concerned with the disasters that we are seeing every day on TV," Nadal said. "We are trying to adapt to this, everything is new. The reality is that we have to adapt. It takes time."

Nadal and Spanish basketball player Pau Gasol this week launched another campaign to encourage donations for a Red Cross fundraising effort to help with the public health crisis. They both made donations and urged others to follow their lead. Former Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas quickly said he would pitch in. Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone also was helping a Red Cross campaign.

In addition to the more than 625,000 euros (\$691,000) raised by the end of the live broadcast on Saturday, 1 million masks were donated by league sponsor Santander.

Earlier Saturday, Barcelona said it donated 30,000 masks to the Catalonia government.

Donations linked to the festival will continue to be raised until Sunday afternoon.

"This is something unique, with every league fan around the world, and anybody else, really, being able to contribute with their grain of sand," Pique said. "I'm happy to be able to participate in an initiative like this."

Pique's Barcelona was among the clubs that reduced players' and coaches' salaries this week because of the coronavirus crisis. Atletico Madrid did the same.

AFP

Juventus, players agree on €90M wage reduction

MILAN

JUVENTUS players and coach Maurizio Sarri have reached an agreement over a wage reduction that will save the Italian champions €90 million in the 2019-2020 financial year, the Serie A club announced on Saturday.

Sarri and the players agreed to what amounts to a four-month pay cut to help the Italian champions during the coronavirus crisis.

The agreement comes at a time when leading clubs around Europe have had to slash wage bills because of the dramatic impact of matches having to be postponed or played behind closed doors due to the spread of the virus.

"The economic and financial effects of the understanding reached are positive for about €90m (\$100.26m) for the 2019-2020 financial year," Juventus said in a statement on Saturday.

"The understanding provides for the reduction of the compensation for an amount equal to the monthly payments of March, April, May and June 2020," it added, saying personal agreements with Sarri and the players will be finalized in the coming weeks.

The Turin-based club, in one of the regions hit hardest by the crisis, has suffered in recent weeks with three of its players having tested positive for the virus: forward Paulo Dybala, defender Daniele Rugani and midfielder Blaise Matuidi.

Football around the world has been brought to a standstill by the pandemic, and Italy's top-flight Serie A has been suspended since March 9.



Juventus players and coach Sarri have agreed to take pay cuts (AFP Photo)

Italy has seen the highest number of deaths in any country from the virus so far.

"Should the current season's matches be rescheduled, the Club will negotiate in good faith with the players and the coach conditional increases of compensation according to the actual resumption and finalisation of official competitions," the statement said.

"Juventus would like to thank the players and the coach for their commitment at a difficult time for everyone."

Longstanding player Giorgio Chiellini is understood to have led the players' negotiations amid reports in the Italian me-

dia that Cristiano Ronaldo had agreed to sacrifice 3.8 million euros of his yearly wage to ease the financial burden on the club while Italy is in lockdown.

The agreement comes the day after leading Spanish club Atletico Madrid made the decision to cut the wages of their staff, including the players.

Atletico joined La Liga rivals Barcelona, who imposed a compulsory wage reduction on their players during the period of lockdown after Spain became the second-most affected country by the coronavirus in Europe behind Italy.

Meanwhile, Juventus sporting director Fabio Paratici has predicted that an NBA-style trade system

could be adopted by football in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic.

Leagues and tournaments across Europe have been suspended or postponed because of the outbreak and several clubs have expressed concern about what the economic fallout will be as they face losing millions on TV deals, competition prize money and ticket sales.

"There will be lots of trades, a situation that will bring football closer to the NBA," Paratici told TuttoSport.

Barcelona are one of the most high-profile clubs to announce they are cutting the wages of all staff, including players, temporarily to minimise the financial

impact of the suspension of La Liga and the Champions League.

Players at Bundesliga clubs Borussia Mönchengladbach, Dortmund and Union Berlin have also agreed to partially or entirely waive their wages in a bid to keep the clubs afloat.

German Football League CEO Christian Seifert warned that warned that "tens of thousands of jobs" are at stake and that more than half of the 36 clubs making up the upper two tiers of German football could be erased from the landscape.

Juve's Paratici took a different view, however, and said that some clubs will emerge from the situation in good shape.

"It's also likely that some of the clubs, for example in Germany, may benefit from the overall situation of crisis as they have a more solid economy than others," he added.

The pandemic has already made big money summer transfers seem unlikely.

Sources have previously told ESPN that Manchester United are now optimistic Paul Pogba will remain at the club past this summer as they doubt any club can afford the midfielder.

(Agencies)

Solskjaer at Man United: Assessing his first year as full-time manager

BY ROB DAWSON, ESPN CORRESPONDENT

IT says everything about Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's roller-coaster year as Manchester United's full-time manager that the coronavirus crisis has come at a bad time for the Norwegian, just weeks after he was begging for the start of the winter break.

The shutdown has halted a run of 11 games unbeaten in all competitions, including 29 goals scored, two conceded, nine clean sheets, two victories over Manchester City and one against Chelsea. In a statement issued to season ticket holders on Friday, United said "the club fully supports the collective intent to complete the Premier League, FA Cup and the UEFA club competitions." It is because they have much left to play for. But just two months ago that looked unlikely.

At the end of January, Burnley -- looking nervously over their shoulder at the relegation places -- came to Old Trafford and left with a comfortable 2-0 win. It came three days after a chastising, if expected, 2-0 defeat to Liverpool at Anfield and contributed to a run of five defeats in 10 games. There have been plenty of times when supporters have wished to "end the season now" -- particularly after defeats to West Ham and Newcastle, the draw at home to League One Rochdale and another humiliating afternoon at bottom side Watford in December.

Now, though, a year on from his appointment as permanent boss on March 28 2019, Solskjaer is slowly beginning to win them round. If self-interest plays a part, more than half the league could find reason to argue that this season should be declared null and void. United would not be one of them, even if it did mean effectively petitioning for Liverpool to win the title.

The numbers from Solskjaer's time in charge at Old Trafford do not really make sense. After taking over from Jose Mourinho in December 2018 as caretaker, he guided United to 14 wins from his first 17 games, only to follow that with a run of just two wins from 12 to end the season. He has masterminded away wins at Manchester City (twice), Chelsea, Tottenham and Arsenal but has also lost at home to Cardiff, Burnley and Crystal Palace.

Crucially, even during low moments, Solskjaer has kept the majority of players onside. David De Gea went through a disastrous run of form at the end of last season, but Solskjaer kept faith. The show of solidarity was a big reason behind the Spain international finally committing his long-term future to the



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

club in September.

While Mourinho would often put pressure on injured players to make themselves available -- one first-teamer's family was once sent scurrying around Miami's sports shops looking for a pair of boots having been told to abruptly end his holiday to play in a meaningless pre-season friendly -- Solskjaer has taken the opposite approach. He has been keen to get missing men back, but final decisions have been left to the individuals, the idea being that a player who wants to play is far more useful than one who does not.

Solskjaer has taken the same approach with his transfer business. United's pursuit of Paulo Dybala in the summer was swiftly dropped over concerns the forward was only in-

terested because his future at Juventus looked bleak. Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez were both allowed to leave without being replaced because they did not want to be there. Morale in the squad has been prioritised over everything else. Short-term pain has been deemed worth it for long-term gain.

Privately, United tell scouts and agents they want to sign players who are "respectful, humble, arrogant and have an 'X factor,'" and under Solskjaer, they have got decisions right. Harry Maguire, Aaron Wan-Bissaka, Daniel James, Bruno Fernandes and Odion Ighalo have all been successes -- a rarity for transfer dealings post-Sir Alex Ferguson. Maguire and Fernandes, in particular, have added much needed leadership in the

dressing room. Maguire is already club captain just eight months after his move from Leicester City, while Fernandes has been key in raising standards on the training pitch.

Where last season a sloppy pass might have been met with a shrug at best, it is now greeted with a fierce blast. It is part of the culture Solskjaer is trying to build. Former United defender Rio Ferdinand tells a story about being intimidated during his first United training session despite arriving as the most expensive defender in the world, and while Solskjaer has been more relaxed than Mourinho in some areas, he has tried to foster a cutthroat atmosphere on the pitches at Carrington. He is happy for teammates to kick each other in training, and arguments over

whether a ball was in or out are welcomed rather than frowned upon.

Solskjaer has ruled with an iron fist in a velvet glove. Jesse Lingard has been supported through what has been a difficult year away from football, but the United manager has not shied away from difficult decisions, and occasionally that has meant the England international watching games from the stands. More new players will arrive in the summer -- predominantly a revamp of the forward line after improving the defence last year -- and Solskjaer is prepared to be ruthless to make room in his squad.

His biggest decision may well be what to do with Paul Pogba. Solskjaer wants the best players at Old Trafford, but he is set on building a squad committed to United and will not sacrifice the harmony of the group for an individual.

Solskjaer knows better than most that 11 unbeaten games and fifth in the table does not constitute success at a club the size of United, but there are signs, however small, that the plan he rigidly has stuck to is working. A year on from his appointment as permanent boss, there is genuine hope he is getting it right. The next step is to turn it into something more tangible.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Alarm as charcoal stove misuse wipes out family

FROM PAGE 1

was not immediately established.

The bodies were handed to extended family members for burial after postmortem determined the cause of death, without suspicion of foul play by other persons, the RPC noted.

"I call upon residents not to use charcoal stoves for heating the house while sleeping. If they must, they should not close windows and doors," she appealed.

Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that has no smell or taste and exposure to high levels of it kills.

Every year there are around 60 deaths from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning in England and Wales, according to the UK National Health Service.

After carbon monoxide is breathed in, it enters one's bloodstream and mixes with haemoglobin (the part

of red blood cells that carry oxygen around the body) to form carboxyhaemoglobin.

When this happens, the blood is no longer able to carry oxygen, and this lack of oxygen causes the cells and tissue of key body organs like the heart and the brain to cease functioning, causing death.

The longer one inhales the gas, the easier it becomes to losing balance, vision and memory and, eventually consciousness.

This can happen within two hours if there's a lot of carbon monoxide in the air, the UK agency specifies.

Long-term exposure to low levels of carbon monoxide can also lead to neurological imbalance whose symptoms include difficulty in thinking or concentrating, frequent emotional changes like being easily irritated, depressed, plus making impulsive or irrational decisions.

Sanitisers: Firm donates alcohol

FROM PAGE 1

be sold at 1,000 per litre. We hope this will help the end user to get hand sanitisers at a more reasonable price," said Butallah.

"We had 100,000 litres of alcohol in stock, of which 30,000 litres have already been given to the government and 60,000 litres will be sold to manufacturers at the 22 per cent price discount per litre," he said.

"We will ourselves use the remaining 10,000 li-

tres in producing sanitisers."

The sanitisers so produced will then be distributed free of charge to all KSC employees, individual sugarcane growers and members of the communities in the vicinity of Kilombero Valley, he declared.

"We believe that this pandemic is in our hands, and we have no option but to work together in fighting it," the director added.



Arusha district commissioner Gabriel Daqarro sprays a commuter bus with a disinfectant yesterday in implementation of a campaign meant to forestall the spread of Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

FROM PAGE 1

infected people has reached 38,309, officials said. It is one among countries worst hit by Covid-19.

Saudi Arabia shut down entry and exit into the Jeddah governorate and brought forward a curfew there to begin

Buses must be disinfected - DC

at 15:00 local time (12:00 GMT) rather than 19:00, the state news agency has said.

The kingdom applied the same measures to Riyadh, Mecca and Medina last week. The kingdom

has the second highest rate of infections in the Gulf after Iran.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked Indians for forgiveness after imposing a lockdown.

Amid criticism over the lack of planning ahead of the shutdown which was introduced with less than four hours' notice, Modi apologised for the impact in his weekly radio address.

"Possibly many would be angry at me for being locked in their homes. I understand your troubles but there was no other way to wage war against the coronavirus. For a country like India with a population of 1.3 billion it is a battle of life and death and we have to win it."

Shock kills trader with market stall burned out

FROM PAGE 1

merchandise were destroyed.

One of them who owned two stalls collapsed due to shock and died while being taken to hospital after he discovered that his entire capital had gone up in flames.

The 57-year-old James Temba, a resident of Moshono collapse upon taking gaze of the razed down market with his merchandise part of the heap of rubble.

A trader, Freddy Mwita said he received a phone call that Samunge market was on fire just before midnight then rushed to the scene to rescue his stall but it was too late.

"We called police who arrived alongside the fire brigade but most stalls were already being consumed by the fire," he said.

The fire at the open air market for all sorts of clothing, durables, vegetables and groceries erupted close to 11.30 pm, and despite efforts, pockets of the fire were burning till early yesterday.

Acting Regional Commander ACP Koka Moita said that apart from the report loss of life due to shock, there were no other cases of deaths or injuries directly connected to the fire.

He said in a statement that local traders who used to operate at the market were still taking stock on what was destroyed in the fire, in which case the



A trader moves to extinguish a fire at Samunge market in Arusha city yesterday, but long after it had inflicted extensive damage to goods and various other property. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

total value of the loss will be announced later.

For the past eight years since its establishment, Samunge market played a major role as a source of income generation to a broad section of poorer residents of the city.

"We are in the midst

of facing an economic crunch due to the coronavirus outbreak and now this massive loss again," a sobbing trader reckoned.

Market operations had already taken up a substantial portion of the Unga Limited road, with the merchandise spread

even along the tarmac.

The actual source of the fire could not be established right away, especially as torrential rains precipitated on the city during the night, leaving people wondering how the fire managed to burn the makeshift market in

the downpour.

The Samunge market is located in the Themi division in the centre of the city, an area previously used as open sports space and gardens. It was known as National Milling Corporation (NMC) ground, but in 2013 local authorities

decided to convert the place into a market and commuter bus terminal.

Hundreds of traders had set up stalls and other trading spots around the market, and those with stalls suffered the most, observers noted.

ILO helps out 152 million children in employment worldwide

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

In the period of 16 years (2000/2016) the International Labour Organization (ILO) has succeeded to wipe out 152 jobs for children worldwide.

This was revealed here at the training seminar of the three-year strategic planning against child labour by the ILO world coordinator Gerson Nyadzi, who added that out of the figure 64 million were for girls and 88 million for boys.

He said 73 million children were working in difficult and dangerous environments considering their age.

Nyadzi said the African continent leads in child labour and an assessment made showed that between one to five children were working while still very young.

He said many children are working in farms especially tobacco farming, and added that ILO, in collaboration with the various governments and other stakeholders have prepared a programme to fight child labour and Gender Based

Violence (GBV).

Nyadzi said in accordance with 2014 statistics from the National Bureau of statistics (NBS) in liaison with ILO more than four million children were in employment, and added that in Tanzania 29 per cent of children between ages of five and 17 are engaged in economic activities including agriculture, domestic work, fishing, in factories and mining.

"Since 2001 the Tanzania government has ratified the 1973 ILO protocol in the fight against child labour," he said.

Representative from the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) Vitus Lugakingira said the association has been liaising with the government in the eradication of child labour.



Since 2001 the Tanzania government has ratified the 1973 ILO protocol in the fight against child labour

Mkali seeks to bounce back in dance music

SPORT

Juventus, players agree on €90M wage reduction

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

EATV MONDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanavake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Punguka
15:30 Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 ASLEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI (r)
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT ON EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Congulu 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

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMA MIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
14:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FAMOUS Tanzanian dance musician, Omary Mkali, has said he has decided to make a successful comeback in the genre at the domestic level.

Mkali, who had previously won fame in the music genre with a band known as Chu-Chu Sound, pointed out he has opted to seek to regain his fame in dance music circle through a style, popularly known as 'mduara'.

The musician, who is currently a solo artiste, noted he has composed a track titled 'Umenibamba' that has been composed in 'mduara' style.

"I will regularly be composing songs in 'mduara' style given my fans have asked me to do so," he disclosed.

The musician, who is as well a saxophonist, also has a music group known as Ommy Jazz.

He disclosed dance music fans in the country have for years been longing for songs composed in 'mduara' style.

Chu-Chu Sound Band, which rose to fame in early 2000s, won popularity in domestic dance music genre with 'mduara' songs.

"That is why I want to come back with 'mduara' songs to make the fans happy, I

nevertheless still perform jazz music and compose songs in the style," he noted.

Mkali said 'mduara' songs are familiar in coastal areas and, for that matter, he feels he has a duty to come up with songs in the mentioned style and win back fans.

The artiste disclosed creativity is a crucial aspect in music, he has therefore opted to dwell in 'mduara' style, which had helped him rise to fame in the past.

"I currently perform jazz music, but it is important for me to see to it music fans get their favourite music style, particularly 'mduara,'" he said.

"I have, therefore, opted to come up with the song 'Umenibamba'."

The musician had, during early 2000s, won popularity in dance music in the country with Chu-Chu Sound B, which has plunged into oblivion.

He said he is still performing with Ommy Jazz group in tourist hotels and special functions, including the ones organized by the government.



Dance musician, Omary Mkali

Heather Knight signs up for NHS volunteer scheme

LONDON

ENGLAND captain Heather Knight has signed up to be a National Health Service (NHS) volunteer during the coronavirus outbreak.

Knight only returned from Australia, where she led England to the semi-finals of the Women's T20 World Cup, 10 days ago and is now living under the UK's lockdown rules with

her boyfriend in Bristol.

She revealed in her BBC column that she had volunteered for the scheme that will see people support the health service by delivering food and medicine, transporting patients to appointments and making calls to those in isolation.

"I signed up to the NHS's volunteer scheme as I have a lot of free time on my

hands and I want to help as much as I can," Knight said.

"My brother and his partner are doctors, and I have a few friends who work in the NHS, so I know how hard they are working and how difficult it is for everyone."

More than half a million people signed up when the volunteer programme was announced on Wednesday. The following day, people

from around the country

took a moment during the evening to applaud the NHS from their residences.

"Standing on our doorstep, joining in the #ClapForCarers was incredible, and getting involved and volunteering will help even more," Knight said.

"I'm going to get the car out as I've volunteered to transport medicine, and also speak to people

who are self-isolating. If someone is home alone, you can ring them up and chat. They have had so many people sign up."

The ECB, meanwhile, has indicated that it could consider installing coronavirus checkpoints and isolation units at grounds, as it examines the possibility of resuming cricket behind closed doors this summer.

Steve Elworthy, the ECB's director of events, said games would need take place inside a "sterile" environment, likely with fewer than 500 people in the venue.

"So it's how you test them at the gate, the isolation units that you have to put in," he told the Guardian. "These are considerations we are thinking about."

AGENCIES

No Championship better than shortened season - Cook

LONDON

FORMER England captain Alastair Cook has said that he would prefer a season without the County Championship to playing a greatly reduced version of the competition.

The first seven rounds of Championship cricket have already fallen victim to the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic, with the ECB announcing last week that no professional cricket will be played before May 28.

When it is possible to resume playing, chief executive Tom Harrison has made clear that the more lucrative domestic competitions will be prioritised, meaning the T20 Blast and the Hundred would take precedence over the Championship.

That means there could be limited time in which to play the Championship, and Cook - who won the competition in 2017 and 2019 with Essex - said that he would rather wait a year to defend the title than have to do so in an abbreviated season.

"In this year, over the next six months, the bigger picture is the most important," Cook told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"Whatever happens, if we do play any sort of cricket which hopefully we will, what I hope is that they don't try and have a six-game County Championship or something like that. I would rather have one or two full tournaments, because if you do then play that tournament or two tournaments it is so much more rewarding to win it.

"If there is not time for a meaningful County Championship, say [you can only play] three or four games, there is probably not much sense us having it.

"I would rather concentrate on two full tournaments than saying: 'We have four tournaments that we need to play, let's get them all in even if we have to shorten them.' I think you would rather have two tournaments played full length so there is meaningful cricket at the end of it."

Previously, Essex's chief executive Derek Bowden had suggested that "there is an opportunity to be creative with the schedule", raising the possibility of playing a regional four-day competition instead of attempting a Championship season.

"Let's look at regional four-day cricket, maybe four or five regional competitions with round-robin four-day cricket," he told Sky Sports.

"Spectators and members would love that and it would also give us some four-day cricket to support England's Test series in a very tight schedule.

"Essex could play Kent, Middlesex and Surrey, while Yorkshire could play Lancashire, Durham and one other team, maybe Nottinghamshire." AGENCIES



Alastair Cook



ATP Volleyball Club players put their skills to use at a training session, which took place at Sabasaba Stadium in Njombe last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko





Dr Khalid Massa, Assistant Director (Environmental Health) in the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, washes his hands yesterday at one of some 100 stops in Dar es Salaam where DCB Commercial Bank has distributed sanitiser dispensers in support of the government's anti-Covid-19 efforts. The bank's Director for Marketing and Communications, Rahma Ngassa (L), has meanwhile presented facilities of the kind worth over 30 million/- to Chief Government Pharmacist Daudi Msasi (3rd-L) for installation at commuter bus stands in the city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NBS and ministry 'assessing' impacts of coronavirus crisis

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Planning is currently assessing the impact of the novel Coronavirus to later provide appropriate recommendations to the government.

The assessment will examine what impacts of the disease mainly in social, economic, environment and health sectors.

Already the World Bank (WB) has released fund to the Ministry of Finance and Planning for the project and the exercise had already began", said statistician general for NBS Dr Albina Chuwa.

She was speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend at a function to receive the support of 70 tablets from the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

She said the project will help the government to develop a proper strategy that will help in coming up with better strategies to accommodate with the current COVID-19 crisis.

"We will also go through scanning methods to look at what will be the ultimate of our economy if the disease will persist for a long period," she said.

According to Dr Chuwa, the tablets received are important for researching activities in the office that simplify easily collection and timely release of researched data.

"For the first time in the country, in

2022, we will conduct the so called e-population and housing censuses, whereby more than 11million households will be recorded in the electronic system by using the coordinates of the map," she explained.

"We acknowledged the support we received from our partner ILO, they have been assisting us with technical and expert consultation in research activities, but also technological support like the tablets," she said.

She added that by using the tablets and other support to come, the office will have the capacity of improving the challenges happened in the censor and the related, but also they will be able to release the results in not more than seven days after censor.

"This means that we will no longer conduct research by using manual means but modern technology," she elaborated.

Dr Chuwa further said that NBS is planning to conduct a research on the status of employment in the country which provides the clear scenario of employment and unemployment ratio in the country.

"Currently the available data on the status of employment are just projections, so through this research which is conducted after every five years, will also help the government to identify the available workforce in the country", she explained. ENDS

Uvinza District takes measures to contain COVID-19

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Uvinza

UVINZA district in Kigoma region take all measures including stopping passenger buses in the fight against COVID-19.

At the main roads' junction that goes to Kigoma, Kasulu, Mpanda and Tabora via Uvinza, The Guardian witnessed road blocks and whoever passed through it, would get off from the private

cars, passengers' buses and join a queue of people to wash hands with sanitizers and test for the Coronavirus.

Community health worker (CHW) in Uvinza Issa Lukandamila who was in charge of the operation said that at least 2,630 passengers and other people from different regions test everyday to understand their health status before proceeding to their respective destinations.

"This is due to increasing awareness and education through media and other

government campaigns, many people from outside Uvinza are adhering to the government directive," he said.

Director General for Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo who was traveling to Kigoma on oil palm production mission also took part in the health check exercise and commended the government and President John Magufuli for the efforts being made to smoke out the disease.

We all know that some of these passengers and other people who are testing today are champions of agriculture, they are better farmers particularly in oil palm farming in Kigoma region and elsewhere, some are employers in the agricultural sector, therefore, they must be protected through this way from the disease to sustain the agricultural sector, he said.

"If you want to ensure sustainable development in agriculture for example, people must be healthy and in this period of the COVID-19, we must protect them by any means," he said.

"Tanzanians have responded very well even in rural areas people are taking precautions to protect themselves from the COVID-19. This shows seriousness of the government in this matter. I

am convinced that the disease will not be there in the near future.

Frediana Cassian, a passenger from Kigoma to Tabora lauded the government for the initiatives being taken to fight the disease saying the campaign should continue for months especially washing hands with sanitizers because this will stop outbreaks of other diseases as well such as cholera.

Experts urge unity govt in undertaking reforms

JUBA

EXPERTS last week said South Sudan's recently formed transitional unity government should embark on institutional reforms, as prescribed in the signed 2018 revitalised peace deal, to win over confidence and support from the international community.

President of South Sudan Salva Kiir after appointing First Vice President Riek Machar and a host of other officials to serve in the unity government cautioned them against engaging in corrupt practices.

He also urged them to work to foster unity and harmony, besides providing services to the civil population.

Experts said that institutional reforms are crucial to enable the unity government work after six years of conflict disrupted economic activities, and weakened law and order.

Jacob Chol, professor of politics at the University of Juba said that the government should undertake financial reforms to enable proper management of revenues.

He said countries under the Troika umbrella like the United States, Norway and Britain that have been supporting the youngest nation since independence from Sudan in 2011, are waiting to see reforms in order to support the government.

"Given the fact that these Troika countries, have not

yet brought in their (financial) support, then it's likely that they will have finan-

cial deficit in terms of running the revitalized unity government and that's

where the issue of the tent government comes in," said Chol.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Open to Tanzania Nationals Only

Official Job Title: Assistant Representative
Grade: NOD
Duty Station: Dodoma, United Republic of Tanzania
Post Type: Fixed Term Appointment
Duration: 1 Year initially with the potential for renewal subject to performance and available funding
Closing Date: 14 April 2020

Organizational Setting

The Position
 Under the overall guidance of the UNFPA Representative, and direct supervision by the Deputy Representative, the Assistant Representative provides support to ensure programme quality, efficiency and effectiveness of UNFPA's support to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania within the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan II (UNDAP II). The Assistant Representative will specifically focus on UNFPA's thematic area of gender equality and human rights, building and managing partnerships and coordinating the work of UNFPA's Dodoma Office and field presence. S/he will serve on the senior management team and acts on behalf of the Representative and Deputy Representative in their absence.

Qualifications and Experience

Education
 Advanced degree in Public Health, Medicine, Sociology, Demography, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, International Development, Public Administration, Management or other related social science field.

Knowledge and Experience

- At least 8 years of progressively responsible professional experience in the field of development and/or population activities, preferably in programme/project design, appraisal and management.
- Demonstrated ability to refine programme design to ensure alignment of organizational programme objectives to national priorities and capacities.
- Knowledge of relevant international and national policies, plans and programmes in the field of gender equality and human rights.
- Proven ability to lead and manage teams to achieve demonstrable results.
- Demonstrated experience in partnership management and coordination with government and NGOs.
- Excellent communication skills, including oral and written English, and fluency in Swahili.

How to Apply
 Full details of the vacancy and how to be apply can be found on UNFPA Tanzania's website at: <https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/vacancies/assistant-representative-6>

Closing date: 14 April 2020

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Songea man said to have killed himself

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

64-year-old Songea businessman who also works in the construction industry Songea, Ruvuma Region Justin Rwendera has reportedly shot himself.

Ruvuma Regional Police Commander (RPC) Simon Maigwa said that the incident occurred on March 29, this year around 7am at the businessman's home located in Mpambalyoto in Songea town.

Commander Maigwa however told The Guardian yesterday that the reasons were yet to be established. However, investigations were on going.

He said that the deceased who was also working as a contractor shot himself by using his own pistol.

"It was found that during the day of the incident, Rwendera's house-

keeper identified as Amida Mnali (47), a resident of Bombambili in Songea found her boss laying and a lot of blood on floor, she then informed relatives and the police," he said.

It was claimed that that on March 28, this year Rwendera came back home drunk and found his relative who works on his graden at home. The family member named Raurian Bathromeo (43) escorted his uncle in the house and served him food.

It was further claimed that after eating, Rwendera went to look for his cattle near his house.

Commander Maigwa said that after arriving at the scene, the police found a pistol with seven bullets.

He said that no one has been arrested over the incident but Police are now holding the pistol for further investigations.



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Tunguu Member of the Zanzibar House of Representatives Simai Mohamed Said (R), who is also Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training deputy minister, has a word with some of the constituency's residents on the spread of Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Martin Kabemba

Minister directs NHC to finish construction of commercial building at Mtukula border

By Guardian Correspondent

DEPUTY Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Angelina Mabula has directed the National Housing Corporation (NHC) to finalise construction of commercial building in Mtukula border so as attract traders and investors.

In a tour to inspect various development projects in Kagera region over the weekend, the deputy minister said that the building which is located at the Tanzania-Uganda border was one of the projects that could inject a lot funds to the corporation if well handled.

"The Mtukula border post

is one of the busiest areas as it attracts traders and people from the two countries. With that regard, it is better for the corporation to fast-track the construction of the commercial building and start earning extra incomes, and this should be done for all other NHC projects countrywide," she said.

NHC manager for Kagera and Geita regions, Benit Masi-ka said that the corporation will implement the deputy minister directive which include fast-tracking the completion of the building whose construction is now at 88 per cent.

"Upon completion, we will invite serious tenants who had

already expressed their interest such as commercial banks and other investors," he said.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister directed the Misenyi district council in Kagera to increase pace of surveying and formalising land plots to enable more people own land and thus improve their incomes.

According to her, the move

also will eventually increase government revenue collections but also fight unplanned settlements and thus attract more investors.

"Unsurveyed land has a number of impacts, apart from denying the government revenues, the challenge also goes further to affect people's economic development by

lacking access to loans," she said. Mabula also wanted the authorities to also set special markets for traders to sell various commodities including bananas.

"Tanzanians living at border should also not utilise trade opportunities in the areas but also invest in land," she added.



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Request for Quotation

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Winrock International is a sub-contractor to Tetra Tech, the prime implementing partner for the USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI) Activity, 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, and the environment in Tanzania. WARIDI promotes state-of-the-art approaches in cross-sectoral, integrated management of water-related resources and services.

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A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be obtained via email from Winrock International, email: wariid.procurement@winrock.org. Any questions must be received by email no later than **Monday April 6, 2020 at 5:00pm East Africa Time**; and will be responded to in one all-inclusive written document provided to all bidders via email by Wednesday April 8, 2020.

Vendors can bid on all three lots. Award will be to the vendor whose quotation has been determined to be substantially responsive and who has offered the best value to Winrock/WARIDI per evaluation criteria outlined in the RFQ documents.

Quotations must be received no later than 5:00 PM East African Time on Tuesday, April 14, 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.

Bids shall be opened in public, in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend, at **Winrock International offices, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania**, at 2.00 pm, on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Public Opening may be moved to online video pending COVID-19 restrictions.

Winrock International

215683001



It's, apparently, fresh fish aplenty in this Dodoma city market, as found yesterday, though there were reports of supply having dropped a bit owing to the spread of Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Kibaha hospital sets up quarantine centre to deal with Covid-19 cases

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the weekend visited Kibaha district hospital in Coast region that has been earmarked to accommodate and treat people who will be diagnosed with Covid-19 saying he was satisfied with the hospital's preparedness.

Speaking to the wananchi after inspecting the hospital, the Prime Minister said the government continues to take various measures in confronting the Covid-19 menace whereas as of now all people entering the country through airports, road entry points and sea ports must be medically examined and if found to have Covid-19 infections they should be isolated at special designated areas for 14 days.

"We are in particular very observant

in respect of those coming from Covid-19 infected countries - we examine them and follow their journey's history including which other countries they passed," he said.

The Prime Minister said these are housed in designated areas where they undergo diagnostic tests on daily basis, adding "a person can appear without infection today but has Covid-19 infection that may not be detected in tests, and if after 14 days his test will still negative he is allowed to go and join his or her family."

He also stressed upon the citizens to continue abiding by government instructions in taking precautionary measures against Covid-9 infection including avoidance of gatherings and for those travelling in public transport

they should avoid tight congestion.

He said for those going to the markets must ensure to keep distance from a person to person and before entering the shops they should wash their hands with soap and running water.

Meanwhile, Majaliwa said the government has started taking steps for all those who are misleading other people on Covid-19 reports and added "the one who said schools will be opened had already been arrested."

Hence he called upon the wananchi to be alert with reports by people who are not official spokes persons.

He said such reports will only be issued by the Prime Minister, the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, and the government spokesman.

Kilimanjaro seeks to keep economy afloat amid coronavirus pandemic

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

AUTHORITIES in Kilimanjaro region have brought together tourism stakeholders in the joint fight against Covid-19 which has already been confirmed in the neighbouring region of Arusha. Kilimanjaro and Arusha depend heavily on tourism sector which pumps a lot of cash in the regions with substantial employment in tour operations and hospitality sub-sectors.

A meeting bringing together government leaders on one hand and owners of tented camps and hotels took place here yesterday with one agenda item: how to keep coronavirus at bay and keep the economy afloat.

Chaired by acting Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Kippi Warioba, the meeting resolved to adhere to laid down preventive measures including 14-day mandatory quarantine for arrivals from affected countries, hand san-

itizing and avoiding large crowds. "We have resolved to do everything possible to ensure that the disease does not find its way into Kilimanjaro region. Let us join hands in the fight against this pandemic," said Warioba.

He urged managements at hotels to work on the issued guidelines for Coronavirus prevention to protect themselves as well as customers. He said the government in Kilimanjaro is implementing the directives issued by Presi-

dent John Magufuli for a 14 days mandatory isolation for everyone entering into the region from abroad.

Last week, Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umy Mwalimu has directed district councils countrywide to designate isolation rooms as a precaution in view of the global incidence of the coronavirus outbreak.

Mwalimu said district authorities need to set up such spaces at

health facilities and adopt other effective preventive measures.

She appealed to government hospitals and health centres to set aside wards or special areas to accommodate suspected corona patients. "We are committed to continuing to collaborate with the World

Health Organisation and other partners to ensure a safer world," the minister declared.

According current statistics from the minister, Dar es Salaam region has eight cases, Zanzibar two cases, Arusha two cases and Kagera one case.



Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei (in glasses) washes his hands yesterday before entering Luanda Prison for inspection related to the need for enhanced vigilance in the wake of the Covid-outbreak. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

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Bugando to construct 3-storey cancer ward worth 1.7 billion/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

BUGANDO Referral Hospital in Mwanza has begun construction of a cancer ward to accommodate more patients, according to the hospital's director general Prof Abel Makubi.

Prof Makubi was speaking here at the weekend when receiving 10 tonnes of cement from Tanzania Postal Bank (TPB) to speed up the three-storey ward's construction.

He said the big increase of cancer patients reflects how the challenging the ailment was becoming in the society in the lake zone. Cancer treatment at the hospital began in 2009 with 320 patients who received treatment and by 2019 the number had increased to 14,000 patients. He said in the period of 10 years a total of 47,000 cancer patients were treated at the hospital.

He said addressing the challenge, the

government had set aside 1.7bn/- for the construction of the ward that will be able to accommodate 120 patients at a time and upon completion it is expected to cost 6.5bn/-. He head of cancer department at the hospital Dr Lucas Kiyeyi said the hospital receives about 200 cancer patients per week, some from outside Mwanza region, and some of who had to receive treatment for five weeks continuously.

Dr Kiyeyi said: "The leadership of Bugando Referral Hospital on February 4 conducted fundraising event and was able to collect more than 92m/- in cash and pledges and by yesterday 42m/- was collected," and added that BMC is the second in the country to offer such kind of cancer treatment.

TPB managing director Sabasaba Moshingi said the cement donations followed an increase of cancer sufferers in the society especially in the lake zone.

He said they recognise the fact that the hospital serves eight regions in lake and western zones with a population of over 18 million, hence they decided to offer the small donation valued at 3.6m/- towards ward construction.

The hospital's chairman for the fundraising committee Dr Pastory Mondea appealed to stakeholders to support them for the good cause.

Construction work of the cancer ward at the hospital is slated to start next month and upon completion it will admit over 100 patients per day.

In her message on the World Cancer Day which is commemorated on every February 4th, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti said cancer burden in the African region is projected to increase from over one million new cases in 2018 to over two million cases by 2040, globally.

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NBC Management would like to inform our esteemed customers that there will be some changes on interest rates for the Malengo Account effective from 1st May, 2020.

Range (Tshs)	New Rate
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Services	Present Charges (TZS)	New Charges (TZS)
Cash Withdrawal on Current Account - Over the counter	TZS 500	TZS 1,000
Cash Deposit - COINS (above TZS 50,000)	NIL	0.25% of amount, minimum TZS 2,000

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Tunduru Hospital health officer Nathan Kilumbo (L) screens a person heading for the facility yesterday to see a relative admitted there. It was all part of a procedure instituted recently as a precaution against the spread of Covid-19 infections. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Shinyanga municipal to spend 35bn/- on WB-funded development projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

SHINYANGA municipal council earmarks to spend more than 35bn/- from the World Bank sponsorship to implement three big development projects that will spur economic growth.

This was revealed yesterday by the council's statistician Raymond Kilindo at a special councilors' meeting to present report for the projects ground work.

Kilindo said the projects to be sponsored by the World Bank includes a modern market to cost 3.3bn/-, central bus stand (4.5bn/-) and 18kms tarmac roads (27.7bn/-).

"All the three projects are slated for implementation in the financial year 2020/21, and are expected to offer employment, improve sanitation, strengthen municipal's economy, friendly infrastructures for traders and increase in municipal's revenues,"

Kilindo said.

On his part, the municipal's deputy Mayor John Kisandu said the projects are important for Shinyanga's development and called on the councilors to cooperate in ensuring the municipality grows economically.

Contributing to the debate some of the councilors, including the Special Seats councilor Shela Mshandete and Ndembezi councilor David Nkulila at different times praised the coming of the projects as they will spur Shinyanga's economic development.

Meanwhile, the municipal medical officer, Dr Lusajo Mwakajoka explained to the councilors on how to protect themselves against Covid-19 infections by washing hands from time to time using soap and running water, to avoid shaking hands and to cover their mouths and noses when sneezing.



All the three projects are slated for implementation in the financial year 2020/21), and are expected to offer employment, improve sanitation

Government urged to give more priority to agricultural development

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

AGRICULTURAL stakeholders in Kilimanjaro region have advised the government to come up with few priorities in the agricultural sector that will make the sector succeed to attain positive results.

They have appealed to the relevant ministry to take concrete steps in finding solutions for myriads of problems faced by farmers, especially those in the horticulture sector who lack reliable markets in the country.

Speaking to this paper at different times at the weekend on the issue of lack of coordinated markets for fruits and vegetables, Flora Laayuni from the Association of Innovative Farmers said without deliberate priorities and adequate budgetary allocation, the sector will grow.

"We believe the best way in eradicating or reducing farmers' complaints is to deal with such issues as availability of capital, reliable markets, unpredictable changes in policy,

poor infrastructures as well as lack of friendly environment to attract investors," she said.

Salvatory Mbuya, also from the association said issues that ought to be worked on to strengthen the farming sector include having friendly policy environment for taxes and institutions that administer the sector.

Mbuya said as of now there are a multitude of institutions managing the farming sector, the situation that discourages both farmers and investors.

Another issue that was discussed was the lack of facilities for crop storage in the fields. He further said between 35 and 40 per cent of cereal crops lost after harvest, while 60 per

cent of fruits and vegetables also go bad. He advised for the enhancing of the technology to arrest the situation.

In regard to complaints from farmers in Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions over the lack of crops markets, two international companies from Kenya had agreed to come into agreements with cereals, vegetables

and fruits farmers to buy their products.

Projects manager from Rikolto - a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) that assist Tanzania farmers get reliable markets for their crops, Kain Mvanda said the two Kenya based companies - Fresh Mart and Molly Flowers are ready to buy 180 tonnes of various crops per month.

Among others, the timely initiatives being propelled strongly by Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe, targets to impart local extension officers with relevant requisite agronomic practices. Moreover, the focus is also to develop grapes growing skills among farmers as well as assuring for conduction of enough professional researches for getting hybrid seeds varieties that will enable wine processors in the country to bottle wine brands with recommended sugar content and aroma.

Govt, stakeholders in strategic plans to revive grapes and wine processing

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with key stakeholders from the private sector and Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) are implementing special strategic plans seeking to revamp grapes cultivation and wine processing sector in Tanzania.

Among others, the timely initiatives being propelled strongly by Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe, targets to impart local extension officers with relevant requisite agronomic practices.

Moreover, the focus is also to develop grapes growing skills among farmers as well as assuring for conduction of enough professional researches for getting hybrid seeds varieties that will enable wine processors in the country to bottle wine brands with recommended sugar content and aroma.

Giving an exclusive interview to 'The Guardian' over the weekend, cluster manager at the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) Ringo Iringo expressed that a special task team had been formed with a major task to prepare a viable road map to ensure the strategic plans bear fruits.

"Most grapes farmers are still using recycled seeds due to absence of reliable availability of grape seeds, and bad enough, in Tanzania big per cent of extension officers are far away from knowing agronomic practices for cultivation of grapes. This situation has for years stand as serious venom which continues to kill the crucial economic sector," according to Iringo.

And he added, growing grapes was a little bit expensive contrary to other crops, which means the sector needs involving farmers to access enough capital for taking good care of their vineyards.

"Growing grapes need systematic and professional treatment throughout all stages un till during the harvesting season. Grapes need to be grown in special trenches, whereby each hectare comprises 20 trenches, under special dimension of 2.5 meters from one trenches to another. Each trench consumes at least one lorry (5 tonnes) of fertilizers, often urea, during growing season, and later on termicide must be applied," detailed Dr Emmanuel Ulomi who is also a grapes specialist.

As of the latest statistics, there are at least 1,696 grapes farmers that scattered in different 25 villages of Dodoma municipality, Chamwino and Bahi districts with an estimated annual production rate of 10,052 tones.

However, in similar efforts, last year the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) injected the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI-Makutupora) with 297,906m/- for overhauling and modernization of scientific apparatuses at the Institute's laboratory, with an eye to advance wine processing in the country.

According to head of TARI-Makutupora centre, Dr Cornel Masawe, after start operating, the state -of- the art lab will enable the institute to run a series of training to empower farmers on how best to cultivate the crop more professionally, but also, how to process grapes into juice, being part of efforts to add value for their products.

"The lab will also be used to conduct thorough researches for producing hybrid grapes seed varieties, as well as ensuring the crop attract more farmers in all regions where it flourishes well," he informed.

To start with, Dr Masawe unveiled that the state-owned institute has already disseminated knowledge on grapes agronomic practices to farmers and extension officers in Bunda, Geita and Same districts, some of the new areas where researches discovered that the crop can flourish successfully, apart from Dodoma region.



Residents of Kibutuka in Liwale District pictured yesterday repairing a road in the village damaged by rain. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Police, prisons embark on new strategy to reduce congestion of inmates

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya in collaboration with the prison department and other legal bodies had embarked on a new strategy to reduce congestion in prisons and detainees in various prisons as part of measures aimed to fight the spread of coronavirus.

The bodies commenced the exercise during the weekend with top officials conducting visits to the prisons to witness the congestion but also hear various challenges facing the inmates.

Speaking to journalists soon after the tour, Mbeya regional police commander ASP Ulrich Matei said that during the visit, it was found that the region had a total of 1424 prisoners and detainees.

According to him, as the country struggles to battle the Covid-19 pandemic and with consideration of President John Magufuli directives, the region's authorities decided to take some key measures which include decongesting prisons.

"We all remember that President Magufuli directed authorities

to reduce number of prisons in the areas where there high congestions. Mbeya region had 770 sentenced prisoners and 654 detainees who are being charged with various counts including murder, economic sabotage, armed robbery and other crimes.

ASP Matei said that to implement the strategy, he advised the representative of the region's public prosecutor Basilius Namkamba to withdraw cases of all suspects charged with recklessness driving, assaults and robberies.

He said that other decongestion procedures are being taken by authorities and other legal bodies.

RPC Matei further said that the authorities also listened to various challenges facing the inmates and agreed to address them.

Meanwhile, commander Matei said that police is holding one person identified as Adelhard Method (37) who is a trader and Njombe region resident over fraud allegations.

He said the suspect was arrested on March 24, in Morogoro re-

gion where he was trying to escape after stealing properties from other traders using fake bank cheques.

"The suspect was deceiving whole sale traders by paying them through the cheques whenever he takes goods from them. But the traders later realised that the cheques were fake after visiting one bank branch to deposit them," he said.

ASP Matei said that during the interrogations, the suspect admitted, saying that he had a number of phantom bank cheques to fulfill the business.

