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TANZANIA

FRIDAY 4 APRIL, 2020

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**National Pg 5**  
Lion mauls Liwale farmer



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Dr Anna Makakala, Commissioner General of Immigration

## Immigration relaxes visa regulations for foreigners

By Guardian Reporter

AUTHORITIES at the Immigration Department have relaxed rules on visas, passes and resident permits for foreigners due to the coronavirus.

An Immigration statement yesterday announced an extension of visas for three months to visitors who were granted the same but did not travel because of disruptions caused by the pandemic.

The procedural advisory noted that this extension commences from each prospective visitor's visa start date.

"Due to the coronavirus outbreak which is now a global pandemic, the Tanzania Immigration Services Department would like to inform the general public that prospective visitors who were already granted Visa Grant Notices but could not travel, an extension of three months

# Medical experts: Equip us better to conquer Covid-19

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT) has recommended a raft of measures that can help contain further spread of coronavirus, including prioritising the protection of health workers and decongesting hospitals.

MAT President Dr Elisha Osati told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that Tanzania stands a better chance of defeating the disease if healthcare workers are adequately provided with personal protective equipment (PPE).

"Health workers are frontline soldiers in the fight against Covid-19 since they come into close contact with patients on a daily basis. This means they are at a higher risk of contracting the virus and if they also become patients, the country will plunge into a crisis," he said.

He described the PPE required as protective clothing and respiratory protective devices, which are critical for protection for medical workers.

Dr Osati further recommended that the government take unprecedented steps to relax healthcare provision policy by allowing provision of long-term dosages for patients with long-term conditions to reduce the number of patients who visit clinics.

"Our survey has shown that 70 per cent of patients who visit health facilities per day are those who come to refill prescriptions for drugs," he said.

If this percentage is given enough drugs so that they stay at home for longer periods,

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Babati District Council director Hamisi Malinga pictured at a mixed-goods auction at Dareda/Ayalagaya yesterday sensitising traders and other residents on the need to use hand sanitisers as a precaution against the spread of coronavirus disease infections. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## ...MPs urge waivers on local taxes, levies, fees

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday called upon the government to consider exempting taxes, levies and fees in key services such as water and power to provide relief to people as most of them are not producing enough income due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Debating the Prime Minister's Office budget estimates, MPs

**This is not time to take things easy. The government should sanitize cities using police vehicles as well as ban operation of bars and night clubs**

sought that the government take measures to protect and rescue the country's economy.

They urged the government to consider taking up curfew measures as other neighboring countries have done before things get worse.

Joseph Mbilinyi (Mbeya Urban, Chadema) said the government should show seriousness in controlling the viral disease that has already killed one person and

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## Doctors among hundreds quarantined in Zanzibar

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

THE number of people in quarantine due to the Covid-19 pandemic in Zanzibar has reached 324, among them 27 medical doctors who came into close contacts with patients.

Zanzibar Health Minister Hamad Rashid Mohamed (pictured) said yesterday that 65 of the quarantined



individuals are waiting for results on their samples sent to Dar es Salaam for testing and verification on infection or lack of it.

He said Zanzibar has five proven Covid-19 sufferers who were receiving treatment at a special centre set at Kidimni in the Zanzibar Central Region, and they were all doing well.

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### SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

- Fever
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Seek medical advice if you
  - Develop symptoms
- AND
- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19

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## ...MPs appeal for waivers on local taxes, levies, fees

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infected 20 others in the country.

"This is not time to take things easy. The government should sanitize cities using police vehicles as well as ban operation of bars and night clubs," he said, questioning why the government is yet to take such measures.

The MP also urged the government to bring out the country's forex reserves to complement efforts in the fight against Covid-19.

Mary Chatanda (Special Seats, CCM) urged the government to strengthen surveillance in markets, shops, public transport and bus stations to ensure that people observe precautionary measures to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Kiembesamaki MP (CCM) Ibrahim Razza recommend that Tanzania should now undergo curfew measures especially during evening hours.

"It is true that the country has taken a wide range of strong actions to slow the spread of the disease, through travel restrictions and bans, tracing contacts, hand-washing and social distancing recommendations. All these however are not enough without restricting unnecessary walking in the streets," he said.

Cecilia Pareso (Special Seats, Chadema) noted that despite various strides by the government to fight the spread of the viral disease, more still has to be done.

"We still witness congestion in bus terminals and stations, markets, prisons. The diseases has gone further to affecting operations in various sectors, especially tourism, hospitality and importation of commodities,

For his part, Hamidu Bobali (Mchinga, CUF) wanted the government to strengthen surveillances in quarantines by deploying police officers to secure those areas so as to fight the spread of the disease.

"We have heard that those who are being sent in mandatory quarantines are not well supervised as some of them have been leaving the hotels or lodges before 14 days. This should be taken very seriously," the legislator intoned.



Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene (L) has an audience in Dodoma yesterday with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees representative Antonio Canhandula. Photo courtesy of Home Affairs ministry

## Medical experts: Equip us better

FROM PAGE 1

hospitals will remain with fewer patients, which lowers the risk of transmission, he stated.

The group that needs to be given long-term drugs are those suffering from diabetes, hypertension,

muscle and skeletal complications as well as HIV/Aids, he elaborated.

"Experience has shown that people suffering these conditions are more susceptible to Covid-19 and make a bigger percentage of those who succumb to it," he pointed out.

MAT also recommended improvement of the current national Covid-19 response committee into a centralized coordination team also including stakeholders from private medical practice, companies, etc.

The current committee

chaired by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa assisted by the minister for Health, Ummu Mwalimu can be more effective if interested parties from the private sector are included, he added.

In the United States, the Covid-19 death toll had

exceeded 4,000 and the number of confirmed cases surpassed 200,000. The governor of Connecticut has confirmed that a six week old baby has died of Covid-19.

Nearly 170,000 inmates housed in United States federal prisons were

confined to their cells and wards for at least two weeks to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons said at least 57 inmates and 37 guards were infected throughout the 122 federal penitentiaries in the US.

## G-20 prepares coronavirus rescue package for Africa

ADDIS ABABA

A group of G-20 leaders are preparing an international response to the impact of the coronavirus crisis in Africa that would include debt relief and financial aid, African officials and European diplomats said.

A comprehensive package supported by countries—France and Italy would incorporate recent demands from President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia, who have called on the world's most industrialized countries to support the continent through the economic downturn caused by the pandemic.

They want rich countries to waive all interest payments on Africa's debt obligations and provide immediate cash injections through the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and African Development Bank.

"Solidarity during these unprecedented times in our history does not refer to vague gestures of sympathy, but actual cooperation," said Ebba Kalondo, spokesperson for the chairperson of the African Union. "It is not charity. It frankly is common sense and our common survival depends on it."

Last week, the G-20 agreed to inject \$5 trillion into the global economy and noted the "serious risks" posed to Africa due to its health systems and economies being less able to cope.

While work is underway in several European capitals on a proposal to the G20 specifically targeted at Africa, a detailed support package is likely to be slowed by the ongoing crises engulfing Europe and the U.S., three senior EU diplomats and two African government advisers said.

Still, one idea discussed between Abiy and French President Emmanuel Macron in a telephone conversation over the weekend is a sensitive proposal to reallocate money from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to the fight against COVID-19.



Small-time miner Makomba Faustine literally peeps into a pile of sand near Mwadui's Williamson Mine yesterday, praying for life-changing "traces" of gold to emerge. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Doctors among hundreds under quarantine, says Zanzibar minister

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He said as of now the government has taken the decision to close all pubs and entertainment halls in both Unguja and Pemba to minimize the spread of Covid-19.

Hamad appealed to islanders to understand that there is still no cure or vaccine for the disease, hence it was imperative for them to abide by directives and guidelines issued by the government, including remaining at home and avoid gatherings.

"The guidelines are not being fully complied with as people are still using market places for conversations, participating in wedding and burial ceremonies - all of which are contrary to the government's directives," he said.

The minister also appealed to men who married wives in Mombasa and in Zanzibar and were at the moment on the other side of the channel to remain in Kenya to avoid importing the disease.

He said 710 people have been arrested in Pemba as they were coming from Mombasa after passing through unauthorized ports.

The minister called on residents to avoid gatherings and stop the habit of going to drink coffee at urban shaded talking shops.

For his part, the Director of the Zanzibar Mwanji Mmoja Hospital Dr Jamal Adam Kassim, appealed to the media to educate the community on how to protect themselves against the Covid-19 pandemic, as its rate of infection and death tally wreaks havoc around the world.

## Oil prices to remain stable despite COVID-19 pandemic - EWURA

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has maintained that fuel prices in the country will remain stable despite the outbreak of the global pandemic—COVID-19.

According to the authority, prices are likely to keep on shrinking since there is enough fuel stock that can be consumed for the next

two months.

EWURA Manager of Communication and Public Relations, Titus Kaguo told The Guardian that current lockdown of numerous fuels -dependent sectors and other activities in the globe, which actually doubling down on a pessimistic oil demand outlook despite numerous short-term risks to supply.

He informed that the Petroleum Act (2015) requires the country to have

a petroleum reserve to cater for at least 15 days.

"In Tanzania, we usually import fuel in advance to serve for two months ahead, which means, we're not expecting to experience any fuel shortage during this catastrophic period," he said noting spreading of the Coronavirus has not affected importation of oil in Tanzania.

He said the country was expecting to receive a consignment of fuel

on Wednesday this week which will start to be used from July this year.

The country's demand for fuel stands at 300,000 tonnes per month, he said. Kaguo insisted that the authority will not tolerate any fuel seller who will be spotted to market the crucial oil in discordant to the authority's set prices.

"In such cases, we will take severe punitive measure. Currently, the demand for fuel at the world mar-

ket has substantially decreased to an interim suspension of many activities which banks on fuel power, we cannot tolerate with any unscrupulous dealer who will use the chance to benefit himself illegally," he warned.

A random survey by The Guardian to various fuel stations in the capital city established that selling prices for petroleum (Diesel) has rebound from 2,263/- to 2,100/-

## Immigration relaxes visa regulations for foreigners

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country.

"After one month, people in the category will have to report to Kurasini in Dar es Salaam for further directives."

Holders of resident permits or passes who have already surrendered their respective documents were advised to promptly report to the Kurasini offices.

Tanzania had 20 confirmed cases of Covid-19 and one fatality as of Wednesday whereas two patients were reported to have completely recovered

and discharged from quarantine.

As of yesterday, globally confirmed cases were more than 950,000 with more than 48,000 deaths and over 200,000 recoveries. The death toll in the UK rose by 563 in 24 hours on the basis of the Department of Health.

It was a record jump that brought the number of patients who died in hospital to 2,352 while nearly 950,000 people had applied for Universal Credit benefits in the past fortnight, the report indicated.



Zanzibar residents carry the casket bearing the body of Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation presenter Marin Hassan Marin when heading for the Kibweni suburb, where he was buried yesterday. He died in a Dar es Salaam hospital on Wednesday. Photo: State House

## Project in pipeline to arrest pollution of Msimbazi River

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AN environmental project to help save Msimbazi River in Dar es Salaam from further dilapidation is in the pipeline, the government stated here yesterday.

The envisioned project to be implemented by the government in collaboration with other stakeholders is aimed at controlling environment pollution along the river banks that lead to flooding during rainy season.

The Vice President's Office, Union and Environment told the parliament here that there has been a lot environmental pollution on the river, caused by human activities which eventually lead to floods during rainy seasons.

The ministry was responding to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Zainabu Amiri (CUF) who had wanted to know what the government was doing to help vegetable farmers along the river who use dirty water from the river to water vegetables.

She said that the vegetable farmers are using unclean water that is likely to contain a lot of chemicals, endangering the lives of city residents who consume the products.

"The situation of farmers using dirty water from river Msimbazi has been there for so long, what is the government doing to ensure the vegetable farmers get clean water for their production?" she questioned.

In response, the ministry admitted that many city residents depend on vegetables planted along the Msimbazi river, noting that it is such economic activities along the river that cause serious environmental degradation.

"The government in collaboration with several stakeholders are working on a project to save water source and implement various plans and activities to save the environment within the river" said the government.

The government said the project is also aimed at reducing effects of floods, reduce environment pollution, control soil erosion caused by human activities along the river banks and provide public education to those living close to the river to live without causing environmental problems.

Other targets of the project include tree planting along the river, having in place mechanisms to control hard wastes within the surrounding and also having conducive environment for petty traders to operate along the area without affecting the environment.

The government said through the project, the expectation is to see environment pollution along the river reduced to the expected level. However, the government stated that Section 57 of the Environment Act, 2004 prohibit permanent human activities that endanger protection of water sources.

# 'Seven million new voters registered so far'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has registered over seven million new voters in the ongoing exercise to improve the permanent register which commenced mid-last year, Prime Minister Kasim Majaliwa has said.

Tanzania is set to conduct general election in October this year where President, Members of Parliament and Councillors will be elected.

Presenting his office's budget estimates for the 2020/21 fiscal year in the Parliament on Wednesday, Majaliwa urged Tanzanians to come out in big number to exercise their constitutional right during the Election Day.

He also encouraged politicians to, when time comes, conduct peacefully campaigns which are aimed to unite Tanzanians and not those which split the public.

According to the Prime Minister, NEC had commenced key preparations ready

for the General Elections scheduled for October, this year.

He said that the exercise to improve the Voter Register started in July last year in Kilimanjaro region and completed on February 23, 2020 in Dar es Salaam region.

"The exercise involved registration of new eligible voters who have attained 18 years or would attain that age before the General Election in October. The exercise also involves registering all eligible voters

who have migrated from their former settlements and those who have lost their voting cards...This saw

He said the improvement of the voter's permanent register which commenced in July 2019, registered a total of 10,285,732 voters of which 7,043,778 are new voters. At least 16,707 voters dissolved from the permanent register after losing eligibility.

"The commission will also come back for verification exercise to give an opportunity for the voters to verify their information. The exercise is expected to commence on April 5, and will go until June 26, this year," Majaliwa added.

The premier further urged the general public to maintain peace, stability and solidarity throughout the General Election campaign period so as to continue

making Tanzania an island of peace and a model in Africa and the World at large.

The National Elections Act requires NEC to update the voter registration two times before new general elections.

According to data, the number of voters registered for the 2015 General Election was 23,254,485 against 19,670,631 registered in 2010 and 16,401,694 in 2005.

## Boat sinks in Mara River, three missing

By Guardian Correspondent, Serengeti

THREE people are feared to have drowned after a boat they were sailing on across Mara River in Serengeti District, Mara Region sank.

Four other people who were in the same ill-fated sailing vessel managed to swim to the shore while sustaining injuries, police said.

A police rescue team was continuing with the search for bodies of those feared to have drowned, all of them women.

Regional Police Commander ACP Daniel Shillah who was leading the search said that police were holding two people for interrogation.

During the mishap efforts by residents in the area to save the victims failed as they lacked rescue equipment and rapid currents due to the ongoing rains.

He mentioned the names of those feared dead as Nyigai Mahende (25), Matinde Ryoba (15) and Elizabeth Nyambaha (19), all residents of Borenge village in Serengeti District.

RPC Shillah said the accident happened when they were trying to cross Mara River towards Nyamongo in Tarime District.

He said two people being held are suspected to be the cause of the accident due to using a boat that was unsafe to travel in and for overloading people and luggage beyond the boat's capacity and when investigations are complete they will be taken to court.

He also warned all owners of substandard water vessels to transport people during this time when rivers are overflowing due to rains, saying that legal steps will be taken against those who will be found to

He also advised that due to heavy rains and the Covid-19 pandemic all those living along Mara River to desist from travelling across it if their trips are not essential.

The Mara River which snakes through the borders of Serengeti, Tarime and Rorya districts in Mara Region is most famous for the legendary wildebeest crossing, a dramatic event, which is featured in countless wildlife documentaries. It drains into Lake Victoria.



**UNFPA Tanzania Country Programme**

**Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)**

The United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) is in the process of identifying NGO partners for collaboration in the implementation of interventions in the thematic areas of gender equality and women's empowerment and adolescents and youth, in the framework of its current eighth Country Programme for the period July 2016 - June 2021.

Interested organizations can download the full text of the invitation describing the modality of submission at UNFPA Tanzania's website: <https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/submission/invitation-expression-interest-eoi>

The deadline for the submission of the Expressions of Interest is **April 19, 2020.**







**RESULTS of: MAISHANI PROJECT Integrated Project for the Right to Water Health Nutrition in Central Tanzania**

Finance by ITALIAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT and COOPERATION



**IMPLEMENTING PARTIES**



- Course created for Water Schemes Managers at VETA: 2 phases Dodoma, 1 phase in Iringa 60 Students graduate; course available at VETA Zone+E-learning course for Trainers.
- Training and supporting to Water Schemes Entities (ex COWSO): 20 COWSOS, 5 in each district involved, Kongwa, Chamwino, Iringa and Mufindi.
- Capacity building on monitoring water schemes: Water Departments of the Kongwa, Chamwino, Iringa and Mufindi Districts involved. Created atool grid for monitoring in GOVERNANCE, TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL, OPERATIONAL of rural water scheme.
- Data Collection campaign about, water quality, hygiene and nutrition: Data collected at Health Facilities and Water Schemes.
- Research on: water strategy implementation, feasibility study on water purification in Iringa,
- Constructed Water harvesting systems: 16000Lt irons and cements tanks, in 20 Health Facility 5 in each District: Kongwa, Chamwino, Iringa and Mufindi.
- Pilot study on monitoring of Rural Water schemes online platform and new smart meters
- Technical assistance and training of health authorities: 40 Nutrition Departments Health Facilities staff of Kongwa, Chamwino, Iringa and Mufindi.
- Integrated capacity building on nutrition and hygiene for 160 CHWs, 80 Village Leaders, 700 House Holds, in Kongwa, Chamwino;
- Health Facilities supported with malnutrition and equipped in Kongwa and Chamwino 22.
- In Kongwa and Chamwino: Tot. Under five screened 576.018, N. of Admission 1565, Tot. SAM identified 500, Tot. Under five referred 623, N. of admission 1565, Cured Cases 1081.
- In Iringa: in-patient therapeutic programme 921, outpatient therapeutic program 1418, Tot. Under five SAM treated 2339, Tot. Under five SAM dead 81, Tot. Under five SAM cured 1809.

# TADB issues 161bn/- loans to farmers countrywide

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has so far issued a total of 160.9bn/- in loans to some 2.1 million small, middle and large scale farmers in various regions in the country, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said this in the House when presenting the ministry's budget estimates for the 2020/21 financial year.

According to him, from July 2019 to February 2020, TADB issued a total of 34bn/- soft loans to finance 38 agribusiness projects.

"In the same period also TADB issued 31bn/- surplus loans benefiting at least 5,080 small scale farmers and farming 30 projects, 20 Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Unions (AMCOS) and facilitated farmers to purchase 19 tractors in

various regions.

The minister said that the government will continue capacitating the bank to have enough funds and enable it support farmers across the country.

Late last year, TADB in collaboration with the Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS) newly launched project dubbed "Agribusiness financing product" which is aimed at stimulating and facilitating investments in agriculture for the country's development.

The program which is set to benefit 500 youth and women will involve taking the beneficiaries in incubation centres, training and encouraging them to adopt best farming practices to increase productivity. Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam, TADB managing director Japhet Justine said that the agreement among others will improve lives of the young people and women, promote

food security, create more employment opportunities and thus fight poverty.

PASS managing director Nicomed Bohay said that the signed agreement sets the stage for the two institutions in supporting not only youth's employment but also the government's key priority areas of investments and industrialization agenda.

He said that an emphasis in the project is held on women's inclusion into economic activities and the promotion of value chains for food security and poverty reduction.

Launching the 13trillion/-Second Phase of the Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP) in June 2018, President Magufuli expressed his disappointment with the pace of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) in helping farmers through provision of loans.



Members of a delegation led by Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella (2nd-L) have lunch at a Mirogo market food stall in the city on Tuesday. They were assessing the readiness of various institutions to sensitise and educate the public on Covid-19, part of a campaign implemented by the Tanzania Red Cross Society. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel



## Canara Bank (Tanzania) Ltd.

(Together, we can build a better life)

### PUBLICATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

		(Amount in Million TZS)	
		Current Year 31st Dec 2019	Previous Year 31st Dec 2018
<b>A</b>	<b>ASSETS</b>		
1	Cash	405.33	719.43
2	Balances with Bank of Tanzania	6,601.31	4,527.67
3	Investment in Government Securities	25,371.80	22,747.45
4	Balances with other banks and Financial Institution	668.44	753.75
5	Cheques and item for Clearing	67.32	93.33
6	Inter branch float items	-	-
7	Bills negotiated	-	-
8	Customer Liabilities for Acceptances	-	-
9	Interbank Loans Receivables	36,866.46	36,081.44
10	Investment in other securities	-	-
11	Loans, advances and Overdrafts (Net of allowances for probable losses)	35,634.01	34,855.70
12	Other Assets	838.23	1,553.62
13	Equity Investments	-	-
14	Underwriting Accounts	-	-
15	Property, Plant and Equipment	1,556.18	946.37
16	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>108,009.07</b>	<b>102,278.77</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
17	Deposits From Other Banks	32,500.00	37,602.23
18	Customer Deposits	37,399.46	28,960.70
19	Cash Letters of Credit	-	-
20	Special Deposits	-	-
21	Payment Orders/Transfers Payable	-	-
22	Bankers cheques and Drafts issued	-	7.51
23	Accrued taxes and expenses payable	1,302.99	1,099.74
24	Acceptances Outstanding	-	-
25	Interbranch float items	-	-
26	Unearned income and other deferred charges	839.34	113.62
27	Other Liabilities	-	-
28	Borrowings	-	-
29	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>72,041.79</b>	<b>67,783.80</b>
30	<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) 16 Minus 29</b>	<b>35,967.28</b>	<b>34,494.97</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS</b>		
31	Paid Up Share Capital	32,830.00	32,830.00
32	Capital Reserves	828.58	539.29
33	Retained Earnings	836.39	234.14
34	Profit/Loss Account	1,472.31	891.54
35	Other Capital Accounts	-	-
36	Minority Interest	-	-
37	<b>TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS</b>	<b>35,967.28</b>	<b>34,494.97</b>
38	Contingent Liabilities	10,781.42	4,495.24
39	Non Performing loans and advances	4,125.84	-
40	Allowances for Probable Losses	162.90	101.27
41	Other non performing Assets	-	-
<b>D</b>	<b>SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS</b>		
(i)	Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	33.30%	33.73%
(ii)	Non performing loans to total gross loans	11.49%	0.00%
(iii)	Gross loans and advances to Total Deposits	51.14%	52.49%
(iv)	Loans and advances to Total assets	33.24%	34.16%
(v)	Earning Assets to Total Assets	91.23%	92.33%
(vi)	Deposit Growth	5.01%	47.04%
(vii)	Assets Growth	5.60%	28.70%

#### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF AUDITED PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st DEC 2019

		(Amount in Million TZS)	
		Current Year 31st Dec 2019	Previous Year 31st Dec 2018
1	Interest Income	8,167.40	6,724.39
2	Interest Expenses	2,802.03	2,125.40
3	<b>Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)</b>	<b>5,365.37</b>	<b>4,598.99</b>
4	Bad debts written off	-	-
5	Impairment Losses on loans and Advances	61.62	64.74
6	<b>Non - Interest Income</b>	<b>895.68</b>	<b>672.27</b>
6.1	Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(loss)	137.86	80.74
6.2	Fees and Commission	757.82	591.53
6.3	Dividend Income	-	-
6.4	Other Operating Income	-	-
7	<b>Non - Interest Expenses</b>	<b>4,048.32</b>	<b>3,930.59</b>
7.1	Salaries and Benefits	1,447.60	1,263.13
7.2	Fees and Commissions	-	-
7.3	Other Operating Expenses	2,600.71	2,667.46
8	<b>Operating Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>2,151.12</b>	<b>1,275.93</b>
9	Income Tax Provision	678.81	384.39
10	<b>Net income (loss) after income tax</b>	<b>1,472.31</b>	<b>891.54</b>
11	Number of Employees	23	19
12	Basic Earnings Per Share	45	27
13	Diluted Earnings Per Share	45	27
14	Number of branches	1	1
<b>SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>			
(I)	Return on average total assets (%)	1.40%	0.98%
(II)	Return on average shareholders' funds(%)	4.18%	2.62%
(III)	Non interest expenses to gross income (%)	44.24%	53.14%
(IV)	Net Interest Income to average earning assets Annualized(%)	5.56%	5.55%

#### CONDENSED AUDITED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st Dec 2019

		(Amount in Million TZS)	
		Current Year 31st Dec 2019	Previous Year 31st Dec 2018
<b>I</b>	<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		
	Net Income (Loss)	1,472.31	891.54
	Adjustment for:		
	Impairment /Amortization	1,300.77	1,125.57
	-Net change in loans and advances	(842.93)	(16,071.01)
	Gain/Loss on Sale of Assets	-	3.38
	-Net change in Deposits	3,336.53	21,294.79
	-Net change in Short term negotiable securities	-	-
	-Net Change in Other Liabilities	794.93	1,025.35
	-Net change in Other Assets	(931.66)	(451.09)
	-Tax paid	(612.79)	(390.00)
	-Others	-	-
	<b>Net cash provided (used) by operating activities</b>	<b>4,517.15</b>	<b>7,428.52</b>
<b>II</b>	<b>Cash flow from Investment activities</b>		
	Dividend Received	-	-
	Purchase of fixed assets	(19.39)	(97.93)
	Proceeds from sale of Fixed Assets	-	-
	Purchase of non-dealing securities	978.16	(1,571.24)
	Proceeds from sale of non-dealing securities	-	-
	Others	-	-
	<b>Net cash provided (used) by investing activities</b>	<b>958.77</b>	<b>(1,669.18)</b>
<b>III</b>	<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>		
	Repayment of long-term debt	-	-
	Proceeds from issuance of long term debt	-	-
	Proceeds from issuance of share capital	-	-
	Payment of cash dividends	-	-
	Net change in other borrowings	-	-
	Payment of lease Liabilities-IFRS 16	(346.31)	-
	<b>Net cash provided (used) by financing activities</b>	<b>(346.31)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>IV</b>	<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents:</b>		
	Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalent	5,129.61	5,759.35
	Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the Year	43,240.26	37,480.91
	<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Year</b>	<b>48,369.87</b>	<b>43,240.25</b>

#### CONDENSED AUDITED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31st DEC 2019

		(Amount in Million TZS)						
		Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others	Total
<b>Current Year 2019</b>								
	Balance as at the beginning of the current year	32,830.00	-	1,125.67	45.93	493.37	-	34,494.97
	Profit for the year	-	-	1,472.31	-	-	-	1,472.31
	Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Regulatory Reserve	-	-	(782.65)	782.65	-	-	-
	General Provision Reserve	-	-	493.37	-	(493.37)	-	-
	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Balance as at the end of the current year</b>	<b>32,830.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,308.69</b>	<b>828.58</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,967.28</b>
<b>Previous Year 2018</b>								
	Balance as at the beginning of the previous year	32,830.00	-	289.00	-	510.00	-	33,629.00
	Profit for the year	-	-	891.54	-	-	-	891.54
	Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Regulatory Reserve	-	-	(45.93)	45.93	-	-	-
	General Provision Reserve	-	-	16.63	-	(16.63)	-	-
	Others	-	-	(25.57)	-	-	-	(25.57)
	<b>Balance as at the end of the previous year</b>	<b>32,830.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,125.67</b>	<b>45.93</b>	<b>493.37</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,494.97</b>
<b>SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st Dec 2019</b>								
In preparation of the current year audited financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements (if there were changes during the year, the changes be explained as per IAS 34 & IAS 8)								
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>					
T R BALAJI RAO	Chief Executive Officer	(Signed)	30-03-2020					
FADHILI PETRO SANGA	Head of Finance	(Signed)	30-03-2020					
FREDRICK HIPPOLITE	Chief Internal Auditor	(Signed)	30-03-2020					
We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.								
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>					
M VENKATA RAO	CHAIR PERSON	(Signed)	30-03-2020					
RAJABU SELEMANI KAKUSA	BOARD MEMBER	(Signed)	30-03-2020					

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E-mail: ctbl@canarabank.co.tz, T +255 222112530 (D) +255 222112532  
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## Govt bans activities close to river to shield Bukoba municipality from floods

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government through the Bukoba municipal council has banned all human activities along river Kanoni in efforts to stop floods in Bukoba town during rainy seasons, the parliament heard yesterday.

This was said by the Vice President's Office, Environment, in response to a question asked by the Special Seats MP, Bernadetha Mshashu (CCM), who had wanted to know the government's plan to help stop the frequent floods.

The lawmaker had argued that the frequent floods cause loss of property, food, road damage and in some cases lead to death of animals and people, calling for measures to revert the trend.

"What is the government plan to end the problem that affects many people in the town and beyond?" asked the lawmaker.

In response, the ministry stated that the Bukoba municipal authority has taken action, compelling people to refrain from doing any human activities along the river. "It is through human activities that river Kanoni get filled with soil and other hard wastes which block it, forcing it to over low when it rains" said the government in a statement.

The government further explained that such items get into the river during dry season and when rainy season comes it overflows, causing a lot of problems to residents. Such activities include buildings, farming, and construction of waste pits among others.

According to the government, Bukoba municipal authority has taken short term measures, forcefully evicting those who have built along the river, banning other activities like farming, car-washing as well as ensuring the legal river conservation area is constantly cleaned.

The authority has also embarked on removing unfriendly plantations along the river and plant environment friendly trees. It has also launched public awareness programme to educate the residents on the importance of conserving the environment.

## Government lures hospitality investors into Kalambo Falls

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma

THE government is engaging private sector players to increase investment especially in accommodation facilities at the Kalambo Falls so as to attract more tourists and stimulate growth in the country, the House heard yesterday.

According to the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, private sector can invest in accommodation facilities such as hotels and lodge, a potential is which not fully utilized.

Responding to a question from Aida Khenan, a Chade-ma Special Seat MP who sought to know the government's plan to improve accommodation facilities in the area, the ministry stated that the government recognizes the potential available in the 41,958 hectares-Kalambo Reserve Forest and will always improve efforts to protect it.

According to the ministry, Kalambo Falls are one of the most attractive tourist attractions in Southern circuit and the government is well prepared to make sure that it well promoted and heavily invested in a bid to attract many local and foreign visitors from around the world.

"In 2019, the government upgraded the Kalambo forest to become a reserve so as to make sure that the waterfalls are preserved for present and future generation," read part of the response's statement.

Furthermore the ministry, through Tanzania Forest Services (TFS) has since 2016 been improving infrastructures such as roads in the Kalambo falls.



Small miners busy hunting for diamond "concentrates" at Mwadui's Williamson Mine in Shinyanga Region, as found yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Kagera Region embarks on disinfecting of all passenger buses in wake of COVID-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

AUTHORITIES in Kagera Region have started spraying disinfectants in all passenger buses that make journeys within and outside the region as part of the precautionary measures against the spread of Covid-19 infection.

Speaking on behalf of the Regional Commissioner Brig. Gen. Marco Gaguti, the Bukoba District Commissioner Dedatus Kinawilo said spraying is expected to minimize the spread of the infection.

Kinawilo said already the wananchi started washing their hands with soap, the exercise that is to be sustainable, hence the government saw it fit to spray disinfectant to all passenger buses that make journeys within and outside the region.

The spraying exercise involves all buses with 15-28 and those with 45-60 passenger carrying capacities that are forced to go to a special yard for the purpose.

A driver of a bus plying between Bukoba and Bugabo Ward Ernest Baruth said the exercise will enhance awareness to the wananchi against the pandemic.

He thanked the government for the exercise that is to be sustainable as passengers sit close to each other in buses according to how they were installed.

Another bus driver Hemedi Juma said the authorities should increase the number of sprayers to reduce congestion of buses at the yard.

The spraying supervisor Abdul Magayane said they only spray in luggage compartments, doors and open spaces.

He said every bus is charged according to the size of the vehicle starting 2,000/- for Toyota Hiace, 5,000/- for Toyota Coaster and 8,000/- for big buses.

## Liwale farmer dies after being attacked by lion

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

A KIMBEMBA village farmer from Mangirikiti Ward, Liwale District in Lindi Region, Darie Chisangwe (58) has died after being attacked by a lion when she went out of the house help herself in company of her husband.

Reports from the village and confirmed by neighbors the area's government leaders said Darie was attacked by the lion on the night of March 30 this year.

One of the neighbors who identified as Kindamba Hemedi explained that on the fateful day, Darie, in company of her husband whose name was not disclosed) went out of the house to answer the call of nature.

He said while the husband was standing on the house's yard waiting for his wife, suddenly a lion who was on hunt leapt on the woman's head injuring her badly on the face.

He said when the beast tried to pull its victim into the bushes with the husband calling for help, he dashed to save his wife who was wounded and bled profusely.

According to him, when neighbors emerged to offer help they found the husband had already saved her from the lion, after which they took her to Liwale District Hospital for treatment.

Hospital's senior Medical Officer Dr Evarist Sanga confirmed to have received the wounded woman saying she died while receiving treatment.

"Her death was greatly contributed by great loss of blood and the distance from the village to the hospital.

Liwale District Commissioner, Sarah Chiwamba confirmed Darie Chisangwe to have been attacked by a lion and that she died while receiving treatment at the District Hospital.

She said already the lion involved has also been killed by game rangers and when examined it was found with scars on his hind legs caused after being entrapped.

She also called upon the wananchi to ensure their houses are in clean surroundings by cutting the grass especially during this time of the rain season.

## Police holding two people for allegedly selling medicines without valid licence

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

POLICE in Morogoro Region are holding two people for allegedly selling medicines without valid licence and possessing counterfeit drugs.

Briefing journalists here yesterday, Morogoro Regional Police Commander, Wilbrod Mutafungwa said the suspects were arrested at different localities during routine police patrols. He said police were also tipped off by Good Samaritans on the presence of people who were conducting medical services without licence.

Mutafungwa said the first suspect Barnabas Bernad Mayunga (32) was arrested at Morogoro regional referral hospital in possession of counterfeit drugs and medical supplies with a fake stamp from the Medical Stores Department (MSD).

Mayunga a resident of Kihonda in the municipality had hidden the seized fake drugs in his vehicle-T 394

DKP made Toyota Harrier. He said during police search at his house, the suspect was found with various fake medical supplies at his home including cotton wool, unfilled medical insurance forms, medical drips, injections, uniforms, drugs and one voter card.

He said police continues tracing his working history as well as profession since he has been presenting himself as a doctor. He said Mayunga has been pretending to be a doctor and attending to patients at different places within Morogoro.

"Mayunga was a former employee at the Morogoro regional referral hospital, but he wasn't a doctor. We want to trace his education background and the college where he claimed to have attended to pursue medical courses", said the RPC noting that they also want to know the person who supplied him with the counterfeit drugs and fake medical equipment.

In another incident, Daniel Nelson (28) a resident of Minjenja village in Gairo district was arrested for illegal possession of various medical equipment including cannula, MVA-set and tube, stethoscope machine, clinical coat, metal tray, scissors, speculum and sponges.

According to SACP Mutafungwa, the suspect was earlier arrested for hiding in his house a girl whose parent reported the matter at the police stations. He said when police went to rescue the girl; they also found the alleged medical equipment in the suspect's home.

The RPC noted that Nelson had previously worked at one Mission hospital in the region (laboratory department), but he continued offering the services at his residence without permit from relevant authorities.

Police are investigation is ongoing suspects will appear in court when investigation is complete, he said.



### Report of Condition of the bank pursuant to section 32(3) of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006

#### AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2019	TZS '000		TZS '000	
	Current Year 31 - 12 - 2019	Previous Year 31 - 12 - 2018	Current Year 31 - 12 - 2019	Previous Year 31 - 12 - 2018
<b>A. ASSETS</b>				
1. Cash	12,308,710	10,160,903		
2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania	18,756,238	25,939,729		
3. Investment in Government securities	0	0		
4. Balances with other Banks and Financial Institution	5,854,327	6,405,995		
5. Cheques and items for clearing	65,494	347,225		
6. Interbranch float items	0	0		
7. Bills negotiated	0	0		
8. Customers' liabilities for acceptances	0	0		
9. Interbank Loans Receivables	19,223,998	17,317,390		
10. Investment in other securities	0	0		
11. Financing (net of allowances for probable losses)	162,644,151	152,450,514		
12. Other assets	9,551,392	8,525,746		
13. Equity investments	0	0		
14. Underwriting Accounts	0	0		
15. Property, Plant and Equipment	9,677,365	4,348,692		
<b>16. TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>238,081,675</b>	<b>225,496,194</b>		
<b>B. LIABILITIES</b>				
17. Deposits from other banks and Financial Institutions	0	0		
18. Customer deposits	190,383,867	181,716,729		
19. Cash Letters of Credit	0	0		
20. Special deposits	13,170,304	14,588,970		
21. Payment orders/transfers, payables	0	0		
22. Bankers Cheques and Drafts Issued	110,250	136,971		
23. Accrued Taxes and Expenses Payable	772,342	568,447		
24. Acceptances Outstanding	0	0		
25. Interbranch float items	0	0		
26. Unearned income and other deferred charges	97,441	296,213		
27. Other Liabilities	6,422,850	1,796,202		
28. Borrowings	0	0		
29. TOTAL LIABILITIES	210,957,053	199,103,533		
<b>30. NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)(16 minus 29)</b>	<b>27,124,622</b>	<b>26,392,661</b>		
<b>C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>				
31. Paid up Share capital	39,697,089	39,697,089		
32. Preference Share Capital	0	0		
33. Capital Reserve	10,624,547	4,160,572		
34. Profit (Loss) Account	(23,928,976)	(18,081,493)		
35. Other Capital Accounts	731,962	616,493		
36. Minority Interest	0	0		
<b>37. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>27,124,622</b>	<b>26,392,661</b>		
38. Contingent Liabilities	13,950,647	24,994,424		
39. Non performing financing	18,910,750	8,290,865		
40. Allowances for probable losses	2,167,030	1,758,824		
41. Other non performing assets	0	0		
<b>D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS</b>				
(i) Shareholders Funds to total assets	11.4%	11.7%		
(ii) Nonperforming financing to total financing	11.5%	5.4%		
(iii) Gross financing to total deposits	81.0%	78.6%		
(iv) Financing to total assets	68.3%	67.6%		
(v) Deposits Growth	3.7%	10.4%		
(vi) Assets growth	5.6%	10.5%		

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019	TZS '000		TZS '000	
	Current Year 31 - 12 - 2019	Previous Year 31 - 12 - 2018	Current Year 31 - 12 - 2019	Previous Year 31 - 12 - 2018
1. Income from Financing	19,567,061	19,430,994		
2. Depositors' Profit	(5,810,968)	(6,646,796)		
3. Net Financing Income	13,756,093	12,784,198		
4. Bad debts written off	0	0		
5. Impairment losses on Financing	(208,367)	(339,820)		
6. Non Funded Income	7,273,804	7,138,710		
6.1 Foreign currency Dealings and Translation Gains(loss)	1,725,884	965,903		
6.2 Fees and Commissions	5,528,330	6,095,528		
6.3 Dividend Income	0	0		
6.4 Other Operating Income	19,590	77,279		
7. Operating Expenses	(19,893,488)	(18,556,881)		
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(9,256,536)	(8,240,581)		
7.2 Fees and Commissions	(157,549)	(59,359)		
7.3 Other operating Expenses	(10,479,403)	(10,256,941)		
7.4 Pre Operating expenses	0	0		
8. Operating Income/(Loss)	928,042	1,026,207		
9. Income/deferred Tax Provision	(196,080)	(409,714)		
10. Net Income/(loss) after Income Tax	731,962	616,493		
11. Number of employees	239	218		
12. Basic Earnings Per Share	18	16		
13. Diluted Earnings Per Share	9	16		
12. Number of Branches		8		
<b>SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>				
Return on average total assets	0.3%	0.3%		
Return on ordinary shareholder's funds	2.7%	2.3%		
Operating expenses to gross income	74.1%	69.8%		
Profit margin to average earning assets	7.7%	7.8%		

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019	TZS '000		TZS '000	
	Current Year 31 - 12 - 2019	Previous Year 31 - 12 - 2018	Current Year 31 - 12 - 2019	Previous Year 31 - 12 - 2018
<b>I. Cash Flow from Operating Activities:</b>				
Net Income before tax	928,042	1,026,207		
-Adjustment for Non-cash Items				
Impairment/Amortization/Depreciation	2,248,697	1,244,658		
Gain/loss from sale of fixed assets	415,758	0		
Finance cost				
- net change in Financing	(10,449,554)	(22,615,740)		
- net change in deposits	7,248,471	18,377,338		
- net change in statutory minimum reserve	1,713,306	(1,015,873)		
- net change in other liabilities	(155,424)	438,676		
- net change in other assets	118,552	(1,632,856)		
- Tax paid	(112,828)	(72,450)		
- Others (Securities)	0	0		
<b>Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities</b>	<b>1,955,020</b>	<b>(4,250,040)</b>		
<b>II. Cash flow from investing activities</b>				
Dividend received	0	0		
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,754,341)	(2,510,798)		
Purchase of computer software	(1,107,000)	(370,048)		
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	0	0		
Purchase of non-dealing securities	0	0		
Proceed from sale of non-dealing securities	0	0		
Adjustment to work in progress	0	0		
<b>Net cash provided/(used) by investing activities</b>	<b>(2,861,341)</b>	<b>(2,880,846)</b>		
<b>III. Cash flow from Financing activities</b>				
Repayment of long-term debt	0	0		
Proceeds from issuance of shares	0	3,999,809		
Proceeds from issuance of Share Capital	0	0		
Payment of cash dividends	0	0		
Net change in other borrowings	0	0		
Payment of lease liability	(1,061,117)	0		
<b>Net cash provided/(used) by financing activities</b>	<b>(1,061,117)</b>	<b>3,999,809</b>		
<b>IV. Cash and cash equivalents</b>				
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(1,967,438)</b>	<b>(3,131,077)</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	44,267,838	47,398,915		
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>42,300,400</b>	<b>44,267,838</b>		

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019		Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others	Total
Current Year 2019								
<b>Balance as at the beginning of the Year</b>	<b>39,697,089</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(17,465,000)</b>	<b>2,843,597</b>	<b>1,316,975</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,392,661</b>
Profit for the year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Issue of share	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Other Comprehensive Income	0	0	731,962	0	0	0	0	731,962
Transactions with owners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Dividends Paid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Transfer to Regulatory Reserve	0	0	(7,780,951)	7,780,950	0	0	0	(1)
Transfer from General provision	0	0	1,316,975	0	(1,316,975)	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Balance as at the end of the current period</b>	<b>39,697,089</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(23,197,014)</b>	<b>10,624,547</b>	<b>1,316,975</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,124,622</b>
Previous year 2018								
<b>Balance as at the beginning of the year</b>	<b>35,697,280</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(16,686,216)</b>	<b>3,451,838</b>	<b>1,263,376</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,726,278</b>
Opening IFRS P Adjustment (Net of Deferred Tax)	0	0	(1,949,919)	0	0	0	0	(1,949,919)
Profit for the year	0	0	616,493	0	0	0	0	616,493
Issue of share	3,999,809	0	-	0	0	0	0	3,999,809
Other Comprehensive Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transactions with owners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends Paid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regulatory Reserve	0	0	608,241.00	-608,241	0	0	0	0
General Provision Reserve	0	0	(53,599.00)	0	53,599	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Balance as at the end of the previous period</b>	<b>39,697,089</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(17,465,000)</b>	<b>2,843,597</b>	<b>1,316,975</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26,392,661</b>

The above extracts are from the Financial Statements of the Bank for year ended 31st December 2019, which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), Islamic Sharia Principles and the provisions of the Tanzania Companies Act, 2002. The Financial Statements were audited by KPMG (Certified Public Accountants) and received unqualified audit report.

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on March 31, 2020 and signed on their behalf by:

**Abdallah Nahdi**  
(Director) Signed on March 31, 2020

**Dr. Muhsin Salim Masoud**  
(Managing Director) Signed on March 31, 2020



## AfDB approves \$1.5m emergency grant to curb desert locusts ravaging East and Horn of Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE Board of Directors of the African Development Bank has approved a \$1.5 million emergency relief grant to assist nine countries in the East and Horn of Africa on the control of swarms of desert locusts that are threatening livelihoods and food security.

The proposed assistance will be channeled to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which has been mandated to mobilize resources on behalf of the African Union.

IGAD is collaborating with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which is leading coordination of development partner support to provide desert locust invasion control, safeguard livelihoods and to promote early recovery of affected households in the in the East and Horn of Africa. FAO will act as the Executing Agency for the grant.

The funds will be used to control the spread of the current locust invasion, prevent potential next-generation swarms and to conduct impact assessment and monitoring to enhance preparedness and awareness. A portion of the funds would also be allocated to administrative costs.

The nine beneficiary countries are Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, So-

malia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania.

Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia have been particularly hard hit by the outbreak and widespread breeding of locusts that is expected to create new swarms in the coming weeks. The infestation poses an unprecedented risk to livelihoods and food security in an already fragile region and has caused huge damage to agricultural production.

In Ethiopia and Somalia, the outbreak is the worst in 25 years, and in Kenya, in 70 years.

In Ethiopia, the locusts have devastated more than 30,000 hectares of crops, including coffee and tea that account for about 30% of the nation's exports. Despite government's interventions, swarms and breeding have been reported in large parts of the country. In Djibouti, over 80% of 1,700 agropastoral farms located in 23 production zones are affected by desert locust infestations.

At least 18 of 47 Kenyan counties are affected with more than 70,000 hectares of crops under infestation according to recent FAO reports. Locust swarms are devastating pastureland, maize, cowpeas, beans and other crops despite the government's efforts to curb the outbreak.



Jamii Forums executive director Maxence Mello (3rd-L) and with his lawyers leave Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday after his case was adjourned. Judgment was lined up for yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## 135 schools in Kigoma Region start oil palm cultivation

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

A TOTAL of 119 primary schools and 16 primary schools including those in Uvinza District in Kigoma Region have embarked on oil palm farming in response to the call from Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa for every government institution to ensure it cultivates the crop in order to increase edible oil production in the country.

The step is the outcome of strategies laid down by Uvinza District leaders in mobilizing oil palm farming by government and private institutions after allocating areas for the purpose.

Presenting his report to the Board Chairman of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Dr Yohana Budeba who visited the District to inspect implementation of the Prime Min-

ister's directives, Uvinza District Agricultural Officer Masolwe Salum said the response is a result of TARI in collaboration with the District Council in preparing seed beds for the oil palm crop for free distribution.

Eng Masolwe said the move by TARI to produce modern Tenera oil palm seeds for free distribution has spurred many people to opt for oil palm growing which

has also increased the crop's acreage from 8,023 hectares to 32,462 hectares at present.

On his part the Uvinza District Agricultural Education Officer Shingwa Hamisi said after the Prime Minister's directives they visited all schools in the 16 wards of the District and mobilized the crop's cultivation and some of the schools have started preparing seed beds for seed produc-

tion.

TARI Director General Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said Uvinza District is leading in responding to the Prime Minister's call and they will provide it with 22,000 more Tenera seedlings in a short time following request for more seedlings.

He added the strategy is to reach one million seedlings so that every area that is fit to grow

the crop should be planted with the same.

He said TARI, which plans to produce five million Tenera seedlings will also provide free training to extension officers and individual farmers for the crop's better farming methods.

TARI Board Chairman Dr Budeba said as of now they have decided to take researches down to lowest levels in regard to the

farming issues including primary schools so as to modernize oil palm farming.

He said already he has already directed TARI researchers to produce enough Tenera oil palm seeds for free distribution to farmers who will be able to produce up to five tons of palm oil per hectare compared to old seeds that produce only 1.6 tons of the oil per hectare.

### TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION (TASAC)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### POSTPONEMENT OF ORAL EXAMINATIONS FOR DECK AND ENGINE OFFICERS SET FOR END OF MARCH, 2020

Due to the outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic worldwide, which has also affected our country, the oral examinations for Deck and Engine officers which were scheduled to be conducted at the end of March, 2020 have been postponed.

The Corporation will immediately inform you new dates for the examinations through the Public Notice and your personal address upon improvement of situation.

Issued by:

**Director General,  
Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation -TASAC.**

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### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has ordered Star Media Tanzania Limited, Multichoice Tanzania Limited and Azam Digital Broadcast Limited to pay a fine of Tanzania Shillings Five Million (TZs 5,000,000) and to issue an apology for their breach of licence conditions and the law.

The fines follow the licensee's failure to comply with Regulation 22(e) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Digital and Other Broadcasting Networks and Services) Regulations of 2018 and Regulation 11(1) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Radio and Television Content) Regulations of 2018, by transmitting via their respective platforms, a Television broadcast of false and misleading information about Tanzania's stance on Corona virus (Covid - 19).

Upon breach of the above regulations and pursuant to Section 48 of the TCRA Act, Cap.172 R: E 2017 of the Laws of Tanzania, the licensees, Star Media Tanzania Limited and Azam Digital Broadcast Limited were ordered to appear before TCRA on 27th and, Multichoice Tanzania Limited on 30th March 2020 to show cause why regulatory measures should not be taken against them for their being in breach of the law. In response thereof, the companies appeared before TCRA as ordered and acknowledged to have committed the breach.

Having considered the licensee's defence and upon being satisfied that Star Media Tanzania Limited, Multichoice Tanzania Limited and Azam Digital Broadcast Limited have breached the law, by virtue of Section 48 (2) & (3), Section 44 (2) (b) of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act [Cap 172 R: E 2017], Star Media Tanzania Limited, Multichoice Tanzania Limited and Azam Digital Broadcast Limited have been ordered as follows: -

- 1) To make a public apology seven consecutive times, on the day and at the time similar to the day and time the offensive content was broadcast; and
- 2) To pay, within Thirty (30) days, a fine of TZS 5,000,000.00/= (Tanzanian Shillings Five Million), only.

Should Star Media Tanzania Limited, Multichoice Tanzania Limited and Azam Digital Broadcast Limited fail to comply with the above Order, TCRA shall proceed to take further regulatory and legal action against them without further Notice and at their own costs and consequences.

ISSUED BY

**DIRECTOR GENERAL  
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
APRIL 2, 2020**



A mason pours water earlier this week on a dispensary building under construction on self-help basis at Mkirira village in Nyegina ward, Musoma Rural constituency. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Oxfam partners with locals in economic emancipation of Hanang District women

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

IN ensuring the community attains economic advancement OXFAM Tanzania in partnership with Ujamaa Community Resources (UCRT) has enabled 45 women of Mureru village in Balangdalalu Ward, Hanang District to embark on an irrigation farming project to free themselves from 100 percent dependence from their husbands.

Speaking at on the project's benefits, the women, at different times said it will make them no longer burdens in their families and will in general instill a new different and positive view within the community in the District on the issue of women not being given opportunities to contribute to their families' income.

"In truth we thank Oxfam and UCRT for this project as it will free us economically and assist in the generation of family's income," said

Felista Giyam, who is the group's treasurer.

She added that even though the project targets women only, there are also men whom they have decided to work together with them, and the number is 12.

Another member of the group Anna Iselu, on behalf of the group, appealed to the Government to examine the possibility of finding markets for their crops as lack of markets make many of them lose the drive in farming.

Charles Kidaguwi, who is a male member of the group, said the project will also benefit him greatly as it will make him become more responsible in the family as it is among the sources of income.

On his part, Donath Fungu, the Oxfam Projects Manager for the Northern Zone said the project is being implanted by involving and youth with the aim of building for

them the capacity for economic emancipation.

He added: "When you enable a woman you have enabled the family, the community and the country in general hence for Oxfam Tanzania our biggest stakeholder is a woman."

He said in the past in Hanang district, a woman was not allowed to stand up before the community to speak on anything, but after the training they provided they have started becoming courageous and many of them started contesting for elective posts at village level.

UCRT Project Coordinator M. Masuja said their aim is to give the woman the opportunity to improve her own life and they have placed them in groups to attain better achievements.

He said in partnership with OXFAM they have enabled 365 women to own land with title deeds, provided nine cows to one group, whose number has increased to 19 animals.

## OUT donates various items to flood-hit Iringa villagers

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE Open University of Tanzania (OUT) Iringa centre in collaboration with students has donated assorted items to flood victims at Mbingama suburb in Isele village in Iringa Region.

University Director, Dr Bukaza Chachage said they were touched by the issue thus decided to donate the items which includes clothes and bed sheets. He said the donated items were handed over to Iringa District Commissioner, Richard Kasesela.

Dr Chachage added as the educational institution they don't only teach and conduct researches but also support local communities through provision of assistance during natural disasters. He called upon the community and business people to support the flood victims since they are still in need of various items.

"We have responded to the call by Iringa DC because the flood victims had most of other properties swept off by water. They still need food, clothes, building materials and blankets", he said insisting construction materials are more crucial as they need to relocate to other premises.

Few days after the floods, Iringa District Commissioner Richard Kasesela urged the residents to relocate to safer premises as the floods were likely to happen again due to on-going rains.

Speaking while receiving support for the flood victims, he thanked the open university of Tanzania for providing the assistance asking institutions and individuals to come out in support of the affected communities.

"The floods affected over 200 households, these people still need building materials as most of them face housing challenges, the clothing and beddings are also not enough", said the DC.

Earlier, Isele Village Chairman, Ballo Halfani said people have incurred losses as most of their properties including food which was stored in their houses were swept away by floods.

"We are in need of food, but we do not have permanent shelters", he said.

In January this year, three people were reported dead and hundreds rendered homeless following downpour that hit Iringa and Lindi regions.

Iringa District Commissioner Richard Kasesela confirmed the death of three Tungamalenga village residents including two children from one family. He said the children were killed in separate flood incidents, with ongoing torrential rains.

Pawaga and Idodi were the most affected divisions in Iringa district. Pawaga Prison was surrounded with water, triggering fears on the safety of inmates.

Houses and household items were submerged by heavy flooding resulting from heavy rain.

Pawaga Prison chief warden Daudi Mwakalukwa said they managed to prevent flooding waters from entering the prison, the second time such floods occur since 2016. Over 100 houses and vast acres of crops were destroyed at that time.

The worst flooding of 2016 touched off famine, with the police force compelled to use helicopters to rescue people from submerged houses, the warden recalled.

## Police in Geita hold youth (20) over murder of grandparents

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

POLICE in Geita Region are holding Emmanuel Kulwa (20) in connecting with the killing of his grandfather.

Speaking yesterday here Geita Regional Commander Mpo-joli Mwambulambo said the incident occurred March 25 2020 at around 9.00 in the evening in Bukoli Ward, Geita Region.

He said Kulwa is alleged to have killed Donald Machibya (64) spouse Ester Kazwenge (60) using a machete.

RPC Mwambulambo said the suspect is said to have been assisted by a group of youths to commit the crime after which he ordered the bodies thrown into a pit latrine.

He added: "We received information after some wananchi became suspicious after Kulwa started selling away the farms while his grandparents were not seen."



## RELIANCE INSURANCE COMPANY (TANZANIA) LIMITED

### 2019 AUDITED RESULTS

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

	2019 TZS 000	2018 TZS 000
<b>Gross written premium</b>	<b>21,649,747</b>	<b>19,913,843</b>
Gross earned premium	23,555,232	18,573,468
Less: outward reinsurance	(11,368,202)	(9,055,364)
<b>Net earned premium</b>	<b>12,187,030</b>	<b>9,518,105</b>
Rental income	-	-
Investment income	2,136,036	2,169,053
Exchange gain	38,896	102,098
Other income	70,419	81,665
Commission earned	2,203,768	2,576,697
<b>Total income</b>	<b>16,636,149</b>	<b>14,447,619</b>
Commission expense	(3,230,568)	(2,887,567)
Claims incurred	(4,855,832)	(3,275,960)
Fair value loss on investment property	-	-
Finance costs	(4,336)	-
Interest on lease liabilities	(18,913)	-
Impairment of accounts receivable	(262,713)	(27,678)
Operating and other expenses	(5,483,016)	(7,202,994)
<b>Profit before income tax</b>	<b>2,780,771</b>	<b>1,053,419</b>
Taxation	(376,423)	(737,742)
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>2,404,348</b>	<b>315,677</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income (OCI)</b>		
Gain on fair valuation of equity investment through OCI	10,481	144,572
Deferred tax thereon	(3,144)	(43,335)
<b>Total change in fair value of equity investment</b>	<b>7,336</b>	<b>101,237</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to the owners</b>	<b>2,411,684</b>	<b>416,915</b>

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019 TZS 000	2018 TZS 000
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Share capital	5,610,000	5,610,000
Non-controlling interest	-	-
Contingency reserve	6,087,661	5,438,169
Capital reserve	1,412,632	1,412,632
Revaluation reserve	108,452	101,116
Retained earnings	2,033,242	699,138
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>15,251,987</b>	<b>13,261,055</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	170,539	117,463
Right-of-use assets	377,477	-
Investment property	-	-
Intangible assets	25,107	56,736
Investment in subsidiary	629,102	629,102
Equity investments at fair value through Profit or Loss	492,659	453,215
Equity investments at fair value through Other Comprehensive Income	482,479	471,998
Receivables arising out of reinsurance arrangements	3,753,739	4,343,273
Receivables arising out of direct insurance arrangements	-	382,638
Reinsurers' share of liabilities	21,290,964	14,099,912
Deferred acquisition costs	591,361	87,821
Other receivables	946,670	982,673
Loan to subsidiary	581,595	599,616
Current income tax	666,276	(192,258)
Deferred tax	1,416,097	1,613,388
Corporate bonds	267,463	261,092
Government securities	7,470,195	7,154,017
Deposits with financial institutions	13,594,500	12,655,540
Cash and bank balances	2,068,789	2,189,046
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>54,825,014</b>	<b>45,905,272</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Unearned premium	8,502,471	11,292,751
Outstanding claims	26,147,464	16,944,382
Payables arising out of reinsurance arrangements	1,494,127	1,310,541
Payables arising out of direct insurance arrangements	-	1,361,166
Bank loan	-	-
Lease liabilities	388,994	-
Dividend	420,750	-
Other payables	2,619,218	1,735,378
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>39,573,024</b>	<b>32,644,217</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>15,251,987</b>	<b>13,261,055</b>

#### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	Share capital TZS 000	Capital reserve TZS 000	Contingency reserve TZS 000	Revaluation reserve TZS 000	Retained earnings TZS 000	Total TZS 000
<b>2019</b>						
<b>At 1 January</b>	<b>5,610,000</b>	<b>1,412,632</b>	<b>5,438,169</b>	<b>101,116</b>	<b>699,137</b>	<b>13,261,055</b>
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	2,404,348	2,404,348
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	10,481	-	10,481
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	-	649,492	-	(649,492)	-
Dividends for 2019	-	-	-	-	(420,750)	(420,750)
Deferred tax charged through OCI	-	-	-	(3,144)	-	(3,144)
<b>Total changes</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>649,492</b>	<b>7,336</b>	<b>1,334,105</b>	<b>1,990,934</b>
<b>At 31 December</b>	<b>5,610,000</b>	<b>1,412,632</b>	<b>6,087,661</b>	<b>108,452</b>	<b>2,033,242</b>	<b>15,251,987</b>
<b>2018</b>						
<b>At 1 January</b>	<b>5,610,000</b>	<b>1,412,632</b>	<b>4,840,754</b>	<b>(235,707)</b>	<b>2,132,303</b>	<b>13,759,982</b>
Prior year adjustments	-	-	-	-	(690,616)	(690,616)
Additional Unexpired Risk Reserve (AURR)	-	-	-	-	207,185	207,185
Deferred tax on AURR	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reclassification from FVOCI to FVPL	-	-	-	235,586	(235,586)	-
Expected credit losses	-	-	-	-	(617,732)	(617,732)
Deferred tax on ECL	-	-	-	-	185,320	185,320
<b>Restated balance as at 1 January</b>	<b>5,610,000</b>	<b>1,412,632</b>	<b>4,840,754</b>	<b>(121)</b>	<b>980,874</b>	<b>12,844,438</b>
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	315,678	315,678
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	101,237	-	101,237
Transfer to contingency reserve	-	-	597,415	-	(597,415)	-
<b>Total changes</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>597,415</b>	<b>101,237</b>	<b>(281,737)</b>	<b>416,915</b>
<b>At 31 December</b>	<b>5,610,000</b>	<b>1,412,632</b>	<b>5,438,169</b>	<b>101,116</b>	<b>699,137</b>	<b>13,261,055</b>

#### STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019 TZS 000	2018 TZS 000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Cash generated from (used in) operations	287,160	(983,751)
Interest income received	2,067,571.95	2,126,172
Dividends received	68,464	42,882
Tax paid	(1,040,965)	(562,120)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>1,382,231</b>	<b>623,183</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property plant and equipment	(117,256)	(86,630)
Purchase of investment property	-	(7,044)
Purchase of intangible assets	(483)	-
Purchase of quoted shares	(97,940)	-
Sale of quoted shares	2,526	-
Redemption/purchase of corporate bonds	(5,881)	(5,881)
(Increase)/ decrease in government securities	(316,178)	(4,049,511)
(Increase)/decrease in fixed deposits	(2,105,193)	(2,206,688)
Net movement in loan to subsidiary	(18,021)	(7,992)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	7,414	466
<b>Net cash generated from / (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(2,651,012)</b>	<b>(6,363,280)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Interest paid in relation to leases	18,913	-
Payment of loans and borrowings	-	-
Payment of the lease liability	(60,395)	-
<b>Net cash (used in)/generated from financing activities</b>	<b>(41,482)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net (decrease)/ increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(1,310,263)</b>	<b>(5,740,098)</b>
<b>Movement in cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	7,756,761	13,496,859
(Decrease)/ increase during the year	(1,310,263)	(5,740,098)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>6,446,498</b>	<b>7,756,761</b>

Leonard Mususa	Murtaza G. Habib	Ravi Shankar
Director	Director	Chief Executive Officer

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FRIDAY 3 APRIL 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Decision on parliamentary sessions laudable, as we all hope for the best

MEMBERS of the National Assembly on Tuesday agreed on procedures to follow during the current sessions of the House's marathon Budget meeting in the wake of the spread of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) infections.

Restrictions have been placed on the number of MPs to attend the sessions on any particular day, and even then, within an auxiliary requirement of mandatory testing on a daily basis.

MPs unanimously bought the mandatory testing proposal from the opposition, which speaks volumes about the seriousness with which Tanzanians view the matter.

There are various other measures, all affecting the breadth of parliamentary work and the intensity of discussions - for instance, in relation to the cancellation of the weekly session of direct questions to and answers from the Prime Minister.

This particular measure appears mainly due to the tightened time schedule for business in the House's business, with enhanced priority directed at constituency needs and ministerial work. Broader parameters of accountability are put on hold when the timeframe is a bit constrained.

As seen in other countries, this crisis time is a situation where some political differences are put aside so that the focus can be directed on what unites the country.

The key issue in legislative work is maintaining oversight via basic transparency in the work of the government, while additional parameters of oversight work depend on having a supportive environment. When there is a virtual state of emergency as at present, that can't be assured.

## Even with lockdown not yet necessary, we ought to exercise utmost vigilance

THERE is a wide range of sentiments in the country with respect to what exactly ought to be done should the coronavirus disease bite further.

More specifically, the sentiments revolve around the relevance and/or necessity of a lockdown to halting the coronavirus.

Thus far, there are numerous voices against the instituting of a lockdown, part of the argument having to do with social as well as economic considerations.

As lately reported, many workers are already being retrenched in some sub-sectors - even with a lockdown policy yet to be executed. The cotton industry as well as mineral prospecting and exporting are given as examples in this regard.

Some African countries are resorting to lockdown measures, all right, two of the more visible ones on the eastern side of the continent being South Africa and Zimbabwe.

In these, conditions by and large compare to ours, despite intense variations in the level of gross urbanisation, presence of industries and income per capita.

On that particular scale, South Africans stand a better chance of surviving within that situation. Zimbabwe, though pushing the option, is likely to find it hard to sustain it.

Tanzania has expressed greater optimism, but anything can happen - and it's crucial that we continue to exercise as much care and vigilance as humanly possible.

A lockdown policy may be perceived as a dilemma in the real sense of the word. Public authorities have opted for cautious approach, with hopes upfront that the disease wasn't going to sink too deeply in our midst if we do the needful but also without need-

It wasn't clear how far parliamentary committees consulted and reached on the framework of the key proposal, as much of what goes to the debating chamber or to the Speaker as a question or proposal would in many cases have been worked upon.

On this issue there was no dissent on the need for mandatory testing, though there were shades of emphasis in how MPs could or would participate, with an implied suggestion that anyone testing negative could participate. That doesn't appear to have been the overall outlook, whose focus is social distancing - with prior mandatory tests.

Parliamentary work as well as media following on what MPs are doing will now depend more on efficient delivery of relevant documents in the morning before the session in the afternoon, while the media will receive documents much later.

As the public is used to plenty of electronic communication or day-to-day needs, this mode of consultation and service provision will not be much of a problem technically.

All this will definitely have a bearing on the upcoming General Election, which President John Magufuli has declared will be held as scheduled - this October.

It was already clear that months of agitation ahead of the polls would be cut short by the Covid-19 emergency, and even the semblance of formal campaigning for the polls was similarly at risk.

But the holding of the five-yearly polls is of great national significance, and postponement might do more harm than good. It is only to be hoped that, relative to the Covid-19 pandemic, all will be well by mid-year.

lessly taking chances.

The fewer the cases there are in the country, the more assured the public psyche is likely to be, and while Monday's addition of five cases hasn't shaken this assurance definitely, it makes it a bit weaker.

More worrying is when the first cycle of incubation of those who came across those from abroad who were infected, and even those who are now being traced and found to have been infected, is completed.

Analysts, among them higher level medical authorities, fear that the circle of infections could then widen - and the wider it is, the more difficult the tracing would get.

To a considerable extent, our best line of hope would be Adam Smith's famous line on human endeavour within market competition. He said there was a 'Hidden Hand of Providence', and not just market forces.

Without a clear ability of asking people to remain indoors without fear of starvation, a hidden hand of providence would be greatly needed so that the densities we keep encountering in buses, markets or prayer houses don't become centres of an explosion of the disease, having started as a handful of isolated cases of travellers from outside. It is to hope against hope.

So during this 'lull before the storm', as some people might call it, only providence can keep us safe while potentially infected people whose virus loads are incubating and multiplying inside are gathering force.

Without such a restraining hand, the moment one or two such persons hit dense market areas like Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone and even a far less attended prayer house, the situation will be hard to handle. God forbid that this shall come to pass.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

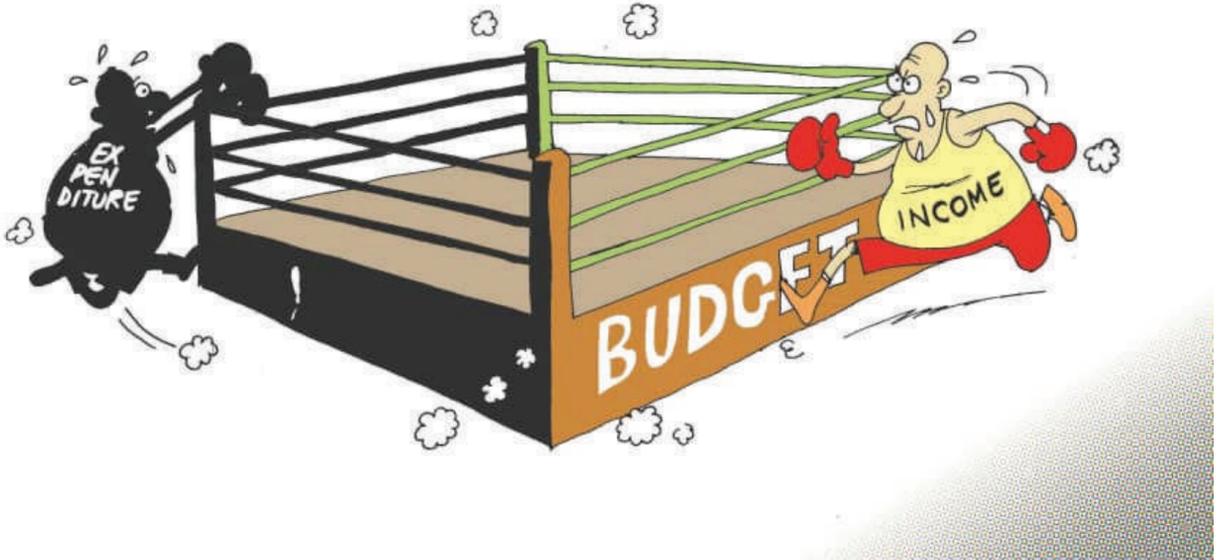
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## We are barreling towards economic catastrophe - until we have a vaccine

By Steve LeVine

JUST weeks after the stock market crashed in 1929, US President Herbert Hoover assured the country that things were already "back to normal", Liaquat Ahamed writes in *Lords of Finance*, his Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the financial catastrophe.

Five months later, in March 1930, Hoover said the worst would be over "during the next 60 days". When that period ended, he said: "We have passed the worst."

Eventually, Ahamed writes, "when the facts refused to obey Hoover's forecasts, he started to make them up". Government agencies were pressed to issue false data. Officials resigned rather than do so, including the chief of the Bureau of Labour Statistics. And we all know how that turned out: The Great Depression.

Today, President Donald Trump is accused of minimizing the coronavirus as it has bored down on the United States, initially barring most foreigners who had visited China from entering the US, but then losing a full month before taking further measures.

The virus would not spread in the US, Trump said on February 26, "especially with the fact that we're going down, not up. We're going very substantially down, not up".

Even today, the White House has failed to organise a nationwide mobilisation that would arrest the virus and persuade traders, CEOs and ordinary Americans that the crisis is in hand. As a result, Covid-19, on its current trajectory, threatens the US with a profound economic downturn.

Covid-19 arrived amid the longest expansion in modern American history. The economy had grown for more than 11 years and added jobs for 113 straight months.

Stock markets were hitting repeated highs. But the economy at large was slowing - it grew by 2.3 per cent in 2019, down from 2.9 per cent the prior year, the slowest in three years, and far below the 3.1 per cent projected by the White House.

For 2020, the Federal Open



Market Committee forecast just 2 per cent growth, and economists surveyed by Bankrate estimated a 35 per cent chance of recession by the November election.

Red lights of a laggard or even a bad year were blinking: Businesses were not investing in the future - private investment growth had plunged to 1.8 per cent from 5.1 per cent in 2018. Even consumer spending, the singular engine of growth, was just 1.8 per cent in the fourth quarter, down from 3.2 per cent in the prior three-month period.

It was the same globally. Economic growth hit a six-year low last year in Germany, Europe's engine, falling to 0.6 per cent, its slowest since 2013. Japan's economy shrank by 6.3 per cent and the country already appeared to be headed for its first recession since 2015.

The global economy as a whole rose by just 2.4 per cent last year, its lowest rate since the 2009 financial crash. An expectant mood grew of something that would finally push the US and the world into an economic contraction, though no one could say what it would be. Today, a rising level of alarm over the coronavirus has led 30 states to shut down large parts of their economies and the rest to issue varying stay-at-home advisories.

Against the financial toll, the Fed has struck, marshalling far greater firepower than it did in the Great Recession. Congress, too, has approved triple the relief it spent attacking the 2009 financial crash, and is now talking about another, even pricier package. In all, the government has so far thrown some \$6 trillion at Covid-19, most of it at the economic fallout. In

part, the reason for the government's distress is a widely accepted estimate that up to 240,000 Americans could lose their lives even with current measures against the virus. But left barely spoken is the explicit economic threat: a depression-like downturn rivaling the 1930s - prolonged double-digit joblessness, an unprecedented economic contraction, and widespread bankruptcy.

### Financial cannons not doing?

The reason for the grim economic outlook is, oddly enough, the government's very concentration of its financial cannons on the economy. When the government shows that it has a convincing regime in place to restrain the virus - massive, population-wide testing, and a way to trace and quarantine those with whom victims have been in contact - the markets will gain confidence, and a floor will be created underneath the economic collapse. Until then, we are looking at the current freefall.

In a rare peek at official thinking, James Bullard, president of the St. Louis Fed, told Bloomberg last week that the jobless rate could climb to 30 per cent next quarter and that the economy could contract by 50 per cent. That was not counting for the impact of hundreds of billions of dollars thrown at companies by Congress as support to hold on to their workers.

But even so, private estimates after the legislation are similar - Goldman Sachs forecasts a 34 per cent economic contraction and 13.2 per cent unemployment in the second quarter, and Deutsche Bank 33

per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.

Although no one placed the forecasts in historical context, if we reach anywhere near those numbers, it will be far worse than the Great Recession, and nearly the magnitude of the Great Depression.

The Great Depression can be traced back to a stock market bubble that began to form in early 1928. The market almost doubled, far overshooting the pace of corporate profits and triggering a mania.

The market peaked on September 3, 1929. But large stock traders had already been selling out of their positions - a third of 826 stocks on the New York Stock Exchange were already down by 20 per cent or more from their highs.

Then the slide began. In late October, it turned into a rout: In four days culminating on October 29, the Dow fell almost 25 per cent.

Even though no one at the time thought the real economy should or would be damaged, it was. From 1929 through 1933, US production fell by a third, some 7,000 US banks failed, and 5 million men lost their jobs. The jobless rate did not go below double digits for the entirety of the 1930s.

It was the same in Europe - 4.5 million citizens were without work in Germany and 2 million in Britain. Like many human-made devastations, the Depression was exacerbated by a natural disaster - the Dust Bowl, a terrible, multi-year drought in the South and Midwest that threw tens of thousands of people out of their homes and forced them onto the road.

Much is made of the unusual nature of this downturn caused by a pandemic - that in effect, it's an induced coma. The implication is that if and when the shutdown orders are lifted, business will revert to normal.

But that's not necessarily true. The airline industry is an example: since the arrival of the virus, flights have continued on a limited basis, but planes are flying nearly empty. Even though people can fly, they aren't doing so.

Combined, the pre-virus condition of the economy, and Covid-19 on top of it, add up to a malaise that won't vanish by lifting shutdown orders.

"It's not clear that businesses would stay open if the shutdowns were lifted. No one is going to go out because they will worry about the disease," says Jay Shambaugh, a fellow at the Brookings Institution and former chief economist for the Council of Economic Advisers in the Obama administration.

To shore up the economy, the virus has to be brought under visible control. "The faster the virus stops, the quicker and stronger the recovery will be," Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said in a statement last week.

But there is no sign that that is where the US is headed: we have no idea how many Americans are afflicted with Covid-19, no prospect of finding out soon, and no cure in sight. Because the actual scale of the US outbreak isn't clear, economists can only give solid near-term forecasts.

The absolutist way of stopping the virus in its tracks, and thus allowing the economy to be opened up in two or so months, would be a total shutdown of the American economy.

### Will shelter-in-place orders do?

In a CNN interview last week, Bill Gates suggested such a 50-state solution. And already, there are examples of what a full shelter-in-place order can achieve: China, which placed the virus epicentre of Wuhan under lockdown and initiated similar restrictions on a number of other places, on Monday reported a bounce in March manufacturing numbers after a plunge in February.

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By Dorothy Tembo

WITH the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) having reached the African continent, countries are getting ready to manage the spread of the virus and ensure that their fragile health systems can cope. Images from China and Europe give many reasons for concern.

In addition to the health challenges posed by COVID-19, Africa is already feeling the effect on its economies. With industries shutting down in Asia, America and Europe demand for raw materials and commodities is declining, but it is also hampering Africa's access to industrial components and manufactured goods (including medical equipment).

Initial actions in Africa have focused on slowing viral contagion with measures, including the closing of borders. These actions come as the continent has been making bold moves to increase economic integration, with African Union officials recently swearing in the first-ever Secretary-General of the newly created Secretariat of the African Free Continental Free Trade Agreement. The coronavirus could represent a risk for the continental project but leaders could also turn it into an opportunity for stronger collaboration if certain policies are fast-tracked. Quick gains could be achieved by consolidating the regional integration initiatives they are already implementing.

The closing of borders, for instance, can send a very different signal depending on how governments do it. Where leaders of neighbouring nations close borders together, as those of Portugal and Spain have done, it is a symbol of partnership in the fight against a pandemic. Reducing flows of people while keeping borders open for goods signals continued faith in the importance of economic activities and trade in providing the goods people need to continue their daily lives. In Africa, such collaboration will be crucial, especially for the continent's sixteen landlocked countries.

The crisis may also provide African leaders with an opportunity to look at regional value chains differently. Reliable regional supply chains characterize North America, Asia and Europe. In Africa, however, integration in international markets mostly entails integration in global, not regional, value chains - with Africa providing the raw products for processing elsewhere around the world.

Opportunities for creating regional value chains exist, notably for making motor vehicles or in aerospace activities in Northern Africa. But designing regional strategies may mean agreeing on which component of the value chain is produced where, and can involve trade-offs that policymakers do not always find it easy to make.

# The cost of coronavirus in Africa: What measures can leaders take?

But the exceptional nature of the pandemic could provide fertile ground for regional collaboration by policymakers in the fields of pharmaceuticals, disinfectants, diagnostic testing equipment or protective garments. Such decisions will have to be taken and implemented very rapidly.

African leaders can also act in unison in the fight against the economic consequences of the pandemic. Nobody knows how much the pandemic will affect global GDP, but any impact is sure to be significant. Estimated losses in GDP growth for the world as a whole - but also for Africa as a region - currently hover around between 1.5 and 2 percentage points. Those figures are most likely to be revised to include even greater losses.

The travel industry has been the first to be impacted. Airlines around the world are struggling, and tourism has been hit hard. The blow will not go unnoticed in African countries like Tunisia, Egypt and Kenya - where tourism represents around 14%, 11% and 10% of GDP respectively. For underperforming regional airlines, this could spell disaster.

Shutdowns in China and Europe, notably in the apparel, machinery and footwear sub-sectors, will significantly hit global supply chains - with consequences for Africa. Traditionally reliable sectors in Africa - like the cut flower industry - could also take a pummeling.

In countries that impose lockdowns, large parts of the services sectors are likely to suffer dire outcomes. The hospitality, sports and recreation sectors, and large parts of retailing, are among those most affected by partial or full lockdowns.

The drastic drop in oil prices - triggered by events independent of the coronavirus pandemic but now reinforced by the negative demand resulting from it - is set to compound these economic shocks. Oil exporters like Nigeria will see their revenues shrink.

Faced with this outlook, African policymakers may want to ask themselves how long businesses in their countries can survive in the absence of or with significantly reduced revenues and what the scale of job losses may be. For many micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), with fewer assets to ride out the storm, the survival rate may only be counted in weeks. That is why small businesses, more than larger businesses, will tend to go out of business or cripple their capacity to be competitive.



Yet, because MSMEs employ around 70% of the workforce in most countries, shedding workers will only aggravate the economic downturn brought on by the pandemic.

Knowing how small businesses act as a lynchpin connecting the pandemic to a broader economic recession, governments around the world have scrambled to reduce the operational stresses on them. They have introduced policies meant to help MSMEs cope with short-term financial risks and long-term business implications. This will, it is hoped, reduce layoffs, prevent bankruptcy, encourage investment and help economies get back on their feet as soon as possible. These measures include concessional financing; tax reductions and grants; employment incentives;

technical assistance; and indirect measures.

Low-interest loans and other concessional financing, aimed at easing short-term liquidity issues, have been among the most popular policy measures announced to date. But the experience of the 1970s oil price shock shows that this can have a limited impact in the supply-shock, low-interest rate environments that exist today. Instead, the most effective way to prevent bankruptcies may be measures aimed at reducing costs for MSMEs - such as tax breaks. Investment in digital trade and investment facilitation must also continue - countries with such facilitating policies will be first off the mark in the post-crisis period.

All of these measures require funding. Countries with fiscal space will find it easier to introduce them than those without it. Unfortunately, global debt levels have continued to increase

after the financial crisis over a decade ago. Though the bulk of global debt is held by the industrialized world, its increase has been more important in the developing world over the past decade. Concerted action among leaders may therefore be necessary in order for efforts to support small and medium sized businesses not to have negative repercussions on financial markets.

History shows us that cross-border collaborations often arise during or after significant crises. The First World War prompted the creation of the International Labour Office; the United Nations was formed in the aftermath of the Second World War. The construction of the European Union was also a reaction to that conflagration.

The African Union has already recognized that Africa will be stronger if countries are more integrated and unified with the birth of the African Continental Free Trade Area. A similarly

strong commitment to joint action by leaders on the continent would undoubtedly benefit the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and its economic consequences for Africa.

These actions should include a recommitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, to multilateralism and a pledge to help those that will be most affected by the economic downturn: small businesses, women, young people and vulnerable communities. The International Trade Centre (ITC) with its mandate to build the competitiveness of small businesses in developing countries, emphasizing women-owned businesses and people at the base of the economic pyramid, stands ready to support these efforts.

Dorothy Tembo is the Acting Executive Director of the International Trade Centre, a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization

## The coronavirus: Will women fare worse than men?

By Suzanna de Baca

LIKE most Americans working remotely during the pandemic, I've been comparing notes with colleagues and friends on how we're keeping everything together. Particularly, there is a theme to the conversation. After discussing how hard it is to keep up with the ever-changing news cycle and how we are handling the terrifying possibility of the virus affecting our families and loved ones, invariably the conversation turns to the herculean challenge of juggling work, caring for children and managing household responsibilities. You know -- the normal challenges of being a working woman.

These conversations prompted me to consider how the coronavirus will affect women differently than men.

From a mortality perspective, according to a March 24 report by the World Economic Forum, research from China suggests that "while COVID-19 is infecting men and women in about equal numbers, women appear less likely to die from the virus than men."

But while there's a lower mortality rate for women, other inequalities persist. Research indicates that pandemics do affect men and women differently; a pandemic actually magnifies all existing inequalities. Therefore, it is likely that women will suffer economically and in terms of indirect health outcomes from the coronavirus.

In an article titled "The Coronavirus is a Disaster for Feminism," in the March issue of the Atlantic, the author looked at recent pandemics (Ebola; Zika and recent outbreaks of SARS, swine flu

and bird flu). Academic research revealed that "they had deep, long-lasting effects on gender equality."

One striking finding: While income across the board was affected by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, "men's income returned to what they had made pre-outbreak faster than women's income." Indeed, there was a ripple effect that hurt women -- declining rates of childhood vaccination led to children contracting preventable diseases, which then forced their mothers to take time off work.

In the coronavirus pandemic, a similar ripple effect will also affect women, who traditionally do three times as much unpaid care work as men. Providing special care or assisting relatives who may be vulnerable or relatives with the virus increases

that care burden.

In other pandemics, school closures had consequences. Mass school closures across the globe and in the U.S. will disproportionately affect women, because despite advancements, we still bear more responsibility for child care. Past pandemics have also led to more girls dropping out of school, often exacerbated by teen pregnancies. In addition, during pandemics there has been rise of domestic and sexual violence against women. While we have not yet seen reports of these behaviors, they are almost inevitable in a prolonged period of sequester and stress.

Reports of past pandemics also showed that overall women's health declined because all resources were

diverted to the outbreak. In particular, maternal health outcomes suffered. This already is happening today. Elective surgeries and annual OB-GYN exams are being canceled or delayed, and women giving birth in hospitals are at high risk. Abortions are being considered elective despite the time sensitivity of the procedures.

Finally, and perhaps most saddening, is the fact that women make up the majority of health and social care workers. Right now, women even more than men are on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19. Caring for others may come at a steep price.

What does this mean for us as women, or for us as a society of men and women together? Awareness and action are key. If a pandemic ex-

acerbates underlying inequities, we must first acknowledge those social inequities or obstacles for women and we must be vigilant in addressing those barriers.

For employers, it means continuing programs to support and advance women, even at a time when budgets are being slashed. As a society, we must not waver in providing education, access to health care, and protection for women. In our households, it means striving to divide labor in a truly equitable way.

Knowing the outcomes from past pandemics, we can take a hard look at our own workplaces, communities and personal actions and ask: Are we bound to repeat history, or will we support women this time around?

# Africa must remove pain points that hamper inclusive growth

By Hanan Morsy

“LEAVING no one behind” is a fundamental principle, aspiration, and strong commitment at the heart of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Over the past two decades, achieving high economic growth has taken center stage in African countries’ development policies.

In 2019, six African countries were among the world’s 10 fastest-growing economies: Rwanda at 8.7%, Ethiopia at 7.4%, Côte d’Ivoire at 7.4%, Ghana at 7.1%, Tanzania at 6.8%, and Benin at 6.7%.

In most African countries, growth fundamentals and macroeconomic governance have improved. Some countries have undertaken large infrastructure projects, such as road constructions and rehabilitations, or modernized their energy networks. Others have invested in the health and education sectors.

While this is highly commendable – and good news for the continent – it is clear that rapid growth has not been enough to address the two persistent problems of extreme poverty and inequality. In fact, the overreliance on fast growth has sacrificed one important priority: inclusive growth.

According to the African Development Bank’s “African Economic Outlook 2020” report, progress has been made but much remains to be done.

From 2000 to 2017, only 18 of 48 African countries with available data managed to achieve inclusive growth that cut both poverty and inequality. Despite fast growth, the disparity in the living standards between the rich and the poor in the 30 other countries remained essentially unchanged or, worse yet, widened.

Evidence suggests that in the majority of countries, the benefits of growth are going primarily to the middle classes and the rich.

This finding is particularly alarming given African countries’ commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. The report warns that it can no longer be business as usual. If we do not challenge the status quo, the continent as a whole will not eradicate extreme poverty before 2045.

The good news is that there is



a growing consensus that beyond growth, targeted approaches are needed, and many African countries have developed poverty reduction strategies.

By prioritizing inclusive growth and shared prosperity, African countries can accelerate toward eliminating extreme poverty.

For instance, a government that adopts inequality-reduction strategies is projected to cut extreme poverty by 6 percentage points more than one adopting inequality-neutral strategies, according to the bank’s analyses.

All else being equal, countries that focus on the quality of their economic growth as well as the quantity are

more likely to achieve success in tackling extreme poverty.

How can African countries improve the quality of their growth? The report highlights two important policy actions.

First, empirical evidence suggests that simply allowing workers to move freely across economic sectors and national boundaries would boost incomes and reduce poverty and inequality.

This labor reallocation, a key feature of structural change, will require addressing underlying labor mobility issues in Africa, including labor regulations and employment policies. This will also require education

reforms to ensure that workers have qualifications and skills that are transferable across sectors.

Implementation of transnational agreements such as the African Continental Free Trade Area could play an important role in the removal of existing obstacles to the free movement of workers.

Second, a wider distribution of the benefits of growth is critical for shared prosperity. It is common to hear ordinary people, when asked about the benefits of economic growth, respond to the effect that they have not seen evidence of it in their own lives. Fast growth

must become more reality than abstraction.

For that to occur, African governments should improve and expand social security to ensure that poor citizens also benefit from growth. Potential programs to add include conditional cash transfers, social protection programs, and targeted subsidies.

In African countries where such programs have been rolled out – such as South Africa, Liberia, and Chad – poverty has fallen more rapidly among beneficiaries than among the wider population.

The analysis contained in the “African Economic Outlook 2020” report suggests

that there is hope for Africa as a whole to achieve inclusive growth. If some countries on the continent have managed to reduce both poverty and inequality while improving the living standards of their poor populations, others also have the potential to do so.

For that, the quest for higher and faster economic growth should be pursued in tandem with initiatives to ensure that the fruits of growth and prosperity are shared by all citizens.

Hanan Morsy is the director of the macroeconomic policy, forecasting, and research department at the African Development Bank Group.

## We are barreling towards economic catastrophe – until we have a vaccine

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In addition, in the United States, a San Francisco-based medical tech firm has reported a drop in fevers in states where strict state-at-home orders are in effect.

Given that the US is a democracy and not a dictatorship, such a shutdown would require a gigantic Zoom conference call involving the governors of all 50 states, along with Trump, in an appeal for collective action.

The most palpable relatively recent analogy would be 1990 when Iraq invaded Kuwait and threatened global order, and US President George H.W. Bush assembled a coalition of 39 countries and 500,000 troops to turn it back. In the current case, Trump would want the entire nation to lockdown until a regime of testing, tracing, quarantining was in place.

But to get there, Trump would have to act against type – in his three years in power, Trump has bristled at collective action, and preferred to issue decisions by tweet. As long as he continues to be unable to rally group action among the governors, the outbreak is likely to be prolonged, along with the magnified economic impact on jobs and production.

A key worry today is the tendency by pandemics and the economic reverberations from them to repeatedly return. During the Spanish Flu, the second wave was, in fact, deadlier than the first, a mutation that killed 195,000 Americans just in the month of October 1918, which was 28 per cent of the total of 675,000 American deaths.

In the case of the coronavirus, a second wave has already struck Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, all of

which got through the initial outbreak with few cases by imposing stringent control measures learned in the 2002 SARS virus – but in mid-March were hit by a new spike of Covid-19.

Private economists worry that, after the coronavirus dissipates, the US and other countries will let down their guard and end up in the same place as those three countries.

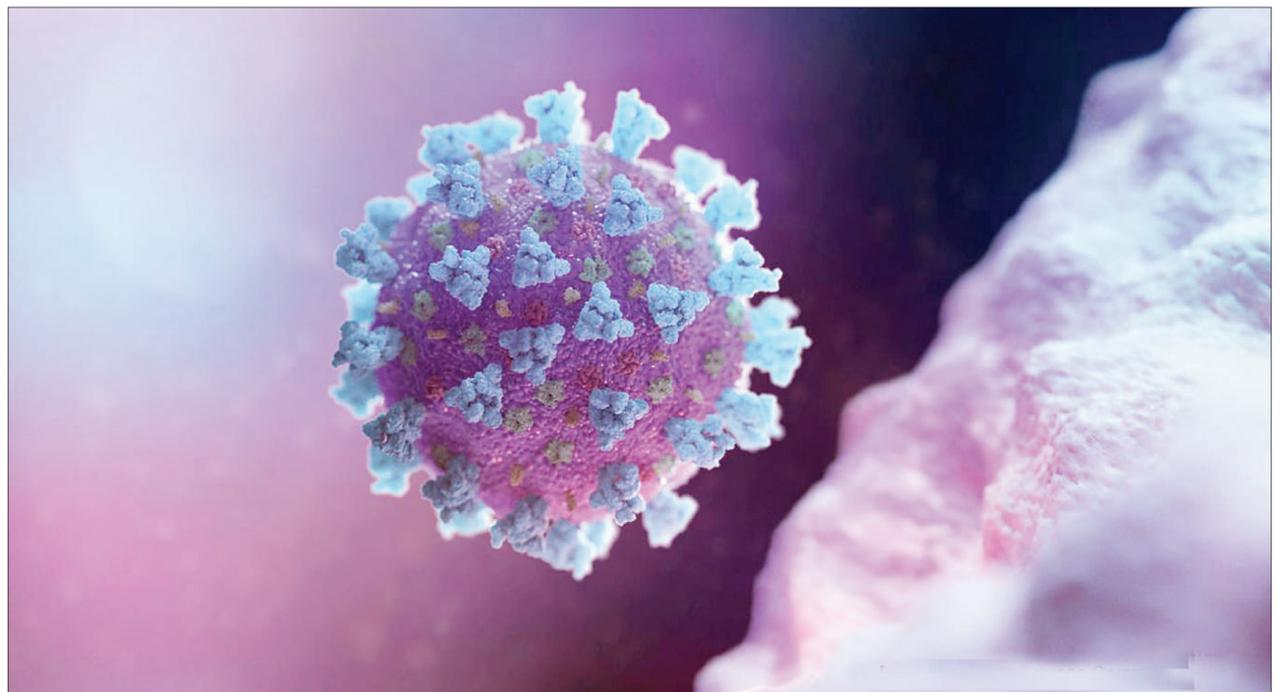
Glenn Hubbard, a professor at Columbia and former economic adviser to President George W. Bush, told the New York Times that if the virus wipes out entire industries such as restaurants or airlines, it could beget a “doom loop” in the economy as a whole – meaning waves of such failures.

Another fear is that, if the US and the rest of the world fail to contain the virus over the next year, they risk the closure of borders becoming the new normal.

In a recent piece in Foreign Affairs, Branko Milanovic, an economist at the City University of New York, describes a new global order characterised by such economic loneliness.

It would be “a different world – deglobalisation,” Milanovic said in an interview. In what he calls self-sufficient “natural economies”, countries would try to take care of all their needs themselves and do business as little as possible with other countries. Milanovic foresees the potential for this future to cascade catastrophically: economies would shrink, living standards would drop and social glues could consequently break down, leading to the risk that those left jobless turning violent against people who are better off.

Just like happened with a number of the potential social changes triggered by Covid-19, globalisation was



already under threat, challenged by the growing nationalism of the last three or four years. “The virus is an accelerant,” Milanovic said.

Some economists think the unprecedented government largesse, including a \$2.2 trillion cash infusion signed by Trump on March 27, will be sufficient to compensate for the hit to the economy as long as the virus levels out in a couple of months.

Karen Dynan, an economist at Harvard and a Treasury Department official in the Obama administration,

said the relief is a significant fraction of annual US GDP of \$22 trillion and that the entire economy is not down. “It’s a matter of getting the money to the right people,” she said.

But there is plenty of reason to plan for things not playing out this way. Andrew Sheng, the Hong Kong-based chief adviser to the China Banking Regulatory Commission, said he expects it to take a full two years of repeated lockdowns of economies around the world before a vaccine is distributed and the virus is under

control.

Over that period, Sheng said, it would take a Marshall Plan-scale stimulus to forestall a global depression – something that, given the fractured statesmanship of the period, seems improbable.

The problem is more grave than the worst downturns of the past, Sheng said, noting: “This time round, we are facing an unprecedented health, economic, financial, social, and geopolitical crisis at the same time.”

He explained that what was worse

was that no one was “emotionally prepared for the rapid escalation and devastation”. Until there is a vaccine, he said, any experts saying they could predict an outcome would be misinformed or lying.

The only conclusion that is certain is that the virus and its fallout will not pass any time soon, according to Sheng.

• **Steve Levine is Editor at Large at Medium with interests in ferreting out the whys for the turbulence all around us.**

# Africa's female farmers need better access to resources

By Lewis Ndichu

AFRICA'S female farmers play a vital role in food production and food security, with 80 percent of agricultural production coming from small farmers, most of whom are rural women.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), women in some African countries spend up to 60 percent of their time on agricultural activities, accounting for up to 50 percent of labor on farms in sub-Saharan Africa.

Yet Africa's female farmers are excluded from conversations that determine agricultural policies, while discriminatory laws and practices deprive them of their land, their rights, and their livelihoods.

First, female farmers in Africa depend on rain-fed agriculture and have little access to such things as fertilizer, seeds, water, credit and a market for their products.

Second, most of them either own small pieces of land or have no land at all. In addition, they receive only 7 percent of extension services and 1 percent of all agricultural credit, and own only 1 percent of the land.

Third, biased cultural practices restrict African women from accessing information and communications technology. Furthermore, illiteracy and a lack of formal education are constraints that most rural women face.

Fourth, socioeconomic conditions affect the decision-making role in agriculture. Although Africa's female farmers are heavily involved in agriculture, their level of participation in farm management decision-making is quite low.

Fifth, women in Africa are rarely connected with agricultural export crops such as cocoa, rubber and cotton, but rather are involved with the production of food crops that do not yield large revenues, compared with export crops.

However, initiatives aimed at mentoring, empowering and raising the next generation of women in agriculture are starting to pay off.

The African Union Development Agency, which is responsible for implementing the continent's major projects for regional integration, organizes conferences for women in agribusiness as a direct response to the African Union's call to enhance support for participation of women and young people in gainful and attractive agribusiness opportunities by 2025.

In October last year, the African Union's Commission for Rural Economy and Agriculture launched a campaign to reduce the drudgery of rural women. This signifies the continental agenda of promoting agricultural mechanization among women to improve food production and security.

In February 2017, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, an eight-nation bloc created to deal



with issues related to drought in the Horn of Africa, signed a memorandum of understanding among its member states in East Africa. The aim was to realize their strategy on peace and security as well as regional integration.

This has helped women to build more inclusive societies, mitigating the effects of climate change and supporting more transparent natural resource management.

In West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States is spearheading a project for meeting the Zero Hunger Challenge, a program launched by the United Nations in 2012.

This highlights the gender gaps inherent in the region's agricultural and rural development

sectors, and provides policy recommendations for agricultural growth and transformation that will leave no woman behind.

At the national level, the Kenyan government passed policies last year that award tenders to agricultural enterprises led by African women.

In Nigeria, the National Gender Policy of 2006 has enabled the integration of women into the agricultural development system by providing equal access to such things as credit, loans and extension services.

In Ethiopia, a program is being implemented by the government to introduce basic labor and time-saving technologies, along with the necessary knowledge, to smallholder female farmers'

cooperatives as crucial elements in the sustainable escalation of the value chain in agriculture.

Devoting resources to researching the impact of agricultural policies and new techniques on the well-being of female farmers will go a long way in promoting systematic evaluation of mechanisms to improve women's access to agricultural markets and ensure their participation in agricultural value chains.

In addition, improving access to financing by lowering collateral requirements will empower women in agribusiness.

The recognition of these contributions is crucial, given the bulk of challenges in Africa today. However, much still needs to be done.

## Concerns as coronavirus hurts business in Moshi

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

BUSINESS community in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region has raised concerns over deteriorating trade mainly contributed with the outbreak of Coronavirus.

The businessmen, among them from courier services said their business have been affected following suspension of flight services by a number airlines across the globe.

Managing Director of a Moshi-based local courier company—Ex-

cel Courier and Cargo Transportation Limited Eng Samwel Nnko said his business has been heavily hit by the outbreak of COVID-19 since he mostly relied on airplane services to export and receive goods.

"We are cargo transporters; we transport goods from Tanzania to various destinations around the world and within the country. Currently, we can only transport cargo and parcels to different regions across Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar", said Eng Nnko noting despite the global Corona-

virus pandemic, the industry still face other challenges.

Eng Nnko mentioned the challenges as lack of awareness to many Tanzanians on the use of courier services. He said efforts are needed to educate people on the importance of using register courier companies to ensure safety and security of their parcels and cargo.

"There are several advantages of using courier services because your cargo won't be damaged or lost", he said.

According to him, there is a

need for the government to establish a regulatory body that will control operations of both, local and international courier companies.

He said leaving the sector unregulated somehow contributes into poor provision of services as everyone can enter the market.

He added that, his company collaborates with various international courier companies including Holland based international courier firm—Parcel International and others.

Last week, stakeholders in the

business sector challenged the National Assembly to come up with a financing policy to bail out businesses following slump in demand due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Kariakoo business community deputy secretary Martha Mwaijande said the disease has caused huge impact to businesses.

She said currently, the individual purchasing power had dropped adding that without economic recovery measures, none of them will be operating.

Mwaijande said 99 percent of the business person have received loan from the financial institutions, therefore the central bank should come with strategy where taxes can be paid on installment.

Citing in 2008, the government unveiled 1.7trn/- to stimulate the economy after the world economic crisis.

An economist from Mzumbe University -Dar es Salaam campus, Prof Honest Ngowi said the coming parliamentary meeting starting in Dodoma today

should come up with a solution to the situation.

He said most traders are in difficult times following the slump in demand after most countries banned movements of people.

Prof Ngowi noted that coming up with good financial policy will help to stimulate business ecosystem.

He added that it should be aligned with provision of subsidies to imported goods, tax relief especially VAT adding that failure of that would lead to total economic paralysis.



Covid-19 international: People in Southern Africa have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, with long queues forming at food outlets despite lockdown measures being in place in several countries.

## Food security at risk as African countries lock down

By Jeandré van der Walt

FEARS are growing about the impact the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) global pandemic could have on food supplies in some of South Africa's neighboring countries, as citizens there have also been ordered to stay indoors.

Lesotho began a three-week nationwide lockdown on 22 March, following South Africa in implementing some of the world's toughest measures to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Zimbabwe has also followed suit, with both countries declaring their agriculture sectors essential industries, which meant that farmers would be allowed to continue operating.

However, Dr Theo de Jager, president of the World Farmers' Organisation, pointed out that as a country, Lesotho had never been food self-sufficient.

"It is a country situated in a mountainous landscape and therefore cannot

produce everything it needs to feed its citizens," he said.

De Jager said he believed that special arrangements would have to be made for trade and, in particular, the movement of processed food across the border.

Local media in Zimbabwe reported that the country could face a hunger crisis amid the pandemic, due to the country's economic challenges and a shortage of staple foods such as maize and maize meal, following a devastating two-year drought.

De Jager agreed with this assessment, saying the country had already experienced a variety of major challenges even before the lockdown measures were implemented.

"Zimbabwe hasn't been in a worse position since 2000," he said.

He added that while the country was expecting a relatively good crop, it had not yet been harvested, while livestock

supply was also low.

De Jager said that the lockdown in South Africa could result in a severe shortage of commodities and cash flow for Zimbabwe.

"A large part of Zimbabwe's household food security is covered from South Africa by people living and working in the country and sending food and money to their families in Zimbabwe."

He stressed that this could become a major problem in a country that relied on international trade for food security. Meanwhile, Bloomberg reported that some countries had halted exports in an attempt to secure domestic food supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kazakhstan, one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, banned exports of the grain and various other products, while Vietnam temporarily suspended new rice export contracts. Freshplaza also reported that Turkey had suspended lemon exports.

## Covid-19: Morogoro residents urged to make weekly, monthly purchases to ease congestion at marketplaces

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO residents have been challenged to make weekly or monthly purchases to reduce congestion at market places especially during this period when health experts encourage social distancing as part of preventive measure against the Coronavirus.

Speaking to this paper yester-

day, Mawenzi Market Chairman, Ramadhan Mohammed said there is a need for residents in the region to adopt new shopping cultures to avoid going to the market every day. He said most markets are congested with more than 1,000 people daily the thing that poses health risk to shoppers during the virus outbreak.

"It is better to take precaution and prevent ourselves from the

disease, let us stay home and do our shopping weekly. We do not have confirmed cases of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in our region but is better to start taking precaution to avoid infections", said the Chairman.

Another leaders, Peter Rioba urged customers to make sure they wash their hands before entering the market premises and after their shopping.

He said the market management has ensured availability of hand sanitizers as well as other hand washing facilities for customers.

"Only two buckets of hand sanitizers are used by pay, there are some people still reluctant to wash their hands. We have a total of 15 hand washing facilities placed at different places within the market", said Rioba calling upon the media to assist

in sensitizing people on the importance of frequently washing their hands.

Coronavirus disease is an infectious disease caused by a new virus. The disease causes respiratory illness (like the flu) with symptoms such as a cough, fever, and in more severe cases, difficulty breathing.

Its prevention measures include washing hands frequently, avoiding touching face, and

avoiding close contact (1 meter or 3 feet) with people who are unwell.

Coronavirus disease spreads primarily through contact with an infected person when they cough or sneeze. It also spreads when a person touches a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth. There are 20 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Tanzania, of the number, one died early this

week and 2 have recovered. Globally, there are 937,567 confirmed cases of the disease, among them 194,311 have recovered. The global number of fatalities has reached 47,256.

Burundi announced on Tuesday the first two diagnosed cases there of the COVID-19 virus. The two patients are Burundians, 56 and 42, who had arrived from Rwanda and the United Arab Emirates via Rwanda.



# IN A HISTORIC MOVE, PANAFRICAN PAYS 27.5BN/- SUPER PROFIT TAX TO TREASURY

By Property Watch Reporter

**N**ATURAL gas producer, PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited has made a record 27.5bn/- in additional profits tax to Treasury hence entering history books as first ever oil and gas company in the country to do so.

The gas producer which extracts the commodity from Songo Songo Islands in Kilwa district of Lindi region and supplies more than 40 industries in Dar es Salaam, paid the super profit tax after a clause in the production sharing agreement triggered.

PAET's Managing Director, Andy Hanna said after producing gas for more than 15-years, this important clause has finally been triggered as the 2001 signed PSA. "It might be an unusual thing to say, but we are delighted to be able to make this major payment. Up to the end of 2019, the company has already paid to the government 555bn/- in taxes, duties and levies, plus a further 160bn/- under the normal profit sharing mechanisms," Hanna said.

He said according to the 2001 agreement, several obligations are placed upon PAET and have all been met with the additional profit tax being the last. Hanna said achieving the latest obligation while increasing and sustaining gas production required considerable financial investment and acceptance of risk on its part.

"The additional profits tax we have now paid further demonstrates the value of this project to the people of Tanzania. That value is not just about revenues though. It is also about the power, industrialization, employment, services, safety and savings it has delivered," Hanna added saying PAET is made up almost



Natural gas flares at PAET's Songo Songo gas fields in Kilwa District.

entirely of Tanzanians.

The PAE chief further noted that alongside the achievement, the employees have increased the production capacity of the Songas gas plant to ensure more gas could be supplied to Tanesco for power generation, and have developed more than 50 kilometres of downstream supply infrastructure to power more than 40 industries.

"The company's investments

have enabled local manufacturers to reduce their production costs of products, created many employment opportunities and helped build an oil and gas service industry in the country that will form the basis for future development. Until recently, such investments have constrained the company's profits since production started in 2004," the PAET MD explained.

Under the PSA, once the com-

pany has recovered its operating costs and paid all taxes, duties and levies in accordance with the laws of the land, the remaining profits are shared with Treasury in proportions agreed within the contract.

"However, unlike many other gas contracts, the Songo Songo PSA restricts the level of profit the company can make. When the costs of the company's operations have been recovered and

returns increase above a certain threshold, a special clause within the agreement is triggered, and a windfall tax, becomes payable to the government," he elaborated.

The tax is paid entirely from what would otherwise be the company's profit. It is paid above and beyond the regular revenue share, taxes, duties and levies that are payable for the year.

## 40% of world's passenger jet fleet grounded, analyst says

GENEVA

Almost 40% of the world's passenger jets have been taken out of service, according to data from travel industry consultant Cirium.

Its latest bulletin on the Covid-19 pandemic's effect on the global travel industry suggests that more than 1,850 aircraft have been put in storage since Friday. The result is that many airports have been transformed into plane parks. Forbes magazine reports that Munich airport, the second largest in Germany, has closed much of its main terminal, and that more than 100 planes are unused on the tarmac.

It adds that the airport has put its expansion plans on hold for the foreseeable future. The effect has been most severe in Europe, presently the region most severely affected by the virus. Figures from the European airport trade body, Airports Council International Europe, released two weeks ago, forecast that the region's airports will have 187 million fewer passengers in 2020, a fall of 7.5% over the year. This will result in a €1.32bn loss in revenues in the first quarter alone, it estimated.

Cirium's figures suggest that US carriers American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines flew a total of 1,216 of their Airbus and Boeing aircraft on Saturday, 28 March, about a third fewer than the previous Saturday.

Airports have also introduced measures to control the spread of the virus. For example, Prague airport in the Czech Republic has designated separate gates for passengers arriving from Italy and employees have been told to monitor those passengers for signs of respiratory disease, and to report any passengers showing symptoms to airport security.

In Italy itself, airports such as Milan's Bergamo have installed thermal cameras to detect passengers with raised temperatures. Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport now has medical staff to check the health of all passengers.

Many other airports around the world have followed suit. Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Turkey and Singapore airports now have thermal screening. In the past week, such screening has been introduced in 20 US airports, including New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, Chicago and the world's busiest, Hartsfield-Jackson in Georgia. Meanwhile, in South Korea, airline crew are being offered hazmat suits.



Grounded Emirates Airlines planes in Dubai.



A bird's eye view of Nairobi's Kibera slum, which is the largest in Africa.

# Shaping Africa's urban areas to withstand future pandemics

NAIROBI

The power of cities comes from the number of interactions they enable, between people, firms and markets - they are centres of social interaction. For all their virtues, however, cities have a major downside. They are a fertile ground for contagion, such as the rapid spread of Covid-19.

This is because cities are by definition places of density, with large numbers of people living and interacting in close proximity. Furthermore, many cities are deeply embedded in national, regional and global networks. This is embodied by infrastructural features such as airports, ports and other transport terminals ferrying goods and people at a high frequency. As such, the potential

for transmission rates of Covid-19 within them may be far higher relative to national averages.

This is aptly illustrated by New York City, which already accounts for approximately half of all known cases in the US. Perhaps even more shocking, it accounted for 5% of all confirmed cases in the world - and it is just one city of about 8.6 million people.

"You can't fight a virus if you don't know where it is." These were the words of Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, at his briefing on the Covid-19 pandemic in mid-March...

Contagion in African cities Given the characteristics of many African cities, the situation, without

appropriate mitigation measures, could be far worse. For example, density levels in certain parts of African cities, most notably in slums and other informal settlements, may be even higher than New York's. It is estimated that about two thirds of Nairobi's population lives on just 6% of its land. In Kampala, 71% of households sleep in a single room.

These congested settlements have few amenities. Only an estimated 56% of the urban population in Sub-Saharan Africa have access to piped water. And even those with access, they can spend 30 minutes or longer sourcing it.

This begs the question whether frequent hand-washing - one of two of the main measures to prevent transmission - is even feasible. The same goes for physical distancing, the second

recommended preventative measure, both given density and also because it runs contrary to many African societal norms, which are inherently deeply communal.

At the same time, one of the drivers of rural-urban migration in Africa is the relatively better access to services in the city. This includes health services. Data from the countries with already well-developed and funded health systems show that they are experiencing immense strain with Covid-19 patients.

In the US, it is predicted that at least 200,000 intensive care unit (ICU) beds will be needed in the case of a moderate outbreak. The whole of Uganda on the other hand has 55 ICU beds in 12 operational units. It is clear that with similar infection rates African health

systems would collapse. Yet people are still more likely to be treated in urban areas. In Uganda's case, 80% of these ICU beds are located in Kampala.

Economic distress from lockdowns To reinforce physical distancing, many governments in Europe and US are enforcing strict temporary lockdown measures. African governments, which still lag behind in terms of the known infection rate, are quickly following suit - some with even harsher measures. Given that urban centres are major economic nodes they will naturally bear a disproportionate economic burden of any lockdowns. This effect will rapidly percolate through the whole economy.

Urban dwellers working in the informal sector will be the first and potentially some of the hardest hit.

About 85% of workers do not receive a reported wage. Rather in many African cities, the majority earn their daily keep from the informal service sector, particularly selling or providing manual labour. Here there is no option to work from home: both because of the lack of necessary infrastructure such as power and more importantly because their jobs are predicated on face-to-face interactions.

Even though they are working, their daily earnings are small. In Kampala, for example, a survey of informal sector firms showed that 93% of them are already operating below the poverty line. Therefore lockdowns, for these populations, will mean not earning a wage and affect their survival.

# VODACOM'S INSTANT SCHOOLS IS ONLINE EDUCATION PLATFORM TO GRACE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

By Property Watch Reporter

**W**HEN the country is in a 30 days partial lockdown with schools and colleges closed, Vodacom Instant Schools is an important platform for students and teachers to interact through e-learning.

In a statement yesterday, Vodacom Tanzania Plc said the platform brings the education experience to students and teachers wherever they are located. The program is part of Vodacom's wider agenda to promote quality digital learning throughout the country.

"The education portal curates digitized education materials incorporating primary and secondary curriculum that can be accessed free through mobile devices and computers at any time. The benefits of the platform are significant particularly during this period when the world is combating the spread of COVID-19," the telco said.

The statement further noted that as communities around the world are practicing social exclusion and schools closed, Vodacom's Instant School learning platform is an important vehicle to ensure students



Students sampling Vodacom's Instant Schools platform on laptops during the launch in Dar es Salaam recently.

and teachers continue to interact.

"Recently, Vodacom in partnership with Universal Communication Services Fund (UCSAF) launched

the second phase of computer and internet connectivity as part of efforts to promote digital literacy in schools across Tanzania," the

statement added.

The Vodacom and UCSAF partnership will see over 81,500 students from 163 primary and

secondary schools reached by the end of the project in 2020. Digital learning does not mean simply learning through a phone, tablet or personal computer, it means much more like bringing the learning experience to where students or teachers are located. It is more a way of learning rather than a type of learning, the telco's release noted.

The idea of digital learning is to make training more efficient and to improve the learning experience of students using the latest technology but the goal is not to entirely abandon classical teaching methods but rather to enhance the use of innovation.

"With the use of digital learning solutions, the goal is to help the learner gain skills or knowledge needed without worrying about the place and time of the action, the pace of learning and the learning means," Vodacom's statement explained.

Vodacom has played an important role in setting an enabling environment through its vast network coverage and telecommunication infrastructure investment to provide access to subscribers to tap into the Instant Schools portal, enabling students to continue with learning out of the classroom at this crisis period.

## Orascom Construction reports profit fall despite higher revenue

CAIRO

Egypt-based Orascom Construction reported a 16 per cent fall in profit for 2019 despite an increase in revenue.

Net profit to shareholders fell to \$121.3 million due to higher financing costs in Egypt and the performance of Besix (a contractor in which it has a 50 per cent share) in the fourth quarter. Revenue for the year was 5.7 per cent higher at \$3.18 billion, due largely to growth in its Middle East operations.

New awards grew by 51 per cent year-on-year during 2019 "through the addition of quality, well-funded projects", Orascom Construction's chief executive Osama Bishai said in a statement. "In Egypt, we reinforced our position as a leading player in the development of Egypt's infrastructure and are executing important projects across all major construction segments such as water, transportation, new cities and healthcare. We also remain focused on pursuing new opportunities within the region across sectors in which we hold a competitive edge."

Revenue in the company's Middle East and Africa business grew 7.4 per cent to \$2.18bn, or about 69 per cent of the total. Revenue from its US operations grew by 2.1 per cent. The company reduced its total debt pile by 75 per cent to \$95.7m at the end of 2019, contributing to a 24 per cent increase in net equity to \$585.7m at year end. It is proposing a dividend of \$0.21 per share - a conservative dividend payout given potential uncertainties due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

"While our 2019 financial results and current financial position allow us to distribute a higher dividend, we elected to take a more prudent approach given the potential uncertainty related to Covid-19," Mr Bishai said in his statement.

## Africa's biggest city Lagos get locked down in defence against coronavirus



Deserted streets of Lagos after the lockdown.

ABUJA

Lagos, Africa's largest city of at least 20 million people, ground to a halt on Tuesday as it and the Nigerian capital Abuja entered a two-week lockdown to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Lagos' usual unending cacophony and interminable "go slows" or traffic jams were gone. Streets were virtually empty but for ambulances and police vehicles. Security forces manned frequent checkpoints where cars crawled through one by one.

Africa's confirmed cases had climbed to at least 5,300 by Tuesday morning, with more than 170 recorded deaths, according to a Reuters tally. In the little more than 24 hours since Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari had announced the lockdown, coronavirus had transformed one of the world's biggest megaci-

ties, where many live in slums and eke out a living at the best of times.

However, the terms of the lockdown have created confusion. While Nigeria's president said food retailers and health facilities could remain open, he did not say whether people could leave their homes to buy necessities or seek care.

On Awolowo road, a normally busy street in the upmarket Ikoyi district, Andy Bankong, a bank security guard, had accepted his fate of a long trek home. No public transport meant walking more than 4 miles. Soldiers told him he could not return to the bank. "If I lose the job, I can't support my family. And it isn't easy to find work now in Lagos," said the father of two, who sends money to his wife in the southern state of Cross River to feed their children and pay for school fees.

Few were on the streets. Even

health staff struggled to get to work. "I am medical personnel," said Onolapo Adebayo, speaking shortly before 9 a.m. at a bus stop. "They are calling me to start coming to the office but there is no vehicle." People who could not afford to stockpile for the 14-day lockdown were left dependent on government relief packages.

The Lagos state government has said it will distribute food to those in need to last the 14 days, targeting 200,000 households, or 1.2 million people, on Tuesday. On Monday, the federal government in Abuja said it had begun cash transfers to Nigeria's poorest households to sustain them through the crisis.

Across the continent, other countries have introduced their own relief programmes for people, including South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana. Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi on Tuesday declared

a State of Emergency following three confirmed coronavirus cases. The southern African country will enter a 28-day lockdown from midnight Thursday.

"This decision was by no means taken lightly," said Masisi. "I am convinced that I make it in the best interest of our nation." South Africa, where a lockdown began on Friday, will be the continent's first country to conduct large-scale screening, said President Cyril Ramaphosa, announcing the move late on Monday.

"Around 10,000 field workers will be visiting homes in villages, towns and cities to screen residents for COVID-19 symptoms," Ramaphosa said. But in some countries, new restrictions on movement sparked new fears. In Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa, rights groups have frequently accused police of using excessive force, with complaints about bru-

## Renewable energy taking big strides in Africa south of the Sahara

NAIROBI

Africa's leading economies are increasingly looking to wind energy to power homes. It's part of a trend towards varying forms of clean energy across the continent.

South Africa, the continent's most advanced economy, is a clear leader in renewable energy policy and projects, shows research (pdf) by BloombergNEF. For example it will lead the drive for wind power installations with an additional 3.3 gigawatts added to its energy capacity by 2024, as it both tries to cope with the problems at its national power company, Eskom, and tries to slowly reduce its addiction to coal.

Kenya is also a major leader and opened Africa's largest wind farm last year and is on course to soon be able to claim 100% renewable energy from a range of sources including geothermal and solar. Investment in clean energy in sub-Saharan Africa jumped to \$7.4 billion in 2018 up from \$2.3 billion in 2017. South Africa accounted for \$4 billion of investment driven by a major onshore wind project in 2018.

Clean, renewable energy is being adopted across sub-Saharan Africa boosted by policy incentives, backing by donors to overcome the lack of local finance and developing de-risking mechanisms for reluctant governments. But it's not all plain-sailing: "Governments are struggling to afford existing power purchase agreements and will have to make hard choices if they are to find room for renewables."

While clean energy policies are somewhat limited to tax incentives, BNEF analysts think "low hydro availability and a growing reluctance to finance coal will boost investment in renewables in the long run." That's a good news, it helps that gas and coal are somewhat curtailed by the cost of the infrastructure required to implement new projects.



**Governments are struggling to afford existing power purchase agreements and will have to make hard choices if they are to find room for renewables**

ality, corruption and extrajudicial executions. Already, allegations have been made against security forces, empowered by movement bans to carry out abuses. Videos of South African police beating people in public with sticks circulated on social media.

South African police spokesman Vishnu Naidoo said the videos need to be verified, but have been noted with "serious concern", adding: "such alleged behaviour by security forces is unacceptable, which can be neither tolerated nor condoned."

In Kenya, the director of public prosecutions ordered an investigation into the fatal shooting of a 13-year-old boy in the slum of Mathare, the prosecutor's office said on Twitter. Media reports quoted a Nairobi official as saying the boy was hit by a stray bullet.

## CONSTRUCTION

# CLSA REAL ESTATE SELLS TROPHY BUILDING IN TOKYO'S GINZA AT 43 PER CENT MARK-UP

HONG KONG

**H**ong Kong-based fund manager CLSA Real Estate has sold off a retail property in one of Tokyo's most expensive shopping strips at a 43 percent markup, defying a dealmaking slowdown that has gripped the global markets.

The property investment platform of CLSA Capital Partners - which is controlled by China's CITIC Group - sold the building in central Ginza for \$86 million, after acquiring it for around \$60 million nine months ago.

Mingtiandi understands that the fund manager completed the sale two days ago on behalf of a pair of Singapore real estate companies, with a Japanese investor purchasing the property at a cap rate of between 1.2 and 1.3 percent.

While the name of the building has not been revealed, the six-storey property is located on Chuo-dori Street, not far from Tokyo's oldest department store, Mitsukoshi Ginza, and the luxury shopping centre Ginza Six.

With a net leasable area of 600 square metres (6,458 square feet), the Japanese investor paid \$215,000 per square metre for the property on the glitzy Ginza strip. All six floors of the building are currently tenanted by a Spanish company at a rent of JPY 68,000 per tsubo per month, which is equivalent to a monthly rent of \$200 per square metre.

CLSA Real Estate expects that, once the current lease expires in 2022, a new tenant will take over the property at an increased JPY 175,000 per tsubo per month - matching current rental standards in the area.

Buying low, selling high

A spokesperson from CLSA's Fudo team, which manages the company's platform of pan-Asian real estate funds, informed Mingtiandi that the sale came close to doubling the account holders' equity investment in the property.

Having purchased the asset last July at a ten percent discount to its valuation, CLSA had initially intended to hold the property for a period of around two years. But investor interest in ginza retail properties, which are prized by some Japanese investors as trophy assets, presented an opportunity to exit the investment sooner than planned.

"Demand is strong for retail properties like this one, which are located along Ginza's busiest shopping street," the CLSA Real Estate spokesperson said, while adding that investors often target such retail properties with the mindset of a collector, rather than focusing on investment yield.

The fundamentals of the property market in Tokyo, which drove CLSA's original investment in the Ginza property, continue to be strong, according to the fund manager. "We are positive on the Tokyo market," a CLSA Real Estate spokesperson said, while noting Japan's low borrowing costs, high transaction volumes, and high liquidity as facilitating profitable acquisitions and rapid divestments.

With real estate in the Japanese capital continuing to promise high returns, CLSA said that it is seeing more institutional investors and Asia-based family offices looking to make investments in Japan.

Looking long term amid the pandemic  
 In terms of the general outlook for the market given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has already caused some buyers to back out of deals, the Hong Kong-based fund manager remains



CLSA's Chuo-dori street in Tokyo.

positive.

"Transaction volume will be lower in the immediate term, given the technical difficulties of

carrying out due diligence as a result of restrictions on travel, but commercial activity is expected to pick up once the virus is brought

under control," a CLSA Real Estate spokesperson said. The CLSA representative noted that for investors who have cash in hand,

in addition to holding power, the current situation may throw up some interesting opportunities in the region.

## Arcadis finds London, New York and Hong Kong most expensive cities to build in

AMSTERDAM

Dutch consulting engineer Arcadis has released its fourth annual International Construction Cost Index (ICC) report, highlighting the world's most expensive cities to build.

The ranking is judged on 20 criteria, including construction costs, market conditions, and assessments from Arcadis. The top ten are: London, New York, Hong Kong, Geneva, San Francisco, Copenhagen, Tokyo, Zurich, Dublin and Edinburgh.

The ten cheapest cities are: Hangzhou, Bangkok, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Shenzhen, Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru. The index is now using Amsterdam instead of London as the basis for the relative cost of construction. Arcadis says the change has no direct effect on the relative ranking of cities.

Cities in Eastern Europe including Poland, Serbia and Montenegro were

included for the first time. This year's report addresses the impacts of Covid-19 and climate change on the industry. Arcadis says the industry should plan for a carbon neutral future, as construction accounts for almost 12% of worldwide energy-related CO2 emissions.

Arcadis' list of the 100 most expensive cities to build

Andrew Beard, Arcadis' head of cost and commercial management, said: "With greenhouse gas emissions dropping around the world, the status of our natural environment is perhaps the only area of positive gains from this pandemic."

"This again highlights the fact that over the longer-term, the climate emergency presents an even greater challenge. Right now, as the impact of the virus continues to grow, it is difficult to fathom how we can bounce back quickly. "Nevertheless, we must overcome this crisis,



A construction site in London.

while enhancing resilience and sustainability, and plotting a course towards a carbon neutral future. Our ability to do so will determine this industry's future."

Piet Dircke, Arcadis' leader of water management and resilience, said: "Resilience is our ability to live and thrive no matter what happens. In the con-

text of the Covid-19 pandemic, it means that the construction industry and society as a whole must withstand the negative impacts and learn from the current crisis, to be better prepared for the future.

"We must make smart decisions that can position us to bounce back even stronger the

next time an unforeseeable calamity occurs. Down the line, as construction markets reopen, there will be a push to make these businesses more resilient. Those efforts should be coupled with sustainability so that we are better able to confront the future together and leave behind a better world for future generations."

## Middle East's biggest contractor expects \$2.9bn in revenue in 2020

DUBAI

The Middle East's biggest contracting company, Consolidated Contractors Company, expects as much as \$2.9 billion (Dh10.65bn) in revenue for the year despite a slowdown in the global economy due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

That projection is higher than a previous forecast of \$2.5bn and the company has already secured \$500 million worth of new contracts this year, for major infrastructure schemes in Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, Samer Khoury, president of engineering and construction, said.

CCC, ranked as the 17th-biggest international contractor in the world by US trade title Engineering News Record, reaped about \$4.2bn last year. "If nothing stops, we're going to hit \$2.8bn-\$2.9bn this year. Because we've picked up a few nice jobs," he told The National.

"My only worry is maybe they will not start immediately. If they shift, we go back to \$2.4bn-\$2.5bn. But these are infrastructure jobs that they need," he added, stating that in two of the three markets

the company is already "up and running." "We have the awards, we have the advanced payments."

The company is in the midst of a transition from being a family-led firm to three professional managers - Jamal Bahlawan, Hani Rayya and Yousef Ghanous. "I was on a conference call one hour ago telling them what they need to focus on because now we are facing three things," Mr Khoury said on Tuesday.

"Existing jobs, like the metro in Riyadh, for example, they are limiting the hours we work. We have a big project with Chevron in Kazakhstan - they want us to demolish one-third of the workforce to lessen the density and lower the risk. Some jobs in Egypt like El Alamein ... because they have [coronavirus] cases in El Alamein City they shut down the whole project."

The company is also facing a disruption to operations from Covid-19 outbreaks due to factors beyond its control. In Kuwait, for instance, the discovery of 10 cases on a neighbouring camp led to its workers also being quarantined for two weeks. "So our guys are stuck and can no longer go to work," he said.

## SoftBank to abandon \$3bn WeWork investor agreement

TOKYO

SoftBank Group is scrapping an agreement to spend \$3 billion to buy WeWork stock from former chief executive Adam Neumann and other shareholders, despite threats of legal action from some members of the company's board.

SoftBank had agreed to buy the shares from Mr Neumann, Benchmark Capital and others as part of a bailout package last year, but notified stockholders in mid-March that conditions for the deal hadn't been met.

The deal's deadline is 11:59pm New York time April 2.

"The Special Committee of the Board of Directors of WeWork has been advised by SoftBank, the controlling shareholder of WeWork, that it will not consummate the tender offer which it agreed to in October of 2019," the committee, made up of Benchmark's Bruce Dunlevie and another director, Lew Frankfort, said in a statement.

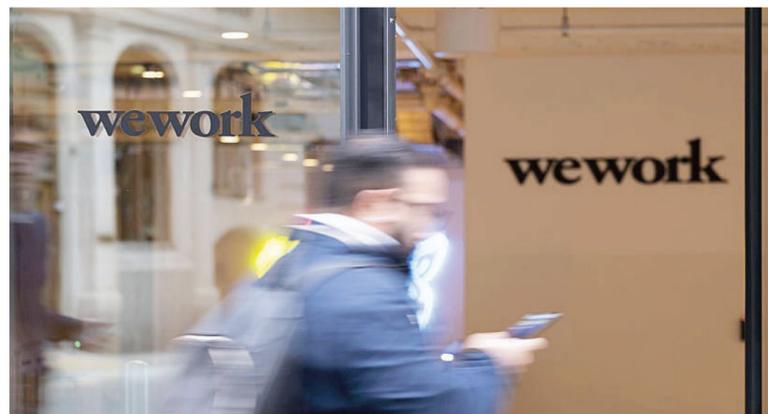
"The Special Committee is surprised and disappointed at this development, and remains

committed to reaching a resolution that is in the best interest of WeWork and its minority shareholders, including WeWork's employees and former employees. The Special Committee will evaluate all of its legal options, including litigation."

SoftBank shares rose as much as 2.5 per cent while the broader Japan market fell. The company didn't respond to requests for comment. The share purchase was hammered out in October as part of SoftBank's rescue of WeWork, after the co-working company's failed initial public

offering left it weeks away from running out of money. In the deal, the Japanese conglomerate would have taken a stake of almost 80 per cent in the company and buy \$3bn in shares from investors as well as current and former employees.

Mr Neumann, ousted in the deal, was set to sell up to \$970 million in shares. The generous exit package angered many of his employees, thousands of whom had their jobs eliminated in the following months as WeWork parent We Co. tried to cut its expenses.



WeWork abandoned its IPO when investors questioned its large losses, the sustainability of its business

## WORLD

# Most Americans huddle indoors as coronavirus deaths keep spiking

LOS ANGELES

FOUR new states imposed sweeping stay-at-home directives on Wednesday in response to the coronavirus pandemic, putting over 80% of Americans under lockdown as the number of deaths in the United States nearly doubled in three days.

The governors of Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Nevada each instituted the strict policies on a day when the death toll from COVID-19 shot up by 925 to more than 4,800 nationwide, with 214,000 confirmed cases, according to a Reuters tally.

President Donald Trump said he saw no need for the federal government to issue a nationwide decree, with 39 states and the District of Columbia now requiring residents to stay home except for essential outings to the doctor or grocery store.

He also told a White House briefing on Wednesday he was considering a plan to halt flights to coronavirus hot

spots.

"We're certainly looking at it, but once you do that you really are clamping down on an industry that is desperately needed," Trump told a White House news briefing.

Such a plan might conceivably shut down traffic at airports in hard-hit New York, New Orleans and Detroit.

"We're looking at the whole thing," Trump said of curtailing domestic flights already greatly reduced as demand has fallen.

White House medical experts have forecast that even if Americans hunker down in their homes to slow the spread of COVID-19, some 100,000 to 240,000 people could die from the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

A Pentagon official who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity said the U.S. Department of Defense was working to provide up to 100,000 body bags for use by civilian authorities in the coming weeks.



President Donald Trump

Since 2010, the flu has killed between 12,000 and 61,000 Americans a year, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The 1918-1919 flu pandemic killed 675,000 in the United States, according to the CDC.

New York state remained the epicenter of the outbreak, accounting for more than a third of the U.S. deaths. Governor Andrew Cuomo told police on Wednesday to enforce rules more aggressively for social distancing.

"Young people must get this message, and they still have not gotten the message. You still see too many situations with too much density by young people," Cuomo, a Democrat, said in imposing rules to close playgrounds, swing sets, basketball courts and similar spaces.

"How reckless and irresponsible and selfish for people not to do it on their own," Cuomo said.

## CALIFORNIA CASES SURGE

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio told a news conference the city was contracting with hotels as part of a massive effort to add 65,000 additional hospital beds by the end of the month.

De Blasio, also a Democrat, said the city had arranged to add 10,000 beds at 20 hotels, which have lost most of their guests as travel has stopped.

"This is going to be an epic process during the month of April to build out all that capacity," de Blasio said. "But this goal can be reached."

California saw the number of coronavirus cases surge by roughly 1,300 over the day before to nearly 10,000 as Governor Gavin Newsom warned that even as stay-at-home policies appeared to be having some effect, the state would run out of intensive-care hospital beds equipped with ventilators within six weeks.

Newsom said California could still manage to "bend" the state's infection curve more, saving the need for additional beds, if residents were rigorous in staying home and avoiding contact with others.

"We are in a completely different place than the state of New York and I hope we will continue to be, but we won't unless people continue to practice physical distancing and do their part," the Democratic governor told a news conference in the state capital, Sacramento.

But Americans under lockdown and largely unable to work struggled with making ends meet as rent came due on Wednesday, the first day of the month.

In Oakland, California, Alfa Cristina Morales said she had been applying on money saved for a U.S. citizenship application since losing her job at a coffee shop. Morales had sought unemployment benefits to support her two-year-old son.

"We're worried that it won't be enough," she said.

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont said a six-week-old baby had died from COVID-19, in what he called "a reminder that nobody is safe from this virus."

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis told Fox News that Broward County would likely allow two cruise ships with coronavirus outbreaks carrying a total of 2,500 people to dock in Fort Lauderdale, despite his misgivings about potentially contagious foreign nationals. **Agencies**

# No new domestic case, China to step up asymptomatic screening

BEIJING/WUHAN

CHINA will step up targeted screening of people infected with COVID-19 caused by a novel coronavirus but showing no symptoms, a health official said yesterday.

The surveillance for asymptomatic infections will be expanded to include close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 patients and asymptomatic patients, cluster outbreaks, and key areas and populations with high risk of infections, Wang Bin, an official with the National Health Commission, said at a press conference in Beijing.

Medical institutions will, with the help of communities and fever clinics, increase efforts to identify asymptomatic patients and put them under centralized quarantine in a timely manner, she said.

Wang said epidemiological investigations will be promptly conducted for asymptomatic patients, and relevant information will be released openly and transparently.

The identified asymptomatic patients will be subject to centralized medical observation for two weeks,

and will be released after testing negative for the virus for two consecutive times, she added.

The commission said Thursday no new domestically transmitted cases of COVID-19 were reported on the Chinese mainland on Wednesday.

The commission said it received reports of 35 new confirmed cases on the mainland on Wednesday, all of which were imported, bringing the total number of imported cases to 841. A total of 26 provincial-level regions on the mainland had reported imported COVID-19 cases, the commission said.

No deaths had been reported from the imported cases, said the commission.

Among the imported cases, 140 had been discharged from hospital after recovery, and 701 were being treated in hospital with 18 in severe conditions, said the commission.

Also on Wednesday, six deaths and 20 new suspected cases were reported on the mainland, according to the commission. All the newly reported deaths were in Wuhan, the provincial capital of Hubei



Children play at a square in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei province, on Wednesday. XINHUA

province, and all the new suspected cases were imported.

On Wednesday, 170 people were discharged from hospitals after recovery on the mainland, while the number of severe cases decreased by 37 to 429.

55 new asymptomatic COVID-19 cases were reported on the mainland Wednesday, including 17 imported ones.

The overall confirmed cases on the mainland had reached 81,589 by Wednesday, including 1,863 patients who were still being treated, 76,408 patients who had been discharged after recovery, and 3,318

people who died of the disease.

The commission said that 153 people were still suspected of being infected with the virus, and 20,072 close contacts were still under medical observation. On Wednesday, 1,898 people were released from medical observation.

Also on Wednesday, 55 new asymptomatic COVID-19 cases were reported on the mainland, including 17 imported ones. Nine asymptomatic cases, all imported ones, were re-categorized as confirmed infections, and 338 were discharged from medical observation, according to the commission.

# WHO seeks urgent debt relief for poor nations as virus tally rises

GENEVA

THE head of the World Health Organization voiced deep concern on Wednesday about the rapid escalation and global spread of COVID-19 cases from the new coronavirus, which has now reached 205 countries and territories.

WHO Director-General Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that his agency, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund backed debt relief to help developing countries cope with the pandemic's social and economic consequences.

"In the past five weeks there has been a near-exponential growth in the number of new cases and the number of deaths



has more than doubled in the past week," Tedros (pictured) told a virtual news conference at

the organisation's Geneva headquarters.

"In the next few days we will reach 1 million confirmed cases and 50,000 deaths worldwide," he said.

China reported dwindling new infections on Wednesday and disclosed for the first time the number of asymptomatic cases, which could complicate

how trends in the outbreak are read.

Asked about the distinction, Dr. Maria van Kerkhove, a WHO epidemiologist who was part of an international team that went to China in February, said the WHO's definition included laboratory-confirmed cases "regardless of the development of symptoms". **Xinhua**

# Xi: Balance pandemic, economy

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping instructed government officials on Wednesday to take more measures to coordinate disease prevention and the resumption of economic production in an effort to fulfill this year's development goals.

Xi (pictured), who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remark at a conference on the conclusion of his four-day inspection tour of Zhejiang province.

He urged officials to fully implement the decisions and measures set out by the CPC Central Committee and coordinate disease prevention and economic development work.

Xi said that after a period of hard work, the situation in China is moving steadily in a positive direction, but the virus is still spreading fast overseas, posing increasing threats to the country.

He instructed officials to remain alert to prevent importation of the virus or any domestic recurrence.

Special attention must be paid to asymptomatic infection, Xi said, adding that prevention and treatment measures must be continued in a strict, substantial and detailed manner.

Preventing importation of the virus should be the most important concern currently and for a relatively long period of disease prevention work, Xi said, adding that a solid defense without any gaps is needed.

He said the spread of the virus overseas has severely impacted international economic and trade activities, bringing new challenges to China's economy. It also has created the need for scientific development and industrial upgrading in China.

Xi instructed officials to analyze the situation and respond proactively to needs created by the current crisis.

The resumption of economic production should be accelerated in an orderly manner on the premise of intensifying disease prevention and control, and the problems of production resumption should be resolved, Xi said.

He instructed officials to take targeted measures to keep the international supply chain unblocked and ensure the normal operation of all kinds of international economic and trade activities.

Xi stressed the importance of the new type of infrastructure construction including the building of 5G networks and data centers. The development of strategic new industries in areas such as digital economy, life and health and new materials should speed up, thus developing new driving forces for economic growth, he said.

He stressed that the country's disease prevention and control system should be improved and the public health emergency administration system improved.

Xi instructed officials to take targeted measures to keep the international supply chain unblocked and ensure the normal operation of all kinds of international economic and trade activities.

Xi told the officials to further implement the strategy of rural development, build beautiful rural villages and townships, promote the flow of capital, technology and talent to rural areas and speed up the modernization of those areas.

He said the officials need to pay attention to agricultural production and livestock husbandry to guarantee the supply of food and vegetables at stable prices.

Xi highlighted the importance of practicing the development philosophy of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets", saying that green development should become a special characteristic of Zhejiang.

Xi said the battle against this pandemic is a practical test of the governing capacity of Party authorities at all levels. Party organizations at all levels should strengthen Party building, make more effort to serve the people and tackle formalism and bureaucracy, he said.

During the trip, which started on Sunday, Xi traveled to seaport, industrial park, rural village and wetland park areas in Ningbo, Huzhou and Hangzhou to inspect prevention and control work on the novel coronavirus disease as well as the economic and social development.

While inspecting the Chuanshan port area of Ningbo-Zhoushan Port on Sunday, Xi said that the seaport's fast resumption of work has great significance for the restoration of the country's logistics chain and the global industrial chain.

He instructed port workers to make further efforts to respond to the restrictive measures taken by other countries on cargo transportation and promote the smooth operation of imports and exports. **Xinhua**



# Investment attraction remains non-stop at China's FTZs in midst of COVID-19

CHINA has continued the efforts in making its 18 pilot free trade zones (FTZs) a new highland for opening up while ensuring strict prevention and control measures since the onset of COVID-19, injecting vitality into the economy of China and the world at large.

Targeted measures to facilitate production resumption have been introduced by pilot FTZs across the country.

To cope with the shortage of protective supplies, Heihe area of China (Heilongjiang) Pilot Free Trade Zone made use of its warehouses overseas and imported a number of epidemic prevention materials. Besides, it offered over 2,000 sets of protective materials and disinfect equipment to employees of manufacturing enterprises for free.

Thanks to the efforts to simplify business approval, a grocery delivery en-

terprise in China (Shaanxi) Pilot Free Trade Zone received its electronic certificate in just one day after application. In Dongjiang area of China (Tianjin) Pilot Free Trade Zone, online approval accounted for 98 percent of the total.

Efforts were also made to address the labor shortage. Honghe area of China (Yunnan) Pilot Free Trade Zone held a field trip to enterprises for job-seekers, during which they could have a close look at the working environment and have salary negotiations with the employers. This allowed many to secure a job near their hometown.

By joining hands with relevant departments, Lingang area of the FTZ in Shanghai has built a platform for enterprises to "share" employees. So far, over 10 enterprises have joined the platform and benefited from this ingenious service.

Having learnt the difficulties faced by enterprises in accessing affordable financing, north China's Hebei pilot FTZ worked closely with financial institutions to provide more loans to trade and foreign-invested enterprises. It also joined hands with relevant departments to prioritize the claims caused by the epidemic.

Regarding the difficulties of enterprises to fulfill contracts, China (Henan) Pilot Free Trade Zone contacted China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Henan Sub-Council, and issued certificates of force majeure for enterprises.

"So far, the measures taken by the pilot FTZs have worked very well, as they responded to enterprises' demands, met their pressing needs, and facilitated production resumption in an orderly way," introduced Yuan Yuan, deputy

director-general of the Department of Pilot Free Trade Zone and Free Trade Port of the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM).

A collective signing ceremony of 59 programs with total investment of over 160 billion yuan was recently held in Nansha area of Guangdong pilot FTZ. HSBC's first global training center was one of the many major foreign-invested projects inked that day.

Calling China an important strategic market for HSBC, Peter Wong Tung Shun, HSBC's Chief Executive for Asia Pacific, said the huge potential of China's economy and the country's cutting-edge financial technology had amazed the world.

Despite the impact of the epidemic, all pilot FTZs did not slacken their efforts in improving services for foreign-invested enterprises and attracting in-

vestment.

Promoting online signing of contracts, Shaanxi pilot FTZs secured 16 projects since the outbreak of the epidemic. Shanghai pilot FTZ also held similar online activities for an array of key foreign-invested projects on Feb.25, covering 21 projects with a total investment exceeding \$1.7 billion.

Nanjing area of China (Jiangsu) Pilot Free Trade Zone actively explored an approach combining both online and offline road show, and continuously perfected an online platform for attracting investment. As a result, ten projects with a total investment of 16.8 billion yuan have been inked in two online activities since Feb.15.

The hard work of the pilot FTZs paid off, according to the statistics in the first two months. Investments flowing to the pilot FTZs in Shanghai and Guangdong

grew 13 percent and 12.8 percent, respectively, while that in Hainan, Fujian and Zhejiang was even higher, reaching 230.2 percent, 149.5 percent and 140 percent, respectively.

As pioneers of the country's pursuit for deepening overall reform and expanding opening-up, pilot FTZs will work faster to drive institutional innovation and improve the business environment.

Guangxi pilot FTZ will implement the rules regarding country of origin declaration and the advance ruling for country of origin in line with the free trade agreement.

Lingang area of Shanghai pilot FTZ made clear that it will simplify cross-border RMB settlement in goods and services for qualified enterprises, so as to realize higher-level trade and investment facilitation. **People's Daily**



Main venue of G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan, in June, 2019 (File photo)

## G20 to inject hope to world

AFTER weeks of chaotic responses by individual countries to the global coronavirus pandemic marked by various restrictions on travel and trade and even finger-pointing, major global powers are finally pushing for coordinated efforts to combat the common threat, injecting a desperately needed sense of direction and hope for a world facing an unprecedented crisis.

Leaders from the Group of 20 (G20) members hold a virtual summit on Thursday to discuss global responses to the pandemic.

The meeting and the G20, which represents two-thirds of the world's population, offer the best platform for countries to coordinate everything from medical supplies to monetary policies to cope with the pandemic, Chinese and foreign analysts said on Wednesday.

China, which has effectively reined in the epidemic at home and has stepped up support for dozens of other countries in their fight against the virus, will likely play a major role in coordinating global efforts and helping guide the world out of the current crisis, given its expertise and massive resources, analysts noted.

Saudi Arabia, which holds the presidency of the G20 this year, announced on Wednesday that it would convene a "virtual leaders' summit" on Thursday afternoon.

Aside from G20 members, other world leaders from countries such as Spain and Singapore and international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will participate in the meeting, according to a statement from Saudi officials.

Chinese President Xi Jinping will take part in the meeting from Beijing, Chinese officials announced on Wednesday. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi reportedly will also join the meetings. It was unclear on Wednesday whether US President Donald Trump and other European leaders would participate.

The meeting would mark the first of such a level and broad participation since the COVID-19 broke out earlier this year and the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic two weeks ago.

It is also coming at a crucial time. The virus has killed more than 16,000 people and sickened over 375,000 in more than 190 countries and regions, with the numbers expected to further jump rapidly, according to the WHO.

Amid widespread business closures and crippled supply chains, the world economy is also facing a crisis potentially worse than the 2008 global financial crisis, the IMF warned.

While the pandemic itself poses serious public health and economic risks, uncoordinated and even "extreme" responses by countries further exacerbated the situation, making coordination through the G20 necessary, said Huo Jianguo, vice chairman of the China Society for World Trade Organization Studies. "At the very least, the G20 could send an optimistic signal to the international community that countries can put aside their conflicts and differences" and join hands to fight the epidemic, Huo told the Global Times on Wednesday.

Defying recommendations from the WHO and proven ineffectiveness, a great number of countries from the Americas to Europe to Africa to Asia have put restrictions on travel and, in some cases,

even trade, placing additional strain on economic activities and complicating global efforts to contain the epidemic with disruptions to the supply of sorely needed equipment.

US officials have even attempted to shift the blame to China with racist rhetoric, hindering any possibility of cooperation between the world's two biggest economic powers and among other countries.

"Only effective global cooperation can contain the potential human and economic toll of COVID-19," the heads of the WHO, the International Chamber of Commerce and the Business Twenty group under the G20 warned in a letter to the heads of state and government of the G20 on Monday.

Among other things, the letter urged G20 leaders to improve experience sharing, ensure steady necessary medical supplies for those needing it the most, increase international assistance, implement urgent short-and medium-term fiscal policies and resolve pending and avoid new trade issues.

"The G20, representing [over 80 percent] of the world economy and population, is the closest to a representative institution to fairly set a global agenda to address these problems," Robert A. Manning, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, told the Global Times on Wednesday, adding that the G20 could play a key role in coordinating a global response to the pandemic as it did during the global financial crisis in 2008-09.

The G20, which was formed in 1999 on the ministerial level, has been widely applauded for its critical role in the world's response to the global financial crisis in 2008. At the height of the crisis which started in the US, the G20 expanded its mechanism and convened the first Leaders' Summit in November 2008 and drew up a stimulus package that many argue saved the global economy from slipping into a depression.

China played a huge role in that effort. With a massive stimulus package that kept its massive manufacturing sector running and increased demand for everything from luxury goods to raw materials, China lifted the economy out of the darkest days of the crisis, the Financial Times wrote last week.

### China's global role

Chinese officials have long been calling for global collaboration in the fight against the virus. With the number of new domestic cases dropping close to none in recent days, China has even extended help to more than 80 countries, including hard-hit countries such as Italy, Spain and Iran.

Aside from sharing its expertise, China, as the world's largest producer of medical supplies, such as masks and ventilators, has also shipped such essential equipment to those countries.

Chinese companies are also continuing to increase production of these supplies and are preparing for more overseas orders.

President Xi has also been maintaining close contact with other world leaders over the pandemic. Since March 12, the Chinese President has held phone conversations with over a dozen world leaders, including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

Global Times

## 'Putin switched all meetings to teleconference format, but there are exceptions'

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin does hold single personal meetings, although he has switched most meetings and other work to teleconference format, Kremlin spokesman, Dmitry Peskov told journalists yesterday.

"This is not exactly a self-isolation. He does hold single personal meetings, when needed. With all precautions, of course," Peskov said, adding that the president has "switched all meetings to teleconference format." According to Peskov, "everything



that involves presence of several officials has been switched to teleconference format."

"Single meetings, working meetings with separate people are not ruled out," the spokesman stated.

Peskov recalled that the president regularly undergoes testing for coronavirus. "All people who meet the president also undergo tests," he noted.

On April 1, Vladimir Putin met with the Cabinet remotely. The April 2 government meeting, led by Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, also took place in the remote format.



FAO Senior Economist Abdolreza Abbassian.

## It took the virus for UN skeptic Pompeo to tout global ties

By Bloomberg

SECRETARY of State Michael Pompeo once warned that international organizations like the United Nations must be "reformed or eliminated." With the coronavirus pandemic ravaging the US and the world, he's now embracing them.

At a briefing this week, Pompeo heaped praise on what he called "these important institutions" such as the World Health Organization and touted -- as he's done several times in recent days -- America's financial contributions to global bodies, without mentioning how often he's supported slashing US funding to them.

"Our generosity, our pragmatism, aimed at saving American lives now and in the future is also exemplified through our work with multilateral organizations," Pompeo said. "They not only help citizens around the world but they protect Americans and keep them safe here as well."

It was a jarring shift for a secretary of state who, like his boss, has railed against the United Nations and in 2018 went to Brussels -- home to the European Union and NATO -- to voice skepticism against the very idea of multilateralism and to question the usefulness of such agencies.

The animosity wasn't just rhetorical. In its proposed 2021 budget, as in years past, the Trump administration proposed cutting voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization by more than half, to about US\$58 million, and sought steep cuts to the UN writ large.

The sudden turnaround is characteristic of a broader softening in tone for Pompeo and an administration that, after playing down the threat of the coronavirus for weeks, is confronted with a reported caseload larger than any other nation, along with a critical shortage of protective gear.

The change is most evident in the rhetoric toward China, the target of scathing criticism from Pompeo.

The top US diplomat helped scuttle a joint statement from Group of 7 nations on March 25 over his insistence that countries identify its origin in China. That earned a rebuke from France,



Secretary of State Michael Pompeo

which urged nations to "combat any attempt to exploit the crisis for political purposes."

A statement from Group of 20 leaders the next day, including the US and China, was far more conciliatory. It called for a "global response in the spirit of solidarity."

"When I read the Group of 20 statement, I was astonished the Trump administration had signed up to it," said Kori Schake, the director of foreign and defense policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute. "It would be a silver lining of this terrible pandemic if this administration moved from its narrow, stingy interpretation of US national interests to one that understands that America engaged in the world achieves our interests."

The reason for Pompeo's change can be traced back to Trump, who has taken more drastic action -- and sought to protect US supply chains to China and elsewhere -- as reported infections in the US overtook the rest of the world's and deaths continue to rise.

Two senior administration officials said the change was an outgrowth of Trump's phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping on March 26. One of the people, who asked not to be identified discussing private deliberations,

said there was a growing recognition that a shoving match with China was counterproductive to the coronavirus fight and made US officials look petty as American cities including New York became overwhelmed by the pandemic.

### 'Angry Rhetoric'

"Our rhetoric tends to be tough and angry but the US does use these institutions when they serve our interests," according to James Carafano, the vice-president for national security and foreign policy studies at the Washington-based Heritage Foundation. "We do want them to function efficiently and effectively when we need them."

Pompeo even appeared to soften his commentary slightly on another facet of US foreign policy that's earned him heated criticism: the determination to press ahead with the maximum-pressure campaign against Iran even as its government struggles to contain the coronavirus.

"The United States understands this is a humanitarian challenge, a humanitarian crisis, and we are deeply committed to ensuring that humanitarian assistance gets to the people of those countries," he said.

Agencies

## US, Russian energy chiefs to discuss oil market volatility

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette will discuss ways of solving the problem of volatility on global oil markets with Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak, Department of Energy Spokeswoman Shaylyn Hynes told TASS.

"Secretary Brouillette will discuss with his Russian counterpart, Minister Novak, ways the world's largest producers can address

volatility in the global oil markets during this unprecedented period of turmoil," she said, commenting on the results of the recent phone conversation between the presidents of Russia and the United States, Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump.

The Kremlin press service said earlier on Monday that Trump and Putin discussed the current situation at the global oil market. "An arrangement was made on

Russian-US consultations in this regard through energy department heads," the Kremlin said.

Commenting on the results of the talks, the White House said the Russian and US leaders "agreed on the importance of stability in global energy markets."

The OPEC+ oil output reduction agreement, which expires at the end of March, has not been extended due to divergent positions of two biggest participants as

Russia suggested that the deal be extended under the previous conditions and for the second quarter of 2020 only, whereas Saudi Arabia insisted on deepening cuts by another 1.5 mln barrels per day by the end of the year.

The failure of the deal has triggered a sharp drop in oil prices coupled with a reduction in global demand due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Agencies

## Music, poetry and paintings, Italians and Chinese inspire each other amid traumatic pandemic

WHILE Italy is at its darkest moment in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, many warm-hearted stories often occur, cheering up people here who have been singing on balconies and painting rainbows to look for hope.

Elisa Lanari cried when she read an email sent to her workplace, the Ancona-based accordion manufacturer Scandalli on Tuesday.

It was sent from Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province,

which was severely hit by the COVID-19. In the email, Bob Liu, a college student at Wuhan, told his story about how a vintage Scandalli accordion has accompanied him during the past weeks of the city's lockdown.

Liu played the accordion almost every day during self-isolation. He said that Italy's outbreak worries him a lot, so he wrote to share his experience in preventing the virus.

Lanari, who is now also working from home, was touched

by the greeting. "Music never stops!" she wrote in her email replying to Liu.

Recently, the Sant'orsola Hospital of Bologna in northern Italy received a special donation from children in the city's Chinese community.

56 children from Chinese families gave away some of their lucky money received from parents or grandparents during the Chinese New Year. The Chinese community gathered 21,731 Euros in two days

and donated it to the hospital, a volunteer who was in charge of the donation, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

Moreover, the children created 84 pieces of art, showing rainbows and encouraging words.

The paintings will be hung in the hospital to comfort patients, the Global Times learned.

While experiencing the nightmare of the outbreak, many Italians have sought to comfort and encourage each other on the In-

ternet. Many people have been using the hashtag #Andratutto-bene, which in English means "Everything will be alright" to show their hope for life.

Artist Alessandro Visintainer composed a mini song "Andrà tutto bene" to inspire people during the pandemic.

"The Antoniano Institute of Bologna wants to make all the children of Italy sing a message of hope. I went to the piano and managed to write 'Andrà tutto bene,'" Visintainer told the

Global Times on Wednesday.

The song was soon widely spread on the internet, hundreds of children and choirs across Italy, even some from China, uploaded videos of them singing it.

"I am very happy because through a simple song all people can spread the message of solidarity," Visintainer said. "And we are very happy that the Chinese community is very close to us in this dark moment."

In the Facebook group "We applaud for Italy" that has gathered almost 700,000 users, people are posting stories and memes about the pandemic to cheer each other up. The administrator quoted a poem of Friedrich Nietzsche by saying that, "He who has a reason to live can bear almost anything."

By Wednesday afternoon local time, Italy had confirmed 74,386 cases of the COVID-19 with a death toll of 7,503.

Global Times

## SPORT

## Juma Abdul has gone from flop to key man at Yanga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

A LOT can change in a short space of time in football. When the Mainland Premier League's 2018/19 season ended, perceived wisdom said Juma Abdul would finally be shipped out of Yanga for good, almost nine years after arriving from Mtibwa Sugar.

It was a rough and tough season for Abdul. A miserable cocktail of form, fitness and confidence had abandoned him, leaving the 2015/16 season's player of the year a shell.

All media reports indicated Abdul would be one of the many players that were to be released by Yanga.

Despite his lack of minutes last season - just 411 in the Mainland Premier League - Yanga decided to let him stay with many fans criticizing that decision.

The decline of Abdul gave rise to the emergence of Paul Godfrey 'Boxer'. The young full-back was a consistent performer for Yanga under head coach Mwinyi Zahera last season.

Godfrey's impressive displays kept Abdul on the bench, restricting the experienced fullback to three starts and only nine appearances in total.

Despite initially impressing last season, Godfrey has failed to build on that early hype - he made 37 appearances and registered two assists in the 2018/19 season.

In this season which is three quarters completed, he has made a mere four appearances.

Injuries he had sustained meant he missed two months worth of action, only returning to the first-team fold at the end of December.

In the absence of Godfrey, however, Abdul forced his way back into the first team. When Godfrey got injured, Abdul was deemed not fit enough to start and so coach Mwinyi Zahera had to deploy a make-shift defense.

Responding to the challenge highlighted by Zahera, the former Mtibwa Sugar defender increased his fitness level and won back his place.

He did not feature in the opening four games of the season he played. When Yanga were beaten 2-1 by Zesco United in the CAF Champions League first round tie, Abdul was the biggest beneficiary of Zahera's decision to abandon a makeshift defense.

Abdul was reinstated in the team and played his first game in the 3-3 league thriller against Polisi Tanzania.

The attacking right full-back has by no means had his best season for Yanga, but he seems to be improving his form with every game.

His powerful surges into space has helped Yanga open opposing teams up on a regular basis, he has registered four assists so far.

Abdul's good form brought him back to the attention of the senior national team coaches who drafted him into both the 2019 CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup squad and the postponed CHAN/AFCON qualifiers.

At his sparkling best, Abdul was a force. He could maraud an entire flank to bring an extra attacking option for Yanga.

However, as much as he has managed to be on good form, fans who are able to cast their minds back to the treble winning team of the 2015/16 season would tell you his best days are behind him.

With 26 appearances across all competitions this season, many fans are happy for Abdul who has given so much for the club and they are all understandably excited to see him return to being one of the key players in the squad.

It should also be noted the exit of Hassan Ramadhan 'Kessy' left Abdul without any stiff competition for his place.

Throughout the 2017/18 season, Abdul battled back and forth with Kessy for the starting right-back spot, a battle that the former could be said to have won in the end.

Suddenly without competition along with natural decline led to his downturn in form.



Juma Abdul

## Wimbledon cancelled for the first time since World War Two

LONDON

THE Wimbledon championships were cancelled for the first time since World War Two on Wednesday as the coronavirus pandemic struck another blue-riband sports event off the calendar and wiped out the entire tennis grasscourt season.

While the decision had looked inevitable for some time, since the virtual shutdown of world sport and the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics, Wimbledon had been one of the few events not to have been officially cancelled or postponed.

But after emergency talks between the various stakeholders over the last few days, the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) announced that it was impossible for the grasscourt Grand Slam, scheduled for June 29-July 12, to take place.

"It is with great regret that the main board ... have today decided that The Championships 2020 will be cancelled due to public health concerns linked to the coronavirus epidemic," the AELTC said in a statement here.

"The 134th Championships will instead be staged from June 28 to July 11, 2021."

Following the cancellation of the grasscourt major, and with the pandemic worsening in Europe and the U.S, the men's ATP Tour, women's WTA Tour and the International Tennis Federation extended the suspension of professional tennis for another five weeks to July 13.

"At this time, tournaments taking place from July 13, 2020 onwards are still planning to proceed as per the published schedule," said a joint statement from the govern-

ing bodies.

Britain's death toll from the virus reached 2,352 on Wednesday, according to NHS figures.

The French Open, originally due to be held from May 24-June 7 was postponed and controversially rescheduled by the French tennis federation for Sept. 20-Oct. 4, shortly after the end of the U.S. Open.

The U.S. Open organisers said they were continuing with their plans to host the hard-court Grand Slam in New York as scheduled from Aug 31-Sept 14.

Players across the tennis fraternity reacted with shock and sadness at the cancellation of Wimbledon.

Roger Federer, whose record haul of 20 Grand Slam titles includes eight Wimbledon trophies, said he was "devastated".

"There is no gif for these things that I am feeling," he added.

In a statement from the organisers of the Halle Open, which was also cancelled, Federer said: "We are going through difficult times but we will emerge stronger. I already look forward to returning to Halle next year. Stay healthy."

Former Wimbledon champion Amelie Mauresmo did not think either the U.S. Open or the French Open would go ahead this year.

"I think we're going to have to draw a line under the 2020 tennis season," Mauresmo said on Twitter this week.

"International circuit = players of all nationalities plus management, spectators and people from the 4 corners of the world who bring these events to life. No vaccine = no tennis." **REUTERS**

## Firm pushes Kilimanjaro Marathon to greater heights



Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Hamisi Kigwangalla (in white T-shirt), and a section of 2020 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon sponsors' officials, pictured with winners of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon after the event's presentation ceremony in Moshi in March.

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon 2020 has come and gone but it has left quite a mark, not just in Kilimanjaro where the event has been taking place for the last 18 years, but across the globe.

Everyone wants to be associated with the Kilimanjaro Marathon being the biggest and most awaited international sporting event in Tanzania courtesy of the main sponsors, Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) Group, through Kilimanjaro Premium Lager brand.

The firm has been backing the race for 18 years. Tigo and Grand Malt once again played a vital role in their respective race category sponsorship.

Immediately after Christmas and New Year festivities, the next big event is usually the Kilimanjaro Marathon which happens around either the end of February or early March.

This year the event took place on March 1, 2020 and attracted more than 11,000 participants.

The race drew nearly triple number of local and foreign spectators in and out of the Moshi Cooperatives University venue where the event took place.

Participants took part in the mighty Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km race, Tigo 21km event and the Grand Malt 5km Fun Run.

## Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 18-year sponsorship

The Kilimanjaro Marathon was first held in 2003 and started with the 10km Fun Run (in subsequent years switched to 5km) where the organizers and a few other participants just ran for fun, plus 21km and 42km events.

TBL Group was interested to sponsor the race from the word go and the company has since then seen the race grow to one of the most attended and followed events in and out of the country.

A 10km race for persons with disabilities was also introduced for a number of years but was later dropped for lack of sponsorship.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Irene Mutiganzi, said they have been there since the race's inception because of the people.

She disclosed the event has year in year out been bringing them closer to their consumers and with time the event has become international with over 58 nationalities battling it out in it and in the process making the face hugely popular.

"It is because of the strong linkage with our consumers that we have been keen to maintain this sponsorship for 18 years now," she said.

She noted the organizers have also been consistent and always conformed with the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) regulations hence making the sponsors comfortable.

"This is an IAAF accredited event hence all the important aspects are considered and this to us is key," she disclosed.

Irene is also happy that the 42km race has become very popular over the years, pointing out entries have been selling out completely nearly two weeks before the deadline.

"We had over 800 runners this year in the 42km race and this to us was quite an achievement because the race has become very popular and it clearly indicates how most people are now determined about healthy living," she noted.

She pointed out they set aside 23m/- as cash prizes for top 10 winners and the first Tanzanians in the male and female category.

She disclosed she is grateful to all Tanzanians who made it happen as without them there would be no event.

She pointed out sponsors are also glad that this year, some Tanzanians featured among the winners in the 42km and 21km races compared to the previous years where the races were dominated by foreign runners.

"We saw entries running out and this tells us how popular the event has become but people did not lose hope. They still came to have fun and cheered their colleagues plus enjoying the interludes of entertainment through the Kili Dome and at the stadium all of which were brought to them courtesy of Kilimanjaro Premium Lager," she noted.

She pointed out they have been keen throughout the years to ensure there is popular entertainment that appeals to all.

Besides running, participants and spectators always look forward to the musical entertainment Kilimanjaro Marathon has to offer and it is a big attraction since they know apart from running, they will get treated with something extra as they enjoy their cold beers.

Among artistes who coloured this year's event include Faustina Charles 'Nandy', George Mde-mu 'G-Nako', Maua Sama, Marian Mdee 'Mimi Mars' and Omary Mwangi 'Marioo' who together kept the huge crowd on their feet as they took to the stage at the Kili Dome and after the marathon at MoCU venue.

Irene noted they look forward to a much bigger event next year as the government has already promised to improve on the infrastructure in order to have wider

er roads that will accommodate more runners.

"This way the entries will not close early and we will have more people," she disclosed.

## The efficiency of Tigo Pesa

Entries closed two weeks before the announced deadlines as capacity was reached and the event could not accommodate any more participants.

The Tigo Corporate Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael, attributed this to most Tanzanians making use of Tigo Pesa to register and pay for the entries.

Tigo Pesa is one of the revolutionaries that Tigo has made in the registration process that saw the cumbersome paper work abandoned hence registration becoming faster.

"This saw the entries close two weeks before the deadline as the organizers could not accommodate any more runners. This is an IAAF accredited race hence there is need to adhere to the rules," she disclosed.

She noted she is glad that Tanzanians have adopted a healthy living mentality and since Tigo took over participation in the 21km race has increased by over 100 percent as five years ago there were hardly 2000 runners in the 21km race.

"This year's race was graced by non-other than the guest of honour himself the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Hamisi Kigwangalla (MP), who ran the full 21km course and finished despite the hilly terrain," she added.

Woinde disclosed with improved road infrastructure, they are sure that the Tigo 21km race will get more participants and possibly double the current 5,500.

"More people would like to participate hence this will give them a good chance as we will have lots of extra entry forms as long as key sections of the roads are widened," she noted.

Another achievement that Tigo boasts of, according to Woinde, is that the 21km race now features many Tanzanians among top 10.

She mentioned some of the runners as Joseph Panga, Felix Simbu, Emmanuel Giniki, Magdalena Shauri, Sarah Ramadhani, and Failuna Abdi who have recently made the brand proud by winning the race.

The telecommunication firm set aside a total of 11m/- as cash prize for the top 10 winners in the male and female category.

"They have gone ahead to do well in other international races like the London Marathon, Cape town Marathon and Tokyo Marathon," she noted.

## 5 km Fun Run

The Grand Malt Brand Manager, Silvanus Mazula, pointed out this year they attracted more than 5000 runners who had lots

of fun as they were led by a couple of leaders including the Minister for Information, Culture, Art and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe (MP).

"People from all walks of life and different ages made us proud this year once again as they turned out in numbers and consumed their Grand Malt as they ran and walked during the 5km Fun Run," he disclosed.

He pointed out the Fun Run has helped in enhancing healthy lifestyles among all the age groups as the race includes children and older people just like the drink itself, which can be consumed by all people regardless of their age.

Two ministers colour the event This year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon was quite different as for the first time, it had two ministers in attendance.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Hamisi Kigwangalla was the guest of honour and he also took part in the Tigo 21km race and finished the race while Mwakymbe was the host.

They came with a mission to promote sports tourism. This was greatly accomplished as the two ministers agreed to work together to attract sports tourism in order to generate more foreign exchange for the country.

"We will talk to our colleagues in government to ensure that the road infrastructure is improved by expanding the roads which are currently narrow and can only accommodate a certain number of participants yet there are many other people who want to participate hence more tourists as well," Kigwangalla disclosed.

He said his ministry will work closely with the event organizers to ensure more success and that the number of participants and tourists go up.

On his part, Mwakymbe pledged support to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and emphasizes on the need for other organizers to emulate the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon and its efforts to promote sports and tourism thus boosting revenues.

He heaped praises on the race organizers and sponsors in particular Kilimanjaro Premium Lager as well as Tigo and Grand Malt in addition to water table sponsors for a hugely successful event.

The minister also praised the organizers Kilimanjaro Marathon Company and race coordinators Executive Solutions Ltd for a well-organized marathon.

"We will work very closely with my colleague Kigwangalla to ensure this is achieved by among others things pushing for extension of the roads to ensure that more participants can safely be accommodated by the organizers," he disclosed.

He said the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon is a major international event.

## South American footballers seek full pay amid coronavirus

SAO PAULO

STARS in some big Europe leagues are taking deep pay cuts amid the coronavirus pandemic but in South America, where most clubs and players aren't nearly as wealthy, local footballers want to be shown the money. All of it.

In Brazil and Argentina, players aren't budging, despite cuts to staffing and wage bills in other domestic leagues while the season is suspended.

In Brazil, negotiations between an association of clubs and the players' union failed to reach any deal on pay and early vacations. Now team captains and executives are trying to reach individual decisions that legal analysts expect to end in the courts.

South America's biggest country has registered more than 240 deaths related to COVID-19, and the Pacaembu stadium in Sao Paulo has been transformed into a hospital to handle mild cases expected for the next few weeks. There have been no professional matches in Brazil for two weeks.

The first pitch by Brazil's top clubs was for a 25% pay cut for players until the end of the pandemic. Executives of the even the richest clubs fear the season shutdown will spook sponsors and debt levels will soar.

But players, including those who have been paid late in the past, haven't given way and have asked for the oversight of the national soccer confederation. The union did give some ground in terms of early vacations. So far, the Brazilian soccer confederation has not intervened.

Former players, executives and coaches said they were inspired by the example of Argentine great Lionel Messi, who took a 70% cut in his pay to help Barcelona keep its staffers during the pandemic in Spain. But the voices they are hearing in Brazil sound more like that of Atlético Mineiro's Guilherme Arana.

"I don't think there is a reason (to cut). We are stopping because we need to," the 22-year-old Arana told Fox Sports of the football shut down. He spent the first months of the year at Italy's Atalanta, near the European coronavirus hotspot. "It is the world that is stopping."

Atlético announced Sunday it will cut wages by 25%, except for staffers on lower salaries.

In Argentina, players' union leader Sergio Marchi insisted in a radio interview that "it is fundamental to respect the wages of footballers."

Paying full wages would allow the players and the league to resume "without any sort of conflict after this contingency is over," Marchi said. "Some (officials) are seeking excuses or mitigating factors for their bad

management or to their flawed behavior at the time they are setting up a budget."

Argentina has about 4,000 footballers, male and female, under contract.

Marchi said the funds to pay wages are there. He says 90% of the country's top flight teams have already been paid by TV and sponsors. Companies that own broadcasting rights said they will pay the entire bill for March, despite the suspension of play in the middle of the month.

So far Argentinian clubs have not cut salaries and the country's soccer federation has not made any recommendations on the issue.

Players in Colombia asked for full pay, but clubs acted swiftly.

Jaguars suspended the contracts of 13 members of its squad, Bogota's Millionarios reduced wages without much debate and Santa Fé, which is also based in the country's capital, pitched fans against players on Twitter by asking them if wages should be cut. The query ended with 62% of fans voting yes.

Colombian league organizers are also asking the government to broaden some economic policies to help football clubs, including those that have suspended players' contracts so they wouldn't go bankrupt.

"We don't want taxpayer money to deal with the financial difficulties during this mandatory stop," Jorge Enrique Vélez, the head of the league, said in an interview with Radio Caracol. "We are asking for policies that the government has already set for tourism and aviation industries. We also had to stop 100%, and we have no revenues during this time."

In Uruguay, some players are now claiming jobless benefits after several clubs, including giant Peñarol, suspended contracts. The country's soccer association has also cut pay for staff, including 73-year-old national team coach Oscar Tabárez.

In Peru there is a big exception in South America. Players of Alianza Lima openly suggested they should be paid less so the club can afford to keep all its workers. Goalkeeper Leao Butrón said the decision was "easy to make."

"Yes, the offer actually came from us. We wanted to give the club a break," Butrón said in a radio interview. "They told us that it is not necessary for now. But we don't know when this will end. We are still willing. Beyond being an economic problem, it is a liquidity issue. A financial issue. We can give a hand if extreme measures are needed."

AFP

## Van Dijk: Messi my toughest opponent, Aguero hardest to mark

LONDON

LIVERPOOL star Virgil van Dijk labelled Barcelona great Lionel Messi his toughest opponent.

Van Dijk and Messi went head-to-head last season, when Liverpool produced an incredible second-leg comeback to beat Barcelona in the Champions League semi-finals.

The Netherlands international paid tribute to Messi, a record six-time Ballon d'Or winner who is regarded as one of the greatest players of all-time.

"There are some difficult strikers out there, but probably Leo Messi," Van Dijk wrote on Twitter

when asked who his toughest opponent was.

However, Van Dijk also credited Sergio Aguero, having faced the Manchester City forward regularly in recent seasons.

Asked who the hardest player to mark was, the defender replied: "Aguero."

Van Dijk said he was "feeling fine" and would be ready to go when the Premier League season, which is suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, resumes.

Liverpool held a 25-point lead atop the table when the season was stopped.

(Agencies)

# Premier League accused of 'moral vacuum' as clubs cut staff wages

LONDON

PREMIER League clubs have been accused of living in a "moral vacuum", with players urged to take their share of the financial hit from the coronavirus pandemic as non-playing staff begin to feel the pinch.

Last year's Champions League finalists Tottenham, as well as Newcastle and Norwich, have faced a backlash for using the British government's furlough scheme, which will guarantee 80 percent of employees' income up to a maximum of £2,500 (\$3,000) a month.

"It sticks in the throat," said lawmaker Julian Knight, who chairs the Commons Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, referring to the use of public funds to prop up wage bills.

"This exposes the crazy economics in English football and the moral vacuum at its centre."

That £2,500 sum would be a drop in the ocean for many Premier League stars, yet there has so far been no agreement on wage cuts or deferrals for players, unlike the situation at other top European clubs such as Juventus and Barcelona.

Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy said he hoped discussions between the Premier League and players' and managers' representatives would "result in players and coaches doing their bit for the football eco-system".

However, a joint meeting between the Premier League, English Football League, Professional Footballers' Association and League Managers Association on Wednesday failed to reach an agreement.

"No decisions were taken today, with discussions set to continue in the next 48 hours with a focus on several high-profile matters, includ-



Premier League matches have been postponed until at least April 30 (AFP Photo)

ing player wages and the resumption of the 2019/20 season," the four bodies said in a joint statement.

Levy is in the firing line himself despite taking a 20 percent cut in salary for the next two months.

On Tuesday he announced a 20 percent cut for 550 non-playing staff on the same day it was revealed he was paid £7 million last season, including a £3 million bonus for the completion of the club's new stadium, which ran well over time and budget.

Players at Barcelona have taken a 70 percent pay cut during Spain's state of emergency and will make additional contributions to ensure other employees receive full wages.

The squad of Italian champions Juventus, including Cristiano Ronaldo, have agreed to have their wages stopped for four months while players at German giants Bayern Munich accepted a 20 percent pay cut.

"Where the players have the means and they step forward I think that shows very much that they understand what is happening right now and frankly we will be seeing more of that," said FIFPro general secretary Jonas Baer-Hoffmann.

- Political football -

Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe became the most prominent Premier League figure so far to take what the Cherries de-

scribed as a "significant" pay cut on Wednesday.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan told the BBC that top-flight players should take the hit.

He said: "Highly paid football players are people who can carry the greatest burden and they should be the first one to, with respect, sacrifice their salary, rather than the person selling the programme or the person who does catering."

However, players can argue the spotlight is being unfairly shone on them to foot the bill rather than the billionaire owners of clubs.

"I think the football industry is being used as a lightning rod by politicians," football finance expert Kieran Maguire told

AFP.

"The same criticisms are not being made of the banking industry, not being made of hedge fund managers, they are not being made of lawyers who charge £10,000 a day, accountants, or off-shore funds which avoid paying tax."

According to the Sunday Times rich list, Tottenham owner Joe Lewis, who resides in the Bahamas, saw his wealth surge to £4.4bn last year.

"Joe Lewis himself is worth over £4bn and we are having a go at Harry Kane who is a guy with a career that is going to end at 35," added Maguire.

Players do not want to be the fall guys in a crisis only for clubs to behave irresponsibly when their income returns.

"It's ridiculous to have clubs deferring their obligations to players and then making big-money transfer signings," said PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor.

Yet, transfers are far from the minds of most executives just trying to ensure their clubs are still standing in a few months' time.

"When I read or hear stories about player transfers this summer like nothing has happened, people need to wake up to the enormity of what is happening around us," added Levy.

AFP

## Brazil reliving magical 1970 World Cup win

BY TIM VICKERY, ESPN SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

IT is only natural, in the absence of football, that countries fill the time by going back and revisiting a happy space -- sitting round the TV together to watch matches from a favoured World Cup.

But there is one commemoration, one trip back into the past, that would have been happening even if times were normal and football was ploughing ahead with its relentless full calendar.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Brazil's magical 1970 World Cup win.

For some, this was the greatest team of all time. It is debatable. Old timers in Brazil would point to the 1958 side, who won the country's first World Cup, in Sweden. They remain the only Brazilian side to win in Europe, they played spectacular football and, on a man for man basis, they clearly look superior to the 1970 team. Giants of 1958 such as Garrincha, Nilton Santos and Gilmar would have walked into the side of 12 years later.

But this is not to detract from the magnificent exuberance of the 1970 side -- which can count on a considerable advantage in its quest for immortality. That World Cup was the first one to be shown live on television in much of the world -- and what images they were!

Playing in the fierce sun of the Mexican summer afternoon may not have been wise from a physiological point of view. But it gave the TV pictures an eerie exoticism. Many compared Brazil's World Cup win with the first moon landing a few months earlier. Both events had an otherworldly feel which made them even more special.

And the commemoration is already underway. The 1970 World Cup ran from May 31 to June 21. But it was at the end of March that Brazil started to win it.

The coach during qualification was Joao Saldanha, a colourful figure with a background in journalism. He was a strange choice to coach the national team of a country that was under a far right military dictatorship: Saldanha was a communist.

But Joao Havelange did not become



Brazil captain Carlos Alberto lifts the 1970 World Cup. AP Photo

FIFA's most influential president by chance. Back then he was head of the Brazilian FA, and he came up with a typically astute analysis of the situation.

One of the reasons Brazil had flopped so badly in 1966 was they started with an excess of players: 44 in four different teams. This was the consequence of football developing quickly beyond the traditional heartlands of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Porto Alegre and Belo Horizonte

had emerged, and every region was pushing hard for its own players.

A strong man was needed, whatever his politics. Saldanha was appointed, and put an end to off-the-field intrigue. He immediately named his first XI plus his substitutes -- and his team sailed through qualification in 1969.

But into 1970 his behavior was becoming increasingly erratic. He appeared to be drinking, he was waving a gun about, he fell out

with Pele, and in March he was suddenly sacked.

A replacement had not been lined up. Dino Sani, from the 1958 side, turned the job down. Otto Gloria, who had coached Portugal in 1966, was in the frame. But the position ended up going to Mario Zagallo, just 38, who had played on the left wing in the World Cup winning sides of 1958 and 62.

On the field, Zagallo symbolized Brazil's quest to balance attacking flair

with defensive solidity. He was a talented winger, but he also funneled back to help out in midfield. He was years ahead of his time as a player and now he proved his value as a coach.

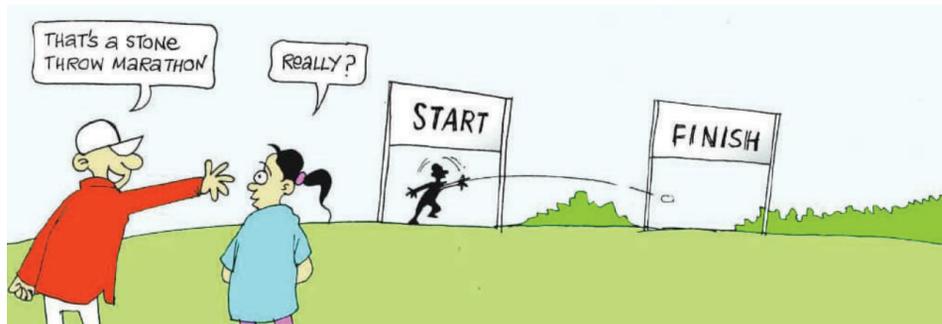
"I totally changed the team," he said when I had the chance to go in depth with him some 15 years ago.

"I took over without a fixed idea -- but I knew there would be a lot of changes because I didn't accept the idea of 4-2-4, which Saldanha had been using.

"There is no way we could have won the World Cup playing that system."

It might have worked in a weak qualifying group, but 4-2-4 would have left the team too open against the best opponents. Zagallo was not impressed with the team he inherited. He dropped centre-backs Joel and Fontana. One of them was replaced by Wilson Piazza, who had been playing as a defensive midfielder. Pushing him deeper opened up space for the excellent Clodoaldo to come into the midfield.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Premier League accused of 'moral vacuum' as clubs cut staff wages

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



## Mayanja slams KMC FC leaders

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

FORMER Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC head coach, Jackson Mayanja, has expressed his disappointment over the club's officials' refusal to settle payment of the former's salary arrears.

The Ugandan tactician (pictured) disclosed KMC FC officials have been refusing to answer his calls when he seeks to discuss the matter with them.

Mayanja that had parted ways with KMC FC earlier in this season's Mainland Premier League said the club owes him salaries given it had terminated its contract with him.

He disclosed he has yet to be paid the salaries.

Mayanja disclosed he has been phoning with KMC FC top official, John Sitta, who is also Kinondoni Municipal Mayor, to seek to settle the matter but the latter does not answer the calls.

"KMC FC terminated their contract with me, I accepted the termination hoping they will pay me my salaries on time, but the outfit's leadership has not been acting on the matter, they do not answer my calls," he noted.

"I wanted to settle the matter with them before taking the issue to FIFA but I have not had any response from them since the termination of the contract."

Mayanja revealed he has nevertheless been impressed by KMC FC willingness to settle Mrage Kabange, who was the former's assistant and had as well not been paid his arrears.

"I brought Kabange at KMC FC and we were both fired, they too took long to pay his arrears, he though told me they have now paid him," he noted.

"It is a good move. I request them to do the same to me because I worked diligently there," the tactician, who also coached Simba a few years back, said.

An attempt to get Sitta's side of the story proved futile given his phone was switched off.

The tactician has nevertheless tabled the matter before the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

It is said Mayanja is required to be paid over 30m/- by KMC FC after the club, which plays in Mainland Premier League, had terminated its contract with the tactician.

# TFF urged to give teams time to implement Club Licensing



Simba forward, Meddie Kagere (L) negotiates his way past JKT Tanzania's Damas Makwaya in a recent Premier League clash which took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

A domestic expert in Club Licensing, Saad Kawemba, has advised Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to give clubs more time before starting implementing the requirements of Club Licensing.

Kawemba issued the comments after TFF through its president Wallace Karia had recently announced that the country will fully start implementing requirements of Club Licensing next season.

Some of the requirements of Club

Licensing need clubs to have strong financial backing, youth teams, own infrastructure and sound administration.

Karia said teams which will not adhere to the requirements will not be given license to compete in the Mainland Premier League, First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL).

The biggest challenge

which local clubs are facing at the moment is that they are not financially stable and also they do not have infrastructures of their own.

However, Kawemba said many local elite clubs are not financially stable and they need to be empowered financially by, among other things, knowing how to generate

their own income.

He suggested that TFF should give elite clubs a grace period of three to five years before fully starting implementing the Club Licensing.

Kawemba also said TFF should start implementing Club Licensing with lower league clubs.

"It will be difficult for our local clubs to start implementing the Club

Licensing, many of them are not financially stable, we have seen some elite clubs fail to pay hotel fees," he disclosed.

"I think this should start from lower leagues so that when they are promoted to the elite league they are well prepared and ready for Club Licensing," he said.

The TFF had passed resolution to adopt the Club Licensing at a conference, which took place in Bagamoyo, Coast Region in 2007.

Kawemba said the country has taken time to fully implement Club Licensing due to lack of consistency in outfits' leadership.

"As you can see nearly all leaders of clubs who attended the conference in Bagamoyo in 2007 are not there, they all left the clubs, this to me is the problem which has delayed implementation of Club Licensing," he said.

The announcement by TFF was welcomed by Soccer Players Union (Sputanza) chairman Mussa Kisoki who disclosed that his office has 30 cases of players either complaining or demanding their salaries

or signing fees they have to be paid by their present or former clubs.

He disclosed that nearly all Premier League teams, with the exception of Simba SC and Azam FC, have financial arrears with either their former or current players.

"The announcement by TFF that all teams which have arrears with players, technical panels and supporting staff will not play in the coming league is welcome," he disclosed.

"To Sputanza, players are entitled to get their dues," he was quoted as saying in an interview with a local radio station yesterday.

According to the world football governing body (FIFA) if a player is not paid his or her dues for a period of three months he or she becomes a free agent.

In Tanzania, though, the situation is different as many players, coaches and supporting staff go more than three months without getting their salaries and other benefits.

They nevertheless choose not to complain to relevant authorities.

## Tanzania produces expert volleyball instructor



Volleyball coach, Alfred Selengia (R), pictured with women national team players, Hellen Richard (L) and Yasinta Remmy that represented Tanzania in the African Beach Volleyball Games, which took place in Cape Verde in June last year.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA has just produced an expert volleyball coach to teach all of the game's coaches on the continent, The Guardian has just learned.

The Confederation of African Volleyball (CAVB) has appointed the Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA) Secretary General, Alfred Selengia to be one of the 12 continental instructors effective from this month.

A statement from the TAVA, with reference NUMBER TAVA/ADM/VOL.4/80/20 quotes the association's Chairman, Patrick Mlowezi, to the effect that Selengia becomes the first such permanent Volleyball and Beach Volleyball instructor for African coaches, to be recruited from Tanzania.

"The anointing follows Selengia's own efforts in regularly attending series of training for volleyball and taking part in other sports tutorials in and outside the country between 2016 and 2019 plus excelling well in the same endeavours thus making the country proud," Mlowezi noted.

Commenting on the issues, TAVA officials were of view that Selengia will make use of the new continental trainer's skills to also train local volleyball coaches as well as players for the national teams.

Speaking of his new appointment, Selengia revealed that out of the 50 potential candidates, he was among the 12 instructors selected.

Some of them are six coaches from Franco-phonics countries and six others representing Anglo-phonics countries.

Selengia disclosed he feels privileged to be chosen among and above other potential volleyball trainers in Africa for the assignment.

"We have several programs in Tanzania including grooming national instructors as well as recruiting new volleyball coaches from primary and secondary schools," he said.

He disclosed the events will resume after the Covid-19 disease's curfew is lifted.

At the moment Tanzania has a total of five volleyball instructors, but once the new programs are rolled out, the number is set to increase.

"There is also ample opportunity in volleyball because 90 percent of all Mainland Tanzania regions have registered their local clubs," Selengia noted.

"We are currently sending official letters to clubs' leaders across the nation instructing the regions to prepare themselves for volleyball courses once sports activities resume," the instructor disclosed.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV FRIDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
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.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

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