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TANZANIA

FRIDAY 10 JULY, 2020



## ELECTION



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# Chakwera disturbing post-polls happiness by cabinet nepotism

LILONGWE

MALAWI's newly elected President Lazarus Chakwera has been criticised for including family members and siblings in his cabinet.

The president's former running mate in the 2019 elections, Sidik Mia, has been



**I will not lie. I am greatly underwhelmed by the cabinet list. Perhaps our expectations were too high. Husband and wife and the wife's cousin all in one cabinet, really?**

appointed minister for Transport and his wife Abida Mia is deputy minister for Lands.

Kenny Kandodo is the new Labour minister and his sister Khumbize Kandodo is Health minister.

Businessman Gospel Kazako has been appointed Information minister and his sister-in-law Agnes Nkusa Nkhoma is the deputy Agriculture minister.

Earlier, President Chakwera's first appointee to the justice ministry, lawyer Modercai Msiska, refused to take up the position saying it would look like a reward for representing him in court. It related to the case that nullified ex-President Peter Mutharika's election win earlier this last

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# Polls graft: PCCB arrests three reelection seekers



Kagera Sugar chief operations officer Trevor Endres (L) briefs a delegation comprising members of the CRDB Bank Plc Board of Directors and some senior managers in Kagera Region yesterday on activities at the firm's sugar factory. The visitors included CRDB board chairman Dr Ally Laay (4th-R) CRDB managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd-R), Kagera Sugar directors Nassor Seif (3rd-R) and Seif A. Seif (between Endres and Laay). Story on Page 13 - Business Section. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) is holding three outgoing MPs seeking nomination on the CCM ticket for suspicions of delegate bribery ahead of the party's primaries.

The reelection aspirants involved are Livingstone Lusinde (Mtera), Peter Serukamba (Kigoma North) and Albert Ntabaliba Obama (Manyovu).

The PCCB regional commander in Dodoma, Sosthenes Kibwengo, told this paper yesterday that the bureau received a tip-off on Tuesday that Lusinde had invited CCM delegates at his residence and money was changing hands ahead of nomination votes next week.

PCCB detectives were dispatched to the scene where the officers stormed the house

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**We are carefully observing the conduct of aspirants. Anyone who engages in acts of corruption will be arrested and prosecuted according to the law**

# Cash crops due for storage in key export destinations

## ● ANSAF, REPOA list acute coffee subsector drawbacks

By Correspondent James Kandoya

**“I have already directed the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) to work with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TaDB) on the feasibility of the project and come up with a strategic plan”**

THE government is keen on renting warehouses in countries that buy most of Tanzania's cash crops to ensure constant supply and stability of prices. Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe told this paper yesterday that crops targeted are coffee, cashewnuts as well as sesame. However, the first phase will focus on coffee.

“I have already directed the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) to work with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TaDB) on the feasibility of the



project and come up with a strategic plan,” he said. Bashe said the plan is aimed at increasing market efficiency where exporters will not have to wait for customers since traders can buy crops at the nearest bonded warehouse. Once the strategic plan is adopted, the said cash crops will be processed, packed and transported to the bond warehouses for display. The plan may take up to one year to kick off, he said, noting that customers

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# Hamad Rashid to vie for Z'bar presidency

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE national chairman of the Alliance for Democratic Change (ADC), Hamad Rashid Mohamed, has picked up nomination forms to vie for the Zanzibar Presidency in the October General Election.

Hamad (pictured), who is Zanzibar's Health minister, also vied for the post in 2015. Addressing journalists



after picking up the forms, he outlined a number of priorities that include finding solutions to Union problems. He was concerned that there are some Union matters which have remained unsolved for years. “Some Union problems have not been addressed for years. Zanzibaris have been complaining about this for so long. If elected President of Zanzibar I will resolve them in

a short period,” he said. His other priorities include working closely with the Union government in ensuring development and provision of quality education. Hamad said his government would pay tuition and accommodation fees for first year university students who have not been granted loans by the Higher

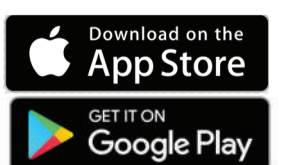
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## Hamad Rashid to vie for Z'bar presidency

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Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB). "I will introduce a new arrangement for students where girls will have their separate classrooms. This shall apply to all schools, colleges and universities," he noted.

Hamad declared that most schools have poor learning environments, promising to improve infrastructures as well as constructing storey buildings at each primary and secondary school in Pemba and Unguja.

He said although the Zanzibar government offers free basic education (primary to secondary school), he will extend the programme to also offer free education to first degree students.

Hamad promised to transform agriculture by empowering farmers to produce more for food and cash crops. His government would make sure Zanzibar is food self-sufficient and reducing imports, assuring farmers of a coordinated market system for their crops.

The party's Election Director, Omar Albert, said that ADC opened its doors for presidential aspirants to pick up nomination forms from July 7. The exercise will be closed on July 14 for the party's general assembly to convene to select its flag bearer for the presidential election.

ADC women's wing chairperson Khadija Abdalla called upon women to come up in big numbers to vie for different positions in the October general elections.

"We need more women in leadership positions to achieve the 50/50 target," said Khadija.

Last week, ACT-Wazalendo national chairman Seif Shariff Hamad collected nomination forms to vie for the presidency of Zanzibar, his sixth time since 1995.

He pledged to bring about development changes in the first 100 days.

Meanwhile, five names have been picked by the CCM National Executive Council (NEC) in Zanzibar out of the 31 cadres who collected the documents for the Zanzibar presidency.

The Zanzibar election seeks to find a successor for incumbent leader Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, who is completing his second term and a cumulative 10 years.

They are Defence and National Service minister Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning in Zanzibar - Khamis Mussa Omar, Dr Khalid Salum Mohammed, a former Zanzibar Finance Minister, ex-Chief Minister Shamsi Vuai Nahodha and Union Water minister Prof Makame Mbarawa.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi pictured yesterday signing a condolence book at the Kilimani (Dodoma city) residence of former long-serving politician and diplomat Job Lusinde, who died in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday and is expected to be buried today. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Cash crops due for storage in key export destinations

FROM PAGE 1

will not have to waste time to travel to where farmers are found, or harvesting.

The plan will end coffee smuggling to neighbouring countries, he stated.

Data released by the Bank of Tanzania in 2018 indicated that coffee smuggling to Uganda costs the country billions of shillings annually in lost earnings.

This has been rampant for many years, with criminal networks potentially raking in, with estimates showing that Tanzania fetched \$154.2m in 2016 from coffee exports, down from \$162.2m in 2015.

A new study by the Agricultural Non-

State Actors Forum (ANSAF) showed that Tanzania loses 53bn/- annually in revenues by coffee smuggling in Kagera region.

Presenting the findings of the study entitled "Investigative Research on Market Inefficiencies - Case of Coffee" in Dodoma recently, ANSAF Executive Director Audax Rukonge said the smuggling of the cash crop arises from persistence market inefficiency locally.

The study outlines constraints in the coffee value chain that need to be checked to eliminate smuggling of coffee to neighbouring countries.

Constraints listed include poor farm gate prices offered by cooperative unions for the season, adding to low production from inadequate extension services.

There are few extension workers per district, lack of capital for investment in coffee production and extension services not equipped with needed resources, it elaborates.

Coffee smuggling has negative implications on the national economy like loss of foreign currency, reduced revenues, reduced employment opportunities and undercutting the local private sector, it asserts.

"Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB), the ministry ought to strengthen market intelligence units to ensure that information on coffee prices in the global market and at other auctions is timely captured and disseminated to coffee actors particularly the farmers," the director intoned.

Studies had shown that annual coffee production in Tanzania stagnated at 50,000 metric tonnes for over 30 years, on the basis of findings by the Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) last year, he added.

## Polls graft: PCCB arrests three reelection seekers

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and found about 20 people signalled as CCM cadres.

"When asked what they were doing in that house, the guests said that they had come to see a newly delivered mother "but this did not add up because they brought no gifts for the newborn or mother as is the norm," he said.

The host, Lusinde, was then ordered to cancel the meeting and was arrested by the detectives to face election malpractice charges. The suspect has since been released as investigation continues.

"Preliminary investigations show that he (Lusinde) was attempting to influence the delegates to support him and another aspirant named Halima Okash. We are continuing with investigations," he said, noting that the two were to be interrogated again yesterday.

With regard to Serukamba, Kibwengo said PCCB detectives pounced on him at Dodoma Hotel as he allegedly distributed cash to presumed CCM cadres.

"We are carefully observing the conduct of aspirants. Anyone who engages in acts of corruption will be arrested and prosecuted according to the law," he said.

Kigoma regional PCCB commander Stephen Mafipa meanwhile said that the agency arrested Obama and his aide, the CCM Women Organisation (UWT) chairperson for Buhigwe District, Evarina John Muhungo. He alleged that they were found dishing out cash to delegates attending an internal CCM meeting convened on Tuesday at Mnanila Ward in the district.

PCCB officials seized 2.2m/- cash that would allegedly have been handed to delegates in attendance, he said.

Addressing reporters, he said on July 6 a bureau informer rang to say Albert Obama was conducting internal meetings to show the CCM Manifesto in various wards in Buhigwe District.

Mafipa alleged that the said meetings involved dishing out cash to delegates, "where amounts of cash dished out depended on the number of delegates in attendance."

He said after being tipped detectives followed up, alerting strict CCM officials



Manfredo Fanti (C), Head of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania, views spices at one of the pavilions at the ongoing Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siame

and told that internal meetings convened by reelection bidders are legal. "But if there are other things untoward in the meetings, that would not be legal."

On Tuesday the bureau sent detectives to Buhigwe to monitor the said meetings, and were told the meetings were continuing until Thursday.

The detectives penetrated the meeting in Mnanila Ward at around 2pm and as the meeting ended the district UWT chairperson Evarina Muhungo was seen dishing out 10,000/- cash to each delegate "and by the time she was arrested she had already handed out a total

of 210,000/-."

While she was dishing out the money PCCB officials intervened and stopped the exercise and ordered all the delegates to hand back the money, and was surrendered to the detectives, the bureau chief narrated.

The reelection aspirant was ordered to surrender all the cash he had in the meeting, upon which he handed out 2m/- that was with him when he was conducting the meeting.

Mafipa said the cash 2,210,000/- is in custody at Kigoma PCCB office and investigations were continuing, after which the suspects will

appear in court.

After their arrest, the suspects claimed that the meeting was planned to begin at 9.00am, and that is why the money they received was for the morning tea, he further alleged.

After their statements were recorded, Evarina John Muhungo confessed that the MP (Albert Obama) gave her the money to dish out to the delegates at the end of the meeting, he further alleged.

He said CCM meetings still in progress should exclude members likely to be delegates in the nomination of party nominees for the polls, and instead "they should be

meetings involving all party members in the wards."

The CCM National Congress meets in Dodoma this weekend to proclaim Union and Zanzibar presidential candidates. Thereafter, the party secretariat will scrutinize and name CCM parliamentary candidates.

CCM Ideology and Publicity Secretary Humphrey Polepole said last month that he consulted PCCB Director General Brig-Gen John Mbungu to put in place strategies, in collaboration with the party, to nab aspirants engaging in graft. Those arrested will be barred from contesting for those positions, he had declared.

## Chakwera disturbing post-polls happiness by cabinet nepotism

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year.

Some have also pointed out that Chakwera had attacked Mutharika about nepotism in the past and for filling his cabinet with people from his region.

Critics take note that 70 per cent of the president's new line-up is from the central region, his political stronghold.

During his inauguration on Monday, Chakwera pledged several measures to develop the country's economy, which he said has endured 26 years of poor administration while his Malawi Congress Party (MCP) was in the opposition.

"It is no secret that we have had one administration after another shifting its post to the next election, promising prosperity but delivering poverty; promising nationalism but delivering division; promising political tolerance but delivering human rights abuses; promising good governance but delivering corruption; promising institutional autonomy but delivering state capture," he said.

Some Malawians online reacted with little enthusiasm on the new cabinet:

"I will not lie. I am greatly underwhelmed by the cabinet list. Perhaps our expectations were too high. Husband and wife and the wife's cousin all in one cabinet, really?" Alfie Saweta wrote.

Hugo Mlewa said: "He should have avoided family relations, simple... son of... husband of... brother of... Work hard work hard while he is lazy appointing families... Chilima said Malawi is not a family affair... two families. And here he is approving families in cabinet."



## TIRDO introduces bio-pesticide to kill pests in vegetables

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

VEGETABLE growers in the country have a reason to smile, after a researcher from the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO) discovered bio-pesticide to control 'Tuta absoluta', one of the challenging pests.

A researcher from TIRDO, Dr Never Mwambela said the new bio-pesticide baptized 'Vuruga' has already been registered by the government. She said farmers are likely to start using it this year.

"I have discovered the pesticide when conducting research for my PhD at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology last year. I did a lot of research before I came up with the 'Vuruga' bio-pesticide to kill the challenging pests, which attacks vegetables, tomatoes, maize and other crops," said Dr Mwambela.

She said the bio-pesticide was earlier tested by the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) before it was registered for use by the government. He said that once the pesticide is sprayed on vegetables, it kills the pests in between three and seven days. Dr Mwambela appealed to medium scale and large investors to construct factories that will massively produce

the pesticides to meet the growing demand. He added that once production of the bio-pesticides is done locally it will reach farmers fast and be sold at reasonable prices.

The researcher suggested for farmers to use organic pesticides against pests to avoid causing health problems to vegetable consumers. She said industrial made pesticides contain a lot of ingredients which may be harmful to people's health.

"Vegetable growers should prefer organic pesticides since they do not pose any health risks to consumers. Bio-pesticides are good for both human beings and plants," said Dr Mwambela, noting there are farmers who have already been affected by industrial pesticides.

She said the industrial pesticides are likely to cause different types of cancer. Commenting on the new bio-pesticides, one of the maize farmers in Arusha Region, Simon Shangwea said that the newly introduced bio-pesticide is good because it does not have a strong smell.

Another farmer, Pezuma Kimale said the new pesticide showed good results when sprayed on tomato and cucumber farms. She said that pests were killed in a short period enabling farmers to get better yields.



Former Special Seats legislator (Chadema) Sophia Mwakagenda pictured in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region, yesterday brandishing forms she had just collected for possible nomination by the opposition party as a candidate for the Rungwe parliamentary seat in the upcoming (October) General Election. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## Arusha Urban parliamentary seat race begins

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE political scramble towards representing the Arusha-Urban constituency in the National Assembly during the forthcoming October election seems to have taken the initial cue after the outgoing MP Godbless Lema threw in his card on Thursday.

The incumbent Lema took contesting forms from his Chadema offices at the National Housing (NHC) estates of Ngarenaro.

At least, his wife, Neema took the forms on Lema's behalf, saying Lema was in Tanga attending other party duties.

Lema however vowed to retain his clutch on the Arusha-Urban Parli-

mentary seat, for the third time in a row.

Still, Lema is likely to face stiff competition from the ruling CCM.

On the CCM side, so far it is only rumors regarding the bigwigs likely to wade into the waves of parliamentary candidacy for Arusha City and the names being mentioned in social media circles are that of the former Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo, current City Mayor, Kalist Lazaro and the former Mayor, Gaudence Lyimo.

Others likely to run for the parliamentary seat include a well-known lawyer, Advocate Alberto Msando and also the prominent businessman, Philemon Mollé, who lost the race to Lema during the 2015 elections and

now returns for another trial.

There is also Dr Batilda Buriani, who at one time served as Environment Minister and also Ambassador to Kenya. She is the only lady being mentioned among the potential candidates' listing and had contested for the Arusha City's seat in 2010 when she lost to Chadema's Godbless Lema.

For the last decade, the Arusha-Urban constituency has been under the opposition Chadema's hold and now the residents' trust in the party stands to be tested again next October.

However, before Lema got the windfall, the MP who has been representing Arusha City was Felix Christopher Mrema (1997-2010) of the CCM who won the By-Election polls of 1997 after

defeating Engineer Jeremiah Mpinga then running for NCCR-Mageuzi.

During the first Multi-Party Elections of 1995, Arusha-Urban Constituency was won by Makongoro Nyerere, the son of the former President of Tanzania, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere. Makongoro was the first opposi-

tion candidate to win the City before the court nullified the results in 1997.

Comrade Abdulrahman Kinana, the former Defense Minister served as the Member of Parliament for Arusha-Urban (CCM) up to 1995 when multiparty polls were held here.

In what is being termed as strange

coincident, Godbless Lema takes the parliamentary forms a day after his closest party ally, Joshua Nassari defected from his former party of Chadema, joining CCM.

Nassari had once served as Member of Parliament for Arumeru-East under the Chadema ticket.

## Govt pledges to take action against unscrupulous cooperative officials

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

THE government will take legal steps against cooperative officials who will be found to abuse office by enhancing their own personal interests instead of the people's interest.

The caution was given by the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture Gerard Kusaya early this week during the event to mark international Cooperatives Day that was held at national level in Morogoro Region.

He said there are some cooperative officials who are untrustworthy, they use the cooperatives' resources for their own interests, and added that the government, through its various organs including the PCCB continues to make investigations on the cooperatives.

"As the government we have received many complaints from farmers including traders on fraudulent acts done to them by some of the cooperative officials, and we are closely making follow ups on these complaints," he said.

He said up to now there are more than 8,600 cooperatives in the country while 4,000 of them have already been verified.

The registrar of cooperatives Dr Benson Ndiege said they will make sure every member of the co-

operatives benefit from the cooperatives from the targets set in order to benefit all farmers especially at this time when Tanzania has attained the middle income status via the efforts of the Phase V government of President John Magufuli.

**AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC**  
*benki kwa maendeleo yako*

### NOTICE OF RESCHEDULING OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR SHAREHOLDERS OF AKIBA COMMERCIAL BANK PLC

Notice is hereby given that, the **2019 Annual General meeting** of the shareholders of Akiba Commercial Bank Plc scheduled for **Saturday, 25th July, 2020** has been postponed until further notice.

Other information regarding the meeting will be communicated in due course.

## First Housing Finance (Tanzania) Limited <sup>1st</sup>Housing

### VACANCY

### HEAD OF FINANCE AND COMPANY SECRETARY

First Housing Finance (Tanzania) Limited is a financial institution specializing in housing mortgage loans in Tanzania. The company is looking for a person suitably to fill in the vacancy of Head of Finance and Company Secretary. It is a Joint Venture of International Finance Corporation, HDFC and other local investors

#### Job Objective:

To manage all finance related matters of the institution and to ensure compliance with relevant statutes governing the company. The recruit would manage the company secretariat functions including compliance of provisions with regard to company affairs. The attitude should be that of maintaining financial stability, increasing profitability and achieving sustainable growth in the business.

#### Essential Duties & Responsibilities:

- Promote the Company's vision, mission and core values.
- Lead a team of finance professionals, as and when in place, to develop and maintain well documented accounting policies for the institution, which are compliant with IFRS and BASEL-III for achieving strategic objectives as well as to ensure compliance.
- Develop a sound financial reporting system for various regulatory reporting requirements of the company and to ensure compliance of the requirements.
- Design and implement internal financial controls and reporting requirements and to monitor and control accounts payable with maintaining vendor relationships.
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- Drive the company's financial planning and budgeting process, undertake performance evaluation vis-à-vis budget.
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- Maintain a high performance financial organization through continual process improvement, adoption of appropriate best practices and development of the Finance Department.
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- Corroborate with Statutory Audits for preparation and finalization of accounts.
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- Work in guidance of directors for raising funds to support the mortgage operations and capital-raising strategies.
- Responsible for all taxation related matters and coordinating with Tax Consultants for Tax Health Checks.
- Filing of statutory returns – taxes, provident funds, etc.
- Responsible for the ALCO functions of the institution.
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- Preparing papers and submission to the board members/ shareholders.
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#### Mode of Application

Applications must be attached with updated detailed resume and copies of relevant certificates. The same may be sent through email, postal address or physical delivery to the addresses indicated herein below. The deadline for submission of applications will be two weeks from the date of this advertisement.

#### All Applications should be addressed to:

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**First Housing Finance (T) Limited**  
**Plot No. 19, Barack Obama Drive**  
**P. O. Box 11990**  
**Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.**  
**Email – hr@firsthousing.co.tz**



## Govt advised to build capacity for CBOs

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE government has been advised to engage on capacity building for Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to enable them to significantly contribute in finding solution to problems facing children.

Currently, some of the CBOs are unable to adequately deal with problems facing children over lack of technical support hence the need for the government to capacitate them.

The remarks were made here yesterday by national child protection manager for SOS Children's Villages Tanzania,

John Batista during a policy meeting on the roles and responsibilities of CBOs in engaging and influencing children issues at local government authorities (LGAs).

"The country lacks a proper system for dealing with children problems, this requires the government to rectify the situation by ensuring presence of a strong foundation for children who are the nation's future workforce," he noted.

According to Batista they also work to educate the community on the importance of changing their mindset towards violence against children and consider it as a crime or pandemic that

may ruin the well-being of people.

Assistant Community Development Officer in Mhandu Ward in Nyamagana District, Mwanai Natoro said there are still many cases related to violence against children in the area with most of them recorded between January and June this year.

Mwanai added that authorities have started to take measures to arrest the situation. She said most of the children in the district have experienced torture, rape and sodomy among others.

"The various forms of violence against children disturbs them psychologically and spoil their future," said the officer.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA  
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### TAARIFA KWA VYOMBO VYA HABARI

JAMUZI WA SHAURI LA UKIUKAJI WA KANUNI ZA UTANGAZAJI DHIDI YA KWANZA BROADCASTING LIMITED T/A KWANZA ONLINE TV

#### 1.0 UTANGULIZI

Kamati ya Maudhui ya Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano imetoa uamuzi dhidi ya Kwanza Broadcasting Limited T/A Kwanza Online TV kwa kukiuka Kanuni za Mawasiliano ya Kielektroniki na Posta (Maudhui ya Mitandaoni), 2018 na Kanuni za Mawasiliano ya Kielektroniki na Posta (Maudhui ya Utangazaji wa Redio na Televisheni) 2018.

Mnamo tarehe 01 Julai, 2020 kituo cha Kwanza Online TV kupitia kurasa zake za mitandao ya kijamii (Instagram), ilikiuka Kanuni za Utangazaji kwa kuchapisha taarifa inayodaiwa kutolewa na Ubalozzi wa Marekani nchini Tanzania. Kwanza Online TV ilichapisha taarifa hiyo iliyojaa upotoshaji kwa jamii bila kutafuta usahihi na ukweli wa taarifa husika, na bila ya kuzingatia mizania ya Habari. Kwanza Online TV ilichapisha maudhui hayo yaliyokuwa katika mfumo wa picha mnato, ambayo yanadaiwa yanatoka Ubalozzi wa Marekani nchini Tanzania.

#### 2.0 MAELEZO YA UTETEZI YA KWANZA ONLINE TV

Katika utetezi/maelezo ya kimaandishi yaliyowasilishwa mbele ya Kamati ya Maudhui, uongozi wa Kwanza Online TV uliambia Kamati kuwa Kwanza Online TV inapinga mashtaka husika kwani Kwanza Online TV imetoa taarifa inayotimiza matakwa ya Katiba ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania chini ya Ibara ya 18, inayompa mtu uhuru wa kutoa maoni yo yote, kutoa mawazo yake, kutafuta, kupokea, kutoa habari na dhana zo zote kupitia chombo cho chote bila kujali mipaka ya nchi.

Aidha, katika maelezo hayo, Uongozi wa Kwanza Online TV uliambia Kamati kuwa walichapisha habari hiyo kwa lengo la kuujulisha umma juu ya maoni ya Ubalozzi wa Marekani nchini Tanzania, kuhusu ugonjwa wa COVID-19. Uliendelea kudai kuwa, kwa asili ya habari hiyo ni kwamba haikuwa na mantiki wala haja ya kutafuta upande wa pili kwani taarifa hiyo ilikuwa ni taarifa kwa umma na siyo aina ya taarifa ambayo inahitaji upande wa pili kwa sababu yale yalikuwa ni maoni na msimamo wa Ubalozzi wa Marekani, na hata kutafuta na kupata maoni ya upande wa pili kusingeweza kubadili maudhui ya taarifa ambayo imechapishwa na Ubalozzi wa Marekani.

Hali kadhalika, uongozi wa Kwanza Online TV ulidai kuwa uzalendo wao ulikuwa ni kuujulisha umma kuwa mataifa mengine yanazunguma nini kuhusu nchi ya Tanzania, na ni hatua gani nchi yetu inatakiwa ichukue ili kuepuka minong'ono kutoka mataifa mengine.

Pamoja na utetezi wao, Kwanza Online TV walidai kuwa walipewa notisi ya kutoa maelezo yao ya utetezi chini ya saa 24.

#### 3.0 UAMUZI WA KAMATI

Baada ya kupitia kwa umakini na kutafakari kwa kina maelezo ya utetezi wa maandishi ulitolewa na Uongozi wa Kwanza Online TV, Kamati ya Maudhui imeridhika pasi na shaka kuwa Kwanza Online TV kupitia ukurasa wake wa mitandao ya kijamii wa Instagram imekiuka Kanuni Na. 7(1) (a), (b) na 12 (1) za Kanuni za Mawasiliano ya Kielektroniki na Posta (Maudhui ya Mitandaoni), 2018 pamoja na Kanuni Na. 11(1)(a) na 15(2)(b) na (c) za Kanuni za Mawasiliano ya Kielektroniki na Posta (Maudhui ya Utangazaji wa Redio na Televisheni), 2018.

Hivyo basi, kwa mujibu wa Kifungu cha 28 (1) (b) na (d) cha Sheria ya Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania, Sura ya 172, Marejeo ya Mwaka 2017, Kamati ya Maudhui inaamua kutoa adhabu ya kuifungia Kwanza Online TV kutoota huduma kwa kipindi cha miezi kumi na moja (11) kuanzia tarehe 06 Julai, 2020, ili waweze kujirekebisha.

Taarifa hii imetolewa na:  
Mwenyekiti  
Kamati ya Maudhui  
06/Julai/2020



Benedicto Baragomwa (2nd-L), NMB Bank Plc's acting chief financial officer, pictured in Tanga city yesterday symbolically presenting to Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu (2nd-R) 250 desks and 352 corrugated iron roofing sheets worth a total of 36m/- the bank has donated to seven Tanga secondary schools. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Politicians urged to conduct peaceful campaigns towards general elections

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

POLITICIANS in the country have been urged to conduct peaceful campaigns towards the coming general elections bearing in mind that there is life after elections thus the need to bring Tanzanians together.

The call was made here by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of State in Prime Minister's Office, Tixon Nzunda, calling on all seeking elective positions to adhere to laws and constitution.

Speaking while officiating at the public meeting on participation in the coming general elections, he said the public should vote for the right people.

He said if political leaders are elected in a transparent and democratic manner the country can prosper.

He said the government will welcome all political nominees regardless of their gender, colour, disabilities or age to take part in important decision making positions in the country.

"Our key priority is that all the nominated candidate must exhibit the needed requirements for the specific position they apply for," he noted.

He went on to point out that all key stakeholders have been involved and they fully participated in the preparations of the next general elections.

"All eligible voters have been registered. The government is well set to ensuring a supportive environment to all participants and that there won't be a room for people to disrupt peace and order," he added.

The government vowed to ensure every individual interested in vying for a political position is encouraged and supported and expect the elections to be free and fair across all communities.

In the meantime, the government official urged the commission and the rights groups to help prepare the right candidates who can champion the peoples' concern and seek for the right solution to challenges facing them.

Almost 40 per cent of members of the parliament were women in the just ended 11th parliament.

The number also included youth and people with disabilities. On the ward councillors one-third of the group were women, however, the number of people with disabilities were highly lower.

"But I assure you that in Africa we are ahead of many other countries," he said. Peace, Legal Aid and Justice Centre (PLAJC) representative Catherine Fredrick explained that the meeting was organised to set joint strategies that will help both women, youth and people with disabilities participate fully in the elections.

His sentiments were echoed by Fatma Khalifan from the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance. She pointed out that it was imperative that all stakeholders jointly work together to ensure the elections are inclusive, free and fair.

## Bank introduces product to empower women's businesses

By Guardian Reporter

I&M Bank Tanzania has introduced 'Tunaweza Women Account' which provides solutions to women in all levels from

single business entrepreneurs to the institution level.

Bank's Marketing and Communication Manager Anitha Pallangyo revealed this yesterday when speaking at the 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

According to Pallangyo, under the bank's Tunaweza Women Account, customers enjoy services with distinguished features such as no transaction fee, no monthly charges and very attractive interest rates.

"The product is linked to all the digital banking platforms, giving customers seamless banking experience," she said in a statement.

Pallangyo said that I&M Bank offers a wide-range of financial services—loans as well as special offers which are designed for women customers.

"As bank, we offer a number of products and services that cater for all the customer needs in the market," she said, adding that at this year's trade fair the bank wowed the visitors with the newly introduced I&M Tunaweza Women Account which provides solutions to women in all levels from a single individual, business entrepreneurs to the group or institution level.

The official further said: "We also offer affordable and easy to access loans with several other services which made all the visitors who visited the bank's pavilion excited and wanted to learn more about the bank."

Apart from participating at the trade fair the bank continues to offering services through the network of its branches located in Dar es Salaam, Moshi, Arusha and Mwanza.

The bank offers several financial services including savings account, current accounts for business purposes, business loans, forex services, national and international transfers, digital services which gives a customer opportunity to access banking services through their cell phones using USSD codes \*150\*32# or through iClicl the internet banking service 24/7 seamlessly," read part of the statement.

I&M Bank Tanzania is a subsidiary of I&M Holdings Kenya, and is celebrating its ten years anniversary in Tanzania this year. I&M Holdings Limited, a publicly quoted company at the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE). The bank owns a rich heritage in the banking industry.

THE UNITED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA  
Plot No 772 Block F, Vijibweni Area  
P.O.BOX 36246, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA  
Phone: +255 684 505 012 E-mail: admin@uaut.ac.tz.

### INVITATION OF TENDER BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY BUILDING BLOCK AND FENCING WALL AT VIJIBWENI AREA, KIGAMBONI DAR ES SALAAM

The UAUT plans to engage contractors for construction of 4 storey building for the College of Engineering & Technology. Interested contractors have to apply for bidding documents and process so as to achieve appropriate responsiveness. Interested building companies are encouraged to apply. Please submit your company letter head with the following mandatory info:-

- Company profile, CV of your company's key staff demonstrating their ability to carry out the assignment, director's list organogram.
- Valid tax clearance, VAT Registration and TIN certificates.
- Company Registration Certificates.
- Valid Business License.
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licence (OSHA), TBS Certificate and other relevant industry documents.
- Supporting client references for construction services rendered by your company over the last 3 years.

#### 1. Background:

The Vice Chancellor of the United African University of Tanzania, Vijibweni, Kigamboni Dar es Salaam invites reputable qualified and Eligible Firms/Contractors to submit firm offers for Construction works of College of Engineering Technology Building and Fencing Wall.

#### 2. Eligibility:

Firms/Contractors duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound

financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet United African University of Tanzania requirements are invited to participate in the bidding process. "This bid is open to CRB Class V and above contractors only".

The tender documents can be collected from UAUT Office:

United African University of Tanzania  
P.O. Box 36246, Dar es Salaam  
Plot No. 772, Block F, Vijibweni Area  
Dar es Salaam.

#### CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR TENDER BID

Deadline for receiving requests for clarification  
30th July 2020 from 8:30a.m. to 16:30p.m.

MANDATORY site visit  
27th July 2020 from 8:30a.m. to 16:30hrs.

Deadline for submission of offers  
Friday 30th July 2020 – 12:00p.m.

\*Please Note that the site visit is MANDATORY

UAUT Tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tender documents.

Please visit the university premises before submission of the tender documents.



THE UNITED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA  
Plot No 772 Block F, Vijibweni Area  
P.O.BOX 36246, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA  
Phone: +255 684 505 012 E-mail: admin@uaut.ac.tz.

### JOB OPPORTUNITIES

THE UNITED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA (UAUT) is a private Institution of Higher Learning Institution founded by the Registered Trustees of Korea Church Mission (KCM), with the objective of alleviating poverty and promoting growth through raising Tanzanian Christian leaders who are equipped with excellence in wisdom, knowledge and Christian virtues. The responsibility of the day to day running of UAUT is vested upon the University Council with the Vice Chancellor as the main link between the Board of Trustees and University Council. UAUT obtained The Certificate of Full Registration (CFR) from Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) since 2012.

#### Vision:

We aim, in God's direction, to equip students with Integrity and Excellence.

#### Mission:

Pursuing God's Wisdom, Serving Communities and Cultivating Global Minds.

Programme Name: Bachelor of Business Administration

#### VACANT POSITIONS

##### 1. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR (1 POSITION)

- Qualifications
  - Holders of PhD and a GPA of 3.5 (Upper Second class) or above at Bachelor degree and 4.0 or above for Master degree majoring in Accounting/Finance, International Business, Marketing and other related field.
  - At least 4 years of teaching experiences after attaining PhD.
  - Demonstrated ability to mentor and supervise undergraduate research.
  - Demonstration of actual experience in application of course material to real life situations
  - Ability to apply specialist knowledge and skills to the resolution of problems in the society.
  - Ability to remain current in his/her field through active consulting and continuing education

#### Duties:

- Providing leadership role to the University
- Participating in the establishment of research hubs and resource centre
- Disseminating research findings to appropriate stakeholders
- Any other relevant duties that may be assigned by the management

##### 2. ASSISTANT LECTURER (1 POSITION)

- Qualifications
  - Holders of Master's degree with a GPA of 4.0 or above and a GPA of 3.5 or above for Bachelor degree majoring in Marketing.
  - At least 4 years of working experiences in Higher Learning Institutions
  - Teaching language proficiency

#### (i) Duties

- Undergoing training to PhD level
- Undergoing induction course in pedagogical skills for those who had none before
- Conducting lectures, tutorials, seminars and practical for undergraduate programmes
- Assisting senior staff in practical sessions, seminars and tutorials
- Preparing case studies
- Working in cooperation with senior members on specific projects
- Supervising special projects for undergraduate students
- Mentoring junior staff in all relevant academic matters
- Participating in curriculum development
- Participating in developing and managing of various university projects
- Undertaking research and publishing research results
- Preparing teaching manuals and compendia
- Attending/organizing workshops, conferences and seminars
- Any other relevant duties that may be assigned by the management

Programme Name: Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and Information Technology

#### 1. ASSISTANT LECTURER (1 POSITION)

- Qualifications
  - Holders of Master's degree with a GPA of 4.0 or above and a GPA of 3.5 or above for Bachelor degree majoring in Computer Science, Engineering and IT and all related field.
  - At least 3 years of working experiences in Higher Learning Institutions
  - Teaching language proficiency

#### (ii) Duties

- Undergoing training to PhD level
- Undergoing induction course in pedagogical skills for those who had none before
- Conducting lectures, tutorials, seminars and practical for undergraduate programmes
- Assisting senior staff in practical sessions, seminars and tutorials
- Preparing case studies
- Working in cooperation with senior members on specific projects
- Supervising special projects for undergraduate students
- Mentoring junior staff in all relevant academic matters
- Participating in curriculum development
- Participating in developing and managing of various university projects
- Undertaking research and publishing research results
- Preparing teaching manuals and compendia
- Attending/organizing workshops, conferences and seminars
- Any other relevant duties that may be assigned by the management

Send your detailed CV, Cover letter, Certificates (PDF) and Testimonials if any to: hr@uaut.ac.tz or visit our website www.uaut.ac.tz  
Deadline 30th July 2020





# NCBA

We are pleased to announce that Commercial Bank of Africa Tanzania Limited and NIC Bank Tanzania Limited are now NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited.

## NCBA BANK TANZANIA LIMITED UNVEILS NEW LOGO

NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited (NCBA) has unveiled a new logo and tagline as it officially commences its banking operations as a merged entity. This follows the No Objection on voluntarily merger and consolidation of business between NIC Bank Tanzania Limited (NIC Bank) and Commercial Bank of Africa Tanzania Limited (CBA) on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Approval by Bank of Tanzania has paved way for the two organizations to officially start operations as NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited. Margaret Karume, Designate NCBA Tanzania Managing Director said the new brand identity will allow the combined entity to leverage on the strengths, values and historic legacies of the former two brands.

"We are pleased to unveil our new inspirational logo, as part of our journey to bring our merger under one unified banner. The new NCBA logo and visual identity will be rolled out gradually across all our customer touch points," said Margaret Karume.

She added that the name and logo reflect the new bank's deep roots and experience in the region. They also represent the ambitions of the bank to become one of the leading banks in Tanzania, as well as across the African continent.

"We are excited about our bold, new unified identity which sets us apart and resonates very well with our customers. NCBA is a stronger and larger bank, with the financial strength, expertise and regional connectivity to put its customers first through an expanded range of products and services," said Mr Sharmapal Aggarwal, Designate NCBA Bank Tanzania Board Chairman.

The bank is in the process of harmonizing its systems, so that customers can enjoy seamless services across our channels in Tanzania. "Our ambition is that by end of quarter three 2020, all NCBA customers will experience the same service levels regardless of their previous relationship at NIC Bank or CBA," said Margaret Karume.

Over the next one month the bank will finalize the rebranding of their external branch signage across Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha and Zanzibar.

The integration of the businesses in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda has been completed.

WELCOME TO THE BANK THAT SAYS **Go for it**





Alliance for Democratic Change (ADC) chairman Hamad Rashid Mohamed (in cap), who is also Zanzibar Health minister, receives Zanzibar presidential candidacy nomination forms from the party's planning, elections and operations director, Omar Albert Constantine, in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Guardian

## Govt to have marine species protection centre in Chato

By Guardian Correspondent, Chato

THE government is planning to establish a large marine species protection centre in Chato District, Geita Region that will be producing more than 10 tonnes of fish per year.

This was revealed on Wednesday this week at Rubabangwe village in the district by the Permanent Secretary (Fisheries) in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Dr Rashid Tamatamah when handing over area of the proposed centre to Corporation Sol—the contractors picked by the government for the project.

He said upon completion, the project will cost 3.8bn/- and already the Ministry has paid a total of 42m/- as compensation to residents of the 28-acre area who have been moved to pave way for the project.

"It will be the biggest project of its kind in the country and it will have fish breeding ponds, a small fish processing factory. Building for fish food, a study farm, a hostel and the centre's offices," he said.

He said construction work is expected to take three months and completed in October this year and will have a fish fingerling hatcheries that will have the capacity to produce over two million fish fingerlings per year.

The Director of Marine Species Protection Centre Dr Nazaeli Madala said the centre will be a solution to the scarcity of fish that is being experienced from natural fish sources.

"The centre will serve all regions surrounding the Lake Zone and neighbouring areas, and will also train fish breeders as well as extension officers on fish breeding from ponds," Madala said.

Earlier the Chato district commissioner Charles Kabeho thanked the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries for establishing the centre in the District and pledged to closely follow up its construction.

Rubabangwe Village Executive Restituta Majura said the project will benefit village residents via employment opportunities and spur economic development.



**It will be the biggest project of its kind in the country and it will have fish breeding ponds, a small fish processing factory. Building for fish food, a study farm, a hostel and the centre's offices**

## FAO praises Tanzania for passing Plant Health Act

By Guardian Reporter

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has commended the government of Tanzania for passing the Plant Health Act of 2020 calling it a big step towards prevention and control of plant pests and diseases in the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, FAO's Assistant Representative (Programme), Charles Tulahi, said that the law is a major step forward in ensuring food security and nutrition in the country.

"This is a great milestone reached towards stronger institutional response to plant pests and diseases in the country," he said adding: "FAO is honoured to have provided technical and financial support that contributed to this historic achievement through the United Nations Joint Pro-

gramme (UNJP) framework."

Enactment of this law comes at a time when the world is marking the United Nations' International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) for 2020 with the aim of raising global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and boost economic development. Plants make up 80 percent of the food we eat. Yet they are under constant attack from pests and diseases, which destroy about 20-40% of food crops every year. This leaves millions of people with not enough food to eat, and causes huge income and trade losses, particularly to poor rural communities.

It is against this background, that FAO launched the IYPH on the sidelines of the UN's General Assembly in New York in December 2019.

In May this year, the Parlia-

ment of Tanzania passed the Plant Health Bill of 2020, which was later assented by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, John Pombe Magufuli to become a full law.

This is such a historic achievement by the country in dealing, among other things, with invasive alien species that pose a threat to the environment, food and income security and human health, Tulahi said.

"Available information from various countries indicate that, lack of effective control measures, has forced farmers to use a lot of pesticides, which are in most cases not used effectively hence posing threat of pollution to ecosystems and heightened pesticide residues in food and feed products," he pointed out. Moreover, the world depends on trade in plant and plant products, which can increase the risks of spread of

pests and diseases. Pests and pesticide residues can interfere with trade. Thus, the enactment of the law is seen as an important step towards implementation of international standards and norms, which will in effect facilitate trade of agricultural commodities.

According to him, pests and pesticide management challenges in most countries are normally compounded by inadequate regulatory framework; low awareness among plant protection regulators, farmers and traders on existing legislation and lack of legal

frameworks, inadequate facilities for supporting the enforcement of the laws and regulations, among others.

Upon request from the government of the United Republic of Tanzania, FAO provided technical and financial assistance to address similar challenges. Through the 'Strengthening Tanzania Phytosanitary Regulatory Framework for Enhanced Food, Income and Nutrition Security' project, FAO is closely working with the government of Tanzania to strengthen the regulatory framework by support-

ing the enforcement of measures that will minimise risks of introduction and spread of invasive species in the country.

One of the activities implemented under the UNJP, was the review and replacement of the current Plant Protection Act with the Plant Health Act 2020. The Plant Health Act 2020 addresses identified gaps in the existing legal framework providing stronger institutional response to imminent pest invasions through surveys, collection of pest natural enemies, re-

sponsible use of pesticides, among others. Such measures are expected to enhance agricultural productivity and improve food and nutrition security in the bid to eliminate hunger, particularly among rural households in the country.

FAO commends the government of Tanzania for such a step forward and reiterates its commitment to continue supporting the country in its efforts to improve the agriculture sector particularly in the implementation of the Act, Tulahi concluded.



MFK Trucks marketing officer Paul Msuku (L) briefs visitors at the firm's pavilion the ongoing 44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### IN THE MATTER OF ACCENTURE CONSULTING SERVICES LIMITED (VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)

#### NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING AND DISSOLUTION

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT pursuant to section 345 of the Companies Act [Cap 212 R.E. 2002] there shall be Final Meeting of Members for the purposes of laying down the accounts and giving any explanations thereof with respect to the voluntary winding up of Accenture Consulting Services Limited (the "Company") on 10 August 2020.

The meeting will be held at 11:00 am at the offices of ARS Law & Advisories, Ground Floor, Mikumi House Plot. No. 368, Msasani Road, Oysterbay Office Complex, Dar es Salaam Tanzania, through teleconference. The Agenda of the meeting will be laying of the account of winding up of the Company and giving any explanation thereof on closure of the Company.

**Shamiza Ratansi**  
(Liquidator)  
Ground Floor, Mikumi House  
Plot No. 368, Msasani Road  
Oysterbay Office Complex  
P.O. Box 23262  
Dar es Salaam

## Covid-19: JICA launches business plan competition

By Guardian Reporter

THE Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has launched a business plan competition as a stimulus to mitigate effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

Dubbed Next Innovation with Japan (NINJA), the initiative comes with up to USD 30,000 for winning startups and businesses emerging during the Covid-19 outbreak.

A statement released yesterday by JICA said the competition will target startups and organisations from 19 African countries, including Tanzania.

"The competition is open for startups and organisations in all sectors with a specific focus on emerging businesses in Covid-19-related fields

including, but not limited to health, disaster management, business services, education sector, food and agriculture, finance, logistics and others, reads the statement.

Other African countries in which the competition takes place are Angola, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

"Interested startups and organisations are required to submit their proposals containing some level of innovation in terms of a business model, a new product, or service that can be more actively used, and or profitability in the current and post Covid-19 era," reads the advisory.

It adds that the proposals should be commercially-oriented and the USD 30,000 grant will cover costs associated with the proposed activities including remuneration of staff, other expenses, and indirect local taxes.

Participating entities must be either profit or non-profit organisation registered as an independent legal entity, the statement said but adding that proposals from individuals will not be considered.

"The organisations must have very strong management team of at least two people. Have innovative product(s) or service(s) in response or adoptable to the Covid-19 pandemic and post-pandemic society or have a feasible business plan to create prototypes."

As of yesterday, globally recorded cases surpassed 12 million with over 550,000 fatalities and more than seven million recoveries.

More than three million people in the US alone had tested positive for coronavirus, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Over 131,000 deaths were reported, and on Tuesday the US broke its record for most new cases reported in one day.

Despite the rise, the White House indicated it would press forward on some reopenings, including for schools.

US Vice-President Mike Pence, who leads the White House Coronavirus Taskforce, argued rules should not be "too tough".





## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)/ REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI):

### PROVISION OF UNDERGROUND ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIONS – LOGISTICS CONSIDERATION FOR SHAFT TRANSITION FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited - GGML ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti Ltd ("AGA") subsidiary is located in North Western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria Goldfields of Geita Region, about 120km from Mwanza and 4km West of the town of Geita.

The purpose of the EOI/ RFI is to explore the market for competent Consultants/Contractors with the requisite technical skills and Knowledge and financial capacity to undertake the provision for Underground Access and Infrastructure Options to Geita Gold Mine in accordance with the RFI documents.

The responses to this EOI/RFI will be used to shortlist capable Service Providers that will be invited to respond to the Main Tender for the Provision of Underground Access and Infrastructure Options – Logistics Considerations for Shaft Transition for Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML). The details and dates for the issue of the Main Tender will be communicated to shortlisted Companies only. It is necessary to respond to this EOI/ RFI in order to be pre-qualified to be considered for the Main Tender.

#### II. SCOPE OF WORK: - BRIEF

##### UNDERGROUND ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE OPTIONS – LOGISTICS CONSIDERATIONS FOR SHAFT TRANSITION

The purpose of the conceptual study is to determine the underground access infrastructure that is required to support logistical arrangements for the execution of the Life of Mine (LoM III) schedule at depth.

The study will inform the Mine on the most cost-effective underground material and rock handling options and the required access infrastructure for the Nyankanga and Geita Hill Mining Complex. The increasing downward plunge and potential reserves at depth, dictates that the work focuses on logistic requirements (and infrastructure capacity) to support the mine plan and critical factors to be considered for a potential transition from the existing ramps layout to a vertical shaft solution.

#### III. SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

The below information forms the minimum requirements in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out:

- Technical Capability
- Previous records on the same Supply/Services
- Relevant Insurance & Liabilities
- Performance bond in case selected

#### IV. GENERAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

The below information is required in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out below:

1. Detailed service provider's information with organization structure, list of manpower with CVs of key personnel, parent company (if applicable), support agencies and other facilities and resources.
2. Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution covering:
  - Brief scope of work
  - Value of work in Tanzania Shillings (TZS)
  - Contract execution duration
  - Client's name
  - Contact details of the client (GGML may approach the client directly for feedback on Health, Safety and Environment statistics (HSE), Lost Time Injury (LTI) graph, etc).
  - At least 3 reference letters from existing clients are required.
3. Details of business presence in Tanzania
4. Provide details on local content, including:
  - Local procurement of goods and services
  - Local employment and training practices
  - Details of percentage of managerial and non-managerial positions held by Tanzanian citizens.
  - Shareholding structure of the shareholders
  - Local research and development expenditure
  - A copy of the latest Local Content Plan and Local Content Performance Report as submitted to the Mining Commission or equivalent information if no prior reports and plans have been submitted.
5. List of policies, procedures and quality assurance practices currently in place for the execution of similar work.
6. Lists of HSE management system, HSE policy and implementation procedures in line with internationally accepted practices.
7. Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable
8. Service provider's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years.
9. Ownership: Please provide the following information about your organisation's ownership/partners/members:
  - 9.1 For privately owned companies, a list of all the owners, their nationality and respective percentage ownership of your organisation.
  - 9.2 For publicly traded companies, a list of all shareholders holding more than 5% with details of their nationality and percentage ownership.

#### V. PREQUALIFICATION EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

In evaluating the interested bidder, GGML will consider the following:

1. **Service Reliability** – Prospective Bidders to indicate the approach they will adopt to ensure Quality of the capital items, particularly in the mining sector and in remote locations.
2. **Capability** – Prospective Bidders to give details of their capability regarding the provision of services to similar size of clients as GGML. (At least 3 reference letters from existing customers are required)
3. **Health, Safety and Environment** – Prospective Bidders to give details of their Health, Safety and Environmental management systems.
4. **Permits and Certifications** – Prospective Bidders to provide details and evidence of permits and registrations issued by the relevant Government authorities, including OSHAS and any other statutory bodies regulating the related services.
5. **Sustainability** – Prospective Bidders to give details of their local labour sourcing and training plans as well as details of any commitments to the social development of the area where Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is located.
6. **Financial Capability** – Prospective Bidders to provide details of their financial capability supporting their ability to render the service.
7. **Local Content** – Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended in 2019

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [etender@geitagold.com](mailto:etender@geitagold.com) no later than **08:30hrs A.M, 24 July 2020** (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). LOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one e-mail.

# VACANCY



## People are the business...Our business is people!

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in South Africa, with operations in more than ten countries, in four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of North Western Tanzania, only about 85 km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's South East of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its head office in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast-growing town of Geita, and also a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

<b>Position:</b>	Engineering Superintendent.
<b>Job Number:</b>	GGM-2020-XPE-04.
<b>Number of Positions:</b>	01.
<b>Works For:</b>	Senior Manager Process Plant.
<b>Qualifications:</b>	Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
<b>Experience</b>	Minimum 10 years working experience in fixed plant maintenance especially gold processing plant.
<b>Purpose of the Role:</b>	To provide cross functional technical and management support to all other engineers on the plant as detailed below and to provide oversight function on behalf of the Process Manager to Plant Electrical Maintenance, Plant Mechanical Maintenance and plant Instrumentations (hardware and software).
<b>Main or Key Accountabilities:</b>	<p><b>1.Plant Engineering Safety &amp; Systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and implement safety practices and systems and to manage baseline risks such as Hot Work, De-energize Lockout, working at heights, Lifting; Light vehicles etc.</li> <li>• To ensure compliance to corporate fatal risk control guideline</li> <li>• To lead and investigate all machinery related accidents and incidents</li> </ul> <p><b>2.Discipline Management &amp; Strategy</b></p> <p>To provide direct output support to the Process Manager in the Management and Control of the Plant Engineering Discipline at Geita mine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as the point of contact on all plant and power plant engineering matters and to represent GGM to both internal and external stakeholders.</li> <li>• To identify &amp; maintain the plant engineering risk log detailing long term risks specifically with regards to staffing &amp; resources and to put plans in place to mitigate</li> <li>• To set overall standards and procedures and to ensure integration with group and regional strategies</li> <li>• To represent plant engineering at mine interdepartmental levels e.g. standards meeting and at Mancom level as and when required.</li> <li>• To setup and attend supplier liaison meetings in collaboration with engineering senior supervisors</li> <li>• Overall mine wide engineering campaigns such as energy efficiency, asset care etc.</li> <li>• To provide cross functional technical and management support as per SP roles to all other engineers on the plant as detailed below and to provide oversight function on behalf of the Process Manager to the following positions           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Plant Electrical Maintenance</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>3.Asset Management.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Custodian of the plant asset management (Engineering) plan including rollout and integration of the Asset Management Framework, in a collaborative approach with the Reliability Engineer.</li> <li>• Conduct internal audits and over-inspections on behalf of the Process Manager and to ensure adherence and compliance to asset management plans/strategy.</li> <li>• To manage the SAP system for the plant</li> <li>• To Setup and manage the plant engineering document repository for drawings and manuals</li> <li>• Review and or Set the Service strategy for all plant and equipment leading to the implementing a maintenance philosophy and scheduled maintenance programs that are aligned with operations to achieve long runs of 10-12 weeks between major shuts, and substantially increase plant availability and reliability</li> <li>• Effective planning and use of engineering capital for plant shutdowns and other improvements. Put in place the necessary plans and monitoring process to anticipate issues rather than being overtaken by them.</li> <li>• Effective use of resources including money and equipment. Monitoring the stock levels of critical spares and supplies such that the plant does not run out.</li> </ul> <p><b>4.Engineering Capital &amp; Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To serve as the plant representative on all capital projects and represent the Process Plant on Geita Standards Committee</li> <li>• To set up and maintain the plant capital management process in conjunction with the GGM Capital and Reliability Engineer</li> <li>• To co-ordinate plan and execute plant projects in all sections</li> <li>• To manage both AI and SIB capital</li> </ul> <p><b>5.Asset Integrity custodian</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To continuously review and update plant asset integrity risks and to develop mitigation plans</li> <li>• To co-ordinate the plant asset integrity process including audits and assessment visits</li> <li>• To prepare AI documentation, supporting budgets, schedules and execution plans for all plant asset integrity projects</li> </ul> <p><b>6.BPF – Engineering</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive the business plans and targets and to translate such into an integrated engineering plan including the setting of equipment performance targets</li> <li>• To set service strategies for critical equipment in conjunction with the Engineering Senior Supervisors and to develop the plant engineering budgets to ensure compliance with the plant metallurgical "cookbook"</li> <li>• As part of asset management to review overall plant work planning KPI's including planned/breakdown ratios, top 10 failures, availability/utilization calculations</li> <li>• To set up overall master schedule for planned maintenance work with specific reference to major shutdown activity planning</li> <li>• To manage SAP from an engineering work planning and task description perspective</li> <li>• To review equipment performance against targets and to initiate conduct A&amp;I projects where performance expectations are not met</li> </ul> <p><b>7.Plant Mechanical Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To technically manage the plant capital/critical stores</li> <li>• To review spares and resource requirements in collaboration with the engineering senior supervisors and the Master Operating Schedules and to engage with stakeholders, Store Liaison meetings, and actively participate in Process Plant Safety liaison meeting and Training and development liaison meetings</li> </ul> <p><b>8.Audits &amp; IMIU engineering custodian</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To undertake plant reviews to improve the plant's risk ratings</li> <li>• To co-ordinate and manage for the plant from an engineering perspective the IMIU, group assurance, 18 Month audit process and AuRisk / WMRS.</li> <li>• To update risk logs with findings and to develop management plans to mitigate risks</li> </ul> <p><b>9.Plant Services &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant amenity buildings maintenance</li> <li>• Plant salvage yard (Scrap disposal)</li> <li>• Water supply from Lake Victoria</li> <li>• Plant projects/construction teams           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Building contractors</li> <li>○ QA and QCP management</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Light Vehicles           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To maintain a vehicle register and to advise LME when to scrap/replace as per the vehicle replacement policy</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>10.Technical Training &amp; Development (in collaboration with HR) and with functional Mgrs.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To conduct engineering development panel interviews</li> <li>• To develop skills matrices for all engineering work types</li> <li>• To identify training and development shortcomings and to identify training needs</li> <li>• To develop an engineering artisan refresher program</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Requirements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valid Tanzanian Driving License</li> <li>• Ability to write and speak English.</li> <li>• Computer literate</li> <li>• Registration with the engineering board (ERB)</li> </ul>
<b>Mode of Application:</b>	<p>Application cover letter (Subject should be: <b>Engineering Superintendent</b> and/or quote the <b>job number</b>), detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e-mail and telephone contacts, names and addresses of three referees, to be forwarded to below address. Please include your GGM number on your cover letter.</p> <p>You will be required to bring <b>original certificates</b> if you are contacted for interviews.</p>
<b>Contact Address:</b>	<p>Senior Manager Human Resource, Geita Gold Mining Ltd, P.O. Box 532, <b>Geita.</b> Email: <a href="mailto:jobs.geita@AngloGoldAshanti.com">jobs.geita@AngloGoldAshanti.com</a></p> <p><b>NB:</b> All internal applications must be endorsed by the applicant's head of department.</p>
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<p>Application letters should reach the above on or before <b>21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 – 17hr30.</b> <b>Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.</b></p>
<p><b>BEWARE OF CONMEN! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing 24chonesty@ethics-line.com or use the internet at <a href="http://www.tip-offs.com">www.tip-offs.com</a>.</b></p>	



# The Guardian

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FRIDAY 10 JULY 2020

**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

## Combination of HIV/AIDS, COVID-19 posing daunting challenges for Africa

**W**ORRIES are being expressed at higher levels of organisation in international health agencies, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Agency for HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), on the way in which the situation is worsening in HIV/AIDS care in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Too many challenges are being raised in relation to fighting HIV/AIDS, given the way in which badly-hit countries have to transfer healthcare public resources to combat novel coronavirus infections. It isn't just HIV/AIDS sufferers' care which is at issue, as in many countries Covid-19 isn't covered by insurance.

As Tanzania hasn't been under a particularly intense Covid-19 environment, it is clear that no urgency has been sounded on how far HIV/AIDS patients are finding care diminished or otherwise.

Fears of being accepted in hospitals other than for Covid-19 are replete in many countries, and Africa has more than ten countries where Covid-19 cases are in their thousands and a few in their tens of thousands.

In these environments public and family resources are being stripped bare to take care of the greater urgency - that of the novel coronavirus as it easily spreads across a community, while HIV is left behind.

A good number of African countries were already registering substantial progress in the 90-90-90 target of awareness of one's health status, regular access to anti-retroviral medication, and suppression of the viral load, all these at highly effective targeted levels.

In Tanzania and other countries with low novel coronavirus exposure, much of this could still be maintained with an effort, but as a substantial portion of these resources depend on global health agencies, the pandemic environment poses virtually insurmountable

challenges.

Tension and strain on expertise as to original reactions to the Wuhan (China) outbreak and massive political fallout in an election year in the United States, leading to cessation of its WHO role, cannot help.

Now there is a new twist to how global agencies are seeking to handle this situation - this is the form of a strenuous appeal to heads of government around the world late last week.

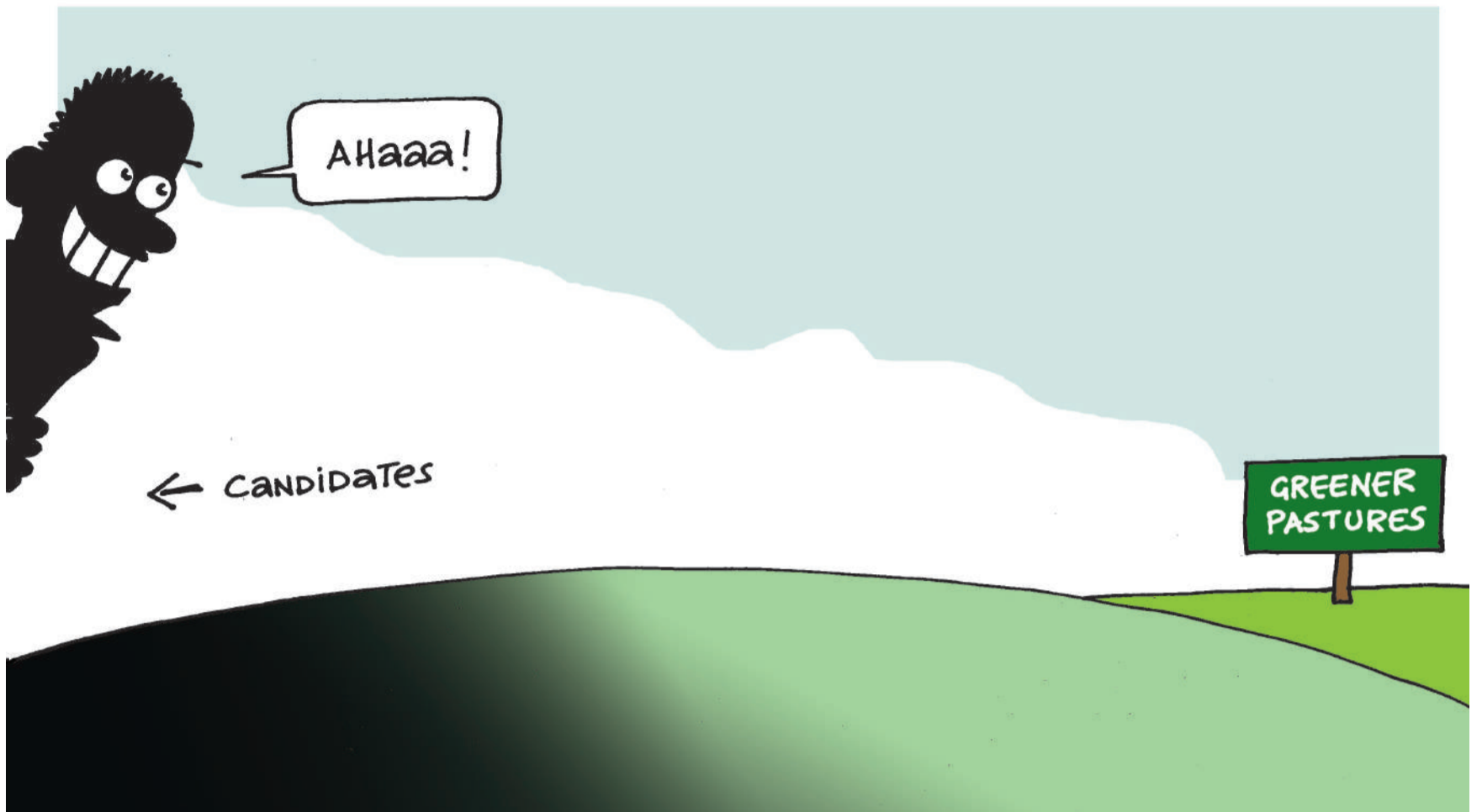
Reports said that in an effort to fight the "colliding epidemics" of HIV and COVID-19, UNAIDS and partners are leading a global call for a People's Vaccine for Covid-19.

An appeal to this effect has been signed by more than 150 world leaders and experts, with intent to underline the feeling that all expected trial vaccines, treatments and tests be made patent-free. This calls for an international declaration for mass production and fair distribution to countries across the globe. In the same appeal, UNAIDS was urging countries to increase investments in both diseases, noting that last year funding for HIV fell by 7.0 per cent from the 2017 figure, a setback where funding is 30 per cent short of the \$26.2bn needed to effectively respond to HIV this year is expected.

In fact, it could turn out to be worse than that, as the Covid-19 pandemic isn't retreating in Europe as well as in the Americas.

Given the rising polarisation of electoral politics in the US and Europe on account first of migration pressures and now of Covid-19 mass layoffs and a rise in poverty levels, this idea is likely to fall on the wayside.

It effectively means that the US and a few rich countries have to undertake global medication at affordable prices. At present, with Tanzania regarded as a middle income economy, our pleading will receive less attention. It's food for thought.



## Land tenure reforms vital in transforming agricultural sector across Southern Africa

By Thulasizwe Mkhabela

THERE is consensus that land reform is an indispensable yet complicated process often overloaded with multiple objectives including economic, social and political underpinnings.

Land reform in southern Africa has been seized with the need to balance the tension between governments' tendencies to rationalise land acquisition and redistribution based on historical injustices and political demands, on one hand, and economic and technical reasons of land reform, on the other hand.

It should be stated that although the former reason for land reform is legitimate, it needs to be counter-balanced with the latter.

Land reform in southern Africa can be construed broadly as having three distinct, yet related pillars.

This article is concerned with land reform as it pertains to agriculture and agricultural transformation.

The first pillar of land redistribution deals with the skewed access to and ownership of land.

The second pillar seeks to return land ownership to people who were previously dispossessed of their land, particularly during colonisation and displacement by settler communities.

The third pillar seeks reforms of existing land tenure systems to facilitate increased security of tenure and an increased sense of land ownership for self-determination of the people.

Despite a declining share in gross domestic product, agriculture remains a key sector in southern African countries' economies, a major employer and foreign exchange earner.

The majority of people in Southern Africa reside in rural areas and their main economic activity is agriculture. Land tenure reforms must, therefore, address problems brought about by colonisation and dispossession.

Moreover, pressures of population growth, deteriorating natural resources, increasing localised food insecurity incidents and conflict over land use, have given impetus to the raging debate and contestation on land reform.

Tenure, ownership or access to a piece of land has long been



recognised as a critical factor for security, agricultural transformation, investment and conservation because it determines the linkages between responsibilities and authority over land and natural resources and incentive structures for sustainable use.

Land tenure refers to the terms and conditions on which land is held, used and transacted, whereas, land tenure reform refers to a planned and deliberate change in the terms and conditions of the terms of contracts between landowners and tenants or the conversion of more informal tenancy into formal property rights.

The fundamental goal of land tenure reform is to enhance and secure people's rights, essential to avoid arbitrary evictions and landlessness. Furthermore, enhanced security of tenure is necessary for land rights holders to invest in the land and use it sustainably.

There can be no doubt that tenure security matters, and that tenure insecurity adversely affects agricultural productivity thereby constraining transformation in sector.

Land tenure in southern Africa may be divided into two categories - namely, communal land tenure and private land ownership (freehold or title deed).

Current land tenure systems need to take into consideration physical, socio-economic, political and cultural background, and context of society as a whole.

Land tenure priorities for households are complex because land rights and land tenure reform are, by extension, a continuum rather than a

discontinuity process. Moreover, there is a prevalent coexistence between formal customary system of land holding and statutory land rights, which has given, rise to multiple, parallel, and often, even overlapping and contradictory land tenure regimes.

Communal land tenure in southern Africa is premised on traditional leaders administering land in trust for the benefit of traditional communities for the promotion economic and social development of the people.

Generally, communal land tenure system is biased against women and is perceived to carry substantial patronage thus is subject to abuse by traditional leadership and the rural elite.

Furthermore, people in the rural areas find it difficult to raise capital for investment into agricultural production - and on land that they do not own.

There have been attempts to remedy land tenure insecurity in the region. Some traditional leaders have been issuing permission to occupy (PTO) certificates.

These are legal documents used to regulate business establishments, but they are now being phased out and converted into Rights of Leasehold, which are more secure and can be used as collateral by holders to acquire loans if the lease is for periods of ten years or more.

Land reform, including tenure reform, can be used as a policy instrument to engender inclusive agribusiness value chains by changing the ownership structure of land, thereby affecting access to land and produce.

Land reform and tenure poli-

cies should include security of tenure rights over individual and public lands; redistribution of land possession, to include the poor and deprived majority; improve land governance; and enhance transparency.

Governments and policymakers should look at innovative approaches to land tenure reforms that respond to security of tenure and agricultural transformation.

For instance, Botswana has made considerable progress through the integration of traditional tenure with a modern system of land administration for both customary and commercial forms of land use.

In South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal, rural people are finding other innovative ways of dealing with land tenure issues. There is an emerging approach where people exchange communal tenure rights for a fee, with the endorsement of traditional leaders.

Countries with more equitable land distribution achieve growth rates two to three times higher than their counterparts with less equitable land distribution.

Furthermore, there is no doubt that successful land creates rapid economic growth as it has been demonstrated elsewhere around the world. A redistributive land reform would help reduce rural, and even urban, poverty.

There is a caveat, though. A poorly designed and implemented land reform process intended to unlock the economic assets of communal land by activating dead capital should be driven by demand.

An indiscriminate supply of tradable tenure in the communal areas can result in unintended destitution of the majority of rural people.

One of the fundamental challenges facing land reform is ownership or the best form(s) of tenure systems. The misunderstood notion is that the best and only recognisable form of land tenure systems is that of outright ownership, especially as it relates to the main to agricultural transformation.

Ownership takes different forms but is best represented when the owner is recognised as having a registered title to the land. The majority of mainly rural-based indigenous South Africans, however, do not share this theory. This population is crying out for enfranchisement and recognised access and rights to land at the heart of their most basic of rights, and the lack thereof is a serious impediment to agricultural transformation.

**Dr Thulasizwe Mkhabela is an agricultural economist and group executive at impact & partnerships at the Agricultural Research Council. Contact: mkhabelat@arc.agric.za**



# Air pollution: The invisible killer

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

**M**ORE than nine people out of ten breathe air that is harmful to our health. Every year, millions of adults and children die prematurely because of outdoor air pollution. It is an invisible killer: not just because we cannot always see it, but also because most of us are unaware of the widespread toll it takes, contributing to more than 7 percent of global deaths annually.

"Nine in ten deaths from air pollution occurs in low and middle-income countries. Across all countries the poor are disproportionately exposed to air pollution, which is primarily produced by the rich," according to a new report on clean air funded and prepared by Children's Investment Fund Foundation, IKEA Foundation and FIA Foundation.

Titled: Breathing space, why and how we must build back better to achieve clean air for all, the report is meant to give the policy makers an unprecedented opportunity to reshape markets in ways that protect human health and the health of the planet.

The costs of failing to improve air quality are considerable. Air pollution cost US\$ 21 billion in global health expenditure in 2015. If welfare losses are included, the costs run into many trillions of dollars.

"The more individuals are exposed to air pollution, the greater the chance that they will develop a pre-existing condition which makes them more susceptible to Covid-19, like heart or respiratory disease. Those that suffer from these conditions are markedly more likely to be hospitalized from Covid-19," said the report.

Unequal exposure to air pollution means that low income communities went into this crisis with poorer health and a greater incidence of pre-existing conditions. People on lower incomes also have less access to high quality healthcare compared to higher income.

"Based on previous research done on similar respiratory viruses to Covid-19, such as the SARS coronavirus in 2003, scientists have been hypothesizing that outdoor air pollution might contribute to the spread of Covid-19 by acting as a carrier for the virus," the findings show.

Scientists have recently discovered Covid-19 on samples of particulate matter from an industrial site in Bergamo, Northern Italy. This evidence is the first to suggest that air pollution could be a carrier for Covid-19, although more research is needed into whether the quantity and virulence of Covid-19 carries on particulate matter is enough to cause infection.

The Covid-19 has presented an un-

paralleled global public health crisis. The toll on our lives and families, businesses, health services and economies is enormous. Each death is a tragedy, and the effects on our collective wellbeing and financial security will be significant.

Attention is now turning to how we can use unprecedented economic recovery packages to trigger a green industrial revolution which protects our health, wellbeing and livelihoods.

The rapid responses and high levels of compliance shown in this crisis tell us that we can change our behaviour if the public health imperative and political mandate exist.

This critical window of opportunity demands bold, decisive and informed leadership and effective global collaboration, with a joined-up, strategic and well-resourced approach to cleaning our air we can improve health, build resilience to future diseases, boost productivity, reduce health costs and help tackle climate change.

As lockdowns are eased and economies restarted, people around the world do not want a return to toxic levels of air pollution. That would simply replace one health crisis for another.

To achieve this, we need to better understand the sources and impact of air pollution, raise awareness among the public to demand policy change, and quickly scale up the most effective, innovative solutions.

The Clean Air Fund brings together funders, researchers, policy makers and campaigners to make this happen. As well as mobilizing at least US\$100 million in funding for air pollution by the end of 2022, we are helping turn rapid research on the links between the pandemic and air pollution into practical policy solutions.

The study listed five key steps that the governments across the world should take as they prepare national stimulus packages, negotiate development assistance for the poorest communities;

The government should develop resource joint national health and environment strategies, with a specific focus on tackling air pollution.

The Covid-19 crisis has shown us that the sustainability of health systems is put at risk if the upstream determinants of disease, including air pollution, are not seriously tackled in a coordinated way. Health and environment departments must work closely together.

This will involve improved monitoring and forecasting of air pollution and air pollution related illness, so that the health sector can predict when spikes in air pollution-related hospitalizations might occur.

The step will also help policymakers implement short term measures



As we build back from Covid-19, the governments that prioritise air quality will have more resilient economies than those that do not. File photo

during high air pollution periods to reduce the burden on the health system.

The key objective is to work together for the greatest impact, scaling initiatives that protect both the environment and public health.

The government should also provide economic stimulus packages to industries which make ambitious and measurable commitments to clearing the air.

Stimulus packages negotiated in the months ahead could allow the acceleration of transition to low carbon economies.

The plan aims to reduce carbon emissions by 50-55 percent by 2030 compared with 1990, and to be net zero by 2050. It will do this by reshaping the economy around sustainable growth and markets.

Support the repurposing of city streets for walking and cycling.

Globally cities are using the impact of the Covid-19 crisis to implement and accelerate large-scale projects to repurpose city streets for active travel. Despite the inevitable pushback from the car lobby, momentum is growing for such measures to last beyond the pandemic.

Not only does non-motorized transport reduce crowding on public transport, helping to prevent the spread of Covid-19, it also improves air quality, tackles global warming, supports commercial activity outside of shops and is a widely accessible form of public transport globally.

Implement and enforce laws and regulations to retain and build on the improvements in air quality experienced during the pandemic.

Whilst air pollution levels have fallen considerably during the Covid-19

lockdown, some sources of pollution have remained, and pollution levels have not fallen as much as expected.

The onus is on governments to monitor and improve understanding of the trends, and act to protect populations that do not want a return to previous levels of air pollution.

Its purpose is to protect the health of citizens with pre-existing respiratory conditions and people recovering from Covid-19, for whom breathing polluted air is particularly dangerous.

Work with other governments to tackle transboundary pollution.

Just like Covid-19, air pollution knows no boundaries. While significant action can be taken locally, no country can deal with the entire problem alone.

Decades of toxic air have worsened the health of communities globally. Millions have been left with respiratory and other health problems which leave them predisposed to the most severe impacts of COVID-19, resulting in more hospitalisations and deaths especially among the poorest and most vulnerable.

Lessons must be learned from previous pandemic responses, to ensure the poorest communities benefit. An analysis of five recent epidemics found that the policies undertaken to address these outbreaks hurt the employment prospects of people with low educational attainment, while scarcely affecting those with advanced degrees.

As Lower income groups are much more likely to be affected by high levels of air pollution, cleaning the air provides an opportunity to ensure the economic stimulus benefits these people most.



Digital innovations, like using low-cost cameras to make locally relevant training videos, are essential to achieving health equity now and in the future. (File photo)

## Changes in behaviour seeing consumers buy digital, health, sustainability trends at speed

NEW YORK

**T**HE acceleration of consumer trends and behaviour that was already under way prior to the Covid-19 outbreak has taken another leap forward and will spark consumer-facing companies and retailers into re-inventing the way they do business, according to a new PwC report.

The findings are from two surveys taken before and after the Covid-19 pandemic and published on Wednesday in PwC's 11th consecutive Global Consumer Insights Survey.

They focus on urban consumer purchasing habits and behaviours, and how global disruption has forced the acceleration of a more digital way of life.

Billions of people worldwide live in cities, and this concentration has created a new era in global consumption - with cities the hubs where economic activity happens.

The survey results reveal that the pandemic and the ensuing social distancing measures put in place have led to fundamental changes in how consumers work, eat, communicate and take care of their health.

Social distancing measures put in place because of the coronavirus disease have affected consumers in all aspects of life, including how they purchase groceries. While in-store grocery shopping is the main channel of choice, over one-third of consumers (35 per cent) are now buying food online, with 86 per cent of those who shop online planning to continue after social distancing measures are removed.

For non-food items, prior to the pandemic in-store shopping was still dominant compared to online shopping - with 47 per cent of consumers saying they shopped at brick-and-mortar stores daily or weekly compared to shopping via mobile phones (30 per cent), computers (28 per cent) and smart voice assistants (15 per cent).

Since then, online shopping for non-food items has seen a substantial increase (mobile phone 45 per cent; computer 41 per cent; tablet 33 per cent). The trend is especially pronounced in China and the Middle East, with 60 per cent and 58 per cent of respondents, respectively, saying they have started shopping more on their mobile phones.

The importance of connection, community and self-care is clear. Fifty-nine per cent of millennials and 57 per cent of those with children are placing a greater focus on their wellbeing than other groups.

Focus on self-care has increased, with 51 per cent of urban consumers agreeing or strongly agreeing that they are more focused on

taking care of their mental health and wellbeing, physical health and diet as a result of Covid-19.

Urban dwellers surveyed after the outbreak viewed safety and security and healthcare just as important to their quality of life as employment prospects, with 49 per cent and 45 per cent of respondents saying so, respectively, compared to 45 per cent for employment.

The research showed a clear embrace of sustainability and a sense of civic duty. For example, in survey results taken prior to the pandemic, 45 per cent of global respondents say they avoid the use of plastic whenever possible, 43 per cent expect businesses to be accountable for their environmental impact, and 41 per cent expect retailers to eliminate plastic bags and packaging for perishable items.

Interestingly, when consumers were asked as to who were most responsible for encouraging sustainable behaviours in their city, 20 per cent chose "me the consumer" while 15 per cent chose "the producer or manufacturer".

When consumers were asked about their willingness to share data, 49 per cent said they were willing to share their data if doing so helped improve their city.

"While certain trends have been on the upswing for quite some time, our research shows that the pandemic has sharpened consumers' desire for transparency, sustainability and convenience," says Steve Barr, Global Consumer Markets Leader, PwC US.

He adds: "The companies that will reap the most rewards are the ones that have established trust with the consumer, invested in a seamless and frictionless end-to-end customer purchase journey and prioritised the consumers' health and safety."

In addition, Oz Ozturk, Global Consumer Markets Advisory Leader, PwC UK said: "In our 11 years of surveying consumers around the globe, we have never documented such a clear convergence of themes around transparency, sustainability, and social consciousness. At such a pivotal moment, the need for consumer-facing companies to establish trust with potential customers could not be any clearer."

PwC conducted two separate online surveys, the first survey collecting responses from 19,098 consumers from 27 countries or territories and 74 cities between August and September 2019. The second collected responses from 4,447 consumers from 9 countries or territories and 35 cities between April and May 2020.

Agencies

## Coronavirus debate heats up...Don't wait for experts to agree!

By Special Correspondent

**I**T'S a concept that many experts have been denying since we first heard about the novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19.

It's been suggested that the virus could travel through the air - similar to those blamed for well known airborne infections such as tuberculosis, measles and chickenpox.

Yet the World Health Organisation (WHO) still claims that the form of transmission we need to worry most about is large droplets from those who are infected.

I'm talking about the "mist" that comes from sneezing, sniffing, coughing, or even the raising of voices.

That's why they have got us wrapping ourselves in whatever kind of cloth face coverings we can get our hands on... and standing six feet away from each other.

But according to hundreds of experts from around the world, the global health agency is underestimating the power of the virus to linger in the air.

This could mean that those mandated precautions still might not be enough to keep us from catching Covid-19 in indoor public spaces.

Fortunately, there's something that can be done to improve indoor air quality... and even block viral particles from reentering public spaces via recirculated air.

Setting a trap

Ever wonder whether the air blowing

on you through a vent in a restaurant... hospital... or airplane is actually clean?

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not posted guidance on the decontamination of air conditioning systems potentially exposed to the novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19. What does that tell you?

Now, there are those who say you don't need to worry about air quality when it comes to the coronavirus. For instance, the World Health Organisation has not yet alerted the public on the need to beware of instances where the virus may hang in the air in invisible droplets (also known as aerosols) for extended periods of time.

The latest WHO update on the coronavirus states that airborne transmission of the coronavirus is "possible" - but only during a medical procedure "where aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs) are performed".

But are they right? Not according to what began as a small group of experts in April... and has since grown to more than 200.

In an open letter, they have called upon the WHO to sound the alarm on the risk of indoor areas that are poorly ventilated. They say this is because, even if there is no proof that this coronavirus is airborne... there is also no evidence to prove that it is NOT.

And as the Los Angeles Times recently reported: "Proof would require exposing large numbers of healthy people to aerosols emitted by Covid-19

patients."

**Talk about unethical!**

The truth is that both laboratory studies and real-world observations have already given scientists plenty of cause for concern. And that means that even six feet might not be enough space between you and an infected person - especially if the air is stagnant.

Fortunately, you don't have to wait for the WHO to update its guidelines... again. After all, the "official" recommendations on Covid-19 have been a moving target since the beginning.

Experts have suggested making three simple changes: zapping indoor air with ultraviolet light, ensuring proper ventilation and optimal airflow, at the very least by keeping door and windows open, and filtering the air.

Now, we have shared with you before the benefits of a HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filter, which can rid indoor air of dirt, allergens (like pollen and mould), and toxic volatile organic compounds (VOC).

You may already have one installed in your air-conditioner or central heating unit. Well, it turns out that a HEPA filter could provide sufficient air filtration to catch particles that may include microscopic viruses.

You can actually buy HEPA filter material to cut up yourself and tuck inside your cloth mask. Just be sure to keep a layer of fabric between you and the filter.

But you may not need something as

"high efficiency" as HEPA to clean particulates out of your air. There is a filter just a notch below it... called MERV-13... that might also do the trick.

As one air quality expert told The Washington Post, the MERV-13 filter "should capture about 80 per cent of the air particles that can convey the coronavirus".

That's what some schools are considering installing... And that's what some local officials are recommending for large public spaces, like indoor malls.

Check to see what your local public spaces are offering before you go out. If you or a loved one is under long-term care... like at a nursing home or assisted living... a technical expert in healthcare facilities recommends a re-circulating fan-filter unit. But if you're staying at home, you can consider a portable air purification unit.

Coronavirus particles are tiny, so look for a filtration system with the highest clean air delivery rating (CADR) you can find... and a minimum efficiency reporting value of 13 or higher (also known as MERV-13).

HEPA has a MERV value of 17. Hospital environments are kept sterile with a MERV value of up to 20. Whatever you choose, your air quality can only benefit from it.

None of these high-quality filters will cause harm. So, there is really no need for people to hold their breath as they wait for "official" guideline updates.

Agencies



# Digital news publishers weather the storm after Covid-19 (Part 1)

**M**ANY of the largest cities in the US have tragically taken the brunt of Covid-19. E&P spoke with three big-city newspapers to find out how the pandemic has transformed the way they gather and distribute news. The following is excerpted from conversations with Miami Herald managing editor Rick Hirsch; Detroit Free Press editor and vice president Peter Bhatia; and San Diego Union-Tribune publisher and editor-in-chief Jeff Light.

**E&P: How has the Covid-19 pandemic influenced your newspaper's content?**

**Hirsch:** It is extremely difficult for me to think of anything we're covering that isn't...Even the weather, in some cases. We're in Miami, and (we're in) hurricane season. A big part of our hurricane season coverage will be how shelters will function if we're still in a social-distancing environment, which clearly we're going to be in for most, if not all of the season.

**E&P: How have you measured the effectiveness and reach of Covid-19 coverage?**

**Bhatia:** The entire staff, including sportswriters, has been drafted into covering Covid-19. There's some talk around the country and in the media press about audiences tiring of it. Not here. Our audience continues to devour it.

**Light:** Visitation since the pandemic was way up, running at 250 percent of what it was for the year up until that point. Digital subscription sales have run about double the pre-Covid months this year.

**E&P: How have operations been impacted?**

**Hirsch:** The CEO of McClatchy sent an email out to everyone last week that said he doesn't anticipate any of us being back in our newsrooms before Labour Day. That's how far out the expectation is, and part of that is figuring out what that will look like. What do we have to do? We have cubicles that are 8-by-8 feet, but can people sit in those next to each other in an environment of social distancing? Should we have them rearranged?...Having said all that, I think if you told me before any of this happened that we would function without being together, I'd have been surprised about how efficient we've been in communicating and entirely going to video conferencing for meetings.

**Light:** Until this week, we had a dozen writers assigned to Covid topics, which is a lot for a newsroom of 100 people or



so...We have a team-based newsroom, without the usual hierarchy. There's no city editor or central organizing role, so everything depends on the ability of the reporting teams and their editors to work collaboratively. We have seen some exceptional leadership from our medical reporter, Paul Sisson, and his editor, Tracy Connors, who have spearheaded coverage that extends across all of our reporting groups. People across the newsroom quickly stepped into new roles and moved to different groups to support what we are trying to do.

**E&P: How did you prepare your reporters and visual journalists to work safely in a potentially dangerous environment?**

**Hirsch:** We started this conversation really early on. There's always been a hero culture in our newsroom. We fly into hurricanes, and we have a great tradition of challenging stories that are not just challenging from the standpoint of general newsgathering and reporting, but in challenging environments. But this isn't a hurricane. This is invisible. The impacts are life threatening... Nobody is going to earn admiration of the staff by doing something stupid. In fact, they might put everybody else at risk, and I think that's the real difference in covering this.

**Bhatia:** Our marching orders for everybody are: Don't take any risks. Don't go into a home where you know there are people who have been infected. Don't go into a hospital unless you're fully protected in PPE (personal protective equipment). We're providing masks, gloves, and have Tyvek suits for people who need them in given situations...As journalists, we are very much "run towards the fire" kind of people, but we're urging caution. Don't take any unnecessary risks. Obviously, we're still journalists to our core and want to do what it takes to get the story, but it's not going to

be very often that risking catching this virus is worthy of getting the story. This is serious stuff.

**Light:** Until this spring, our biggest concerns were about protecting our employees from hate speech and harassment. We've worked with PEN America to provide training and have invested in digital safety tools for our employees. But we were unprepared for the pandemic, and we were caught scrambling just to find gloves and masks and hand sanitizer, let alone the sort of personal protective equipment needed to go into medical facilities. We're only just getting caught up on some of that. Now, we have journalists being exposed to tear gas - eight, by my count, in the last few days - and are working to equip them with helmets, goggles, and vests.

**E&P: What are the positives to come out of this incredibly challenging experience?**

**Hirsch:** People are commenting about how important the work we do is for the community and how much they value us. It's certainly reinforcing the hard work that everybody here is doing. I'm incredibly proud of my staff every day. They are out there doing really hard work and under the most difficult circumstances.

**Bhatia:** The demand for journalists and the appreciation of journalism has never been higher. My email traffic, like with most editors, tends to be negative, but now people are saying, "We're so grateful that you are out there documenting this story for us," and I think that's a nationwide phenomenon...The public sees what the press is doing to make this story understandable, real and in perspective for people. Will it endure? Well, there's no end in sight to the story for now, but that's kind of up to us to ensure that we're giving people information they need.

*To be continued*

## Covid-19: Until the science is clear, prepare for the worst

By Yasmin Tayag

IN the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, scientists warned that coughing and sneezing produced large, virus-carrying droplets that could cause infection if someone else breathed them in.

These droplets were considered too big to hang in the air for long, but they could drop into someone's mouth or nose or onto a surface that someone might touch. So, masks were dutifully strapped on in an effort to prevent expelling those droplets into the spaces shared with others.

Meanwhile, a related question remained unanswered: What of the tinier droplets that flick out of our mouths when we talk - or even just breathe?

It is possible that smaller droplets can stay aloft longer, by virtue of their size. Can they infect someone else who later entered the same indoor space? How long do they stay afloat, and can they move? In short: is the coronavirus airborne?

These unanswered questions are at the centre of heated scientific debate that has created a rift between the World Health Organisation and at least 239 experts who authored a new paper showing that the coronavirus is indeed airborne.

The paper, accepted into the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* earlier this week, bears the title: "It is Time to Address Airborne Transmission of COVID-19."

It collates the existing research on this topic to argue that "beyond any reasonable doubt", viruses including SARS-CoV-2 are "released during exhalation, talking, and coughing in microdroplets small enough to re-

main aloft in air and pose a risk of exposure at distances beyond one to two meters from an infected individual".

The WHO resisted this evidence when it was released because it was unconvincing of the data. But as just reported by the New York, the UN health agency plans to revisit the evidence in the light of the backlash from scientists, admitting that the possibility of airborne transmission, especially in "crowded, closed, poorly ventilated settings, cannot be ruled out".

While the science remains unsettled, the necessary precautions should be taken to protect ourselves from the potential risks posed by the worst-case scenario, which may also be the most likely one.

And this is none other than that the coronavirus is indeed airborne, and that the droplets we expel when we talk, breathe, shout and sing can stay afloat in enclosed, indoor environments and perhaps move across the room.

This means continuing to wear a mask - when you're outdoors in public and when you're indoors in public, especially so if the room you are in is poorly ventilated.

It means generally avoiding being indoors with strangers as much as possible, since it is unknown how long droplets can stay suspended in the air, whether and how far they can move, or how much virus is contained in droplets of varying sizes.

It also means not getting hung up on the earlier delineation between large and small droplets (sometimes called "aerosols").

Most experts consider this a false di-

chotomy anyway, as Dana Smith previously wrote in *Elemental*, noting that even large droplets can be airborne - depending on the situation.

In any instance where people who you don't live with could expel droplets of any size from their mouths - and those droplets have the chance to linger in the air - it's safest to wear a mask or avoid the situation altogether.

Meanwhile, the guidance about physical distancing and hand-washing has not changed. There's a lot we still don't know about the coronavirus and, frustratingly, that may be the case for a while.

But, fortunately, it's already known what steps can mitigate the spread of the disease and - all things considered - they're relatively small inconveniences with a potentially huge payoff.

I keep thinking about a quote from Trish Greenhalgh, MD, a primary care doctor at the University of Oxford in Britain, who was interviewed by the *New York Times* regarding airborne transmission.

"There is no incontrovertible proof that SARS-CoV-2 travels or is transmitted significantly by aerosols, but there is absolutely no evidence that it's not," she said, adding: "So at the moment we have to make a decision in the face of uncertainty and, my goodness, it's going to be a disastrous decision if we get it wrong. So why not just mask up for a few weeks, just in case?"

Masks work. And if it turns out we have to wear them a little longer, and a little more often, it's ultimately a small price to pay to keep the pandemic under control.

**Yasmin Tayag is a senior editor at OneZero at Medium covering science.**

### COAST MILLERS LIMITED (UNDER RECEIVERSHIP)

#### NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF JOINT RECEIVERS AND MANAGERS AND INVITATION OF BIDS/OFFERS TO PURCHASE THE CHARGED ASSETS OF COAST MILLERS LIMITED

- A. Notice is hereby given to the General Public that We, SENI SONGWE MALIMI of K & M (ADVOCATES) and JOSEPH SYLIVSTER NDAZI of BRICKHOUSE LAW ASSOCIATES were on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 appointed by NMB Bank Public Limited Company (hereinafter referred to as "The Debenture and Mortgage Holder") to be Receivers and Managers of Coast Millers Limited (hereinafter referred to as "The Company") pursuant to a MORTGAGE DEED DATED 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014 OVER TITLE DEED NO. 34733, LAND OFFICE NO. 101422, PLOT NO. 65, BLOCK 'A', MANDELA EXPRESS HIGHWAY, TABATA INDUSTRIAL AREA, ILALA MUNICIPALITY, DAR ES SALAAM (hereinafter referred to as "the Mortgage") AND DEBENTURE DEED DATED 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2014 (hereinafter referred to as "the Debenture") both created by COAST MILLERS LIMITED in favour of NMB BANK PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY.
- B. Pursuant to specific instructions given to us by the Debenture and Mortgage Holder and in exercise of powers derived from the said Debenture and Mortgage as well as the Companies Act Cap 212 R. E. 2002 and the Land Act (Act No. 4) of 1999 and Amendments made thereto respectively, we hereby take over all the properties charged under the said Debenture and Mortgage Deeds. ("Charged Assets"). Consequent to that, possession of the Company's charged assets now vests in us. We have taken over the physical possession of the Charged Assets effective from 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.
- C. We further notify the general public and the employees of the Company as follows:-
- With effect from the publication of this Notice, no person is allowed to do any transaction of whatever nature with the Company in respect of the Charged Assets as set out and/or defined herein above, except through the Receivers and Managers via the address shown below.
  - This Notice does not terminate any contract of employment between the Company and its employees and as such has no any connection with their employment.
  - All creditors of the Company, both secured and unsecured, in respect of the Charged Assets as defined herein above, are required to submit to us particulars of their claims supported fully by documents, so that such claims are received by us not later than 12.00 noon on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2019. No further claims will be allowed beyond that date.
  - All persons, corporate or natural, who hold any of the Company's Charged Assets as defined herein above, must notify us in writing to enable us take possession of such assets.
- D. This Notice is also a formal announcement that the Company's Charged Assets as defined herein above are being offered for sale. Interested buyers and the public in general are advised to contact the Receivers and Managers through the contacts provided herein below so that they can obtain Information Memorandum on Charged Assets being sold.
- E. Bids/offers for purchasing the Charged Assets should be submitted at the address provided herein below not later than Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 at 3.00 p.m.

#### ISSUED FOR JOINT RECEIVERS AND MANAGERS BY:

SENI SONGWE MALIMI,  
K & M (ADVOCATES),  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, TAC ASSOCIATES BUILDING,  
PLOT NO. 114, MALIK STREET, UPANGA,  
P. O. BOX 71394, DAR ES SALAAM.  
TEL: +255 754 224 935/+255 754 315 008  
Email: [malimi@kmdadvocates.co.tz](mailto:malimi@kmdadvocates.co.tz)

Form 106a  
RECEIVED  
BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSING AGENCY  
Notice of Appointment of Receiver or Manager  
Pursuant to Section 106(1) of the Companies Act 2002  
24 JUN 2020  
P.O. Box 9393  
DAR ES SALAAM

THE PAID SH. 220007  
RECEIPT NO. 53326  
DATE 24/06/2020

To: The Registrar of Companies

Company Number:	15632
Name of Company: (Full name)	COAST MILLERS LIMITED
I/We (full name(s))	NMB BANK PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
of (address (es))	NMB HEAD OFFICE, OHIO STREET/ALI HASSAN MWINYI ROAD, P. O. BOX 9213, DAR ES SALAAM.
Give notice that (Insert name)	SENI SONGWE MALIMI AND JOSEPH SYLIVSTER NDAZI
of (address (es))	K & M (ADVOCATES), 3 <sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, TAC ASSOCIATES BUILDING, MALIK STREET, UPANGA AREA, P. O. BOX 71394, DAR ES SALAAM; AND BRICKHOUSE LAW ASSOCIATES, 2 <sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, NIC INVESTMENT HOUSE, SAMORA AVENUE, P. O. BOX 70230, DAR ES SALAAM RESPECTIVELY.

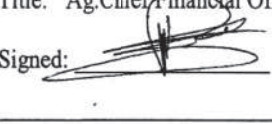

Were appointed as [Receivers and Managers] of the charged assets of the company.

The appointment was made by	NMB BANK PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY
	Deed of Appointment dated 22 <sup>nd</sup> April, 2020, pursuant to the powers contained in Mortgage Deed dated 28 <sup>th</sup> May, 2014 and registered on 2 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2014; and Debenture Deed dated 28 <sup>th</sup> May, 2014 and registered on 29 <sup>th</sup> May, 2014 respectively both issued by Coast Millers Limited.

(Enter description and date of the instrument under which appointment was made, and state whether it is a debenture secured by a floating charge)

Name: Benedicto Barogomwa Lilian Komwihangiro

Title: Ag. Chief Financial Officer Company Secretary

Signed:  

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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# United Nations expert appeals for end to GBV against women in media work

By Special Correspondent

WOMEN journalists face particular dangers while going about their work, an independent UN expert told the UN Human Rights Council on Wednesday, saying that governments should do more to protect them.

In an appeal to Member States, Dubravka Simonovic, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, said that action was needed now, to combat an “emerging fundamentalist discourse” and a “global backlash against women’s rights”.

She also called on Governments to keep women journalists safe by “fully implementing human rights instruments that are specifically aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and gender-based violence”.



Radio Miraya host, Irene Lasu, works out of the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

Highlighting additional threats of violence against women during the COVID-19 crisis, the UN-appointed expert also urged all countries to support a UN-led strategy to combat and prevent such gender-based abuse.

“Women have a right to be safe in their own homes,” she said. “Any measures to combat the pandemic must respect human rights and take into account the needs of women in line with the UN Secretary-General’s appeal for ‘Peace at home’”, she said.

While rights’ movements, such as #MeToo and #NiUnaMenos, have highlighted sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence as well as offered a plat-

form for women journalists to speak up against abuse, many are still reluctant to do so, according to the Special Rapporteur. She highlighted that since 1992, 96 women journalists have been killed while doing their jobs, and although more male journalists have died, female reporters are subject in particular to gender-based violence.

This includes “sexual assault and rape, and particularly the threat of rape...to undermine their credibility and discourage them from working”, Ms. Simonovic explained.

**‘Double-edged sword’**

Moreover, digital spaces are double-edged swords for

women, expanding harassment to cyberspace.

Although they are transforming and reshaping society, they also enable new forms of online violence.

“Women journalists have become increasingly targeted as visible and outspoken representatives of women’s rights”, said Ms. Simonovic.

“Journalists face even higher levels of discrimination if they are not only women, but also indigenous, from a minority, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex.”

She cited a 2019 study across dozens of newsrooms in five countries that indicated that women and minority journalists were not only more often targeted online, but that the attacks they experienced were particularly malicious and often highly sexualized.

Condemning “alarming increases” in gender-based violence against women, Ms. Simonovic also pointed to a survey by The Guardian Media Group in the UK that published millions of comments on its website, in which eight of the 10 most abused writers were women.

Despite some progress, the UN independent envoy maintained that “much remains to be done”, to stem the “alarming increases in gender-based violence against women around the world, including women journalists, during the Covid-19 pandemic”.

She renewed her call to all countries to “support the elaboration of a UN system-wide coordinated approach or strategy to combat and prevent violence against women and a global implementation plan on violence against women”.

Special Rapporteurs are appointed by the Human Rights Council to examine and report back on a specific human rights theme or a country situation. The positions are honorary and the experts are not UN staff, nor are they paid for their work.

# Global experts call for radical health policy shift in post Covid-19 Africa

By Special Correspondent, Abidjan

GLOBAL health experts and practitioners at a policy webinar hosted by the African Development Institute (ADI) called for a “Marshall Plan on Inclusive Health in Africa.”

There is an urgent need for inclusive health policy in Africa, one that can detect and interpret warning signs and rapidly mobilize to isolate threats, absorb and adapt to shocks, and organically innovate new strategies to maintain its core functions, the delegates said.

“There must be a radical shift in Africa’s health policy from one that focuses on medical outcomes, to one that focuses on the broader concept of inclusive health - ensuring quality health from conception to end of life, to all people and all the time,” according to a summary document on the webinar’s outcomes.

The webinar, the third in a series of the ADI’s Global Community of Practice (G-CoP), took place 22-23 June 2020 and brought together 565 global experts and 69 panelists from 50 countries.

The ADI hosted the seminar jointly with the World Health

Organization (WHO); the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention; (ACDCP) the Bank Group’s Health Department and Health Centre; the African Population and Health Research Center at Murdoch University, Western Australia; Drexel University’s School of Public Health, USA; City University of New York School of Medicine, USA; and the University of Nigeria Faculty of Health Science and Technology.

Among the panelists were former Ministers of Health, Education and Finance from Africa, the staff of various Prime Ministers’ Offices, a Minister of Health from Western

Australia, specialists from multi-lateral institutions including the World Bank, heads of health policy research institutes, teaching hospitals, think-tanks and private sector representatives.

Webinar participants encouraged the African Development Bank and partners to build support for the Marshall Plan on Inclusive Health by engaging the private sector, academia and civil society.

African countries were urged to adopt WHO recommendations on frequent handwashing, practicing social distancing and wearing masks in public to prevent

the spread of Covid-19 and other infectious diseases.

They should also scale up testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantining Covid-19 patients, as well as restricting movement to minimize the virus’ spread.

“These basic personal hygiene practices are needed not only for containing Covid-19 but also for mitigating other communicable diseases that affect citizens of Africa,” said the summary report of the seminar.

The ADI and partners will synthesize the outcomes of the seminar into a matrix of Policy Options and a policy brief for

governments and other decision-makers in their response to the pandemic. “There is no one size fits all policy option. Decision-makers need to engage with local experts and influencers to articulate clear policy messages, define incentives, norms or behaviors, and rules for managing defiance,” it said. African countries were advised to provide social safety nets and essential primary health care services, such as access to quality water and sanitation, food, and basic sanitary services for vulnerable households.

Africa, delegates observed, is largely absent from the race for

vaccines and drug discovery to combat several diseases it faces, and to address this, lending institutions should prioritize investments in domestic capacity for the production of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals.

Critical to doing so is the retention of health professionals in Africa by reversing ongoing brain drains, delegates stated.

Countries must strengthen and reform their health policy research institutions to focus on Africa-led inclusive solutions.

“Response policies should be guided by science, not politics,” said the report.

# FAO predicts global shortage of protein-rich foods

By Joseph Gakpo

A GLOBAL shortage of protein-rich foods is expected this year due to Covid-19 and other factors, says a new report by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

The anticipated reduced availability of protein products is expected to result in decreased consumption worldwide, particularly among the poor, which could exacerbate health problems among children.

Many foods are being affected by reduced production and demand, with meat, fish, milk products and plant protein sources like soya bean among the more notable casualties.

Expansion in the world’s meat sectors has slowed due to market disruptions caused by the global pandemic, the report noted. COVID-19 related economic hardships, a steep decline in demand from the food services sector due to lockdowns, logistical bottlenecks, substantial volumes of unsold meat products, limitations in shipping and port backlogs are some of the factors restraining growth in world meat trade. Total worldwide meat production in 2020 will fall by 1.7 percent from 2019 totals, while international meat prices have dropped 8.6 percent from January 2020, resulting in economic losses to producers.

World exports of milk and dairy products are forecast to contract by 4 percent in 2020 due to faltering import demand as a result of COVID-19, although world milk production is showing resilience, possibly growing by 0.8% this year.

The pandemic will continue to heavily affect seafood markets as fishing fleets lay idle. Aquaculture harvests are being delayed and stocking targets drastically reduced, affecting production of heavily traded commodities such as shrimp, salmon, pangasius, tilapia, seabass and seabream.

The shrimp farming season in Asia, which generally begins in April, was delayed until June/July. In India, for example, farmed shrimp production is expected to fall by 30 to 40 percent this year. Also, worldwide demand for both fresh and frozen shrimp is declining significantly, while demand for salmon is expected to drop by at least by 15 percent from 2019 levels. Retail sales, particularly of fresh salmon and trout, have fallen greatly - a market that is not expected to recover for some time, the report said.

Plant sources of protein, such as soya bean, also are being impacted negatively. Oilcrop production is expected to decline in 2019/20 from the previous season’s record level, with pronounced drops in soybean and rapeseed outweighing gains in the other crops, the FAO reported.

“In [the United States], adverse weather conditions led to sharply lower soybean plantings and yields... While poor harvests, notably of soybeans, are expected to drive down global supplies of meals/cakes, consumption is seen to keep expanding, albeit at a below-average rate, linked in part to temporary lockdowns imposed in numerous countries to halt the spread of COVID-19,” the report said.

Protein is an important part of a basic diet, but an estimated one billion people worldwide suffer from protein deficiency. The problem is most severe in Central Africa and South Asia, where about 30 percent of children consume too little protein. Protein deficiency causes various diseases, including kwashiorkor, which causes delayed growth and bloated bel-

lies in children; edema, which causes swollen and puffy skin; fatty liver, which could result in liver failure; and skin, hair, nail and muscle problems. Lack of protein also causes poor wound healing, increased severity of infections, a weakened immune system, greater risk of bone fracture and stunted growth, which affects more than 160 million children annually. If left untreated, some of these conditions could lead to death.

John Komen, a bioscience policy expert who has been working with some African nations on strategies to address protein deficiency, said there are opportunities to use innovation to boost production of plant-based protein sources, such as soybean and cowpea, so that people don’t suffer. The yield from these crops currently remains low in Africa, but a conscious effort to boost productivity can help make such foods more widely available to the populace, he said.

“It is obvious that especially in (West) African countries, local production of plant protein crops should get a boost,” Komen told the Alliance for Science. “Soybean is an obvious candidate, of course, and is already produced at significant scale in South Africa and Nigeria. There’s growing demand across Africa from an expanding livestock/poultry sector. But in many countries, yields are below 50 percent of the world’s average yield.”

Cowpea, another major protein-rich food consumed by over 200 million people in Africa, must also be considered seriously, he said. “Cowpea clearly has the potential to combat hunger and malnutrition, is suitable to small-scale farming conditions and performs on relatively poor soils and under adverse weather conditions,” he observed.

“However, insect pests are a major factor in African cowpea production and cowpea podborer infestations lead to up to 90 percent production losses. Genetically modified, podborer resistant cowpea, as recently approved for release in Nigeria - and demonstrating very high levels of resistance to podborer - is a viable option here that should be considered seriously and urgently by West African governments,” Komen said.

The FAO report also predicts that global production of wheat in 2020 will fall slightly below last year’s good harvest. Following a significant demand slowdown caused by COVID-19 in early 2020, total utilization of coarse grains, including maize, sorghum and barley, is forecast to regain momentum in 2020/21, but would still remain below typical global production levels for a second consecutive season. Global output of oils/fats is also set to fall, the FAO reported, and it foresees world sugar production and consumption to decline for the first time in three years.

“Although globally there is enough food for everyone, the significant decline in economic growth due to the pandemic has translated into an issue of access to food, limiting people’s ability to get enough, or nutritious enough, food, especially in countries already hit by hunger and other crises even before COVID-19,” the FAO report observed.

In the Latin America and Caribbean regions, which produce about 25 percent of the global exports in agricultural and fisheries products, food prices have soared as a result of the pandemic.

Brazilian scientist André Tomas Vilela Hermann said that in his country, food is “more expensive in general. There has been instability in prices since the start of the pandemic. The



prices went up, down and then they’re rising up again.”

Brazil’s meat industry is also experiencing difficulties due to the spread of the virus among slaughterhouse workers, he said, while smallholder farmers who produce fresh vegetables and fruits for the domestic market are suffering.

“Big agricultural firms are trying to export as much as possible since the rate of the US dollar to the Brazilian real is up and the global demand for food is high,” Hermann told the Alliance for Science. “But access to products like pesticides and GMO seeds is more difficult because of the pandemic as well.”

He said that farmers likely will need government support to survive. “I guess increased subsidies would be the best option right now, specially for small farmers, but also investing in tech for food banks and better delivery logistics,” Hermann noted.

Anthony Morrison, a farmer and chairman of the Africa Chamber of Agribusiness, observed that major food prices have doubled and policy makers are underestimating the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture.

“The FAO has been talking about this,” he said. “We have failed to bring in areas of the agricultural social protection mechanisms. Farmers must be protected against the effect of COVID-19. Currently, they are not protected in any way. This must change.”

Morrison wants governments to increase their focus on local food production instead of imports, a shift that can be best achieved through stimulus packages for farmers.

“Our policies are not robust and aggressive. And do not have local content. And that is what affects agriculture. A COVID-19 stimulus package is needed for the agricultural sector instead of

subsidies as usual,” he added. Morrison is calling for “effective identification, tracking and support for targeted training, technology transfer, resource allocation, product/process certification, project implementation, trade arrangements and research” to help the agricultural value chain recover.

The FAO report did include some bright spots. Production of cereals is expected to increase by 2.6 percent this year and rice production by 1.6 percent.

“The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have been felt - at varying degrees - across all food sectors assessed by FAO,” said Boubaker Ben-Belhassen, director of the FAO trade and markets division.

“Whilst COVID-19 has posed a serious threat to food security, overall our analysis shows that from the global perspective, agricultural commodity markets are proving to be more resilient to the pandemic than many other sectors.”



# Six months on, why is COVID-19 still raging worldwide?

BEIJING

**T**HE world is witnessing shattered COVID-19 records with skyrocketing daily confirmed cases that surpassed 200,000 earlier this week.

The soaring infections are forcing countries to suspend plans to ease restrictions on public life and gradually reopen economies. Lockdowns have been re-imposed in cities from Western Europe to the Pacific Ocean, and hospitals in America are once again overwhelmed, sounding the alarm for an even deadlier coronavirus resurgence.

It has been nearly half a year since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak. Yet some countries are struggling to flatten the curve while pushing forward premature reopening policies, analysts and experts say.

Facing such a dire situation, there is a need for global cooperation and persistent, substantial and science-based action to end the pandemic.

## RECORD-BREAKING PACE

It took only 10 days for the coronavirus infections worldwide to reach 11.9 million as of Thursday from the grim 10 million mark, according to data by Johns Hopkins University.

The Americas have been the coronavirus epicenter as the United States, with more than 3 million cases, is the worst-hit country, followed by Brazil with about half of the U.S. caseload.

The United States, whose entire 50 states partially reopened in May, is experiencing a renewed resurgence in infections, with daily new cases in the states of Florida, California and Texas breaking new records.

Florida has seen its caseload soar past 10,000 per day and 200,000 overall. More than four dozen hospitals in the sunshine state reported that their intensive care units have reached full capacity on Tuesday. Local authorities were forced to close beaches packed with people wearing no masks and keeping inadequate social distance.

The situation is horrifying, while the real picture may be far worse. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Healthcare workers wheel a patient into Brooklyn Hospital Center in Brooklyn of New York, the United States, on May 11, 2020. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)

Director Robert Redfield said in late June that cases in the country are likely to be 10 times higher than reported. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, warned Monday "a series of circumstances associated with various states and cities trying to open up, in the sense of getting back to some form of normality, has led to a situation where the country now has record-breaking cases."

Under attacks for a shaky handling of the pandemic, the White House insisted that the spike is a result of expanded testing, a claim rejected by many public health experts.

U.S. media Politico said in a recent

opinion piece that the United States still doesn't have a handle on testing six months into the pandemic.

"Politicians who point to the 'higher number of tests being done' and to the 'lower death and hospitalization rate' as a good thing are merely distorting reality," said Robert Schooley, a professor of medicine with the Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health at the University of California. "More infection is the issue, not more testing."

"No doubt, the U.S. government reacted too slowly and with insufficient central authority to avert the enormity of the pandemic calamity," said Robert Lawrence Kuhn, chairman of

the Kuhn foundation.

## FRAGILE BALANCE

Outside the Americas, premature reopening decisions and loose prevention and control measures have dragged several cities to lockdown. Regional governments in northern Spain re-imposed restrictions over the weekend to contain a spike in new cases, while the Australian state of Victoria announced a six-week lockdown on Tuesday in addition to the border closure of the entire country.

Meanwhile, resurgence have also occurred in the Middle East, where some countries are striving to reopen their economies with preventive measures not being strictly followed, breaking

a fragile balance between reopening and controlling the spread of the virus that requires government-led, nationwide efforts with vigilance, prudence and persistence.

Turkey has witnessed a worrying jump in infections since June 12, after the country reopened public areas on June 1. As the country continues to register over 1,000 new cases daily, the wearing of face masks in public places was made mandatory to curb the spread.

"The reason why our new daily cases are over 1,000 is because the rules are not followed," Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said Monday.

Moreover, the Israeli government reimposed several restrictions, including closing gyms, bars, night clubs and event halls, as well as limiting the number of worshippers in synagogues on Monday, just weeks after a relief of strict measures.

"We have to enforce the regulations. We saw gatherings of 1,000 people not wearing masks ... People are not disciplined enough, and (the) government has to take active measures," said Cyrille Cohen, vice dean of the faculty of life science at Israel's Bar Ilan University, over the rise of infections in Israel.

Gina Tambini, representative in Colombia of the Pan American Health Organization, stressed the need to take into account the diverse environments of each city in each country, and recommended lockdown measures not be relaxed until the speed of transmission is brought under control.

"Local and national governments must allow the dynamics of transmission to dictate their timeline for establishing measures and reopening. The goal is to flatten the curve and then significantly reduce it before relaxing any restrictions," she said.

## LACK OF COOPERATION

Besides mandatory guidelines from local authorities and smart and cautious reopening, effective global cooperation, which plays an essential role in curbing the rampant spread of the virus, is in urgent need.

However, the hardest-hit country by

the pandemic is isolating itself from global cooperation. The United States on Tuesday officially submitted its notification of withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO) to the United Nations, setting in motion the country's exit from the global body amid rising coronavirus cases.

With the pandemic speeding up, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in late June that all countries living with COVID-19 will be the new normal in the coming months.

"All over the world, we have seen heartwarming acts of resilience, inventiveness, solidarity, and kindness. But we have also seen concerning signs of stigma, misinformation and the politicization of the pandemic," he said.

Xi Chen, a professor at Yale School of Public Health and president of the China Health Policy and Management Society, said that "We are experiencing globalization without global governance, which has exposed the vulnerability of human beings in the face of major infectious diseases like COVID-19."

Chen called for enhanced global cooperation in fighting the pandemic in four main areas - tracking and detecting the virus, timely reporting to international organizations, sharing scientific information, and sharing experience in COVID-19 prevention and control.

"The social distancing measures and mask wearing practices in China and other east Asian countries have effectively slowed the spread of the virus," he added.

Learning from each other's mistakes is "critical" in terms of international cooperation, Cohen noted.

Addressing a virtual commemoration of the International Day of Vesak 2020 held last week, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that only through international cooperation "will we ease the economic and social consequences of the crisis."

"It is only by strengthening bonds across society that we will recover better and build a healthier, more inclusive, sustainable, resilient and equitable world," he said. **Xinhua**

By Zhao Huanxin in Washington

It is dangerous and self-destructive for Washington to withdraw from the World Health Organization, an agency that makes the world and the United States safer amid the intensifying COVID-19 crisis, experts, lawmakers and group leaders said.

The White House officially moved to pull the US out of the WHO by submitting a notice of withdrawal to the United Nations effective on July 6, 2021, officials said.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said, "The secretary-general ... is in the process of verifying with the World Health Organization whether all the conditions for such withdrawal are met."

The move capped months of threats from US President Donald Trump to cut funds and sever ties with the UN health body.

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Trump's official withdrawal was "an act of true senselessness as WHO coordinates the global fight against COVID-19".

"With millions of lives at risk, the president is crippling the international effort to defeat the virus," she wrote on Twitter.

In its 1948 joint resolution to join the WHO, the US Congress set two conditions for withdrawal: to give one year's notice

and pay WHO dues.

As of March 31, the US, the largest single government donor to the WHO, was behind in its payment of assessed fees. It owes US\$198.3 million in membership dues, according to US media reports.

The US withdrawal, "just another case showing the US is upholding unilateralism", has undermined international efforts to tackle COVID-19 and seriously affected developing countries badly in need of international support. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said on Wednesday, urging the US to carry out its international obligations.

Zhao said the WHO, the most authoritative and professional international organization in global public health, has played an indispensable role in tackling the pandemic. He called for the international community to further build its consensus on multilateralism and increase its support and investment in the WHO.

In the US, another Democrat, Congressman Eric Swalwell, described the decision as "irresponsible, reckless, and utterly incomprehensible". He tweeted that "withdrawing from the WHO in the midst of the greatest public health crisis of our lifetime is a self-destructive move".

In a statement, Lamar Alexander, the Republican chairman of the Senate health committee, said, "I disagree with

# US notifies WHO of its withdrawal



the president's decision." He said that the time to look at the mistakes the WHO "might have made" in connection with the novel coronavirus is after the crisis has been dealt with, not in the middle of it.

Elizabeth Cousins, president and CEO of the UN Foundation, said the WHO is the only body capable of leading and coordinating the global response to COVID-19.

"A US withdrawal from the WHO would also jeopardize decades of hard-won progress on other critical global health priorities that matter to Americans from expanding access to vaccines to fighting diseases like polio, malaria and HIV/AIDS and working to strengthen health systems everywhere," she said.

InterAction, an alliance of international NGOs and partners in the US, said in a statement that Trump's move to withdraw from the WHO is "dangerous" and "shortsighted", adding that "the World Health Organization makes the world and America safer in the face of a range of global health threats".

## Nation at higher risk

Thomas File Jr., president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, also said the US needs to join with the global scientific community in fighting the virus. It has much to learn from other parts of the world that have reduced infection and death rates.

"Without the WHO, the nation is at higher risk of being inadequately prepared for many health risks of pandemic proportions," he said.

The WHO is so deeply woven into the fabric of US public

health that extracting it will be difficult, disruptive and damaging, argued Matthew Kavanagh, an assistant professor of global health at Georgetown University, and his colleague, Mara Pillinger, an associate at the university's O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law.

For example, the US is home to 83 WHO collaborating centers, including research institutes, universities and US government agencies that work at the intersection of US and global public health, they said in an article posted on the Foreign Policy magazine website on Tuesday.

"It is naive to think that the essential functions of the WHO could be recreated through bilateral accords indeed, the long history of failure in state relations on health is proof positive. Trying to do so, and failing, is the last thing the world needs in the middle of a global pandemic," they wrote. **Xinhua**



**The US withdrawal, "just another case showing the US is upholding unilateralism", has undermined international efforts to tackle COVID-19 and seriously affected developing countries badly in need of international support, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao**

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 104 00--

**WORD-FIT**

3 letters: SOW, NOW,  
4 letters: HAIL, TOOL, ALOE, OMEN, RHEA  
5 letters: CANON, YEMEN, EJECT, ISLET, LEAVE, AHEAD, FACTS, BRAID, SWINE

**CROSSWORD**

6 letters: DRIVER, NATIVE, CANADA  
7 letters: DROUGHT, ETONIAN, SEA BASS  
8 letters: OHM METER, IMMUNITY,

**SOLUTIONS**

1 Tanzania's statesman  
2 obtain in exchange for payment  
3 a period of seven days  
4 an assistant to a political leader  
5 open to public inspection  
6 a tall deciduous shade tree with spreading branches and broad top  
7 support, encourage  
8 longest river in Africa  
9 town on the border of Kenya and Tanzania  
10 People of Nigeria  
11 a rower  
12 young form of a louse  
13 North American plant with stems of showy snap dragon like-flowers  
14 printed publication  
15 a formal process whereby a politician is elected  
16 pardon a sin  
17 characterized by constant change mate and then produce offspring  
18 Her capital city is Luanda  
19 Children  
20 a building devoted to the worship  
21 once more  
22 a thing that is not possible  
23 the expression of creative skill  
24 have an obligation to pay money



# CRDB BANK PROMISES TO SUPPORTS EFFORT BY KAGERA SUGAR TO STEP UP PRODUCTION

By Property Watch Reporter

**P**LANS by Kagera Sugar factory to double its production to over 170,000 metric tons per annum in the next five years will receive full financial backing from CRDB Bank Plc.

The bank's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said this week while visiting the factory with CRDB board of directors and top management officials that in order to contribute towards economic growth and meet sugar demand for the domestic market, Kagera Sugar needs funding to boost its infrastructure.

"By financially supporting growth of domestic industries we are actually enabling them to grow and produce both for the domestic and foreign markets and contribute to economic growth," Nsekela said while informing the board members that the investment also aligns well with the government's industrialization agenda.

He further noted that demand for domestic sugar is growing hence the need to ensure that existing factories increase their capacity and new ones crop up through partnership with banks which have the financial means.

"We are visiting Kagera Sugar today to listen to their needs as part of routine interaction with customers so that we can have first hand information on their needs and how to solve them," the CRDB chief noted.

Official statistics indicate that the country's sugar consumption currently stands at 710,000 metric tons of which 545,000 tons are for human consumption while 165,000 tons are for industrial use. The



An aerial view of Kagera Sugar factory.

local production of the sweetener stands at 378,449 tons which is 67.7 percent of total demand.

Kagera Sugar's CEO, Ashwin Ranna commended CRDB for supporting the factory with a loan of US\$100 million which has enabled the factory to exist and employ hundreds of people

while also paying taxes.

"The CRDB loan has enable us also to implement all key investment plans to boost the factory this year," Ranna said while noting that since its privatization in 2001, Kagera Sugar has increased production from 600 tons to 91,000 tons per

annum. "Our plan is to increase production to 170,000 tons within the next five years when we will employ 7,000 people," he added.

CRDB Board Chairman, Ally Laay said they will continue giving management policy direction so that the bank

plays a crucial role in national development. "Our role as a board is to continue working with management to perform well in business activities," Laay said while commending Kagera Sugar for good corporate governance that has resulted in sustained growth of the factory.

## Miners bump heads over DRC mining code

KINSHASA

Things got heated in a discussion about the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC's) mining code with juniors squaring off against the big mining houses on the first day of this week's Digital DRC Mining Week.

The DRC's rich mineral resources and the country's reputation as a corrupt, risky investment destination inevitably led to the topic of the country's new mining code. "The grades in most of the metals that you find in the DRC are some of the highest in the world. Yet the cost to mine in the DRC is also two and a half times higher than anywhere else in the world. The cost of doing business in the DRC has to be addressed. The 2018 mining code, in at least three places, is very poorly worded, where your repayment of loans and dividends is in question," said Dr Willem Jacobs, COO - Africa & Middle East at Barrick Gold.

While the potential of DRC's geology has been known since 1816, he asked why everyone isn't in the DRC? "We are sitting on a world-class deposit in Kibali and we've been doing very well out of the DRC. But, we as a mining industry have to understand that if you cannot repay a loan or dividends to investors or shareholders, there is no reason why anybody would put a dollar in the DRC."

To which the South African junior miner Elobogeng Setsho, CEO of Simba Mgodini Mining, replied: "Your issues with the mining code need to be addressed directly with the Department of Minerals and Mining in the DRC. Because there was a time when we were allowed to make submissions as to what we felt needed to be in that mining code. That mining code and its poor wording is a direct consequence of big miners, such as yourself, failing to contribute meaningfully to the implementation and the wording of that code. In addition, we are not saying don't repatriate funds, we are saying develop as you repatriate your funds. Don't pillage, that's my point, do not pillage. We need to take a far bigger responsibility for those host communities. There has to be a balance."

Jacobs responded: "I didn't see your face in the 2018 mining debate mam. Boris (Kamstra) and I were in the trenches. We were part of a group of seven miners that went to see the president, that were involved for six months in that mining code. Not one of the contributions that the mining industry made, by the way, was accepted in any of those working sessions. So please, when you make statements like 'you big miners' don't say us. The 2018 mining code debate is still not finished. We have been invited for the last two years, on a case by case basis, by the minister of mines to talk to the mining industry. To date, not one of those invitations has materialised."

Fellow panellist Pangea and Alphamin Director Boris Kamstra agreed that "unfortunately the ministers had changed and some of the momentum with the issues that were being debated has abated somewhat. And we look forward to an opportunity to pick it up again."

Keynote session with DRC mining minister

Professor Willy Kitobo Samsoni, the DRC's mining minister noted that several projects had also been postponed. "With Covid-19 about 20% of revenue will be lost for the country's mining sector."

The government was "reviewing lockdown measures to maintain our activities in the mining sector", he said, and admitted that the pandemic "had also impacted the traceability of minerals in the artisanal sector because inspections have been interrupted." Jean Marc Châtaignier, EU ambassador to DRC stated: "as buyers of products in the region we need to ensure that the value chain is controlled and the traceability is respected."

Serigne Diene, Economic Counsellor in the Office of the United Nations' Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region said: "Regional integration, as we saw during Covid-19, can be used as a shield and help countries face collectively transnational issues such as the pandemic."

Affected trade

During the last webinar of the day, the focus was on trade and how the Covid-19 pandemic had affected international trade with the DRC, moderated by Cedric Longange, Chairman of the Congolese Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain.

"This Covid is really going to affect our industry enormously" said Eric Bruggeman, director and CEO of the SA Capital Equipment Export Council (SACEEC). "Everyone is trying to get going again but the entire supply chain is not active yet. We have to find a new way of marketing, we can't have big exhibitions such as DRC Mining Week which was supposed to take place in Lubumbashi this week. We need to find new markets and new ways of getting into those markets." "Figures show that Covid has had a very serious effect on German mining equipment manufacturers," said Helmut Schgeiner, technical director at VDMA Mining (the German Association of Mining Suppliers).

## Morocco to construct Africa's highest wind tower

RABAT

Morocco is set to construct tallest wind tower in the African continent, measuring 144 metres high. Spanish technology signed a deal with Nabrawind for the development. The company's self-erecting steel Nabralift design, which also features a lightweight piled-in foundation, will support a 3.6MW Siemens Gamesa turbine with a hub height of 144 metres.

"This tower allows the installation of a full wind turbine - tower, nacelle, rotor - without using large-size cranes regardless of the final hub-height. The Self-erecting System (SES) is conceived to install the lowermost sections of the tower at the last part of the assembly process. For this purpose, the SES is able to hoist the WTG in intermediate stages and install tower sections under it," said the company.

Construction of the tower will use 80m<sup>3</sup> of concrete and 10 tonnes of steel, as compared to the 500m<sup>3</sup> of concrete and 60 tonnes of steel used by 'gravitational' designs. Works will begin this summer, with the remainder of the installation taking place "at the end of this year and the beginning of the next. To-date the tallest wind turbine in Africa is in South Africa, a 115-metre tower installed by Siemens Gamesa. The world's record-holder is currently a 178-metre tower installed in Germany.

Morocco, which is on track to become a world leader in renewable energies. Currently, it is importing over 90% of its fuel needs and spends 10-12% of its gross domestic product on energy imports. The North African country plans to generate 42% of its energy from renewables by 2020, with one-third coming from solar, wind and hydropower. As part of a low-carbon economy endeavor, Morocco has set an ambitious program seeking to increase the contribution of renewable energies in the national energy mix to 52 pc in 2030.



Tancoal's Ngaka mines.

## Tancoal seeking grace period to settle 24.1bn/- royalty backlog

By Property Watch Reporter

Struggling to pay US\$10.4 million (over 24.1bn/-) in royalty backlog to the government, Tancoal Energy Limited is requesting for a grace period until its coal sales normalise after its markets have been affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

In its latest report, Intra Energy Corporation which is Tancoal's holding company, said in its June monthly report that its sales plummeted from 60,901 metric tons in May last year to 24,067 tons only in May 2020.

Tancoal Energy Limited which operates Ngaka Coal Mines in Ruvuma region is jointly owned by IEC with 70 percent and National Development Corporation which has 30 percent.

"Sales were lower than the prior year due to the effect of Covid-19 on the business of both domestic and export custom-

ers and competition from small miners. Coal produced during the month was 34,229 tonnes, May 2019 production was 62,393 tonnes," the company stated in its report.

The coal mining company said it has capacity to increase production to meet customer demand if the market gets back to normal. Tancoal's main export markets have been badly affected by the coronavirus in East Africa where many governments have imposed lockdowns.

"Tancoal is continuing discussions with the Ministry of Minerals and the Mining Commission on the payment terms for the US\$10.4 million of past royalties and is requesting a moratorium on payments until sales tonnages increase over the 45,000 tonnes per month level," the IEC said in its report.

The Chairman of IEC, Graeme Robertson said May continued

the low sales tonnages witnessed in April as a result of industrial slowdown from the COVID19 Pandemic.

"Increased coal supplies from nearby small mines at low prices aimed at gaining market share were also a factor in lower supply tonnages. These are expected to face increased mining costs once shallow coal has been depleted and are not considered a long term threat as quality is not to the standard of Tancoal," Robertson said.

He further noted that IEC's fundamentals are changing as it gravitates more into the gold development sector with increased enthusiasm given the new gold area in the Minas Do Lurio concession.

"IEC is also investigating other potential areas and has commenced the process to a listing of Intrafrican Resources to raise funding to further increase eq-



# MINISTER PAYS TRIBUTE TO NMB FOR DESKS, IRON SHEETS DONATION WORTH 36M/-

By Property Watch Reporter

**A** donation of 250 desks and 352 corrugated iron sheets donated by NMB Bank Plc to Tanga District will go a long way in improving the learning environment and boost students performance.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Elders and Children, Umyy Mwalimu said in Tanga this week when receiving the donation noting that NMB has been in the forefront in supporting government efforts to solve various development challenges.

"My request was 400 desks for the seven schools but I am glad that at least I have something to reduce the problem," Mwalimu said, calling on other companies to emulate the bank's corporate social responsibility investments.

She called on the public to support the bank's business activities to enable it to give more to the public through its generous CSR policy. Mwalimu appealed to the bank to help children build financial management skills including adopting a saving culture.

The Health Minister further appealed to NMB officials to visit schools and mobilize parents and guardians to open Mtoto



Part of Pongwe Secondary School near Tanga city.

and Chipukizi Accounts for their children. Tanga District Commissioner, Thobias Mwilipwa who also attended the ceremony, called upon students to study hard and pass their examinations in order to contribute towards national development.

The bank's acting Chief Finance Officer, Benedicto Baragomwa said NMB has in the past four years invested over 4bn/- in education sector. He said the money was spent to purchase over 31,000 desks and 1,150 computers to schools.

"Education and health are our

priority sectors which are supported through our CSR policy, we will continue to give our support to help in solving development challenges facing communities," he pledged adding that the bank's success depends on public support.

The desks and iron roofing

materials would be distributed to Japan, Galanos, Chongolleani, Nguvumali and Pongwe Secondary Schools (50 desks each). The roofing sheets will be distributed to Mikanjuni (152) and Kirare (200) Secondary Schools.

## UK, Netherlands and Denmark to fund critical infrastructure for Somaliland

HARGEISA

The UK, Denmark and the Netherlands have approved four agreements with Somaliland to fund infrastructure and boost economic growth.

The biggest project will upgrade the road between the self-declared republic's second-largest city, Burao, and the port of Berbera. It will add 82km of all-weather asphalt, resurface bridges and renew drainage to benefit 50,000 regular road users and boost trade in livestock, agriculture and fish.

Another scheme will improve the supply of water to the people of Hargeisa, Somaliland's capital city. It will help the Hargeisa Water Agency extract 4,000 extra cubic metres of water a day from the Laasdure aquifer. This will increase the water available in Hargeisa by more than 20%, which the British embassy says is enough to meet the needs of a 200,000 people.

The money will also pay for a fishing jetty in the port of Maydh to improve trade between Berbera and the 750,000 people living in the hinterland of Sanaag, and help get fish to markets. The fourth scheme involves soil conservation and agriculture.

The British Ambassador to Somalia, Ben Fender, said: "These projects will improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of people by creating jobs and unlocking the region's economic potential. At a time of huge challenges for Somaliland, including tackling COVID-19, this demonstrates the UK's commitment to the people of Somaliland."

Mette Knudsen, the Danish ambassador, said the projects would have "catalytic effects" on Somaliland's economic development. The funders did not say how much money they were providing.

The National Development Plan has been costed at \$2.1bn between 2017 and 2021, only \$81m of which is expected to be supplied by the government of Somaliland. The schemes are part of the second phase of the Somaliland Development Fund programme, called SDF2. UK consulting engineer Mott MacDonald has been appointed SDF2 manager.

## Growthpoint, Serra achieve first Green Star EBP Industrial rating, earning SA big honour

JOHANNESBURG

Growthpoint and Serra Services recently achieved a five-star Green Star Existing Building Performance (EBP) rating for an industrial building in Gauteng - a first for the province.

Situated in a mixed industrial and residential area in Meadowbrook, Germiston, the 7400m<sup>2</sup> light manufacturing building, comprising a workshop and offices on two floors, is owned by Growthpoint Properties and was leased by Serra in 2016. An extensive process was undertaken by both landlord and tenant, in consultation with Solid Green Consulting, to achieve the Green Star EBP rating.

Industrial EBP rating tool

Says Errol Taylor, head of asset management: industrial at Growthpoint Properties, "It is interesting to note that this small but prominent corner of Meadowbrook has become a shining example of green building in South Africa. Serra's premises are directly adjacent to Growthpoint's award-winning five-star Office Design v1 certified Grundfos development.

"The EBP certification for the building occupied by Serra is part of a pilot programme to develop an industrial EBP rating tool for the GBCSA, which can be used by everyone in the industrial property sector. Growthpoint works in close collaboration with our clients and professional teams to achieve optimal environments for occupants while ensuring that our buildings operate efficiently, sustainably and with minimal impact on the environment. We believe it is important to certify our green buildings because a recognised building rating provides an important independent verification of environmental performance."

Tenant engagement required

Dashiell Coville, sustainable building consultant at Solid Green, explains that the GBCSA's Existing Building Performance (EBP) tool focuses on the operational phase of an existing building's lifecycle to enable facilities management to set in place policies, plans and processes to optimise the operations and performance of the building. "The certification process for industrial buildings requires a lot more tenant engagement than for office buildings, as industrial tenants are typically in charge of all aspects of property management and cannot simply gain credit from the landlord's green policies."

Building performance features

Key features of the Meadowbrook building's performance include energy and water efficiency,

## Qatar Airways to resume Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro flights on Monday

By Property Watch Reporter

Qatar Airways will next Monday resume flying to Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro after the government lifted restrictions imposed to curb the coronavirus outbreak.

In a statement, the Doha based airline said Zanzibar will have four weekly flights while Kilimanjaro will have three during the week and will use its state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliner to both destinations, offering 22 seats in Business Class and 254 seats in Economy Class.

In addition to restarting Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro flights, Qatar Airways has also increased flights to Dar es Salaam to daily effective last week after Doha flights resumption in mid June. As one of the only global airlines to have maintained a significant schedule throughout the crisis, Qatar has scheduled the flights to connect seamlessly via its hub at Hamad International Airport, with key European destinations, including London, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Madrid and Zurich.



A Qatar Airways plane at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam.

Qatar Airways acting Vice-President for Middle East, Africa and Pakistan, Bennet Stephens said the flights resumption to the two major tourism hotspots in the region is a major milestone. "With flights resuming all around the world and COVID-19 restrictions easing, travellers are excited to change their scenery and go to places where they can enjoy nature and the calmness after being

isolated at home," Stephens said.

"During the pandemic, Qatar Airways have become the largest global carrier flying over 50 million kilometres to repatriate close to two million passengers safely and reliably. Our wide network of flights during these challenging times has ensured we have kept up to date with the latest in international airport procedures and implemented the

most advanced safety and hygiene measures on board our aircraft and in Hamad International Airport," he added.

Qatar Airways has established a strong relationship with Tanzania over the years as it began its scheduled services to Dar es Salaam in January 2007 followed by Kilimanjaro in July 2012 and Zanzibar in July 2015 with daily flights to all three destinations.

"Serra consumes in the region of 16kWh/sqm/year, which is an 85% improvement on a typical light industrial building of this scale (106kWh/sqm/year)," says Coville. "This is the ongoing targeted consumption level. Thanks to reduced consumption, as well as energy efficiency and the renewable energy initiatives implemented, the consumption in 2019 was lower than in 2018."

A large solar photovoltaic system on the roof provides renewable energy to the facility. 130 panels, with a capacity of 25kWp, were installed as Phase 1; and Paul Thomaz, group marketing director of Serra, advises that the aim is to install a further 110 panels for Phase 2 - with capacity for 550 panels in total. He adds, "Three lithium-ion battery banks provide the office component with 24 hours of uninterrupted power. In winter - June through to end August - these are bled during peak load periods (6am-9am and 4pm-6pm) to reduce our electricity consumption and carbon footprint."

Thanks to the water-saving initiatives implemented as well as the efficient habits of the Serra staff, the facility has demonstrated an 88% improvement in water consumption on a typical light manufacturing industrial building of this scale, and this is the ongoing targeted consumption level.

Energy, water monitoring systems



Growthpoint's industrial building in Gauteng.

The Serra building uses energy and water monitoring systems to accurately report on consumption. Data is monitored via online dashboards and used to analyse trends and highlight problem areas; and the utility metering

process is outsourced to a specialist contractor who manages meter reading and processing.

Periodic audits and occupant surveys are carried out to ensure that sufficient fresh air is provided (to meet or exceed

national design standards), that lighting levels are optimal, and that temperatures are comfortable. This all translates into a healthier, more productive space.

Waste management practices Serra is constantly reviewing its approach to recycling within the building in order to improve its waste management practices. The goal is to integrate recycling both at a manufacturing and operations level. Recycling bins for paper, glass, plastics and aluminium cans will be situated within the office space as well as the warehouse waste storage area and collected weekly by the waste management contractor.

Thomaz explains that the 3R principle has been implemented. For example, all bonded paper is reused or repurposed where possible in printers, and then recycled after shredding as product bulk packaging. And all stainless steel offcuts are either repurposed or recycled (if not fit for purpose) - resulting in a wastage factor of less than 2%.



## CONSTRUCTION

# CHINA COMPLETES 11KM SHANGHAI-CHANGJIANG ROAD-RAIL BRIDGE

BEIJING

**A**fter six years' work, China has completed an 11km-long bridge between Shanghai and the city of Nantong, across the Yangtze river.

The \$2.1bn Shanghai-Changjiang River Bridge has a double-deck structure, with six-lanes of road traffic on top and four railway lines underneath, making it the longest road-rail cable-stayed bridge in the world. The 1km suspended span allows ship traffic on the river; the remainder takes the form of a causeway.

The rail element also completed the Shanghai-to-Nantong railway, which will reduce the drive time between China's most populous city and the north of Jiangsu Province from 3.5 hours to one, and replaces a four-hour ferry trip with a 30-minute railway journey. The 143km link will initially operate a maximum of 45 pairs of passenger trains a day, along with six pairs of freight trains travelling at speeds of up to 200km/h.

Wang Feng, the deputy general of China State Railway Group, commented: "The opening of the bridge and the railway will advance the integration of the Yangtze River Delta area, as well as the construction of the coastal and Beijing-Shanghai railway channels."

He added that many new technologies were used in the cable-stayed bridge, including an advanced anti-collision system and cables with the highest tensile strength in the world. "The anti-collision system can warn the river traffic



The 11km bridge took six years, four months to build.

authority within 3km if a ship appears likely to strike a bridge pier," he said.

The bridge took 480,000 tonnes of steel to make, and its 330m main pylon is the world's tallest for a combined cable-

stayed bridge. The pylon will also have the world's largest deep-water sink foundation, covering an area the size of 12 basketball courts and 115m in depth. Jiangsu province has six railways under construction. More than \$25.5bn

will be invested to construct the 1,021 km of railways, according to the Jiangsu Transport Bureau.

Meanwhile effects on Chinese construction of the coronavirus lockdown in the first quarter of the year are expected to be

countered by public sector investment in infrastructure, according to a report from market analyst Fitch Solutions.

The sector's output fell more than 17% between January and March, but is likely to make up

ground over the remainder of 2020 and to record a year-on-year increase of 1.8% over the full 12 months. However, Fitch noted that this depends on how quickly increased funding can be translated into activity.

"We remain positive on the outlook of China's construction sector, which is the world's largest in terms of nominal value," the report says. "Growth will be driven by government efforts to invest in infrastructure, both in the transport and energy sectors, to improve connectivity between cities and to reduce pollution."

Construction is set to be the main beneficiary of government attempts to pump demand into the economy. Other areas, particularly those dependent on exports, are likely to continue to suffer - a number of surveys have found international demand falling rapidly. For example, research firm TS Lombard expects China's exports to fall 40% in the second quarter of 2020, and construction has not been immune to this (see further reading).

The construction recovery is also suggested by a rise in demand for cement and site machinery. Last month, the 25 largest makers of excavators recorded sales up 60% year on year, according to data from the China Construction Machinery Association.

The increased investment in infrastructure has been boosted by spending at the province and city level. In May, bonds worth \$150bn were issued by local governments, surpassing the previous record of \$101bn issued in January.

## Despite Covid, optimism prevalent in construction, says CIOB

LONDON

The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) has emphasised the optimism still prevalent in the global industry following a survey gauging the financial, operational and personal impact of Covid-19.

In the survey conducted with GCR, 92% of construction professionals around the world said they expect their business to survive the Covid-19 pandemic. The figure includes UK respondents.

Taken by more than 500 construction professionals from Australia, Canada, China, Ireland, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, United Arab Emirates (UAE), UK and the USA, 56% of survey respondents said their organisations were keeping all or some sites open. 76% said their employees were able to observe social distancing on their way into work, and 84% said they were able to observe social distancing onsite.

Caroline Gumble, Chief Executive of the CIOB, said: "Firstly, many thanks to everyone who completed our survey. It's a busy



A construction site in London.

time for most people in our industry so the responses are much appreciated. Secondly, it's good to hear that there is so much activity getting un-

derway and much hope and positivity in the industry.

"While it was necessary for some sites to temporarily close their

doors, we are glad to see that the majority of construction workers are optimistic in their outlook and are able to maintain a safe environ-

ment whilst working. However, we want to remind everyone that it is imperative to stay safe and follow the appropriate guidelines, including, for the UK, the latest CLC Site Operating Procedures."

Most respondents worked for larger companies, with nearly half (48.8%) working for companies employing more than 500 people. Of those, 37.3% work for companies employing more than 1,000 people. In terms of employer organisations, most (37.4%) were main contractors. The main types of other employers were project manager/QS (14.2%), public-sector client (10.9%), consulting engineer (10.4%), private-sector client (9%) and specialist contractor (5.7%).

Among the personal stories from the survey, many CIOB members have been stepping up to ensure that vulnerable people - in construction and in society at large - are protected during this pandemic. The survey found that 44% have volunteered to help people in their community, such as shopping for the elderly, 42% have volunteered to support essential workers and 36% have donated personal protective equipment (PPE) to front-line health and social care workers.

## Vietnam's new PPP law will enhance infrastructure, declares Fitch

HANOI

The National Assembly approved it on 18 June, making it the main, unified piece of legislation governing PPP transactions.

Fitch said investors had previously been put off by the complexity of PPP laws and the lack of a comprehensive risk sharing mechanism. Fitch forecasts construction growth in the country of 6.8% a year on average from 2021 to 2029.

"We will be monitoring and assessing the progress of PPP transactions under the new PPP law, and make adjustments to our forecasts if necessary," Fitch said. The law makes projects in transport, grid infrastructure and power plants, water management, IT infrastructure, schools and hospitals eligible for PPP deals.

To qualify, a project's value must be at least around \$8.6m (VND200bn), except in healthcare and education projects where the threshold is half that. The lower threshold also applies to projects in areas with difficult socio-economic conditions. Fitch said road projects would be a litmus test for the effectiveness of the new law.

It believes there are 98 major infrastructure projects in planning earmarked as PPPs, of which 58 are roads and bridges, with an estimated value of \$20.8bn. Better transport infrastructure is needed to keep pace with the country's rapid economic growth, which has been helped by its emergence as an alternative to China for low-cost manufacturing.

The flagship road project is the 2,100km North-South Expressway running the country's entire attenuated length from the top at Hanoi to the bottom at Ho Chi Minh City. At first, the government tried procuring parts of the project as PPPs, but switched to traditional public funding owing to bidding complications.



**We will be monitoring and assessing the progress of PPP transactions under the new PPP law, and make adjustments to our forecasts if necessary**

## Demand for office space to remain intact in the UAE and Saudi Arabia

ABU DHABI

Demand for office space in the Arab world's two biggest economies - Saudi Arabia and the UAE - will remain intact despite expectations of major changes to the workplace caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

There is a belief in the market that uncertainty and weak economic conditions will cause businesses to take up less office space as many employees opt to continue working from home. However, with changes in how office and commercial space will be used to come up with safer work environments, the space requirements each employee requires could increase, Simon Townsend, senior director at CBRE and head of the advisory business

in the Middle East North Africa and Turkey, told a webinar on Tuesday.

"What this could mean is that inverse is actually true," he said. "You may need more space, rather than less, as we move forward." The Covid-19 pandemic has infected close to 11.8 million people worldwide and killed more than 544,000, according to Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking the outbreak.

The rapid spread of the virus pushed governments across the world to close borders, shut all but essential businesses and restrict the movement of people, forcing millions of people to work from home. Although most economies are now reopening, businesses are embracing the work-from-home culture to protect their

workforce.

The trend has posed questions on the growth prospects of the commercial and office property sector. Mr Townsend said that while the market is in a slightly "weaker place" than it was at the beginning of the year, demand for office space is expected to grow or maintain the same trend going forward.

He said the UAE and Saudi Arabia enjoyed the geographical advantage of being the commercial and financial hubs for Asia, Africa and Europe. "I think a lot of the global corporates will create and consolidate their hubs here and we will continue to see a strong office environment," he said. "There will always be demand for office space ... I don't see the end as yet."



King Abdullah financial district (KAFD) in Saudi Arabia's capital city, Riyadh. The kingdom and the UAE will both remain as important hubs linking eastern and western markets, according to CBRE's Simon Townsend.



## WORLD

## US lawmakers blast Trump's decision to withdraw from WHO

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump's decision to officially quit the World Health Organization (WHO) has sparked outrage among US lawmakers, raising concerns over the ongoing global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Twitter that Trump's decision was "an act of true senselessness".

Trump made the decision at a time when "the WHO coordinates the global fight against COVID-19," Pelosi wrote on Wednesday.

"With millions of lives at risk, the President is crippling the international effort to defeat the virus," she said.

The United States will leave the WHO on July 6, 2021, and currently it owes the organization more than US\$200 million in assessed contributions, according to the WHO website.

The US suffered the most from the pandemic, with 3,054,695 COVID-19 cases and 132,299 fatalities up to date, according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

"To call Trump's response to COVID chaotic and incoherent doesn't do it justice. This won't protect American lives or interests - it leaves Americans sick and America alone," Senator Robert Menendez, top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, said Wednesday on Twitter.

Top Republican Senator Lamar Alexander, chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, said he disagreed with the president's decision as it would undermine the development of a COVID-19 vaccine and hamper US cooperation with other countries to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

"Withdrawing US membership could, among other things, interfere with clinical trials that are essential to the development of vaccines, which citizens of the United States, as well as others in the world, need," said Alexander, the senior Senator from Tennessee.

"If the administration has specific recommendations for reform of the WHO, it should submit those recommendations to Congress, and we can work together to make those happen," he added.

House Foreign Affairs Committee



US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi

chair and New York Representative Eliot Engel said deflecting blame "onto the WHO won't reverse the administration's mistakes or undo the suffering our country has endured."

"The president needs to get serious about stopping this pandemic's lethal spread by restoring our membership in the WHO, ramping up testing, and encouraging everyone to practice social distancing and wear masks," Engel said.

By withdrawing from the WHO, Trump has further abdicated US global leadership, Congressman Ami Bera, who represents California's 7th Congressional District in the US House of Representatives, lamented on Twitter.

"His go-it-alone approach puts America's health and security at risk," he said Wednesday. Bera, a physician, also told local media that the United States and the WHO had worked "hand in hand" to eradicate smallpox and nearly defeat polio.

"If the WHO is to blame: why has the U.S. been left behind while many countries from South Korea to New Zealand to Vietnam to Germany return to normal?" he said.

Eric Swalwell, who represents California's 15th congressional district in the House, said on Twitter that Trump's decision "is irresponsible, reckless,

and utterly incomprehensible."

"Withdrawing from the @WHO in the midst of the greatest public health crisis of our lifetime is a self-destructive move. More Americans will be hurt by this careless choice," he said.

As global COVID-19 infections top 12 million, with a vaccine still not in sight, Washington's decision was "disastrous" for national interests and the departure would weaken American influence on international health diplomacy, Lawrence O Gostin, the director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, said in a statement.

"It will make Americans less safe during an unprecedented global health crisis," Gostin added.

Dr Ashish Jha, director of the Harvard Global Health Institute, considered it as "an extraordinarily bad decision that will both harm global public health and harm the health of the American people."

"It's unclear to me how the American people benefit by not being at the table and not being able to shape those policies," the expert was quoted as saying by the New York Times.

Washington's blame on the WHO for not investigating the COVID-19 outbreak in China is "deeply disingenuous," Jha said.

"WHO can't push its way into China, any more than it can investigate why our outbreak is so bad in Arizona or why we're botching the response as badly as we are," he said.

He also called on the White House to adhere to science, encourage people to wear masks and conduct social distancing.

"There's been a lot of mixed messaging on masks and social distancing and so all of that has contributed to what I think is a perilous moment for our country," Jha said.

Amanda Glassman, a public health expert and executive vice president of the Center for Global Development think tank, noted that the world doesn't just face today's threat of COVID-19 but also the threat of future pandemics, which are more likely because of increased zoonotic transmission.

"Withdrawal is counterintuitive at best and dangerous to human life at worst," Glassman told USA Today. "The US Congress should immediately explore what power it has to prevent this from happening." **Xinhua**



Taliban prisoners sit during their release from the Bagram prison, next to the US military base in Bagram, some 50 km north of Kabul. (AFP)

## Kabul to release prisoners from Taliban list in push for talks

KABUL

AFGHANISTAN is to release more Taliban prisoners in the hope of getting peace talks going, a government spokesman said yesterday, after the insurgent group provided the government with a revised list of several hundred of their detainees.

Disagreement over about 600 prisoners from a total of 5,000 the Taliban want released has prevented the launch of US-brokered peace talks aimed at ending nearly 19 years of war since the Islamist militants were ousted.

While releases by both sides have taken place, the Afghan government has said it does not want to release some prisoners for security reasons and its Western allies also object to some of them being set free.

"They have given us another list, the release process will continue but direct talks should also start immediately," Javid Faisal, spokesman for the National Security Council, told Reuters.

The Taliban could not be reached for comment and it was not clear if they would be willing to start talks based on the release of the prisoners on the list.

The United States and the Taliban struck a landmark agreement in February on the withdrawal of US forces in exchange for Taliban security guarantees.

As part of the pact, the Taliban agreed to open power-sharing talks with the US-backed government.

But a senior government official said there was still no agreement on starting the talks.

"The government will start the process of release in the coming few days and will complete the release whether the Taliban agree or not," he said.

A diplomatic source said US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who has overseen the negotiations with the Taliban, has been pressing Taliban leaders to compromise on the prisoner issue and there were hopes the hurdle would be overcome.

"Momentum is such that it would not be possible for any side to back out," the source said. **Xinhua**

## Russia backs African candidate as UN special envoy for Libya - ambassador

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIA does not see any objective reasons why the appointment of the UN envoy for Libya is dragged on and believes that the position should be given to an African representative, Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia said at the UN Security Council on Wednesday.

"Regrettably, the situation is getting more complicated due to the resignation of Mr. [Ghassan] Salame," he said. "The office of the Secretary General's representative for Libya has been vacant for already four months." According to Nebenzia, that fact is likely to "undermine the efforts aimed at seeking peace for Libya."

"We believe that the authority and influence of the African Union make the choice of an African representative for the position of the mission's head logical and practical," Nebenzia stressed. "We know that Africa nominated a strong candidate for this position. Therefore, we call on the Secretary General to take resolute steps to appoint the new special envoy for Libya and cannot see any objective reasons for the delay with his or her appointment."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said earlier that Algeria's foreign minister and Ghana's former foreign minister had been nominated but the US refused to support them. Lavrov added that currently US citizen Stephanie Williams is the acting special envoy for Libya. He hoped that the United States would stop "holding down" the UN Secretariat, hindering the appointment of a special envoy counting on their fellow countrywoman to deal with some "unclear" issues. **Agencies**

## Ex-PM Medvedev says he has 'good friendly relations' with Putin

MOSCOW

FORMER Russia Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev disclosed that he retained good friendly relations with President Vladimir Putin after his appointment as a Deputy Chairman of the Security Council.

"We still have good friendly relations," Medvedev told *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. "The president in the country's number one person. Due to my new re-

sponsibilities, I act as [Putin's] deputy, responsible for the Security Council operation, for security issues. This is why we regularly communicate in various formats, discuss all kinds of security issues, in its narrow sense, as well as economic and social issues," Medvedev said.

He disclosed that he, as the Chairman of the United Russia political party, also talks to Putin "on party issues."

"Especially, when we prepared



proposals on support of the economy, social sphere, labor

and occupational issues," Medvedev said. "So, everything is okay. Everything's fine."

On January 15, Medvedev announced his resignation following Putin's address to the parliament.

The next day, Medvedev was appointed as the Deputy Chairman of the Security Council, succeeded by Mikhail Mishustin, former tax service head, as a Prime Minister.

Medvedev served as deputy

and first deputy chairman of the presidential administration between 1999 and 2003; he later chaired the administration between 2003 and 2005; between 2005 and 2008, he served as the First Deputy Prime Minister; and in 2008 became the third President of Russia.

In 2012, he became a prime minister and occupied it for the longest period in the history of modern Russia. **Agencies**

## Wang proposes three ways to bring China-US ties back on right track

BEIJING

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday proposed three suggestions on bringing China-US relations back to the right track when addressing the China-US Think Tanks Media Forum.

"First, activate and open all the channels of dialogue," Wang said. "Only communication can dispel falsehoods, and only dialogue can prevent miscalculation, Wang said, reaffirming that China's door to dialogue remains open."

As long as the US is ready, China can restore and restart the dialogue mechanisms at all levels and in all areas. All issues can be put on the table. All differences can be addressed properly through dialogue, Wang said.

In the meantime, as long as the US does not set restrictions, China

is also ready to promote exchanges and interactions between government departments, localities and social sectors, so as to enable the two peoples to know and understand more of each other, Wang said.

"Second, review and agree on the lists of interactions," Wang said.

Given the inter-connectedness and complexity of issues, Wang said it is useful for China and the United States to run over them and draw up three lists.

The first is a list of cooperation areas. It should specify all areas, bilateral and global, where China and the United States need to and can work together, Wang said. "The longer this list goes, the better. Cooperation on this list should be immune to the impact of other issues."

The second is a list of dialogues. "It should itemize the issues of differences that could be solved



through dialogues," Wang said, adding they should be designated to the existing dialogue mechanisms and platforms as soon as possible.

The third is a list of issues that need proper management. "It should identify the few tough issues that the two countries have little chance to agree on in the near future," Wang said. "The two sides should manage them well in the spirit of seeking common ground while putting aside differences, so as to minimize their impact on and harm to the overall China-US relations."

"Third, focus and cooperate on COVID-19 response," Wang said.

Noting that in the face of the virus, cooperation should be the first-order priority, Wang said China is ready to share with the US information about COVID-19 prevention and containment as well as its response experience.

"We are also ready to have closer exchanges with the US on diagnostics and therapeutics, vaccines and economic recovery," Wang said.

The US, for its part, should immediately stop its acts of politicization and stigmatization, Wang said, adding that it should work with China to promote a global response to save more lives and live up to the international responsibility as two major countries.

Avoiding impractical decoupling Wang also said the opinion that China-US relationship will not be able to return to its past should not

mean ignoring the history altogether and starting all over again, let alone impractical decoupling.

He said that some people in the United States claimed that the engagement policy over the past decades had been a failure, and that the United States had been ripped off in its cooperation with China.

Such a comment "disrespects history and conflicts with the fact," Wang said.

China and the United States were allies who fought side by side during WWII. In the 1970s, the two sides reopened the door toward establishing diplomatic ties on the basis of respecting the different systems of each other, Wang said, noting that "our dialogue and cooperation have come a long way" thanks to the political wisdom and strenuous efforts by one generation after another. **Xinhua**

## Fight against COVID-19 proves loyalty to Party of new members

"It was the members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) who acted as the vanguard in the battle against COVID-19, which made me even more determined to join the CPC," said Hu Ming, director of the ICU department of the Wuhan Pulmonary Hospital in central China's Hubei province.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, Hu had always fought the virus on the front line to treat the severe and critical cases. What he faced was the most dangerous situation. To protect young medical workers, he shouldered the most dangerous task - performing endotracheal intubation on severely ill patients.

Due to the high work intensity, Hu could only sleep three

to four hours a day. He was often soaked in sweats and his hands became pale and swollen when taking off his protective suit.

On Feb. 23, Hu, who had withstood the test of the epidemic, took an oath to join the CPC.

"The earlier we complete the hospital, the earlier it can save lives," said Gan Quansheng, a young engineer with China Construction Second Bureau Installation Engineering Co., Ltd. who participated in the construction of the Leishenshan Hospital in Wuhan.

Holding out on his parents, Gan spent 14 hours driving a van loaded construction materials from Beijing to Wuhan. He participated in the formation of reserve forces in the grand mili-

tary parade on China's National Day last year, and was responsible for material logistics at the construction site of the Leishenshan Hospital, a job of extremely high intensity as there were over 100 constructing companies and 10,000 constructors working at site.

"Running" on the site over 20 kilometers per day, Gan had blisters on his feet. "We must race against time, and the construction site was my battlefield," he said. Gan worked like a top that never ceased spinning, and didn't even have much time for meals and sleep.

During the 10 consecutive days of construction, Gan showcased the sense of responsibility of a young constructor. On Feb.

13, he gloriously joined the CPC.

Dr. Zhao Xuesen from the Institute of Infectious Diseases at the Beijing Ditan Hospital is a high-caliber talent introduced by Beijing in 2015. Since this Spring Festival, he had been fighting on the front line to study the infection mechanism of COVID-19, contributing to limiting the infection of the virus, and providing data support for the R&D of antiviral drugs and infection control.

On June 24, Zhao joined the CPC as he has always wanted to. "The Party's leadership is the fundamental reason behind China's prompt containment of the outbreak, which demonstrates the victory of the country, the Chinese nation, and the people-

centered philosophy," he said, adding that he is proud to be a CPC member.

"What I have achieved is not enough, compared with the frontline medical workers and the experts from my institute," Zhao said, noting that he will continue to perform his duties and contribute to the fight against the virus with greater achievements, so as to better contribute to the Party with concrete actions.

In the battle against the epidemic, a group of "heroes going in harm's way" were particularly notable. They rose to the challenge and fought on the front line. The greater the difficulties were, the further they advanced, showing loyalty to the Party.

They also remained true to their original aspirations, kept a strong will, and withstood the test in the fight against the disease.

Finally, they firmly raised their right fist to take an oath of admission in front of the Party flag and became CPC members.

After the outbreak of COVID-19, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said that outstanding applicants for Party membership on the front line of the COVID-19 battle could join the Party at an early date.

Outstanding applicants who worked on the front line of epidemic prevention, treatment, supply logistics, and volunteer services were timely admitted

to the CPC by Party organizations based on high standards and strict evaluation, no matter in the former epicenter Wuhan, the border ports in northeast China's Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces where strict containment measures were taken to prevent imported cases, or Beijing that recently reported new clusters of COVID-19 infections. Those with outstanding performance from hospitals, communities, rural areas and enterprises across the country were also admitted to the CPC.

According to statistics, more than 25,000 people working on the COVID-19 front line newly joined the CPC.

**People's Daily**



# Poor, youth, women hardest hit by pandemic

WASHINGTON

WORKERS in food and accommodation, and wholesale and retail trade, are the hardest hit for having the least "teleworkable" jobs, with the poor, the youth and women being more vulnerable than others, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"Young workers and those without university education are significantly less likely to work remotely," Mariya Brussevich, Era Dabla-Norris and Salma Khalid wrote in an IMF blog published Tuesday, noting that the crisis could amplify intergenerational inequality.

The three IMF economists said women could be particularly hit hard, "threatening to undo some of the gains in gender equality made in recent decades."

This, according to them, is because women are disproportionately concentrated in the hardest-hit sectors like food service and accommodation, and women carry a heavier burden of childcare and domestic chores, while "market provision of these services has been disrupted."

The authors also found that part-time workers and employees of small- and medium-sized firms face a greater risk of job loss. "In developing econo-

mies, in particular, part-time workers and those in informal work face a dramatically higher risk of falling into poverty," they said.

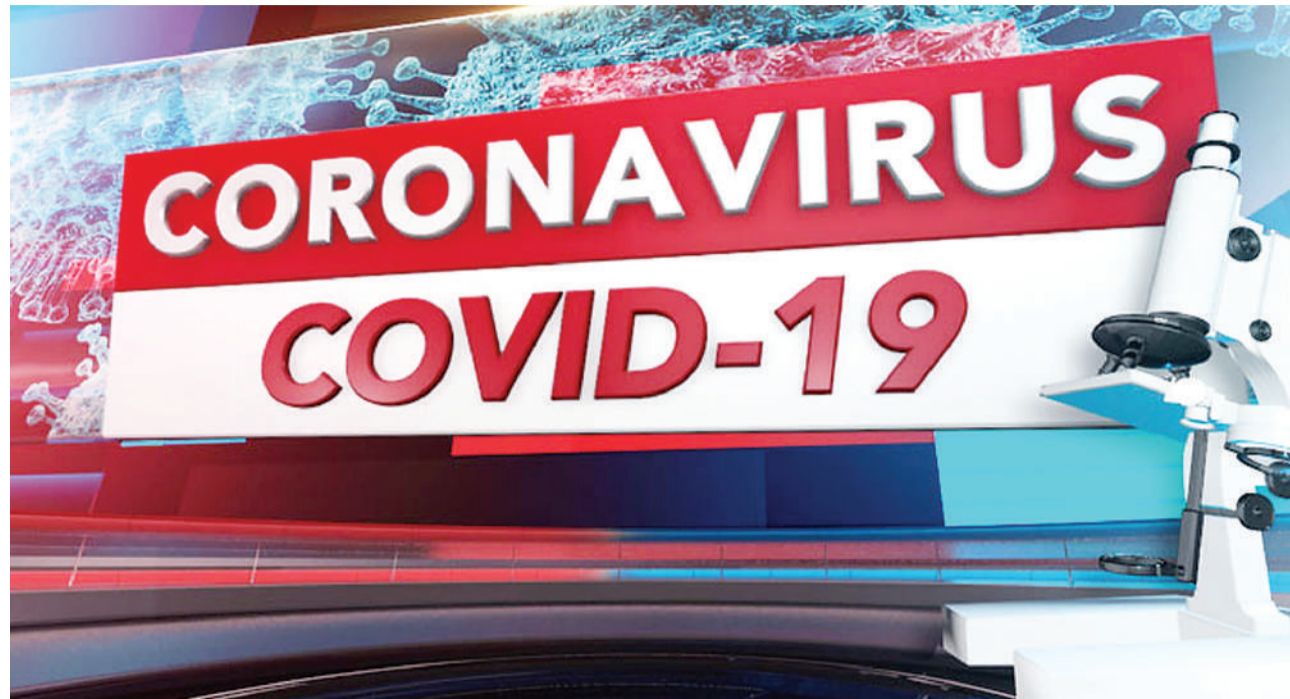
In a recently published study, the three IMF economists estimate that over 97.3 million workers, equivalent to about 15 percent of the workforce, are at high risk of layoff and furlough across the 35 advanced and emerging countries in their sample.

They found that the impact on low-income and precariously-employed workers could be particularly severe, amplifying long-standing inequities in societies.

"Our finding -- that workers at the bottom of the earnings distribution are least able to work remotely -- is corroborated by recent unemployment data from the United States and other countries," they said. "The COVID-19 crisis will exacerbate income inequality."

The authors also found significant differences across countries even for the same occupations.

"It is much easier to telework in Norway and Singapore than in Turkey, Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, and Peru, simply because more than half the households in most emerging and developing countries don't even have a computer at home,"



they said.

As for what governments can do in this situation, the authors urged policymakers to focus on assisting the affected workers and their families by broadening social insurance and safety nets to cushion against income and employment loss, saying "wage subsidies and public-works programs can help them regain their

livelihoods during the recovery."

To reduce inequality and give people better prospects, governments need to strengthen education and training to better prepare workers for the jobs of the future, they said.

"Lifelong learning also means bolstering access to schooling and skills training to help workers displaced by economic shocks like COVID-19."

Noting that this crisis has clearly shown that being able to get online was a crucial determinant to people's ability to continue to engage in the workplace, they said investing in digital infrastructure and closing the digital divide will allow disadvantaged groups to participate meaningfully in the future economy.

Xinhua

## Major step in implementing national security law in HKSAR

BEIJING

THE inauguration of the Office for Safeguarding National Security of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has marked an important step in implementing the law on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR.

The office's inauguration embodies the overarching and ultimate responsibility of the central government to exercise its overall jurisdiction over the HKSAR, and safeguard national security in the region. It will help guarantee that the "one country, two systems" practice is steered in the right direction, and ensure the prosperity and stability in Hong Kong.

The unrest in Hong Kong over the past year has shown that the strength of the HKSAR falls far short of what is required to safeguard national security on its own. After its inauguration, the national security office will strongly support and complement the law enforcement and judicial work on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR, with its exercise of relevant powers in accordance with the law. This shows the central government's full trust in the HKSAR, and its respect for the judicial independence of the HKSAR. The law on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR stipulates strict procedures for approving the office's exercise of jurisdiction over specific cases concerning offenses endangering national security in the HKSAR.

The law enforcement of the office must strictly follow the law on safeguarding national security in the HKSAR and the Criminal Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China, and be put under the supervision of the national supervisory authorities in accordance with the law.

Xinhua

## Transcript shows police ignored George Floyd's 'I can't breathe' plea

THE former US police officer charged in the death of George Floyd told him to stop shouting and save his breath as he knelt on his neck and Floyd gasped for air, according to a newly released transcript of police body camera footage.

The death of Floyd, a Black man, in police custody on May 25 led to anti-racism protests and demonstrations against police

brutality across the United States and around the world with protesters calling for racial equality and police reforms.

"Tell my kids I love them. I'm dead," Floyd said during the nearly nine minutes that the officer knelt on him as he went lifeless.

Floyd pleaded for help as he was pinned to the ground, according to the transcript made public on Wednesday as part of



a motion filed in the Minneapolis state court.

"I'm through, through. I'm claustrophobic. My stomach hurts. My neck hurts. Everything

hurts. I need some water or something, please. Please? I can't breathe officer," he said.

"You're going to kill me, man," Floyd said.

Derek Chauvin, the officer who knelt on Floyd, replied: "Then stop talking, stop yelling, it takes a heck of a lot of oxygen to talk."

Chauvin, who is white, was arrested on May 29, four days after Floyd's death. He has pleaded not

guilty to charges of second-degree murder and manslaughter.

Three other former Minneapolis police officers, who are white, Black and Asian American, have been charged with aiding and abetting in the case.

At one point, one of those officers, Thomas Lane, suggested that Chauvin roll Floyd on his side, according to the transcript. "No, he's staying put where we

got him," Chauvin responded.

All four of the officers have been fired from the Minneapolis police department. None of them entered a plea during a brief hearing on June 29.

The transcript was made public as part of an effort by Lane's lawyer to have charges that he aided and abetted Floyd's murder thrown out by a judge, according to US media. **Agencies**

Xinhua

## Hundreds of millions of students attend online classes in China

AT 8:30 a.m., Feb. 10, 900,000 people visited an online education platform of Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, where gigantic amount of bit streams input from teachers and students' cameras and microphones are flocking into online classrooms.

The platform responded to every access request methodically, handling data demand in a speedy but calm manner. No lag was felt by the students, many of whom believed that the seamless experience was just like having a class in real classrooms.

Such performance was a great relief for Nie Xiaokai, an education product manager of Chinese tech giant Tencent, who had worked around the clock with his colleagues since Jan. 27 to build the platform. He and his colleagues gave each other high-fives to celebrate the success.

Similar scenes happened across China on the same day. Over 2 million views were recorded in the livestreamed classes for students of all 12 grades in Kaifeng, central China's Henan province, and 600,000 teachers in over 300 cities gave lectures to 50 million students through a livestream platform of DingTalk, e-commerce giant Alibaba's communication app.

Such massive online education practices in China was unprecedented for both the internet and the education industry.

A journalist from Tokyo was astonished after observing an online class livestreamed on Zuoyebang, a leading online education



A teacher from a middle school in Lanzhou, west China's Gansu province teaches online in an empty classroom, March 30, 2020. (Photo by People's Daily Online)

startup in China. On the class, all the students, who were located across the country, could respond to the teacher swiftly when the teacher called the roll.

"There are over a million classes being livestreamed at the peak time every day," said Ross Liang, Vice President of Tencent and top executive of the tech firm's instant messenger app QQ. According to Tencent, a total of 20 to 30 million students are having classes on QQ.

"To open an online space for tens of millions of students and teachers was beyond our budget for technical framework and server capability," Liang disclosed, explaining that huge data flow was generated when classes were on and disappeared when they were over. Such gigantic peak flow and capacity expansion were never seen by the world before.

To ensure the smooth operation of online classes, internet bandwidth resources were put into use at all cost, Liang noted.

The capacity expansion was not as easy as turning on a faucet, but a process of high technical standards. To ensure the operation of the online classes in the daytime, the technicians always had to race against time to complete server expansion and other tasks in hours before dawn.

DingTalk expanded the capacity of over 100,000 servers on Alibaba's cloud platform, and made a new record by newly adding 10,000 cloud servers in just 2 hours. All the efforts were made to cope with the unprecedented data flow and ensure class schedules.

The peak flow on DingTalk was hundreds of times more than that in previous time, and five to

ten times more than all Chinese video and livestreaming services combine.

"The current solution, which is proved to be the most appropriate, was far beyond our plan back then," said An Bu, an education product manager of DingTalk, adding that they must prepare many alternative plans to cope with the sudden and unknown situation.

Thanks to their rich technological experiences, An and his team completed their tasks, and are still responding swiftly to users' demands.

A teacher told An that he would like to make annotations to students' homework submitted online, and the feature was perfectly realized by An and his team the second day, after at least 50 times of optimization.

China conducted the largest, widest and the most extensive online education in the world during the COVID-19 epidemic. As of early April, 1,454 universities across the country had started the new semester online.

A total of 942,000 courses were offered online by 950,000 teachers and attended over 7 million times. Besides, online education resources had been visited by 1.18 billion person-times.

The figures could be attributed to online education and technological platforms that offered strong supports. Multiple Chinese apps such as DingTalk and Tencent Meeting have been recommended by UN organizations to global students.

People's Daily

## US sees importance of DPRK talks despite tension, ROK says



US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun speaks to the media beside his ROK counterpart Lee Do-hoon after their meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul on Wednesday. (AFP)

SEOUL

THE United States has stressed the importance of resuming talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Republic of Korea (ROK) said yesterday, even though the DPRK has said it has no intention of returning to the negotiating table.

US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun, who wound up three days of talks in Seoul, earlier rejected speculation he was seeking to meet DPRK officials during his visit, but said the United States was open to talks.

"Biegun emphasised the importance of reopening dialogue with North Korea," the office of

ROK President Moon Jae-in said in a statement.

The DPRK is also referred to as North Korea and the ROK as South Korea.

Biegun, the top US envoy on efforts to press DPRK to give up its nuclear weapons, met ROK's national security adviser, Suh Hoon.

ROK has been trying to promote peace efforts and Suh was instrumental in arranging summits between US President Donald Trump and DPRK leader Kim Jong-un.

Trump and Kim met for the first time in 2018 in Singapore, raising hopes for a negotiated end to the DPRK's nuclear program. But their second summit, in 2019 in Vietnam, and later

working-level talks, fell apart.

Trump said on Tuesday he was open to another meeting with Kim and thought it might be helpful. Voice of America said, citing a transcript of Trump interview with Gray Television, due to be aired on Sunday.

But DPRK, apparently frustrated that there's been no sign of any easing of punishing sanctions against it, has said in recent weeks it had no intention of sitting down again with the United States.

As US Special Representative for DPRK, Biegun led working-level talks, which have been stalled since the two sides last met in Sweden in October.

Agencies

## Zimbabweans reject local currency as economy re-dollarises

HARARE

AS Zimbabwe slowly re-dollarises, informal businesses in the country are increasingly refusing to accept payment of goods in local currency.

Many traders who still accept the local dollar are charging exorbitant prices while offering discounts for those paying in U.S. dollars. Zimbabwe is currently grappling with escalating inflation that has seen a surge in the

prices of most basic commodities. In 2019, the country outlawed the domestic use of foreign currency and introduced the Zimbabwe dollar that had been dropped a decade earlier after the country experienced historical levels of hyperinflation.

However, over the past months, the newly introduced currency has been rapidly depreciating against the U.S. dollar.

Year-on-year inflation rate for the month of May stood at

785 percent, rendering salaries worthless.

Government recently legalized trading in U.S. dollars, a move that has exacerbated the hardship experienced by Zimbabweans, most of whom do not have access to foreign currency.

With the local currency rapidly losing purchasing power, government employees have been demanding U.S. dollar-denominated remunerations. The civil servants representative council,

Apex Council, recently told state-run Sunday Mail newspaper that the legalization of trading in U.S. dollars by the central bank last month means the government should pay salaries in the same currency.

Their sentiments were echoed by the Zimbabwe Senior Hospital Doctors Association, which implored the government to pay civil servants in U.S. dollars since the greenback has become the favorable mode of payment.

"The U.S. dollar is now the only sensible medium of exchange. Forget any other name in the once-so-called basket of currencies."

Payment of workers other than in U.S. dollars is cruel. Everything in shops is pegged to the U.S. dollar now," the association said in a statement on its official twitter account. The Amalgamated Rural Teachers of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) on Tuesday said the government should con-

sider paying teachers in foreign currency since their Zimbabwe dollar denominated wages have fallen far below the poverty datum line.

"The 50 percent increment received by teachers today is a mockery to our profession. Cost of living in Zimbabwe is 44.9 percent higher than in South Africa but we earn 5 percent of the salary of a South African teacher," ARTUZ said on its official twitter handle.

Last month the government raised salaries of its workers by 50 percent in a bid to cushion them from rapid price increase. However, the galloping inflation means many government employees still struggle to earn a decent living.

Zimbabwe's largest nurses union, the Zimbabwe Nurses Association (ZINA) last week called on its members to down their tools until the government address their concerns. **Xinhua**





This Sept. 26, 2016, file photo shows a flag blowing in the wind before the Ryder Cup golf tournament at Hazlet National Golf Club in Chaska, Minn. The Ryder Cup was postponed until 2021 in Wisconsin because of the COVID-19 pandemic that raised too much uncertainty whether the loudest event in golf could be played before spectators. The announcement Wednesday, July 8, 2020, was inevitable and had been in the works for weeks as the PGA of America, the European Tour and the PGA Tour tried to adjust with so many moving parts. (AP Photo)

## Ryder Cup postponed until 2021; Presidents Cup pushed back

By DOUG FERGUSON

SETH Waugh knows how a Ryder Cup is supposed to look and how it should sound.

In his first week as CEO at the PGA of America, Waugh was in the 72-foot high grandstand behind the first tee at Le Golf National outside Paris. Flags were waving. Fans were singing. Players were trying to conceal their nerves. That's what he expects for the Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin.

Next year.

The inevitable became reality Wednesday when Ryder Cup officials postponed the September matches until next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic that made it increasingly unlikely the loudest event in golf could have spectators.

"A Ryder Cup with no fans is not a Ryder Cup," Waugh said.

The Ryder Cup was scheduled for Sept. 25-27 at Whistling Straits along the Lake Michigan shore. Because of a reconfigured schedule created by golf being shut down for three months, the matches would have been held one week after the U.S. Open.

Now, the Ryder Cup will move to Sept. 24-26, 2021, the second time in the last two decades it was postponed. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks led the 2001 matches to be postponed two weeks before they were set to be played.

Waugh, the former CEO of Deutsche Bank Americas, called it "the most complicated deal of my career" because of so many moving parts.

The decision mean Europe's next home Ryder Cup set for Italy has been pushed back until 2023. The European Tour thrives on Ryder Cup revenue.

And it affects the PGA Tour, which already has lost millions this year while trying to keep canceled tournaments solvent. The Presidents Cup in 2021 at Quail Hollow in North Carolina was a sellout in corporate hospitality, and it now gets pushed back a year.

Quail Hollow instead will host the Wells Fargo Championship next spring, and that event will move to the TPC Potomac in 2022 during the Presidents Cup year.

"It was very clear that once we reset the schedule, there were challenges," PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said. "They did absolutely everything they could to play the Ryder Cup and play it with fans. When it was clear that was something they were unable to do, we came to the table and were about to reach the right outcome for players and fans."

Franco Chimenti, president of the Italian Golf Federation, told The Associated Press the postponement gives Rome more time to prepare the Marco Simone Golf and Country Club.

"We would have been ready (by 2022), and now we'll be ready by 2023," Chimenti said. "We're about to inaugurate the course. We don't have problems."

Among the issues caused by the pandemic was travel by European fans, who would have had to spend a month in quarantine – two weeks both coming and going – for three days of matches. The environment at the Ryder Cup is unlike any other in golf, with distinctive tones of cheering from Europeans and Americans, hour-by-hour tension over 28 matches from the opening tee shot Friday morning until the final putt Sunday afternoon.

"The Ryder Cup is uniquely about the fans," Waugh said. "We didn't want to build Lambeau Field, get hopes up and then have to cancel."

There is no guarantee moving it back a year will change anything. The PGA Tour resumed its schedule a month ago and has not allowed spectators for at least seven events. The PGA Championship on Aug. 6-9 in San Francisco will be the first major without fans.

Waugh raised the notion of canceling the Ryder Cup if the coronavirus situation hasn't changed by next September, though he was "betting on science."

The Americans, who won the last Ryder Cup on home soil in 2016, changed their qualifying because of the three-month shutdown that allowed Steve Stricker six captain's picks. With the postponement, the U.S. and European teams are reviewing their criteria. Europe said its Ryder Cup points earned since last September have been frozen until next year.

Players had urged all along for the Ryder Cup to be postponed if fans couldn't be there.

"The decision to reschedule is the right thing to do under the circumstances," Stricker said. "At the end of the day, we want to stage a Ryder Cup that will rival all other Ryder Cups in my home state of Wisconsin, and now we have the opportunity to showcase the event as it was meant to be seen."

The move does nothing to ease a crowded golf schedule for 2021. The Summer Olympics already were postponed with hopes Tokyo can host them next summer. Golf also has three other cups on the calendar – the Walker Cup and Curtis Cup for amateurs, and the Solheim Cup on the LPGA Tour, which is scheduled to finish on Labor Day next summer at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio.

When the Ryder Cup was postponed because of 9/11, that led to the Solheim Cup in Minnesota and the Ryder Cup in England being played in consecutive weeks in 2002. The Solheim Cup then moved to odd-numbered years.

Next year "is shaping up to be an incredible year for golf," LPGA Commissioner Mike Whan said. "The LPGA looks forward to staging the Solheim Cup over Labor Day weekend at Inverness Club in Ohio, and the Ryder Cup just a few weeks later at Whistling Straits in Wisconsin will cap an amazing month for golf fans in the Midwest. We are excited for this doubleheader opportunity to celebrate all the great golfers, male and female, who play for the USA and Europe."

## Passion, confusion stalk Yanga as city rivals meet in Federation Cup semis

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

CITY giants, Young Africans SC (Yanga) and Simba SC, are expected to find their way back to the pitch – as they only meet in fairly necessary encounters – in a Federation Cup semi-final tie at the usual spot, the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam. The match comes at a moment when the outcome of the Premier League is in the bag for the Msimbazi Street sided, but the Jangwani Street rival side has a few things to tie up in what is otherwise a lamentable season, struggling even for the second slot. Winning the tie with Simba is a must if anything is to be salvaged this year – and even then, by proceeding to win the cup final, a tricky date.

As matters stand, it is Yanga who have a massive psychological burden of proving that there is something they can still do to make them a match with their rivals, apart from having won a previous encounter between the two sides not so long ago. Predicting the outcome of this match would require a situation where logical expectation of team strength eventually differs with actual psychological preparedness as it happened in their last match. The question is whether Yanga can repeat that experience, which would mean twice lucky on their rivals' evaluation, or this time around technical inputs would simply prevail.

When it comes to technique, in the sense of team strength, player duration and building of the formation or pattern of play, Msimbazi Street has an unquestionable edge over Jangwani Street for most of the past two years, in the least, if not starting much earlier. The reason is that Yanga have been going through a period of sponsorship confusion, reorganization, experimental recruitment of players whose more solid achievement was winning the past encounter with Simba. The display in the league has been stable by overall premier league standards but arguably a shambles in relation to their rivals, so not a proud record.



Yanga players participate in training in Kagera early this week to prepare for a Vodacom Premier League encounter with Kagera Sugar, which took place in the region on Wednesday and ended with Yanga winning 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

There are two situations that face underdogs when they meet a technically better team, one situation that is favorable and another that has greater danger to it and risks reducing the psychological advantage it would otherwise have.

The better situation is where the team is weaker than the rivals' side but it has a cohesive determination, while the premier league champion side has nothing to lose, and unavoidably find themselves to be somewhat relaxed. It is not something that the coach would have told the players at that time (previous encounter) or this one but rather the cause factors remain the same, that they are on top.

In that regard Yanga would have the same psychological advantage as they arguably had in the previous match even if Simba may playfully have out on a better performance, but lacked a certain element of trust, personal drive that quite often makes a difference in a match. It can't be taught by the coach but depends on player reflexes at a particular moment, and that is where the issue of determination comes up, who

has a greater reason to push himself to the limit, and by contrast, who is already basking in premier league success so to speak. Were things to remain at that level, Yanga would have half a chance of a win.

The trouble is the second aspect of this underdog situation, that Yanga at present may not be able to feature a sense of purpose, where the players and the technical bench as a whole have the same drive for utmost performance. While this aspect can't be cultivated in this space for lack of extensive reporting (save in some relevant dailies or thereof) on sentiments swirling in the dressing room at present, some indicators starting a fortnight earlier or thereabouts weren't encouraging.

There was an instance where the club had to make apologies either on behalf of a player or even to the player by some reports, a misnomer.

Similarly it was apparent that the player at issue may have a foot in Yanga for the interest of soccer fireworks as a youth but scarcely the drive to help it attain anything this season. There was an upcountry encounter in which a player

ruled himself out of travel and it was unclear if any clear reasons were given, leaving club officials and the technical bench perplexed. Similarly, while a player has serious conduct or disciplinary proceedings against him, the same is seen in the company of top club official of the rivals.

In all these instances there are just two players sharing all the accolades between them, Bernard Morrison and David Molinga who have a reason to feel a shoulder above not just the other players but the club as whole. This isn't just for the VIP treatment they have received on the basis of their abilities and scoring most all-important goals shoring up club pride in a season that Yanga fans will love to leave behind. As things are, the rival side is up to either using them to undermine their rivals or recruit them next season.

## Family re-imagines Bob Marley classic for COVID-19 relief



Skip Marley performs at Coachella Music & Arts Festival in Indio, Calif. on April 13, 2018, from left, Stephen Marley performs during the "Catch A Fire Tour 2015" stop in Huntington, N.Y. on Sept. 1, 2015 and Cedella Marley speaks at the Marley Brunch with Marley Family Members in West Hollywood, Calif. on Jan. 24, 2020. The family of reggae legend Bob Marley are covering his song "One Love" to raise money for coronavirus relief efforts. (AP Photo)

NEW YORK

BOB Marley's Grammy-winning children and chart-topping grandson have re-imagined one of his biggest hits to assist children affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Stephen Marley, Cedella Marley and her son, Skip Marley, have joined forces to produce a new version of "One Love," which will be released July 17 and will also include special guest appearances from other musicians. A music video will also be released that day.

"Daddy wrote this song like 40 years ago, a long, long time. It just feels like right now in the world we need to have some different type of unity happening. Not just lip service, but real action," Cedella Marley, 52, said in an interview with The Associated Press this week. "I think we're going to bring this song to a generation that needs to know we do care. We do care what happens. We're going to do a nudge

and push and a shove and hopefully the message will resonate."

Bob Marley & The Wailers released "One Love" in 1977. Bob Marley died of cancer in 1981 at age 36.

All proceeds from the new version of "One Love," released by Tuff Gong International and Amplified Music, will support Reimagine, UNICEF's global campaign for coronavirus relief efforts focused on helping and aiding children around the world.

"(The) song is very special because of (its) message. It's a song of equality. One love meaning love for everyone, for all humanity. It doesn't matter the color, creed or social status or anything like that. It's appreciating the human family. 'One heart, let's get together and feel all right,'" eight-time Grammy winner Stephen Marley said. "It's a very important statement to my family."

Jewelry brand Pandora says it will match every dollar raised from "One Love," giving up to \$1 million.

Cedella Marley said they recorded the song at her house in Miami and they received Rita Marley's blessing. "My mom,

she came in and she listened, and she gave us a thumbs up and that seal of approval is priceless."

Skip Marley, the 24-year-old rising star who has collaborated with Katy Perry and Major Lazer, said recording the song reminded him of his first-ever studio session.

"The first time I was ever in a studio recording, we were recording 'One Love.' Actually, you remember, mom?" he said, looking to Cedella Marley.

"Yeah, it's in my book," the three-time Grammy winner said, referring to her children's book called "One Love."

"I remember that was my first time I was able to sing on the mic," Skip Marley added. "It's just bringing me back. It's just a mommy-son thing."

Skip Marley recently made history by becoming the first Jamaican artist to top Billboard's adult R&B songs chart. He achieved the feat with the tune "Slow Down," featuring R&B superstar H.E.R., and he will release an album in August.

"He's very disciplined. He loves what he does. His voice now can reach a

different generation than my voice. I think we have to use the vessels that are in front of us, sometimes, to get our message across."

"Still working. Still putting in the hard work," Skip Marley added. "We no stop working." Cedella Marley said she's happy to see her son keep the family name active, and it's important to her to keep her father's legacy alive.

"It's something that I actually enjoy. I've been doing it since I was like 13. It's something that I've grown to love. I go into each day thinking, 'How can Daddy's voice bring about something? How can I make him more relevant today than he was yesterday?'" she said. "I always come up with some really cool ideas."



## MLS restarts with sombre ceremony, new virus fears

MIAMI

MAJOR League Soccer returned from its four-month shutdown on Wednesday with a sombre anti-racism demonstration and fresh fears another coronavirus-stricken team may be forced to withdraw.

An injury-time winner from Portugal international and former Manchester United star Nani gave Orlando a 2-1 victory over David Beckham's Inter Miami played out in a makeshift, fan-less arena at ESPN's World Wide of Sports complex at Disney World in Florida.

Nani's 97th minute strike completed a come-from-behind win for Orlando, who had equalized through Chris Mueller on 70 minutes after Juan Agudelo fired Inter Miami into the lead just after half-time.

However the injury-time drama in Orlando was largely overshadowed by events off the pitch as the restart tournament billed as "MLS is Back" got under way.

Just before kick off, dozens of players from clubs across MLS had lined up around the field for a silent protest against racism and police brutality.

"The performance of everyone was beautiful. It was emotional for the ones who were there," said Orlando's Nani.

Players clad in black t-shirts and wearing black gloves raised their fists to the night sky in an eight-minute 46-second salute -- a reference to the May 25 death of unarmed black George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis.

Floyd died after being pinned to the floor by a police officer who knelt on his neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds.

Miami and Orlando players then dropped to one knee just after the opening whistle, the gesture of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter cause that has rippled across the globe in the tide of revulsion which followed Floyd's death.

- New virus fears -

"This tournament, is a unique

opportunity for us to be all together in the same place and show the support and solidarity for each other and all our brothers and sisters standing up for civil rights," said Justin Morrow, a fullback for Toronto FC.

The sombre spectacle overshadowed a largely lackluster opening to the World Cup-style tournament, which is taking place with 25 teams from across the league based inside a protective "bubble" at Disney World in an effort to keep players shielded from COVID-19.

Yet as the tournament kicked off fresh fears emerged that a second team may be forced to withdraw after suffering a further cluster of coronavirus cases.

Nashville SC, who on Tuesday confirmed that five players had been diagnosed with COVID-19, had reportedly been hit with four more infections in their squad.

On Monday, FC Dallas were forced to withdraw from the tournament after confirmation 10 players and a member of support staff had tested positive for the virus.

Major League Commissioner Don Garber did not directly confirm the new Nashville cases in comments to ESPN, but warned the league would not hesitate to remove the team from the tournament if necessary.

Garber said the rash of positive cases showed that the league's aggressive testing policies had been effective.

"We don't want anyone to be sick, whether they have symptoms or whether they have COVID-19," Garber told ESPN.

"The whole concept was to catch infections as they were coming into Orlando. That's what's happening with Dallas and Nashville. We are working very closely with our doctors and will meet with them.

"If we find that we have a situation with Nashville where they can't continue in the tournament we will make that decision and move forward from there."

AFP

## Milan turns to Jay-Z's Roc Nation, Liver to revive glory

MILAN

PREPARING to complete a ninth Serie A campaign without winning the Scudetto, AC Milan decided returning to the pinnacle of football required a new approach.

Jay-Z's entertainment agency Roc Nation is at the center of it, linking up with Milan to scour the world for sponsors and use concerts and other high-profile events to attract new fans.

And who better to ask about how to end a title drought than the team that just won its league for the first time in 30 years?

"We have been talking to Liverpool," Milan chief revenue officer Casper Stylsvig told The Associated Press, "because they've been through the same path as we are going through now."

Milan is enduring its longest Serie A drought since the 1980s. Despite beating leader Juventus on Tuesday, even the top four Champions League places are out of reach in this pandemic-delayed season. It's been seven years since Milan last competed in Europe's elite competition.

"We're working very hard to get back to where we should be, and from that perspective, it does help open doors when you have won seven Champions Leagues," Stylsvig said. "Playing European football is top of the agenda. It is our natural habitat and somewhere we should be."

Only Real Madrid has lifted the European Cup more often than Milan. But that seventh title was won 13 years ago, by beating Liverpool.

Now Liverpool is the lodestar for Milan, which has fallen to 21st in the Deloitte ranking of football's moneymakers with revenue of 206.3 million euros (\$234 million) in the last financial year, a third of income at the newly crowned Premier League champions.

"Four, five years ago, no one considered Liverpool and see where

they are now," Stylsvig said. "They obviously play very attractive football. They are winning, they have a fantastic manager, a fantastic team and now they are following suit from a commercial perspective. It has taken time, but their model seems to work."

Liverpool has been run for a decade by John Henry's Fenway Sports Group. Milan has also had American ownership for three years since the takeover by the Elliott Management hedge fund.

"We are obviously a global brand," Stylsvig said in a telephone interview. "I've probably been talking too much in the Italian market in the last few years and (the coronavirus) sort of pushed us to think more global again."

The pandemic that shut down sports produced the first public manifestation of the partnership with Roc Nation when Milan staged a live virtual fundraising concert headlined by Alicia Keys.

"I do think merging sport and entertainment could be the way of engaging new fans," Stylsvig said. "The world has changed dramatically and we need to follow suit. Roc Nation is helping us, challenging us with that, having someone on the sideline to do that."

The biggest audiences logging in to watch "From Milan with Love" were from China and the United States.

With no games being played during the three-month Serie A shutdown -- and crowds still prohibited from matches -- Milan has had to find new ways of connecting with its fan base and fulfilling commercial deals.

"It's been incredibly challenging," Stylsvig said. "You basically have to rethink the model. So one of the first things we did was focusing much more on a digital space, creating content and trying to be engaging and trying to talk to our partners."

AP

# Will Messi leave Barcelona? If so, would he leave for Argentina, MLS or a team with Ronaldo?

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

LAST week we opened a portal into a different dimension: one in which Lionel Messi plays for someone other than Barcelona.

His Barcelona contract expires in June of 2021 and, according to reports in Spain, he has broken off extension talks and is considering his future. Messi is apparently unhappy with the club's front office, the players recruited around him and the drip-drip-drip of leaks that depict him as some kind of behind-the-scenes power broker, influencing most of Barcelona's recent (and mostly poor) decisions.

That is pretty much all we have right now. Messi's camp has not commented and Barcelona's only comment was president Jose Maria Bartomeu saying that the club had an obligation to renew his contract and that the player himself had said "many times" that he wants to retire at the Camp Nou.

Still, there is no escaping the reality that in less than 12 months he will be a free agent and he hasn't committed past that point. And, until he does, it's more than implicit that he is considering the possibility of being elsewhere come July 1, 2021.

Still, the prospect of him leaving feels flimsy even before you consider all the other factors. Like the fact that the 33-year-old Messi has been at the club since he was 13 and has never seriously hinted at a desire to leave.

Or the fact that if Bartomeu and the front office are part of the problem, there's a good chance they will be gone by 2021; the president's term expires and he will not seek reelection and every indication is that, whoever replaces him, there will be a major shake-up.

Or, indeed, Messi's salary which is somewhere north of \$70 million when factoring in bonuses and image rights, meaning he either takes a massive pay cut or you can count on one hand the number of clubs who can afford him.

And yet, the mere possibility of a Messi move is enough to send tremors. Particularly since, unlike the other seismic GOAT candidate move, if Messi runs down his contract, he won't leave for a €100 million fee like Cristiano Ronaldo did when he joined Juventus from Real Madrid in 2018, but rather as a free agent.

The single biggest factor is that Messi has to want to do this. And for somebody to want to leave a club after two decades, during which he has won everything at club level and is still the reigning Ballon d'Or? Well, it's going to take a lot.

Either he finds a sudden wanderlust and desire to take on new challenges in unfamiliar countries (that would be a side previously unseen; a famously private person, every account depicts Messi as a homebody interested in little outside of football and family), or Barcelona become such a mess that, at 34 (the age he turns six weeks before his deal expires), he no longer wants to put up with it.

There is no other realistic scenario. Nobody is going to make Barcelona an offer they cannot refuse. Nobody at the club feels he's no longer good enough. Nobody wants him gone. It has to come from him.

But suspend disbelief for a minute. Alight at Speculation Station. If Messi does take this momentous decision, where does he go?

For starters, it would be a choice driven by heart (possibly a broken one) and not a desire to pad his stats or ample bank account. That means he would likely be OK with playing for less money. It also makes it hugely unlikely he would join a Barcelona rival. Beyond that?

The romantic choice would be a return to Argentina and his first club, Newell's Old Boys. A bit like when Carlos Tevez went home to Boca Juniors, forsaking the riches and spotlight offered by Juventus.

Perhaps Messi is one of those people who leave home to seek fame and fortune elsewhere, then feel the pull of their roots. The fact that a World Cup takes place fewer than 18 months later -- likely his last



Barcelona is the only club Lionel Messi has ever known as a professional. Could he end his career elsewhere? (Agencies)

crack at the game's biggest prize -- would only fuel the narrative.

Less romantic, but potentially more historically transformational, would be a move to Major League Soccer, perhaps Inter Miami. There is a parallel with (Miami co-owner) David Beckham joining the LA Galaxy in 2007 in terms of fame and celebrity, but this would surpass that; the last time a legitimate GOAT candidate played in North America was Pele in the 1970s with New York Cosmos.

With the 2026 World Cup set to take place in North America, which implies more money flowing into

the game regionally, plus rumours of a merger between MLS and Liga MX, and the league's own natural expansion, Messi would be the accelerant that finally puts the league over the top.

Then there is the absolute wild card, the fantasy few can fathom, the ultimate crossover: What if Messi teamed up with the yin to his yang, Ronaldo? What if, for the first time in history, some lucky team lined up with two unquestioned candidates to be called the game's greatest-ever player?

Unless he extends his deal at Juventus, Ronaldo will have a year left in

the summer of 2021 and will have just turned 36. Might there be a scenario where the curiosity and fascination -- from him and Messi -- stokes the imagination to do something unprecedented and team up with each other's eternal arch-rival?

We are talking about two men, who have achieved everything there is to achieve in club football, who are automatic choices in the conversation of the greatest ever, who have transcended their craft and who have ridden the wave of globalisation and commercialisation that took over football over the past decade. Their place in

history was secured long ago, but might this be the final step that takes them beyond the reach of all future contenders?

What would it take for Messi and Ronaldo to team up? Substantial pay cuts for one, at least in terms of guaranteed wages. That said, having the two greatest draws in world football in one place would drive commercial revenue and sponsorship through the roof.

It would not necessarily have to be at Juventus; maybe there would be another landing spot. Maybe other free agents might join them, just for the chance to say they wore the same shirt for that memorable era when Leo and Cristiano teamed up.

Folly? Sure. But it is not wholly unprecedented in another sport. Gary Payton and Karl Malone are in the basketball Hall of Fame and, in 2003, both took less money to join the Los Angeles Lakers and team up with Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

Back to reality. Even if every single sign did not point to the fact that, come what may, Messi will retire as a Barca player, there are counterarguments to each scenario. A return to Rosario and Newell's would also mean subjecting himself to a different sort of pressure, the sort he faces every time he pulls on an Argentina jersey. It would also mean not having the luxury of a stellar supporting cast.

Going from Messi to Messi-ah in the United States is something that appeals to outside extroverts, who love their celebrity status, like Beckham or Zlatan Ibrahimovic, but Messi avoids the spotlight and is private and shy; you cannot see going on Good Morning America or turning into an spokesperson for the sport. As for the Cristiano tag-team? I don't know where to begin.

But these scenarios do matter because they represent the sort of leverage Messi has vis-à-vis Barcelona. If nobody believes he is ever going to leave, the club can take him for granted. If the stories are accurate and if -- like the vast majority of Barca fans -- he is unhappy with the club's direction, a credible threat of departure is the only tool to make his voice heard.

For him, that becomes increasingly important because whether, it is two, three, five or seven, these are the final years of his career. Every game that passes takes Messi a step closer to the moment when he can no longer do what he loves most: playing football.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

MLS restarts with sombre ceremony, new virus fears

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Mpeka stars as Aces A wallops GP A in 2020 Nasser Memorial League



Aces A's medium pacer, Salum Jumbe, in action when his side participated in a recent GP Gymkhana Shield tournament in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

By Guardian Reporter

ALLY Mpeka put stellar displays at the crease to catapult Aces A cricket side to 116-run victory over General Petroleum (GP) A squad in this season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A duel, held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

The experienced all-rounder was in great form with the bat, boldly cracking big shots to see to it his side makes the most of its innings and eventually garner the emphatic victory.

The GP A elected to bowl after winning the toss but the squad could not prevent Aces A from ending their innings with a convincing score.

Aces A cricketers played

their hearts out to score 209 runs all out in 48.5 overs.

Aces A were dealt an early blow, given opener Ankit Baghel was sent back to the pavilion after a few knocks as he was caught by GP A's Qasim Ali from a delivery by Goodluck Andrew.

Fellow opener Jumanne Mohamed managed to stay a bit longer at the crease and scored 11 runs.

Top order batsman, Nassib Kelvin, experienced a rather frustrating start to his stint at the side given he could only score nine runs when he stepped at the crease following Baghel dismissal.

The team had two more

reliable performers in Ejaz Aziz and Salum Jumbe sent back to the pavilion in quick succession, with neither managing double digit score.

Mpeka later helped to steady the ship, blasting 83 runs which consisted of eight fours and a six.

Raza Imaam and skipper Bhavesh Govind chipped in with 22 runs, which included two boundaries, and 13 runs, which included a four and a six, respectively.

There was still time for youthful all-rounder, Jaffary Kanyita, to notch 10 runs and boost the side's pursuit of an imposing total.

Medium pacer Andrew had an impressive bowling spell for GP A, in which he took three wickets and leaked 24 runs in nine overs.

Zafar Khan and skipper Muzamil Hussain took two wickets apiece in eight and four overs respectively for the squad.

Efforts by GP A to mount a successful chase hit snag, given they were skittled for 93 runs in 21.5 overs.

Their chase got off to a wobbly start, given Abdallah Juma and Ayaz Mustafa, who opened the innings, were quickly sent back to the pavilion having recorded

three and five runs respectively.

The team was dealt yet another blow, as experienced all-rounder, Zahid Abbas, and fellow top order batsman, Nisar Ahmed, also faced early dismissal.

With GP A reeling at 39 runs after six overs, Khan came on and to some extent pushed the score with his 16 runs which consisted of two boundaries.

Hussain was the squad's top run getter given he notched 24 runs, which included two fours and two sixes, Sheraz Khan chipped in with 13 runs, which included two fours.

Mpeka was equally in good form during Aces A's turn with the ball, given he took three wickets and leaked 20 runs in six overs.

Jumbe as well made matters worse for GP A, finishing with three wickets and leaking 27 runs in five overs.

Baghel and Mohamed Ali went on to dash away GP A's hopes of turning tables on Aces A given they took two wickets apiece in three and 4.5 overs respectively.

Mpeka was presented with man of the match prize for his exploits at the crease.

The victory has helped Aces A, which makes Aces Club's first team, stretch the outfit's impressive record in the side's clashes with GP in regional tournaments.

Aces B, which is Aces Club's second string side, chalked up four-wicket victory over GP B in the KNML Division A1 match involving the two sides, which took place in the city on July 5.

**5 EATV FRIDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Bonga Hits  
15:00 Fungwa  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)

**Friday Night Live** The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bonga  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Minziro still fighting to help Mbao FC escape relegation

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

MBAO FC, under the tutelage of Fred Felix 'Minziro', has continued to seek to escape relegation to the First Division League (FDL), after winning four consecutive matches in the Vodacom Premier League.

The club has won all of the four outings at their backyard CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

On Wednesday Mbao FC posted 1-0 victory over Mtibwa Sugar, making it four wins on the trot for the Mwanza side since conceding 2-0 loss to Azam FC at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on June 13.

Minziro disclosed that recording 12 points, his squad's previous target, has already been achieved and they are currently seeking to collect maximum points in matches to be played outside Mwanza.

"All games are currently extremely tough, collecting 12 points in home duels has already been achieved and it has put us in somewhat good position," he disclosed.

The coach noted they are still doing all they can to escape a drop to the FDL, as many outfits in the top flight are separated by a slim margin, insisting anything can happen.

He stated: "We have amassed 35 points, but if you look most of the outfits have collected 36 points, others have 37 points, there are some that have registered 38 points, therefore mathematically the teams are separated by only one match."

"Once you register victory, you move either two or three places up, therefore a team which will not prepare well will face the drop."

Despite picking four wins on the trot, Mbao FC still holds 19th spot on the log, one place above the league's last spot.

Mbao FC has recorded 35 points in 34 matches, with four matches remaining.

Only one point separates the club with Mbeya City FC, Ndanda FC, Alliance FC and Lipuli FC that have posted 37 points each, and Mtibwa Sugar who have recorded 38 points.

After the defeat to Azam FC, Mbao FC reorganized to post 1-0 victory over Coastal Union.

Mbao FC later on cruised to 1-0 victory over Polisi Tanzania, the Mwanza side then thrashed Lipuli FC 2-0 and thereafter beat Mtibwa Sugar 1-0.

## Dar model hands over houses to Coast Region school teachers

By Guardian Reporter

RENNOWNED Tanzanian model, Flaviana Matata, who resides in USA, has, via her foundation, handed over two new houses she had built for Coast Region's Msinune Primary School's teachers.

The initiative is an implementation of the first phase of construction of the school's teachers' houses, which came about after the completion of the improvement of the school's environment, which is conducted by the Flaviana Matata Foundation.

The improvement included construction and renovation of classrooms, construction of teachers' offices and toilets, and construction of water storage system at the school.

Flaviana disclosed her foundation values teachers' role in facilitating better education for pupils and that is why she has opted to build houses for the school's eight teachers.

She stated the two houses have sitting rooms, two bedrooms, kitchen, toilet and bathroom, having been built in a good place.

She said: "The founda-



Flaviana Matata pictured with a section of Msinune Primary School's pupils after she had handed over new houses to the school's teachers in Chalinze, Coast Region yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

tion has been cooperating with Msinune Primary School for over five years, we started with presenting teaching aids and we later on constructed wells, classrooms and we are now building houses, the foundation believes teachers

will perform their duties efficiently, should they be assured of better living condition."

Flaviana presented Msinune Primary School's teacher Anna, who is also the school's matron, with keys for one of the two

houses at a ceremony which was attended by pupils and village leaders.

The model was adamant she understands facilitating better living condition for the teacher improves her cooperation with female pupils.

The pupils, she disclosed, will find it easy to communicate with the teacher on both education and private matters, which involve the former's upbringing.

She also presented sanitary pads to the girls with a view to seeing to it they

do not miss classes. The girls' failure to access the sanitary pads in the past had seen them miss out on studies for up to four days.

Kiwangwa Ward Education Officer disclosed the teachers' houses have turned out to be tremendous contribution, given the support has been directed to the teachers and assured them of safe and better living condition.

CE Flaviana has, through her foundation, been a good friend to us, she has truly improved the pass rate at the school and the government is aware of the initiative," the official disclosed.

The official said; "Msinune Primary School will be given priority, as far as acquisition of teachers is concerned, in an effort to ensure the Flaviana Matata Foundation's efforts are not frustrated."

The initiative's second phase is expected to start in October this year and the Flaviana Matata Foundation, she said, welcomes education stakeholders to cooperate with it in improving education at the school.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

DO YOU DO MOST THINGS MOST OR FAST THING-FASTER?

