



## GOVERNANCE



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## Tanzania proposes IDA, IMF move to cancel LDCs' debts on permanent basis

### ●Prof Kabudi host to virtual Commonwealth summit in Dar offices

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has asked international financial institutions and Commonwealth nations to consider permanent debt cancellation for developing countries to allow the funds to be used in mitigating adverse economic impacts caused by the outbreak of Covid-19.

Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, made the appeal on Thursday when representing President John Magufuli at a virtual conference convened with presidents, prime ministers and foreign ministers of Commonwealth countries, at the Foreign Ministry offices along Kivukoni Front in the city.

Prof Kabudi said that other than endorsing the suspension of debt service payments from May 1 until the end of the year, developed countries and international



**He said having own industries that produces medical equipment and drugs would help developing countries to easily tackle diseases**

financial institutions should take action to permanently cancel all debts owed to them by Tanzania.

Such a move will enable the country to divert funds meant for servicing foreign debts to improvement of health systems and curbing other adverse impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

During the meeting, Tanzania pledged continued cooperation with the Commonwealth and other developing countries to ensure unity and togetherness in fighting against the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We have agreed to cooperate and have common strategies in making sure that developed nations and international financial institutions support us in establishing industries for manufacturing of drugs and medical equipment that can be used during emergencies such as Covid-19," the minister affirmed.

Having own industries that produce medical equipment and drugs would help developing countries to easily tackle diseases, he stated.

Many countries suspended the export of vital medicines and medical equipment during the pandemic to use them in treating

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This Coastline bus – with registration number T405AME – was on its way from Musoma municipality to Arusha city on Wednesday when it skidded into a ravine and crashed at Kilimatembo Hill near Mto-wa-Mbu township, leaving at least three people dead. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

## Boat, bus accidents claim 12 lives, many lose limbs

By Guardian Correspondents, Kigoma, Arusha

TWELVE people died in separate accidents, one involving a boat, 'MV Nzaimana' which capsized in Lake Tanganyika early yesterday and a passenger bus that crashed in Karatu District, Arusha Region.

Kigoma Regional Police Commander Martin Otieno said nine people died and 51 were rescued.

The capsized ferry was heading to Ikola in Katavi Region from Sibwesa in Uvinza District, Kigoma Region, the sunken boat having 60

people on board and various cargo items.

"The accident was caused by a storm and strong winds in the lake. Our rescue team recovered nine bodies, of seven women and two men," he said.

He could not explain further on the accident as he was not on the scene, promising to give more details today after arriving at the scene.

Uvinza District Medical Officer, Dr Reuben Mwakilima said the hospital received three casualties in the morning yesterday, who

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## TASAC readies maritime economic input database

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) is preparing a database that will comprise information on the contribution of the maritime profession to the national economy.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of activities to mark the International Day of Seafarers, TASAC Executive Director Emanuel Ndomba said the maritime sector plays an important role which needs to be documented.

He said that seafaring is a profession like any other, so it is crucial that the government has proper information on the sector's contribution to the national economy.

"Seafarers work in non-friendly conditions, and the coronavirus pandemic has had an impact on them as they missed essential requirements to facilitate efficiency. These include crew changeovers, medical assistance and repatriation," he said.

Seafarers felt stigmatised during the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak as some ships

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## EWURA tracking fuel price hikers

### ●Set to revoke two wholesale firms' licences, closes three petrol stations

By Getrude Mbagu

THE Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) is revoking operational licences of two wholesale oil companies and three retail petrol stations, citing a series of irregularities.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, EWURA Manager for Communications and Public Relations Titus Kaguho said that the companies have violated their licence conditions by hiding fuel, while the stations were selling the products above EWURA indicative prices.

Wholesale companies losing licences in two weeks time as Mansoor Oil Group and Olympic Petroleum, both of Dar es Salaam.

The retail companies/stations are B.O. Five Ways Petroleum Station of Bagamoyo and two Mexon Energy stations in Makambako and Njombe town in Njombe Region.

Following complaints from the public over the scarcity of petroleum products in various parts of the country, EWURA unleashed a crackdown to investigate and find out those who are conducting the dirty game.

"After we had found them in irregular conduct, we gave them 48 hours (two days) to submit explanations on why they were violating the rules. They submitted their self-defense and the board went through their papers and reached final decisions," he said.

Kaguho also said that the authority has also closed operations of Mtweve Oil Station located in Chunya Urban, Mbeya Region after being found selling petroleum products at higher than indicative caps.

The station was selling petrol at 1985/- a litre contrary to the current indicative price upper level of 1637/-, he said.

"We have warned this station owner two times, but he went on to ignore our directives. So this is the final decision as apart from hiking the price, Mtweve station was selling the products without issuing electronic receipts.

"So, they have to pay 6m/- as fine to EWURA and we will leave the issue to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) to deal with the station on tax evasion issues," he elaborated.

A stern warning has been issued to Oryx Energies (wholesale firm) and Mo Gas petrol station of Mkuranga in Coast Region over similar irregularities.

"We have warned the companies after going through their self-defense explanations and we understood their reasons. EWURA is closely monitoring Star Oil Company operations," he specified.

Camel Oil (T) Ltd is also being watched as investigations showed it was going through financial difficulties, and thus it failed to order a huge amount of fuel, he said.

Fuel traders must adhere to the country's rules and regulations and always be aware that they are serving the public, he declared.

Recently, Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemami directed EWURA and the Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA) to embark on a crackdown to unearth all traders hiding fuel or selling the commodity at higher than EWURA indicative maximum prices.

Addressing journalists in Dodoma, Dr Kalemami sought that stern measures be taken, including suspending their operations and posing heavy fines of not less than 100m/-.

"Despite the government's directives, some unscrupulous traders are selling fuel above indicated caps while the country has no

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## SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19



## LATRA now introduces hire chauffeur-driven new vehicle licence fee

By Guardian Reporter

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has introduced hire chauffeur driven vehicles new licence fee and requested owners to have the licences issued to them before August, this year.

The objective of the system is to monitor and control the issuance of driving licences with a view to addressing the problem of fake licences which are the cause for many road accidents.

"This is because the system allows everybody to obtain any licence and drive any car one prefers. However under the current system holders of driving licence of certain class will be obliged to drive only such a class upon which he was tested for and not otherwise. At the initial stage the applicant will have to undergo biometric measures and finger prints," said LATRA official.

According to an announcement by LATRA every owner is supposed to pay an annual renewal fee of 10,000/- and a licence fee of 25,000/-.

The move means that anyone who wants to hire a chauffeur driven vehicle must to pay 80,000/- for city license, 25,000/- for municipal fee and pay 250,000/- to 350,000/- as tax to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

In a statement sent to Uber drivers with the title 'the new directive for LATRA stickers', it is now a legal

requirement for an operator to have this license before the July 1st this year.

"Due to the changes made recently, you need to have a LATRA sticker to operate hire a chauffeur driven vehicle in the country," the notice read in part.

The notice further said one of the providers Uber has been given stickers for UberX and UberXL which enable them to operate and now they are supposed to change and place the LATRA ones.

The regulatory authority also directed the operators to apply for the licenses online on its website by attaching vehicle registration cards, an insurance certificate, police inspection certificate and a driving licence.

LATRA said it will be very strict on operators with no licences especially for long time operators, saying the new ones will be given upon registration.

According to LATRA there is no agent for the system, saying all owners should apply online and wait for a reply through their emails.

Elaborating further, LATRA executive director Gilliad Ngewe said the matter was an implementation of guidelines which were announced in February and that owners must have the licences as soon as possible.

A vehicle for hire is one providing shared transport, which transports one or more ... for hire passengers are more or less free to choose their starting and ending locations (point of origin and destination).



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa admires a drawing of himself done by Sanjame Kayoka (R), a dentist with a health centre at Kingolwira in Morogoro Region, and presented to him at a rally held at Nachingwea in Ruangwa District on Wednesday. Photo: PMO

## TASAC readies maritime economic input database

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were denied entry in some countries over fears of spreading the virus, he stated.

"It reached a point where the whole profession was seen as Covid-19 carriers. This resulted into most seafarers getting stuck in foreign countries and failing to meet with their families," he elaborated.

The day is marked in recognizing invaluable contributions seafarers make to international trade and world

economy, "often at great personal cost to themselves and their families," he stated.

Tanzania currently has 5,300 seafarers working locally and abroad, with women making just one per cent of the number.

Veteran ship captain Josiah Mwakibuja, secretary general of the Tanzania Seafarers Association expressed the need for policy directive to get ship owners to recruit seafarers on a contractual basis, as most local seafarers are just seagoing casual

laborers.

Despite Tanzania ratifying the global Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), its implementation is slow for lack of its provision being binding upon the government, he said.

A policy directive is needed so as to recognize seafarers with maritime Certificates of Competency (COC) allowing them to work on ships.

The certificate is evidence that the bearer has sufficient knowledge and skills to sail on ocean going vessels, he pointed out.

"We have seafarers with COC class, the best qualification in our profession, but in being hired this is not considered," he asserted.

Workers' unions say Kenyan and Tanzanian ship owners are flouting labour laws and underpaying seafarers, which critics blame on the absence of clear policies on the maritime sector.

Data shows seafarers' wages range from \$250 to \$450 monthly, while the convention posts wages in the \$800 to \$1,000 basic wages range per month, he added.

## EWURA tracking fuel price hikers

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shortage of the commodity. These people should be hunted down and this job should be done within seven

days," he had directed.

Traders took advantage of the low fuel prices to hide the products, creating a shortage and hiking the price, he had stated.



From-L: Home Affairs ministry permanent secretary Christopher Kadio (L) and counterparts Brigadier General Wilbert Ibuge (Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation) and Dr Faraji Mnyepe (Defence and National Service) follow proceedings of a South African Development Cooperation (SADC) video conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Boat, bus accidents claim 12 lives, many lose limbs'

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were rushed to Sibwesa dispensary.

Some of the injured were treated and discharged as they had minor bruises, meanwhile as the hospital received nine bodies of the deceased.

At the same time three people, among them a six-month old baby, lost their lives when a passenger bus in which they were traveling from Musoma via Serengeti in Mara Region heading to Arusha crashed in Karatu District Wednesday night. The bus, T-405 AME belonging to the Coastline fleet, bolted onto a Scania truck. The passenger buses fleet covers the

Musoma, Arusha, Loliondo, Simanjiro and Serengeti (Mugumu) routes.

The bus overturned and hit the lorry with a deafening crash as it was cruising at high speed down Kilimatembo Hill. The bus was approaching Mto-wa-Mbu, a town adjacent to Lake Manyara, having just left Karatu.

Arusha Regional Commissioner Idd Kimanta confirmed the incident shortly after it occurred.

Eitnesses said the bus hit the road embankment as the driver realized the brakes had failed. He attempted to steer the vehicle away from the main road, but high velocity sent it crashing,

killing three and injuring several.

Acting Regional Commander Ramadhan Kingai listed the deceased. "We have among the dead a 45-year-old lady, a 35-year-old male and an innocent baby aged just 6 months," he said.

Around 25 other passengers suffered broken limbs after the crash, forcing closure of the Makuyuni-Ngorongoro highway for hours, as the bus remains were sprawled across the road. Seven of the injured persons were treated and discharged at the Karatu ELCT district designated hospital.

A total of 18 injured persons among

them, eight males and 10 women were still admitted late Thursday, with four critically injured patients in the process of being moved to Mount Meru Hospital in the city for closer medical attention.

Mapped within the Mbulumbulu Ward of Karatu District, Kilimatembo Hill is essentially a steep road with sharp corners and side cliffs. The accident scene is about two kilometres from the crash spot of the school bus carrying Lucky Vincent primary school pupils, which crashed and killed 32 pupils, two teachers and the driver in May, 2017.

## Tanzania proposes IDA, IMF move to cancel LDCs' debts on permanent basis

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their people. The situation compelled the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to make a special request to India to supply the countries with medicines and medical equipment to enable the zone to continue battling the coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting also discussed the importance of technology in tackling Covid-19 as well as improving health systems, with Commonwealth states sharing such technologies at low cost.

"Countries start preparing to tackle pandemics through improvement of health systems. We must have common strategies to fight such pandemics in future," he said, noting that Tanzania has already started taking measures to improve health systems by constructing dispensaries, health centres, district and regional hospitals.

Participants discussed various common agenda straddling health,

education, the business environment and climate change.

In April, the Group of 20 (G20) agreed on a coordinated approach for suspension of debt service payments for the world's poorest countries starting May 1 until the end of the year.

Suspending principal repayments and interest dues is directed at member states of the International Development Association (IDA), a branch of the World Bank Group.

They are least developed countries as defined by the United Nations and are currently on debt service to the IMF and the World Bank.

The move is part of stimulus efforts amid the new coronavirus outbreak, pushing the global economy into the steepest downturn since the Great Depression.

Tanzania spends approximately \$134m per month on servicing external debts.

## All African countries have COVID-19 lab testing capacity now - WHO chief

ADDIS ABABA

ALL African countries have now developed laboratory capacity to test for the coronavirus, the head of the World Health Organisation has said.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also warned that the pandemic was accelerating.

"The most recent one million cases of Covid-19 were reported in just one week," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a virtual conference on Covid-19 vaccine development and access across the continent.

The WHO chief added that over 220 vaccine candidates are currently being worked on and urged that a vaccine be "available and developed at an unprecedented scale."

The head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control called on countries to secure sufficient vaccine supplies to avoid Africa being left out.

"Unless we act now Africa is at risk of being left behind in the global vaccine race," John Nkengasong said.

Nkengasong suggested a key step would be for Africa to partner with the GAVI vaccines alliance which has raised \$2 billion from international donors for an Advanced Market Commitment to buy future Covid-19 vaccines for poor countries. There are now more than over 330,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus across the continent, with a number of African countries imposing a range of prevention and containment measures against the spread of the pandemic.

According to the latest data by the John Hopkins University and Africa Center for Disease Control on COVID-19 in Africa, the breakdown remains fluid as countries confirm cases as and when. As of May 13, every African country had recorded an infection, the last being Lesotho.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (C, back row) with Arusha residents to whom he presented land title deeds him yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

# Insubordination: Minister Lukuvi dismisses Lands staff in Arusha

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi has dismissed the Arumeru district land officer Nicodemus Hillu for refusing to obey an order by President John Magufuli and allocating 3,000 hectares of land to an investor, Paradeep Lodhia.

The minister reached the decision yesterday in Arusha when inaugurating offices for the newly established regional land office, which among other matters, he presented land title deeds to citizens.

"This official, tell him that from today I have dismissed him because the President (Magufuli) revoked the title deed of the 3,000 hectare land plot, but he deliberately and clandestinely decided to give it back to him," he said.

From that decision, Lukuvi promoted land officer designate in the Arusha

District Council Rehema Jatto to become land officer designate to serve in Arusha City Council.

He said the government decided to restore land services in the regions that have ministry statuses to simplify people to get land title deeds by reducing their travelling costs when following up the documents at zonal offices. He also called upon land officers to follow up all plans of land which have been surveyed and issue title deeds accordingly to enable them access to loans as well as to be sure of their settlements.

He also gave 90 days to land officers in the country to ensure they issue title deeds to the people whose land plots have already been surveyed.

Earlier, the Arusha Regional Commissioner Iddy Kimanta said he will ensure all land challenges were addressed in the regional land offices within seven days, while also pledging to resolve all land conflicts in the region.

## TPSF: Future of private sector growth lies in hands of youths

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) said yesterday the future of Tanzania's strong private sector lies in the hands of the country's youth.

Commenting on the foundation's 5-year development strategy in Dar es Salaam, the TPSF managing director Godfrey Simbeye, said current efforts being under taken by the TPSF to lay a strong foundation for vibrant private sector aim to benefit enterprising skilled young Tanzanians.

He said symposia for youths to be held in regions sought to achieve this goal.

"On Saturday we have jointly organised a symposium in Songwe region that specifically seeks to expose young people for taking the lead in socio-economic opportunities in their regions and Tanzania as a whole.

"We want to show young people how they can and must be important part of Tanzania's present and future vibrant private sector. We want to see the informal economy that hosts millions of young people growing strongly"

millions of young people growing strongly," he told reporters. He appealed to Songwe region's youth to attend the symposium to benefit from presentations that will be made.

He said the private sector grows and will continue to grow as a result of cooperation between the private and public institutions and development partners.

"Our task is to coordinate economic activities and investments. When we look at the overall picture

we still see many young Tanzanians outside the informal economy. We want them inside the informal economy. We congratulate Songwe region on sharing our view on this issue. We appeal to all regions and institutions to join us in the struggle to ensure young people achieve their dreams," Simbeye said.

The MD said the government was working hard to make Tanzania a middle-income industrial nation. But, he said, that goal would be hard to achieve if young people remained outside the informal economy and were not active participants in building Tanzania's private sector.

TPSF is the umbrella organisation for private sector organisations and societies and is part of the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC).

## 'HIV, TB and malaria deaths could double in a year's time'

GENEVA

A new report by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria estimates that countries affected by HIV, tuberculosis and malaria urgently need US\$28.5 billion to protect the extraordinary progress achieved in the fight against the three diseases in the past two decades.

The report, 'Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on Countries Affected by HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria', was released to highlight the impact of Covid-19 and resources needed to protect progress against HIV, TB and malaria - diseases that still kill more than 2.4 million people a year.

Since 2002, the Global Fund partnership has helped save more than 32 million lives and cut HIV, TB and malaria deaths by nearly half since the peak of the epidemics. The Covid-19 pandemic now threatens to reverse that progress.

Aside from the direct toll of the pandemic, which could be catastrophic in the most vulnerable countries, estimates suggest that deaths from HIV, TB and malaria could as much as double if systems for health are overwhelmed, treatment and prevention programmes are disrupted, and resources are diverted.

Globally, that means that the annual death toll from HIV, TB and malaria could be set back to levels not seen since the peak of the epidemics, wiping out nearly two decades of progress in the worst-hit regions.

"The stakes are extraordinarily high. The knock-on effects of Covid-19 on the fight against HIV, TB

and malaria and other infectious diseases could be catastrophic," said Peter Sands, Executive Director of the Global Fund.

He added: "Mitigating that impact will require swift action, extraordinary levels of leadership and collaboration, and significant extra resources. Above all, we must leave no one behind."

For the poorest and most vulnerable communities already afflicted by HIV, TB and malaria, Covid-19 represents a fundamental threat. Not only are they extremely vulnerable to pandemic itself, but they are also likely to be even more at risk from HIV, TB and malaria.

The economic impact of Covid-19 will also fall most heavily on such communities, so nutritional deficiencies and the collapse of services will exacerbate their susceptibility to disease.

Mounting an effective response to Covid-19 and mitigating the impact on HIV, TB and malaria will require significantly more resources than have been made available thus far.

The Global Fund has worked with partners to estimate the likely needs in the countries where it invests. It estimates that some US\$28.5 billion is required for the next 12 months to adapt HIV, TB and malaria programmes to mitigate the impact of Covid-19, to train and protect health workers, to reinforce systems for health so that they don't collapse.

The amount will also support response to COVID-19 itself, particularly through testing, tracing and isolation and by providing treatments as they become available - and this does not

include the cost of a vaccine.

The Global Fund says it has reacted decisively to the emergence of Covid-19, quickly making available up to US\$1 billion to support countries as they respond to the pandemic, adapt their HIV, TB and malaria programs, and reinforce their already stretched health systems. However, these funds will be almost fully deployed by next month.

Taking account of the contributions of other partners, and the US\$1 billion it has already committed, the Global Fund estimates that it would need an additional US\$5 billion for the next 12 months to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on countries affected by HIV, TB and malaria.

Maintaining progress against the three diseases and fighting the new Covid-19 pandemic requires extensive collaboration with governments, technical partners, civil society, the private sector and communities.

The Global Fund is a founding partner of the ACT-Accelerator partnership in accelerating development, production and equitable access to Covid-19 testing, treatment and vaccines.

It works closely with the WHO, the World Bank, the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, UNICEF, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Unitaid and other health partners in procuring and deploying Covid-19 diagnostic tests, personal protective equipment for health workers, and other essential supplies, and on strengthening key components of systems for health.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT  
REGIONAL IMMIGRATION OFFICE,  
DAR ES SALAAM  
MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 232/2020  
THE LATE: PHILIP HABADI MAHUSHI  
AND  
THE APPLICANT: EVA PHILIP MAHUSHI  
TO: EVA PHILIP MAHUSHI  
DAR ES SALAAM  
SUMMONS FOR APPLICATION  
WHEREAS, the above mentioned Administratrix has instituted an Application against you at the High Court of Tanzania (Dar es Salaam Registry) the facts of which may be found in a request in the court file you are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relation to the suit or who shall be accompanied by some person to answer all questions on 16th day of July 2020 before Hon. L. M. MLACHA, JUDGE to answer the court you must be prepared to produce on that day all the documents upon which your intent to rely in support of your defence.  
TAKE NOTICE, that in default of your appearance on that day aforementioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.  
GIVEN under my HAND AND SEAL of COURT this 11th day of June, 2020  
DEPUTY REGISTRAR  
HIGHER COURT OF TANZANIA  
DAR ES SALAAM ZAONE

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT  
APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP  
KUPOTEA KWA CHETI  
Doreen Japhet Mwina  
anatangaza kupotea kwa cheti cha kidato cha nne chenye index namba S.1599-0027 Kilichotolewa na Baraza la Mithihani la Taifa mwaka 2013 katika shule ya Sekondari Baobab. Yeyote atakaekion atoe taarifa kituo chochote cha Polisi.  
Polisi Taarifa:  
DAR/OST/RB/450688/2020

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA  
AT DAR ES SALAAM  
MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 232/2020  
THE LATE: PHILIP HABADI MAHUSHI  
AND  
THE APPLICANT: EVA PHILIP MAHUSHI  
TO: EVA PHILIP MAHUSHI  
DAR ES SALAAM  
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GIVEN under my HAND AND SEAL of COURT this 11th day of June, 2020  
DEPUTY REGISTRAR  
HIGHER COURT OF TANZANIA  
DAR ES SALAAM ZAONE  
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT  
APPLICATION FOR TANZANIA CITIZENSHIP  
KUPOTEA KWA CHETI  
Doreen Japhet Mwina  
anatangaza kupotea kwa cheti cha kidato cha nne chenye index namba S.1599-0027 Kilichotolewa na Baraza la Mithihani la Taifa mwaka 2013 katika shule ya Sekondari Baobab. Yeyote atakaekion atoe taarifa kituo chochote cha Polisi.  
Polisi Taarifa:  
DAR/OST/RB/450688/2020

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL OF TANZANIA  
AT DAR ES SALAAM  
APPEAL NO. 10 OF 2019  
BETWEEN  
TANZANI ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED (TANESCO).....APPELLANT  
AND  
PATRICK PAUL NTILINGANIZA AS THE NEXT FRIEND OF PASCHAL PATRICK (MINOR).....1ST RESPONDENT  
AND  
THE ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (EWURA).....2ST RESPONDENT  
(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)  
TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) given on the 22nd May, 2020 in which EWURA stated that the Compliance Order No. 11-03-2020 is not subject to review by the internal review committee.  
The appellant contends, among other grounds, that the Compliance Order was issued in an error of the law and fact without considering the principles of fair hearing and that EWURA also erred in law for holding that the appellant misinterpreted the law. Thus, the Appellant prays for orders to set aside the decision with costs.  
BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.  
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 26th June, 2020.  
REGISTRAR

# MCT, TEF fault govt decision to shut down daily tabloid

By Guardian Reporter

THE Media Council of Tanzania and Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF) have expressed shock over the decision by the government to revoke the licence of Tanzania Daima newspaper, saying the move is meant to curtail media freedoms ahead of the country's general elections.

The government through the Registrar of Newspapers said that effective June 24, 2020 the newspaper would not be allowed to be printed and distributed within and outside the country with the reason that the paper has repeatedly flouted national laws and journalism ethics in its reportage.

In a joint statement, MCT and TEF said: "The director applied Section 9(b) of the Media Services Act (MSA, 2016) to impose the sanction. The laws were not made explicit nor were the journalism ethics. It is very sad that such decision to curtail media freedoms is coming at this time when the country is poised for the general elections."

Signed by MCT executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga and TEF secretary Neville Meena, the statement said: "It's so sad that such a decision came at such a time when citizens need platforms of expression and information to be broadened rather than narrowed."

"This decision tarnishes the image of the country in and casts doubt on level playing field, especially because it is no secret that the paper had always stood for alternative views not necessarily in line with the government position," the statement reads in part.

It said the law provides for an aggrieved party whose licence has been

revoked to re-apply for the licence to the same authority that revoked it, or to appeal to the Minister for Information under whom the directorate falls.

"It is apparent that this arrangement does not instill a lot of confidence. Indeed the government's decision apart from curtailing press freedom is also an infringement upon the right to work for Tanzania Daima workers, taking away a means to their livelihoods and that of their family members as well," the statement said.

The statement reminded the government of the commitment it made on May 3, 2019 during World Press Freedom Day commemorations in Dodoma, agreeing to a joint team of government and stakeholder experts to review the law.

It added MCT, as the chair of the coalition on the right to information, has written twice to the minister on the matter, and we still waiting for a response so that the team is formed and starts working on the matter.



**This decision tarnishes the image of the country in and casts doubt on level playing field, especially because it is no secret that the paper had always stood for alternative views not necessarily in line with the government position**



John Mnyika, Secretary General of the opposition Chadema, addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He called on law enforcers to refrain from needlessly disrupting the activities of political parties, particularly during the run-up to this October's General Election. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## PM calls for expansion of sesame cultivation

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has called upon farmers of various cash crops including sesame farmers to continue cultivating the crops and that the issue of the drop in prices in this season should not discourage them as it was just a matter of time.

He said the government is still working on the issue and that the country's crops prices will strengthen after the increase of possessing

factories in the country, saying farmers will have reliable markets.

The premier was speaking at a public rally on Wednesday in Nachingwea Ward, Ruangwa district, Lindi region during his working visit when he urged farmers not to abandon farming.

"Drop of the sesame price should not discourage you and abandon farming, because the drop is not for sesame alone, but also for other crops such as tea, tobacco, coffee and others. The situation has been caused by the global

Covid-19 pandemic," he said.

He said the government expects that as the pandemic continues declining in many world countries, prices of crops will improve, and called upon them to exercise patience.

The PM also used the occasion to invite both local and foreign investors to invest in various agro industries because they will be assured of raw materials as well as adequate power supply.

He said among things which the

fifth phase government of President John Magufuli has been emphasizing is strengthening of agricultural sector to make the country self sufficient in food, adding: "The issue of prices crops is determined by buyers and the government is a mere administrator."

The PM also thanked the residents of Ruangwa district for their unity and solidarity during the entire five years and called upon them to continue doing so for the development of the district and the nation in general.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu cuts a ribbon in Tanga yesterday to inaugurate a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts. Left is Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

## 'REA phase III in preparatory stage'

THE acting director for policy and planning of Rural Energy Agency (REA) Eng Elineema Mkumbo has said the agency's planning department is preparing another project that will be involved all other villages that have not been accessed to by the power infrastructure in Mainland Tanzania.

Eng. Mkumbo said at a task force

meeting between the REA board members, Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) and the contractor of REA II - Desco/Dynamic Engineering in Mkalama, Iramba and Singida rural districts.

Mkumbo also said Singida region is among the regions which will benefit from the project that is expected to

officially begin in September, this year and end in June 2021.

He said the total project cost is estimated at 897m/-.

Singida region Tanesco manager Eng. Abdulrahman Nyenye confirmed that during the past REA II, there were about 60 unconnected villages and as of now 24 villages will be connected

to electricity by September, this year the rest 36 villages will be accessed accordingly.

The manager of the contracting firm Eng Julius Saady Kateth said the project involved 193 kms of power transmission lines and that power distribution will be completed within two months.

## Chinese embassy donates hand washing facilities to Dar schools

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Chinese Embassy yesterday handed over hand washing facilities and goods worth 22m/- to be delivered to 100 public schools in Dar es Salaam.

Handing over the facilities to the Dar es Salaam regional office, Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke said the donation was part of her government efforts in the fight against Covid-19.

She said the ceremony was co-organised by the Chinese embassy in Tanzania and the Suleiman Kova Security and Disaster Management Foundation (Sukos).

Some of the items donated are 100 sets of hand washing facilities that will be distributed to 100 public schools to enhance the fight against the coronavirus.

Ke said the donation was concrete action aimed at supporting the decision made by President John Magufuli, to reopen all primary and secondary school on 29 June.

"This is also aimed at supporting the instruction given by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology on the precautionary measures that school should take after reopening, including provision of hand washing facilities in the schools," she said.

The envoy said further that the donation also manifests the care for the health of the teachers and students in the primary and secondary schools of Dar es Salaam region.

"Under the leadership of President John Magufuli, the government has formulated its policy suited to its own national conditions, and taken full account of three aspects, namely-epidemic control, economic development and protection of people's livelihoods," she said.

"We are glad to learn the number of Covid-19 patients in Tanzania hospitals has declined, the epidemic situation is improving and the economic and social order is returning to the normal," she added.

According to her, Tanzania was taking a lead in Africa to reopen schools, resume of international flights and restart tourism.

The envoy said her government will continue to do whatever it can to support Africa's response to the pandemic.

Regional education officer, Boniface Wilson said as for the secondary schools the items will be distributed as follows; Ilala (12), Temeke (9), Kinondoni (9), Ubungu (9) and Kigamboni (6) while in for primary schools, Ilala will receive (11) Temeke (16) Kinondoni (12) and Ubungu (6).

"The items will be distributed in districts depending on the demand available including the number of schools," she said.

Rashid Mkami, regional medical officer (RMO) said exchanging and sharing of information relating to health issues had to great extent contributed to decline of the pandemic.

He said despite success achieved, health sectors still face some challenges including ambulance, improving referral systems and medical systems calling for other stakeholders to join hands to support efforts of the government to fighting against the pandemic.

Dar es Salaam Acting Regional Administrative Secretary Lawrence Malangwa lauded the Chinese envoy for acknowledging the work done by the government to combat the virus.

"Since the outbreak of Covid-19, China had provided ant-epidemic supplies to Tanzania. I would like to thank the government of China for its efforts to push forward efforts of fighting against the disease," he said.

Suleiman Kova, Sukos founder and executive director said his foundation said will continue collaborating with embassy and other stakeholders in the fight against the pandemic.

He called on teachers in primary and secondary schools across Dar es Salaam region to provide training and inculcate a culture of hand washing to the children.



Halopesa product and marketing officer Roxana Kadio demonstrates to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday how to open a just-launched HaloPesa app which HaloPesa customers will use to conduct various transactions. She is with product and marketing officer Hindu Kanyamala (L) and head of business department Magega Wandwi. Photo: Guardian Photographer

## Tabora RC donates plot of land, 1m/- to two Sikonge groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA Regional Commissioner Aggrey Mwanri has donated a land plot and 1m/- cash to two social groups of Upendo and Faraja in Tutuo ward, Sikonge District to help them improve their operations.

The RC provided support when he visited some of the groups of people living with HIV/AIDS in the district to recognise the huge contribution done by the (National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA) in improving the lives of the people.

NACOPHA is implementing a "Hebu Tuyajenge" project in the region which is financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Accompanied by the District Commissioner Peres Magiri and the District Executive Director (DED) Martha Luleka, the RC visited and inspected various economic activities of the two groups.

Upengo group owns a garage which works on repairing tricycles popularly known as 'Bajaj' while the Faraja group runs a milling machine.

RC Mwanri commended the groups for their unity and hard work and engaging in income generating activities to improve their lives.

He directed the Tutuo ward leadership to provide the Upendo group a land plot which would help the members to conduct their garage operations smoothly.

Mwanri also donated 1m/- to the Faraja group so as to improve its services.

"I also want the land boundary dispute at the plot owned by Faraja group to be addressed immediately, the district commissioner has to supervise this," he said.

In the next five years, NACOPHA will be implementing a new USAID funded

project known as HEBU TUYAJENGE - Swahili words which literally denotes an informed conversation between people (friends, family, policy makers or groups) to achieve a particular goal in a positive way. The aim of this project is to contribute to HIV epidemic control by increasing the adoption of higher impact community HIV preventive, care, and treatment services among at-risk adolescents, young women, and PLHIV in 65 high burden councils in Tanzania.

The project will be implemented in partnership with four sub-grantees which are the Network of Young People living with HIV (NYP+), Network of Women living with HIV (Dignity and Wellbeing for Women Dignity Tanzania (DWWT) and Centre for Women and Children (CWCD) and 65 PLHIV Clusters spread in 22 regions of Tanzania Mainland.

Strategically, the project will collaborate with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children; President's Office for Regional Administration and Local Government; Parliamentary committees, Ministry of Finance; Local Government Authorities, Tanzania Commission for AIDS, Oversight committees of PLHIV Clusters, FHI 360, AGPAHI, BMF, Pact Tanzania, JSI, JHPIEGO and EGPAF.



**I also want the land boundary dispute at the plot owned by Faraja group to be addressed immediately, the district commissioner has to supervise this**

## Mbeya prison appeals for COVID-19 PPE for inmates

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Prisons Officer Mathias Mkama has appealed to stakeholders to continue giving assistance to inmates and remandees in Mbeya's Ruanda prison.

Speaking here on Thursday at the function to receive various items for the protection against Covid-19 pandemic that is now ebbing Mkama

said there are great needs at the prison including soaps, water buckets, oil and clothing for both remandees and inmates whose relatives reside outside Mbeya Region.

He further said items for the protection against the pandemic are still in great need due to influx of remandees and inmates.

Receiving the items from Tulia Trust, Mkama said the institution

is among various stakeholders who have been providing various items to prisoners including soap and clothing.

Presenting the items, Tulia Trust Manager Jacqueline Boaz said her institution promised to donate items for protection against Covid-19 to various places with many people including prisons.

She said already many areas have

benefited as so far more than 10m/- has been spent for purchase of various items to improve education and health sectors as well as other social services including items for protection against Covid-19 pandemic.

The items donated include water buckets, soap and uniforms worn during construction work and promised to add more items whenever needed.

## Gen Mabeyo hails RTS Kihangaiko management

By Guardian Reporter

CHIEF of Defence Forces General Venance Mabeyo has congratulated the country's military training school - RTS Kihangaiko for the training management and implementation of self-reliant projects.

Gen Mabeyo was speaking during the 39th Passing-out Parade at the academy in Msata, Bagamoyo in Coast Region. "I have no doubt for the training you have undergone and I have also witnessed through the media when you had completed field work, you deserve praise," he said.

He said conducting joint military exercise by incorporating various brigades and from the school's own funds was a big achievement.

He also said he was pleased to see new soldiers before him as it is an indication they are well trained on serving the TPDF, but big praise should also go to the instructors who ensured they reached that milestone.

He also called on the new soldiers to defend the country diligently as it is their big responsibility from their oath. "Make sure you live by your oath and be ready to implement that responsibility anywhere without choice because the army is the one that knows where to serve," he added.

Meanwhile Gen Mabeyo said all those with issues should follow military procedures instead of using other leaders while he and his assistants were available. "Don't think that when you tell the president about your problem it will not come back to us, or if you tell the minister or me you will be attended to

promptly, you have to follow the laid down procedures," Gen Mabeyo said.

On projects he said there is the need for the army to continue placing emphasis on their own projects to avoid problems that may arise on unnecessary expenses.

The Ag RTS Kihangaiko

Commandant Col Sijaona Myala said officers who passed numbered 3,575 - 3,245 being men and 330 women while 11 lost their lives during training.

He added that they have been trained on various issues in accordance to the training syllabus, and reminded them of four

important things that they have to observe whilst in the army including obedience, trustworthiness and gallantry.

Earlier, the Head of Army Headquarter Command Maj. Gen Shariff Othman said he has witnessed their sturdiness and he has high hopes from them.



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June 22, 2020

**Project Close Out Notification**

**Notice to the Stakeholders,**

**Partners and others who work with RTI**

RTI International has been assisting the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Education to implement the rollout of the USAID funded project **"Tanzania Tusome Pamoja Project"**. The project started January 2016 and will come to an end on December 2020.

This is to inform the General Public that, the Tanzania Tusome Pamoja Project will officially close on December 2020 and in this regard all project activities will officially cease on December 2020 and all 78 staffing will unfortunately be declared redundant. RTI International looks at implementing this exercise in phases between July 31, 2020 to December 15, 2020.

Please be assured of management commitment to go through this exercise efficiently with a full appreciation of the difficulties it may cause to those who might be affected. In this regard, please let us know if you have any pending issue with anyone from our organization so that we sort the same on time. This notice will last until July 31, 2020.

Yours Sincerely,



Stephen Backman  
PROJECT CHIEF OF PARTY

RESEARCH TRIANGLE INSTITUTE  
TUSOME PAMOJA PROJECT  
P.O. Box 369  
DAR-ES-SALAAM



**JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA**  
WIZARA YA NISHATI  
**SHIRIKA LA MAENDELEO YA PETROLI**  
TANZANIA



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**TAARIFA KWA UMMMA**

**KUREJEA KWA SHUGHULI ZA MRADI WA BOMBA LA MAFUTA**

**GHAFI LA AFRIKA MASHARIKI (EACOP)**

Hivi karibuni Kampuni ya kimataifa ya mafuta ya TOTAL, ilitangaza kufikia makubaliano katika ununuzi wa hisa zote za Kampuni ya Tullow ambayo ilikuwa mmoja ya wabia katika mradi wa bomba la mafuta ghafi la Afrika Mashariki (East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline-EACOP).

Kufuatia makubaliano haya, zabuni zote za mradi ambazo zilikuwa zimesimamishwa zinatarajiwa kurejwa kutangazwa tena (Call for tender re-launch) hivi karibuni na kufikia mwezi wa Septemba, 2020 mazungumzo yote kati ya wabia wa mradi na Serikali ya Uganda na Tanzania yanatarajia kuwa yamekamiliwa. Maamuzi ya mwisho ya uwekezaji katika mradi (FID) yanatarajiwa kutolewa na wabia ifikiapo mwezi Desemba, 2020 ambapo ujenzi wa miundombinu ya mradi unatarajiwa kuanza mapema mwanzoni mwa mwaka ujao wa 2021.

Kampuni ya TOTAL kwa niaba ya Kampuni ya ubia (EACOP co) ndio ina wajibu wa usimamizi wa kazi mbalimbali za mradi wa EACOP. Kampuni hiyo pamoja na majukumu mengine ndiyo yenye jukumu la kutoa taarifa za mradi ikiwemo zabuni pamoja na ajira kulingana na makubaliano yaliolingwa na wabia wa Mradi wa EACOP.

Hata hivyo, tayari kumeanza kuibuka makampuni binafsi pamoja na watu wasio waaminifu kwa kutoa taarifa zisizo sahihi kuhusiana na utangazaji wa zabuni pamoja na ajira zinazotarajiwa kupatikana katika mradi.

TPDC kama mshirika mkuu na mbia katika mradi kwa niaba ya Serikali ya Tanzania, inapenda kuutaarifu umma ya kwamba, zabuni zote za mradi zitatangazwa na kampuni ya TOTAL ambayo ndiyo kampuni mbia iliyopewa dhamana ya kufanya hivyo na kwamba hakuna mtu wa kati ama dalali ambaye amepewa jukumu hilo. Hata hivyo TPDC inashauri watoa huduma katika miradi ya mafuta na gesi wajiandikishe katika kanzi data ya EWURA kwani ndiyo yenye mamlaka ya kusimamia ushiriki wa Watanzania katika miradi mikubwa ya gesi na mafuta ili watambulike.

Taarifa zote za mradi wa bomba la mafuta ghafi la Afrika Mashariki zinapatikana katika tovuti ya kampuni ya EACOP ambayo ni [www.eacop.com](http://www.eacop.com) au tovuti ya TPDC [www.tpdc.co.tz](http://www.tpdc.co.tz) ambapo link yenye kuonesha shughuli zote za mradi inapatikana.

Hivyo TPDC inapenda kuusisitiza umma kuendelea kufuatilia habari za mradi katika vyanzo sahihi vilivyoelezwa na kuepuka matangazo ambayo tayari yameanza kutolewa na watu binafsi pamoja na makampuni ambayo hayahusiki katika mradi huu.

Imetolewa na  
Kitengo cha Uhusiano na Mawasiliano,  
Shirika la Maendeleo ya Petrol Tanzania (TPDC)  
26.06.2020

**"Ujenzi wa Bomba la mafuta: Tumeamua na Tunatekeleza"**

215789101

# Dodoma authorities say farmers can sell sesame at any place

By Polycarp Machira, Bahi

DODOMA regional authorities have allowed sesame farmers to sell their produce at any place of their choice following reduced prices at the public auction markets.

The decision was announced by the regional commissioner, Binilith Mahenge, during a tour to farmers and crop traders in Bahi district where he held a meeting with both parties.

Earlier this month farmers called on the authority to intervene and help them get better prices for sesame, arguing that the warehouse receipt system was not helping at all.

During the last auction on 24th June, 2020 the price dropped from Sh 1,931 of the 2nd June, 2020 auction to Sh 1,250. "After a lengthy meeting with all involved parties that included district commissioners on Sunday, I therefore make it clear that farmers who still have the produce at home are free to sell anywhere they find good prices," said the RC.

He said from then, there will be no barriers at different roads, forcing farmers to sell through the warehouse receipt system, stressing those manning the check points should not bother the farmers.

The RC explained to farmers at the meeting that there are three main factors that lead to reduction in price of sesame in the region, terming the COVID-19 outbreak as the main one that has stopped exportation to other countries.

Others, according to him include the region's late harvesting of the crop due to longer rain period that engulfed the whole nation.

He said farmers in the region were forced to harvest in May and June when farmers from the southern part were also harvesting, causing surplus produce in the market.

Mahenge added that other neighbouring countries of Zambia, Malawi and Ivory Coast also harvest during the same period, thus the market remained over flooded.

The third reason, he said is due to the fact that there was increased production in the 2020 farming season and because of prolonged rains almost all farmers got abundant harvest.

Bahi District Commissioner, Mwanahamisi Munkunda while speaking at the meeting, explained to the RC that during the last auction there were 78.3 tonnes of the crop within 15 minutes and the buyers reached a mere Sh 1,250 per kilo, something that farmers opposed.

"It is unfortunate that after conducting three auctions, the last one was the worst in price to farmers, recording Sh 1,250 compared to Sh 1,520 in the second and Sh 1,820 in the first auctions," she said, adding that after seeking the downward trend, she intervened and in collaboration with farmers they managed to get a buyer willing to pay Sh 1,400 per kilogramme.

Tito Chifungo, a farmer and resident of Mndemu village in the district thanked the government for the decision announced by the RC, saying it will help farmers get the rightful price.

Dodoma and Manyara regions introduced for the first time the warehouse receipt system in the purchase and selling of sesame in the 2019/20 and it has faced a lot of challenges.



**After a lengthy meeting with all involved parties that included district commissioners on Sunday, I therefore make it clear that farmers who still have the produce at home are free to sell anywhere they find good prices**



Dodoma regional commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge (L) has a word with sesame farmers at a warehouse in Bahi District yesterday on the importance of the warehouse receipt system. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Same District Council hands over 60m/- as loans to 17 social groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Same

SAME District Council in Kilimanjaro Region has handed over loans amounting to 60m/- to various social groups in the region so as to boost their economic activities.

The zero-interest loans were handed over to 17 women, youth and People with Disabilities (PwDs) groups.

Speaking during the handover event yesterday here, District Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule said that as the country mulls to become a middle-income nation by 2025, capacitating and empowering social groups with

soft loans was vital.

According to her, the loans are meant to improve the groups' operations and businesses which will in turn transform their economic status thus contributing to the country's economic development.

"We want our young people, women and persons with disabilities to wake up, bury dependency and engage in various income generating activities, this where they can reap big by getting legal income and thus improve their lives," she said.

She called on youth, women and PwDs to ensure that they join social

groups in their areas to benefit from these loans.

"Forming social groups is a good way to bring people of different skills, expertise and experiences together. The government believes that all people have the capacity to earn a living by engaging in legal activities and not shortcut or illegal deals," she said.

Senyamule added that the funds were generated from the District's internal revenue collections for the last quarter of the 2019/2020 fiscal year as well as other sources.

"The loans involve internal collections of 22.24m/- and previous

loans reimbursements of 37.86m/- . We believe that these loans are going to stimulate development in the groups, individuals and the district at large," she said.

She identified the beneficiaries of the loans as seven groups of women, seven groups of youth and four groups from the PwDs.

Earlier, acting District Executive Director (DED) Uled Lusasi assured the public that the council will continue dishing out loans to support groups of youth, women and PwDs in the district until the government decides otherwise.



Arusha regional administrative secretary Richard Kwitega (C) introduces the recently appointed Arusha regional commissioner, Idd Kimanta (in tie), who was reporting for duty in Arusha city on Wednesday. Photo: Woinde Shizza

# Experts unveil roadmap for post-pandemic food crisis

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

TOP-notch experts from six continents yesterday unveiled what has been described as "ambitious roadmap" to rescue fractured food systems in Africa and other parts of the world.

The road map was unveiled during a webinar organized by the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR), global partnership that unites international organizations engaged in research about food security, through its Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security.

The report entitled Actions to Transform Food Systems under Climate Change came as a response

to a sobering UN warning issued two weeks ago of an impending "global food emergency" induced by the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors.

The launch featured more than a dozen farmers and influential food and agriculture voices speaking live in a global "relay" from Ethiopia, Australia, Vietnam, India, Mali, Italy, the Netherlands, the UK, Colombia, and the US.

Imelda Bacudo, the advisor on Food Security and Climate Change for the 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), was one of the speakers.

"We felt the effects of this pandemic far earlier than many other regions and quickly moved to mobilize resources and policy changes," a statement

quoted Bacudo as saying. "It's clear that dealing with the food impacts of these external shocks requires action far beyond the food and agriculture sector. And that kind of cross-sector collaboration remains a challenge, at the regional and national level."

Rikin Gandhi, the CEO of Digital Green, said: "In Ethiopia and India, with COVID-19 and a desert locust outbreak spreading just as the cropping season is getting underway, digital technologies are enabling extension agents and farmers to stay connected."

Gandhi said: "It means they can share data and insights from the field that can be critical to overcoming these twin challenges."

Ambassador Seyni Nafou of the Republic of Mali said: "There are

many proven approaches to making our food systems far more resilient to external shocks, but they have not been implemented at an adequate scale to provide rural communities with the support they need."

According to the press release issued by CGIAR, the UN was especially concerned about food systems in places like sub-Saharan Africa that prior to the pandemic were reeling from a surge in droughts and floods -- and where global heating is likely involved in East Africa's ongoing battle against locust swarms.

The experts that combined expertise in the fields of agriculture, food security and climate change in their report issued an 11-part plan to reset the post-pandemic food systems.

# Three more collect forms to vie for Zanzibar presidency

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THREE more CCM members yesterday collected nomination forms to contest Zanzibar presidency, making a total of 29 aspirants vying for the position so far.

At 9.10am Pereira Ame Silima, the party's Secretary for Central Committee arrived at the party's Kisiwandui head office to pick the forms.

Speaking to reporters after taking the forms Pereira said what pushed him to participate in the exercise is to ensure he uses his democratic right which is entrenched in the CCM's Constitution, and added that he was tired of continuously voting for the president at elections.

He said his main reason is that he was devoted to Zanzibar and would like it to make great development strides, even though he admitted that past presidents have done great things for Zanzibar.

"We want economic development because peoples' incomes and that of the government were still very small, and my first task is to see the construction of adequate infrastructures for our economy to rapidly grow," he said.

He also said the Zanzibar economy depends on the tourism sector, but there is also the marine economy that has not been worked upon.

He said another area he will concentrate on if he elected president is the society that should be unified, without discrimination, and added that he would also give priority to social services including education, health and other things.

At 10.30am another CCM member Iddi Hamad Iddi arrived to collect nomination forms and said he has decided to throw in his hat because after assessing himself he believes he is fit to become president of Zanzibar.

At 11.00 am another CCM member Shaame Ame Silima picked nomination forms for Zanzibar presidency and said his priorities, if elected is to continue where the outgoing President, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein had left by improving the economy especially in the marine economy that he said will provide jobs to many people.

Meanwhile, the number of those who returned the form increased to 12, and yesterday Amb. Maj. Gen. Suleiman, Mohammed Jaffar Jumanne, Mbwana Yahya, Omar Sheha, Dk Khalid Salum Muhammed and Rashid Ali Juma all returned the forms.

**Speaking after he returned the forms**

Rashid Ali Juma who was the Amani Member of the House of Representative said he was happy he accomplished the exercise in obtaining 250 signatures which he said he did in two days.

He said what now remains is the decisions by the party higher organs after going through the names of all aspirants.

Until yesterday the 29 CCM aspirants who collected forms were Mbwana Bakari, Amb. Ali Karume, Mbwana Mwinyi, Yahya Omar Shehe, Muhammed Jafar, Muhammed Hija, Maj Gen Jenerali Issa Suleiman Nassor, Shamsi Vuai Nahodha, and Dr Hussein Mwinyi.

Others were Prof Makame Mbarawa, Mwatum Mussa Sultan, Haji Rashid Pandu, Dr Abdul-halim Mohammed Ali, Jecha Salim Jecha and Dr Khalid Salum Muhammed.

Others were Rashid Ali Juma, Khamis Mussa, Mmanga Mjengo Mjawiri, Hamad Yussuf Masau, Muhammed Aboud, Bakari Rahid, Ibrahim Makungu, Ayoub Muhammed Mahmud, Hashim Salum Hashim, Hasna Atai Maoud, Fatma Kombo Masoud, Pereira Ame Silima, Iddi Hamad Iddi and Shaame Ame Silima.

# Chief Sheikh: No pilgrimage for Tanzanian Muslims owing to coronavirus

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE National Muslim Council of Tanzania (Bakwata) yesterday said there will be no pilgrimage for Muslims from Tanzania this year. It also announced that madrassas will reopen on Monday across the country.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam, Tanzanian Chief Sheikh Mufti Aboubakary Zuberi said the decision came after the Saudi Arabia Islamic and clerics and legal scholars (Ulamaa) agreement due to ongoing corona virus pandemic.

He said instead the annual hajj pilgrimage will be performed by only residents of the Kingdom and foreigners living in Saudi Arabia to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

"I would like to inform Tanzanians Muslims that there will be no opportunity for them to travel to Saudi Arabia for annual hajj pilgrimage," he said.

Mufti called on the Muslims to consider the cancellation as any natural disaster that can happen anytime.

Commenting on the madrassas, he said following the decision made by President Dr John Magufuli, to reopen all primary and secondary schools on 29th of June, they will also be opened on the same date.

"I call on teachers to take precautionary measures after reopening including provision of hand washing facilities in the schools," he said.

About three days ago, Saudi Arabia said because of the coronavirus only

"very limited numbers" of people will be allowed to perform the annual hajj pilgrimage that traditionally draws around 2 million Muslims from around the world.

The decision comes after weeks of speculation over whether Saudi Arabia would cancel the pilgrimage altogether or allow the hajj to be held in symbolic numbers. It's unclear why the government waited until just five weeks before the hajj to announce its decision, but the timing indicates the sensitivity around major decisions concerning the hajj that affect Muslims around the world.

Saudi kings have for generations assumed titles as custodians of Islam's holiest sites, and their oversight of the hajj is a source of prestige and influence among Muslims globally. The hajj also generates around U.S \$ 6 billion in revenue for the government every year.

Saudi Arabia has never canceled the hajj in the nearly 90 years since the country was founded.

The government said its decision to drastically limit the number of pilgrims was aimed at preserving global public health due to the lack of a vaccine for the virus or a cure for those infected, as well as the risks associated with large gatherings of people.

The hajj is one of the biggest gatherings on earth, with pilgrims staying in close confines and walking and praying shoulder-to-shoulder.

"This decision was taken to ensure hajj is performed in a safe manner from a public health perspective," the government statement said.



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zuberi bin Ally (L) addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, announcing to Muslims in the country the cancellation of the pilgrimage to Mecca owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

ZANZIBARIS have been called upon to cooperate with Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) in preserving and taking care of water supply infrastructures.

This call was made by ZAWA Public Relations Officer Suleiman Anas Massoud following the incident in which one man cut a main 7m water pipe at Machomane Chake Chake that allegedly traversed his land plot, saying the act was criminal nonetheless.

He said ZAWA has been educating the community in taking care of the water sources and infrastructures thereof even though there are still some people who have been ignoring the call, the move that may result into water supply interruptions.

Massoud said after receiving the

## Zanzibaris urged to protect water supply infrastructure

report of the incident, the man was summoned in writing but ignored the summons.

He added that he was called by phone but responded by saying that the area belonged to him even before the pipe line was laid and that now he is planning to build a house.

Massoud said what the man did was not right as the pipeline serves many people of Madungu and Chanjaani areas hence his action would have meant hundreds of residents go without water.

"We are still waiting for him and if he does not come we shall take legal steps in accordance with Act No 4 of 2006 governing ZAWA," he said.

The owner of the plot Mohamed Ali Omar, a school teacher, said he was called by phone by a ZAWA official on June 8 this year and went to the office at around 8.00am but was told the officials were in a meeting.

He added: "It was not true that I refused the call, but when I was told they were in a meeting I left as I had asked from my own office boss for a

short permission, and I could not have waited as I had a class period to attend to," he said.

He said he had asked his children to add a small section of land from his neighbor and did not know there was a water pipe under it.

He said when he realized the pipe was cut he tried to repair it but could not due to persistent rains at the time.

He said he cannot build a house on a water infrastructure as he knew the laws and the entire incident was not done deliberately.

## DRC announces end of second deadliest Ebola outbreak in the east

KINSHASA

THE second-largest Ebola outbreak on record is over after nearly two years and more than 2,200 deaths, Democratic Republic of Congo said yesterday, the even as a separate flare-up of the virus continued on the other side of the country.

Despite effective vaccines and treatments that dramatically boosted survival rates, the outbreak dragged on as first responders struggled to gain access to virus hotspots in Congo's restive east.

"Compared to previous outbreaks, this last one was the longest, the most complex and the deadliest," Health Minister Eteni Longondo told

reporters.

Congo has suffered 11 Ebola outbreaks since the virus was discovered near the Ebola River in 1976, more than double any other country.

Its equatorial forests are a natural reservoir for the virus, which causes severe vomiting and diarrhoea and is spread through contact with body fluids.

This outbreak saw 3,463 confirmed and probable cases and 2,277 deaths.

"It wasn't easy and at times it seemed like mission impossible," said Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organization's Africa regional director.

Even as health officials celebrated the end of one Ebola epidemic, they face another, unrelated one more than 1,000 km (620 miles) away in the western city of Mbandaka.

That outbreak, declared on June 1, has seen up to 24 cases so far, including 13 deaths.

Longondo said he expected the response there to be easier because it is in a more stable part of the country where a previous epidemic in 2018 was quickly controlled.

In eastern Congo, some community leaders and local residents were suspicious of the response because they believed Ebola did not exist or resented being overlooked by donors.

Treatment centres were attacked by militia fighters who are active near Congo's borders with Uganda and Rwanda, and by angry local residents.

The largest Ebola outbreak in history occurred in West Africa from 2013-2016. It killed over 11,300 people mostly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.



Vegetables on sale at Dar es Salaam's Ilala mixed-foodstuffs market yesterday. Photo: Jumanne Juma

**IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA  
AT DAR ES SALAAM**

**MISC. CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 163 OF 2020**

**RICHARD KARUMUNA RWEYONGEZA ----- APPLICANT**

**VERSUS**

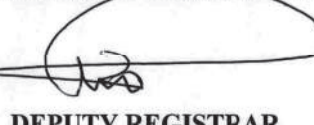
**AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION ----- 1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT**  
**MANAGING DIRECTOR INTER 33/34 LIMITED ----- 2<sup>ND</sup> RESPONDENT**  
**MASETO AUCTIONEER ----- 3<sup>RD</sup> RESPONDENT**

**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the above mentioned plaintiff has instituted a suit against you at the High Court of Tanzania (Dar es Salaam Registry), the facts of which may be found on request in the court file; You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relation to the suit or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all questions on 29<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020 before **Hon. L. M. MLACHA, JUDGE** to answer the claim. You must be prepared to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.

**TAKE NOTICE**, that in default of your appearance on that day aforementioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

GIVEN under my HAND and SEAL of court this ..... day of June, 2020

  
**DEPUTY REGISTRAR  
HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA  
DAR ES SALAAM ZONE**

215789701

## Digital agriculture should trigger new green revolution for Africa

DIGITAL agriculture refers to tools that digitally collect, store, analyse, and share electronic data and/or information along the agricultural value chain. Other definitions also emphasise the role of digital technology in the optimisation of food systems.

Sometimes known as smart farming or e-agriculture, digital agriculture includes (but is not limited to) precision agriculture. Unlike precision agriculture, digital agriculture impacts the entire agri-food value chain – before, during, and after on-farm production. On the other hand, digital technologies involved in e-commerce platforms, e-extension services, warehouse receipt systems and block chain-enabled food traceability systems.

Africa must therefore seize the opportunity of the Covid-19 pandemic to deepen the digitalisation of agricultural value chains and transform the sector. Transforming agriculture in Africa through digitalisation is indeed very crucial. Africa should explore digital responses that can be quickly deployed to address the disruptions to food systems, caused by Covid-19 and also examine the requirements for digital transformation in agriculture on the continent.

Nearly 500 people, representing agri-tech, telecom, government agency implementers, policymakers, farmers and development partners, participated.

Africa should identify potential investments for the digital transformation of African agriculture during and after Covid-19, ranging from digital profiling of value chain actors to mobile payments and e-commerce. Necessary policy and regulatory frameworks for inclusiveness, scalability and viability, including for data governance and protection, digital financial products, digital ID systems, e-contracts and e-extension services are equally important too. The bundling of digital services, agri-tech innovation challenges and open systems will help build financially viable supply capacity.

Efforts need to be catalysed on both the policy and investment fronts for

digitalisation to help make agri-food systems more productive, more inclusive and more sustainable in the future. Before the Covid-19 crisis, digital technologies were changing the global economy, and agri-food systems were part of that transformation. With Covid-19, this trend has accelerated.

Like elsewhere, the spread of Covid-19 has disrupted agri-food systems across Africa. Key supply chains have been interrupted, markets closed and movement restricted, resulting in agricultural labour shortages. Farmers are missing planting seasons, while agribusinesses are facing liquidity constraints.

Demand for catering has dwindled and consumer preferences have shifted away from highly perishable foods, like fruits and vegetables, meat and fish, to ones with longer shelf-lives.

We must also use this wave of interest to build digital platforms that facilitate linkages between value chain actors at much-reduced transaction costs.

As the pandemic gradually shifts from an emergency response to recovery and resilience, there is an opportunity to build back better in the agricultural sector and that financial inclusion will be a game-changer in rural communities.

We need to ensure that costs are not a barrier, that small-scale farmers can adopt and apply digital advisory and other knowledge products and that the content is relevant, localized and actionable.

Population growth, coupled with the expanding middle class, youth bulge, and changing diets could drive the value of the African food market to \$1 trillion by 2030.

The growth of digital, data-driven and tech-enabled solutions can trigger a new green revolution for Africa, addressing some of the challenges and constraints along the entire value chain, from input supply to the consumer end, he noted.

All in all digitalisation is critical for the agricultural sector due to the potential negative impact of the health crisis on economic recovery and food security.

## Climate change literacy helps on Africa's development challenges

CLIMATE change occurs when the changes in Earth's climate system result in new weather patterns that last for at least a few decades and may be for millions of years.

Despite the fact that Africa bears the brunt when it comes to erratic global weather patterns, many people are still unfamiliar with the climate change phenomenon.

The recent havoc caused by tropical cyclone Idai which struck the southern African countries of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi is a grim reminder that Africa remains the most vulnerable continent as far as climate change mitigation is concerned.

A new survey released by Afrobarometer paints a bleak picture of how agriculture conditions are worsening due to delayed rainfall, decreasing quality of life and most surprising of all, little or no knowledge at all about the impact of climate change. Climate change or global warming is a long-term rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate system; an aspect of climate change shown by temperature measurements and by multiple effects of the warming. Though earlier geological periods also experienced episodes of warming, the term commonly refers to the observed and continuing increase in average air and ocean temperatures since 1900 caused mainly by emissions of greenhouse gases in the modern industrial economy.

The research discovered that out of the 34 African countries surveyed, respondents in 30 countries said agricultural production had greatly declined as a result of drought over the past decade.

Farmers in Uganda have been waiting endlessly for rain, and South Africa has experienced excessive flooding. These unusual weather patterns shows long term changes in temperatures that

ultimately affect rainfall patterns and the ability for Africa as a whole to produce food.

In the survey, 'climate change literacy' was described as the perception that the respondent knows about climate change, he or she links it to negative changing weather patterns and recognizes that human activity plays a huge role in climate change due to greenhouse emission.

Whereas 58 per cent of Africans said they had heard about climate change, four in ten admitted that they had never heard of the term before.

Afrobarometer identified those working in agricultural sector in the rural areas, the poor, women and the less educated as those unaware about climate change.

The majority who knew and understood what climate change is said changing weather patterns had made life worse in their respective countries. Climate change is defining the development challenge of our time in Africa.

Our continent is the most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. Interestingly, the survey found out that key issues such as water scarcity, food security and agriculture which were raised by those being interviewed are directly connected to climate change.

Africa is a signatory to several international agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the 2016 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. These global pacts seek to fight and reverse the effects of climate change.

The Afrobarometer survey on climate change recommends that African governments, policymakers and activists, to create more awareness especially among those with little knowledge about climate change. The report concludes that this will help build an informed population that understands climate change threats and will support coordinated government and international action.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

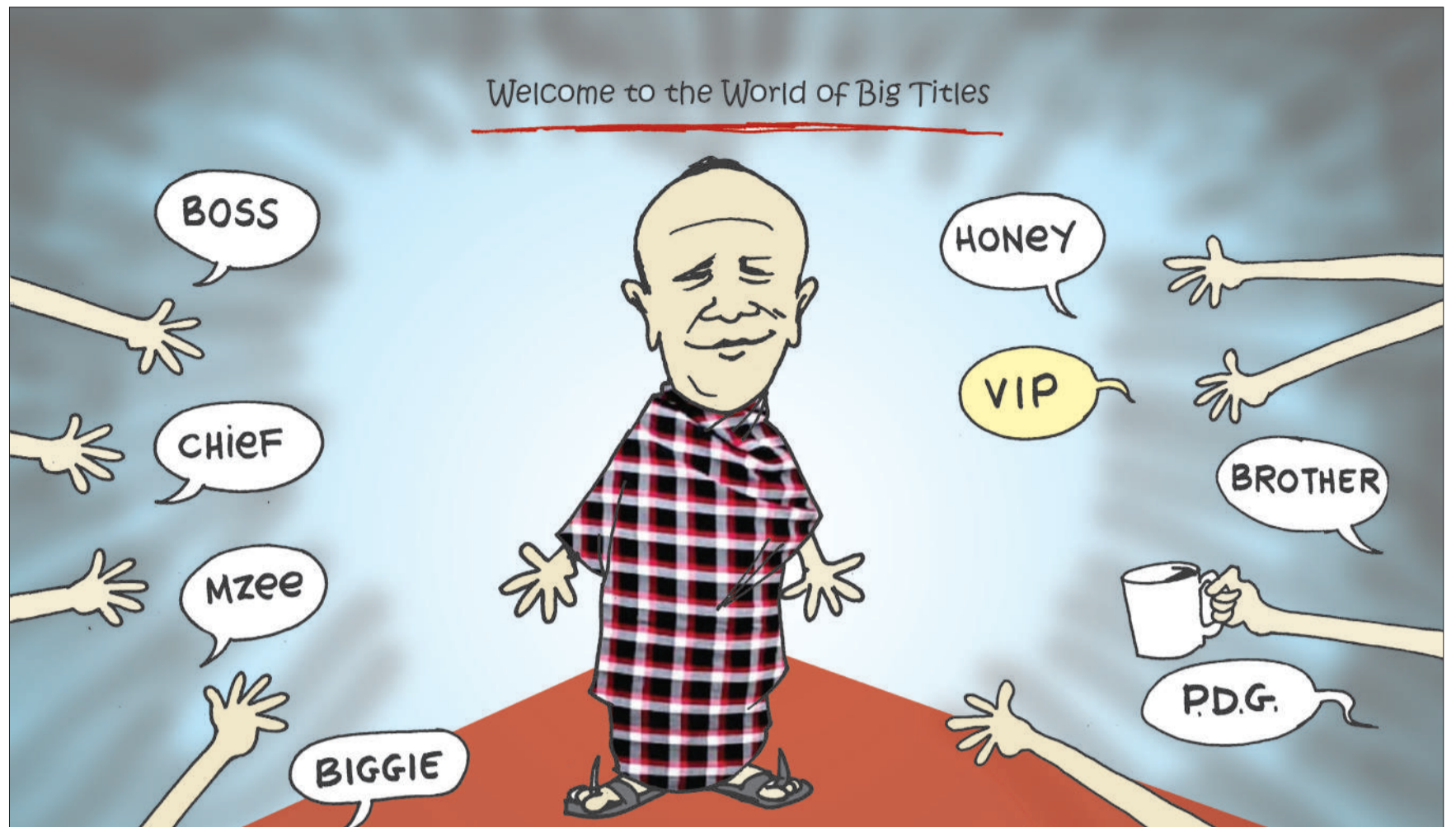
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By Carola Buscemi

MALARIA is a mosquito-borne infectious disease that affects humans and other animals. Malaria causes symptoms that typically include fever, tiredness, vomiting, and headaches. In severe cases it can cause yellow skin, seizures, coma, or death. Symptoms usually begin ten to fifteen days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

If not properly treated, people may have recurrences of the disease months later. In those who have recently survived an infection, reinfection usually causes milder symptoms. This partial resistance disappears over months to years if the person has no continuing exposure to malaria.

Across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has led people to fear accessing healthcare facilities. As a paediatrician working for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Sierra Leone, and with the malaria season fast approaching, I am particularly fearful of what reduced health seeking behavior may mean for children in a country with a high rate of child mortality.

I work in MSF's Hangha hospital which provides emergency medical care to children under 5. MSF built the hospital to help reduce Sierra Leone's incredibly high levels of child mortality (105 per 1,000 live births according to the WHO, by comparison Italy, where I am from, has a rate of 3). Since opening in March 2019 until the end of May 2020, the hospital has provided over 7,900 consultations in its emergency room; over 3,300 of these were children with malaria.

Our hospital has already seen some significant indirect consequences of the pandemic. The first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Sierra Leone on 31 March. Since then, a higher proportion of children are arriving in critical and serious conditions. I remember one child stopped breathing at the entrance to our triage in the emergency room. He had come by ambulance from a small rural village three hours away. Despite all our attempts at resuscitation, the child passed away due to cerebral malaria. He had arrived too late. The child's mother told me he had had a fever for three days and then got worse; he started having convulsions at home and lost consciousness. It was heartbreaking but it also made me angry, not towards the mother but about the situation, if the child had come sooner he might have been saved.

This increase in late presentations may be due to COVID-19. My colleagues who work in health promotion say they meet lots of people who tell them they are now scared to go to health facilities. When their children are sick, parents often wait until the child is very unwell

## Don't neglect malaria and measles amid COVID-19!



A community health worker carries out a rapid diagnostic test for malaria in the village of Gbapi, Kenema District in Sierra Leone

before bringing them to hospital. This makes me feel so sad and impotent because if children arrive late then sometimes there's nothing we can do for them.

Children under five are the most vulnerable to malaria: in 2018 they accounted for 67% of all malaria deaths worldwide. High grade fever, vomiting, diarrhoea are common presentation symptoms in children although many of them present with features of severe complicated malaria such as anaemia, hypoglycaemia and convulsions.

Sierra Leone is in a region affected by Falciparum parasite, the most deadly form of malaria parasite. In MSF's hospital children who test positive are immediately administered malaria medication, the most critical patients are admitted into ICU and treated for coexisting complications. Most arrive with moderate anaemia but in cases of severe anaemia, a major contributor to child morbidity, we often need to provide blood transfusions to save the child's life.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global tragedy but the consequences for children could be terrible if resources are diverted from malaria prevention and treatment. The WHO already predicts a doubling of malaria deaths, the majority of whom will be children, if regular prevention actions are suspended.

Here in Sierra Leone, the government

has stuck to its pre-pandemic plan of distributing 4.6 million bed nets to people across the country, with MSF providing logistical support in the chiefdoms of Gorama Mende and Wandor. All countries with high prevalence of malaria should engage in prevention activities such as this that reduce cases of malaria and so lessen strain on health systems.

With health systems facing direct and indirect consequences of COVID-19 it is important that health actors adapt their activities for malaria and other diseases. If health facilities are overloaded, or people are scared to visit them, then community based care allows people to receive the treatment they need without the need to travel. In my hospital MSF has begun assessments of remote villages in which we will run mobile clinics, so that people can get the healthcare they need even if they are too scared to travel to a health facility.

MSF also provides medication, training and other support to MoHS community health workers (CHWs) who provide medical care directly in remote villages in the chiefdoms of Gorama Mende, Wandor and Nongowa. The CHWs can diagnose and treat malaria using rapid diagnostic tests and medication, so that people can recover from malaria, at home, in just a few days. At the start of the year MSF was supporting 35 CHWs, we are now

supporting 47 and hope to increase to 65 by the end of the year.

Health actors should prioritize activities such as vector control by supporting mass net distribution, health promotion sensitisations, access to healthcare with prompt diagnosis and effective malaria treatment are essential to avoid an increase in mortality, especially in vulnerable populations. MSF fills the gaps where it can, prioritizing saving lives, but it is important that all health actors continue to take actions that we know can save lives from malaria.

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented situation for all health actors, including MSF. However, in fighting this new disease, we must not forget all the other conditions that lead to so much loss of life. From what we know so far, the direct consequences of COVID-19 have been mainly felt in adults, by continuing and adapting malaria prevention and treatment we can at least let children be spared.

Paediatrician Carola Buscemi with Médecins Sans Frontières in Sierra Leone has raised concerns about the COVID-19 response interfering with the treatment of measles and malaria for children. Several countries on the continent are dealing with hundreds of measles and malaria cases as their battle with the novel coronavirus continues.



# Scholar Kezilahabi died having done Tanzania, Kiswahili literature proud

By Mikhail Gromov

**K**ISWAHILI literature in January this year lost a distinguished novelist, poet and scholar who had made an unprecedented contribution to its growth and development. It is none than Professor Euphrase Kezilahabi (April 13, 1944 to January 9, 2020), who died in Dar es Salaam after a long illness.

This short article sets out to give an overview of the Tanzanian scholar's creative work, work depicting those achievements that forever secured for him the pride of place in the "golden cohort" of modern Kiswahili literature.

Kezilahabi (pictured) was born in Namagondo village on the Ukerewe Island - Mwanza Region - in the south-eastern part of Lake Victoria. He had ten siblings.

He had his primary education in the village's school and secondary education at Nyegezi (Catholic Church seminary) - then proceeded to the Dar es Salaam University College (renamed University of Dar es Salaam - UDSM - in 1970) in 1967, where he obtained his first degree in 1970, and his Master's in 1976.

From 1977 to 1984 Kezilahabi was doing a doctorate programme at the University of Madison in the US, and got his doctorate degree in 1985.

For a number of years he was employed at the Department of Kiswahili and the Institute of Kiswahili Research at the Dar-es-Salaam University. From 1996 he served as Professor of African Literature at the University of Gaborone in Botswana.

Kezilahabi is the author of six novels, three collections of poetry, a number of short stories and various scientific works. His only play - Kaputula la Marx (literally, Marx's shorts) - was written in the 1970s. It was initially banned, only to be published much later - in 1996.

In numerous critical works on Kezilahabi's poetry, their authors almost unanimously stress one main trait that substantially differentiates his poems from those of his contemporaries and predecessors.

Kezilahabi was the first to abandon the strict canon of classical Kiswahili poetry in favour of free verse. In the preface to his first collection - Kichomi (The Cramp, 1974) - he wrote: "I had my aim when I was writing the poems. What I want to bring to Kiswahili poetry is the use of common language; the language that people use in their everyday conversations... This revolution of not using rhymes and using the common language of the people has happened in the poetry of different countries. And I did the same not in order to imitate them, but because I believe that a revolution of this kind is a big step forward in Kiswahili poetry".

As a Kenyan scholar - Kimani Njogu noted, "He sought to break the chains of poetic fixity". And he succeeded; the technique of free verse in Kiswahili was further developed in his subsequent collections - Karibu ndani (Welcome inside, 1988) and Dhifa (The Banquet, 2008) - and has had an impressive following among distinguished Swahili poets, such as Tanzanian authors Said Ahmed Mohamed, Mnyabuso Mulokozi and Kulikoyelo Kahigi, Kenyan writers Alamin Mazrui and Kithaka wa Mberia.

Early novels of Kezilahabi comprise the first conscious and successful attempt to introduce into Kiswahili writing the principles of critical realism. His first novel Rosa Mistika (1971), which caused a trenchant reaction from both the public and the authorities (some schools even banned the book), is the story of a virtuous girl who falls victim to adverse social circumstances.

The writer, striving to understand the tragedy of his heroine, step by step traces the disintegration of her personality under the pressure of her social milieu - the family, tyrannised by her alcoholic father, missionary school, where the headmistress forced her into becoming a squealer, the college, where she got seduced by the principal.

Afterwards, Rosa slips into latent prostitution, which however does not prevent her from getting a teaching job at a primary school. However, in the final chapters of the novel tables turn - when she tries to establish a decent life with her new sweetheart Charles; the latter happens to learn about her past



and walks out on her. In desperation, Rosa commits suicide. In this novel Kezilahabi, also obviously influenced by his strong Christian background, depicts a human being as a mystery or riddle which even Almighty God cannot decipher. In the final episode of the book, Rosa faces her Creator who, after questioning her about her life, exclaims: "Vere, tu Rosa mistica es!" - and, hence, the title of the novel.

Kezilahabi's next novel Kichwamaji (Misfit, 1974) develops the artistic principles founded in his debut novel; it is also pronouncedly influenced by existentialist philosophy, in which the author took an interest during those years.

The novel evolves in a Tanzanian setting, one of the major themes of modern African literature - that is, the gap between generations and disorientation of the young. The main character, university graduate Kazimoto, is getting gradually disillusioned. He is not attracted by his future job as a teacher, which he sees as futile. After holidays spent in his native village, he realises his total alienation to rural society. His disappointment in the ideology of Tanzanian ujamaa, or "communal socialism", is sparked by his meeting with his school-mate - Manase.

Manase, having fathered a child with mental problems, gives up his career as a civil servant and goes into seclusion with his family. All these miseries even lead Kazimoto to iconoclasm - he asserts that "God was created by our fears".

The last blow comes when his own long-awaited child is stillborn. Overwhelmed by calamities, Kazimoto, as Rosa in the first novel, takes his own life.

The founding idea of the novel is also symbolized in its title - "Kichwamaji". In the novel, Manase's child, born with liquid in the brain, metaphorically represents a future generation that would have to grow without any guidelines in life - their parents failed to relay those guidelines to them because they themselves did not have any in the first place.

Two subsequent novels by Kezilahabi, published in the 1970s, reflect his growing disappointment in ujamaa. In Dunia Uwanja wa Fujo (literally, the world is a battleground, 1975), the writer tells the story of Tumaini, who in many aspects resembles Kazimoto from the previous novel.

Tumaini is also a university graduate and also striving to overcome his alienation to the traditional way of life - he tries to return to his native village, but the indolence of village customs and rural life makes him leave the village again.

But unlike Kazimoto, who became totally disappointed in life in its totality, Tumaini finds a sense of living in eternal values - family life and free labour. However, his ideal stands far from the postulates of "communal socialism" - he becomes a self-employed farmer and, because of his prudence and diligence, becomes one of the wealthiest landowners in the country.

Tumaini's tragedy, however, is caused by the spread of "communal socialism" across the country - his land is confiscated and, deprived of all livelihood, in desperation kills the party official overseeing the nationalisation of land in the region.

In the final chapter Tumaini, now sentenced to death, tells his friend, Dennis, during their last meeting: "You told me that the world is a battleground, it is total chaos, and thus everyone must rely on his own reason, to work hard so as not to lose oneself... I did

all that, believing that I would live in bliss. And where am I now?... I will die, but my honour remains with me. And whether I was right or wrong - let the future generations make their own judgment." An even more impartial and generally negative portrait of the propagators of ujamaa is drawn in the novel Gamba la Nyoka (Snake's Skin, 1979) - namely, those who were transforming the idealistic principles of "communal socialism" into its not-so-humane practices.

The novel revolves around two party activists, Mambosasa and Mamboleo, both young university graduates who are coordinating the forced movement of rural settlements in the region to the so-called ujamaa villages.

Their efforts elicit rampant violence, as the inhabitants of newly created "ujamaa village" succumb to hunger and diseases. Eventually, it is discovered that even their appointment to the provincial areas was, in fact, a demotion - because of the attempted rape attempt they were suspected of during their student years.

The senior officials are painted no less reprovingly - when the "heroes" are summoned to the local head official and are expecting a court sentence for their wrong deeds, instead they are given a lecture on moral behaviour and the party's policy, and then dismissed.

However, in the final part of the novel they repent and plead that they be sent back to the province even as low-ranking staff. This finale appears a bit artificial in comparison to the novel's general critical-satirical spirit of the novel - but, maybe, it was caused by extra-literary factors, especially remembering that in those years censorship of literary works was at full play.

A real breakthrough in Kezilahabi's literary career and in the development of Kiswahili novel writing in general was the publication of his dilogy (Nagona, 1990) and Mzingile (Labyrinth, 1991), where he laid the foundations of the so-called "experimental", or "new" novel in modern Kiswahili literature. Two parts of the dilogy are connected by plot, characters and the main themes - the fate of humankind and its relationship with the universe and the supreme powers.

According to the author, the future the human world is subject to several catastrophes. The first one may be deemed as the catastrophe of the human society followed by the human race, allegorically depicted as the town where the main character (referred to as just "Mimi" - 'I') comes, decides to reject thinking, throws away all books, kills librarians and writers leading a miserable life in dilapidated houses, feeding themselves from the 'well of dreams'. However, even these miserable remnants of the human race are to perish in the second, more symbolic (but arguably more drastic), catastrophe of human knowledge, allegorically shown as the day of Ngoma Kuu (The Main Dance) or Ungamo Kuu (The Great Confession).

Both names are, in fact, quite applicable for on that day a certain Kizee Mwenye Fimbo (An Old Man with a Stick, as may be assumed, the Supreme Being) summons to a ceremonial dance a groups of dancers, each headed by a prominent figure in the history of human knowledge - from Aristotle and Freud to Karl Marx. The dance, however, turns into a wild orgy, which grows into the collapse of the world.

After the Main Dance, very few peo-

ple manage to stay alive, among them Mimi, who is now bound to take care of a little girl born on the day of the Ngoma Kuu. This girl was supposed to be the long-awaited Second Saviour but all her attempts to save humankind, already revived, are in vain - she is killed just as her predecessor was.

Mimi is now supposed to find God, her father, and to bring him to his daughter's funeral. The hero finds God - the very same Kizee Mwenye Fimbo - a frail old man, just about to die.

The old man refuses to leave his mountain hut, so the hero returns to the human world all by himself. On his return, he discovers that during his absence several centuries have passed, control of the world has been taken by a totalitarian government, and this has once again driven the world to into a catastrophe, this time nuclear one.

The main character, Mimi, decides to settle in the ruins of his native village and, to his surprise, finds - in his demolished residence - the same Kizee Mwenye Fimbo, God Almighty, whose mountain hut has also been burned and so he had no option but to descend, ready to die amidst the remnants of the human world.

The hero feeds the old man and treats him well in every way. One day it rains heavily, the nature, nearly finished by the war, starts to live afresh. The hero meets a magic girl, whom he marries (throughout the dilogy she is also featured as a supernatural creature called Nagona), and it appears that they are bound to become the Adam and Eve of a new and better humankind. In the final scene of the book, God climbs back to his mountain, the presumption being that the world will start all over again.

Brief as it is, this narration of the plot shows just how complicated the stylistic and generic palette of the dilogy is. It is not a novel as such - not even a parable or a myth - but a synthetic whole which some critics had almost immediately deemed as suggesting "Kiswahili postmodernism".

The author (Prof Kezilahabi) himself made it clearer in an interview: "Although I read a lot about Western postmodernism, in my work I am more orientated towards Latin American literature, Marquez and his followers, especially the way they use oral tradition... But, anyway, I think that Kiswahili literature must change in order to cope with new tasks, especially in relation to these new theories." The importance of creating a "new" novel by Kezilahabi can be compared only to the value of his introduction of free verse to Kiswahili poetry. It also elicited a substantial following - the "new" novel has been developed by such other distinguished writers as Said Ahmed Mohamed, William Mkufya, Gabriel Ruhumbika (all of them Tanzanians) and Kenyan authors Kyallo Wamitila, Tom Olali and Clara Momanyi.

"Literature must change" - this conviction appears to have guided Prof Kezilahabi's experiments and achievements throughout his long creative life, and modern Kiswahili writing owes its current development to a great extent to the findings of this great writer, scholar and innovator.

**Article e-mailed to The Guardian - for publication - by the Dar es Salaam-based Russian-Tanzanian Cultural Centre. Mikhail Gromov is a Russian scholar.**

## Facts are the best rumour dispeller

By Ren Ping

**O**PENNESS and transparency are what China has underlined in its COVID-19 response, as well as objective evaluation of the international society on China's anti-pandemic experience.

However, some U.S. politicians are always lying through their teeth, saying China underreported the numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths and covered up relevant information while knowing the severity of the disease. This time, they cooked up a new story, slandering that China was stealing the COVID-19 vaccine research from the U.S.

It's unusual and unbelievable that dignitaries of a country are lying without remorse and taking double dealing as a routine.

Facts are the best rumour dispeller. Wuhan, the former epicenter of COVID-19 in central China's Hubei province, recently tested 9.9 million people in just 19 days, and only found 300 asymptomatic cases. Besides, no infection has been caused by asymptomatic patients so far.

The test results were in line with the previous data released, which further indicated the reliability of China's statistics. "If China is forging statistics, they must have a time machine," remarked Nobel prizewinner Michael Levitt, refuting the U.S. false accusation. Facts revealed not only the absurdity of the U.S. slander, but also the true intention of the U.S. politicians.

Facts proved that to understand and control an unknown virus takes a process. When the virus firstly broke out, there was almost no scientific evidence suggesting that the novel virus might lead to a dangerous pandemic. Even so, China still reacted in an amazing speed. It reported the viral pneumonia of unknown cause to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. on Jan. 3, and unprecedented measures were taken by the country 20 days later to sound a stunning alarm for the world.

Even some U.S. politicians lauded China's epidemic response at first. However, they had a turnabout due to their incapability to control the epidemic, trying to duck responsibilities and pass the buck to China. How could such self-contradiction

tory practice watertight?

A Chinese internet user once asked what kind of transparency the U.S. politicians were demanding. If such transparency was based on assumption and used to frame others, then they would never be satisfied with China's transparency.

It is recognized that these U.S. politicians, draining their brains to shift the blames to China, are absolutely not seeking for "truth" or "transparency". What they are trying to do is just finding a scapegoat for their incapability and hyping international confrontation to win elections.

The New York Times pointed out that some U.S. politicians increasingly believe that elevating China as an arch-enemy culpable for the spread of the virus, and harnessing America's growing animosity toward Beijing, may be the best way to salvage a difficult election. The Washington Post was blunter, saying the White House is guilty of exactly what it accuses China of doing.

The COVID-19 pandemic is something that certain U.S. politicians seek private gains from, but for plain American citizens, it is an unbearable trauma. According to a research by the Columbia University, if the United States had begun imposing social distancing measures one week earlier than it did in March, about 36,000 fewer people would have died in the coronavirus outbreak, and if the country had begun locking down cities and limiting social contact two weeks earlier than most people started staying home, the vast majority of the nation's deaths - about 83 percent - would have been avoided.

Till today, these U.S. politicians are still weighing people's lives and political interests, and even diverting attention and shifting responsibility by defunding the WHO and interfering in other countries' domestic affairs.

Lies will always be lies no matter how they are disguised. "The world has loved, hated and envied the US. Now, for the first time, we pity it," said the Irish Times in a commentary. From this we see the world's compassion for U.S. citizens, and also the contempt for the practices of certain U.S. politicians.

People's Daily

By Jennifer Dorroh

## Challenges facing photojournalists in the COVID-19 era

**C**OVERING Covid-19 is often an exercise in explaining statistics: How many people are sick? Unemployed? What is this week's death rate? But photographers are showing us the human face - and cost - of the pandemic.

Journalists "have been telling this story, more than any story I can remember, from a data point of view", said Todd James, senior photo editor for National Geographic magazine, adding: "All of those data points, those are people." "If we are going to have an empathetic response to how this is affecting people's lives and who it is affecting disproportionately, I think we have to see in a first-person, present-tense way who we're talking about and how it's affecting their lives," James said during a recent ICFJ webinar.

James, along with photojournalists David Rodriguez and Camilla Ferrari, shared recent work, talked about the role photojournalism is playing during the Covid-19 pandemic, and imagined how the global health crisis might shape their craft in the future. IJNet Manager David Maas moderated the panel.

"By creating a level of human connection, people can relate to the subjects and connect with them," said Rodriguez, who is shooting a five-part series on farm workers in Salinas, California. During the session, he shared images from his photo essay about a family struggling with food insecurity.

He elaborated: "My hope is that documenting these people struggling creates a sense of empathy in lawmakers and just your average Joe, and helps us prepare for future

crises so we know where to invest our money."

Ferrari, a freelance multimedia visual storyteller based in Milan, shot photos of her empty city in March. But as the outbreak turned into a pandemic, she turned her lens on home and daily life with Stay Home: A Portrait of Confinement in Milan. "I'm very much fascinated by how simple yet powerful things, very banal things that we go through every day are, and how they impact our life and our personalities in us as humans," she said.

Ferrari hopes the photos will give others who are following stay-at-home orders a sense of "what we have the privilege to have, and a different way to meet the pandemic, to try to find the beauty in everyday life".



James commissioned American photographer Danny Wilcox Frazier to shoot a photo story about people facing loss in Detroit.

"People were dying alone. Important rituals of saying goodbye had been dramatically altered," he said. Overnight, the pandemic had "impacted the cultural rituals and the daily rituals of our lives".

"It was tricky at first. To fight the instinct to get close to people, because as journalists, that's our job - to get as close as we can to our sources, to connect with them on a human level." It took time to get "used to waving them down and talking to each of my sources from a distance and in a socially acceptable way," Rodriguez said.

"We as photographers tend to be seen as vultures," Rodriguez said. To avoid that perception, "I tend to get a lot of feedback from my sources. When I do that, I tend to get the best moments," he said, adding: "Having that constant dialogue with my sources tends to lead to better moments."

National Geographic has "abruptly had to rethink how we cover the world. And we've had

to do it regionally because no one could travel. So I think that will stick," James said, adding: "We have been moving in that direction for a long time."

"Now, we're very near a model where stories will come from people who are regional and know the stories better than someone perhaps arriving from Washington, DC, from a different culture," said James.

He elaborated: "I think this is an important and optimistic moment for that shift to take place, where storytelling will be more regional, the way we think about assigning, the way we think about telling stories. We will get a much more robust sort of diversity in terms of the stories we're telling and who's telling those stories."

"Trust and access to stories, to

families, to sources, I think that's going to take the biggest hit. It's already, for anyone, hard to trust a stranger to come and document your life," Rodriguez said. Now, "you're also battling their health issues and not only their health but also the health issues of their mother, and the health issues of their grandchild."

**In partnership with its parent organisation, the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ), IJNet (International Journalists' Network) is connecting journalists with health experts and newsroom leaders through a webinar series on Covid-19. The series is part of the ICFJ Global Health Crisis Reporting Forum. This article is part of IJNet's online coverage of reporting on Covid-19.**

# Covid-19 increases suffering of children in conflict

## UNITED NATIONS

**T**HE current coronavirus pandemic is having a profound affect on children in conflict zones – with girls especially being at higher risk of violence and sexual health concerns.

"For adolescent girls specifically, these disruptions can have profound consequences, including increased rates of pregnancy and child, early, and forced marriage," Shannon Kowalski, director of advocacy and policy at the International Women's Health Coalition (IWCH), told IPS.

Kowalski shared her concerns this week after an open debate on children and armed conflict at the United Nations, where experts shared the progress made in the efforts to pull children out of conflict-ridden circumstances, as well as how the current pandemic has made the issue more complex.

Virginia Gamba, special representative of the secretary-general for children and armed conflict, said her team had documented 25,000 grave violations against children.

Henrietta Fore, executive director of U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), said at the Jun. 23 briefing that although the organisation had rescued almost 37,000 children in the past three years, there remains massive concerns about the number of children still in dire situations.

She cited UNICEF's monitoring and reporting mechanism statistics over the last 15 years that reflect this reality.

UNICEF documented a total of 250,000 cases of grave violations against children in armed

conflict, including:

- the recruitment and use of over 77,000 children;
- killing and maiming of over 100,000 children;
- rape and sexual violence against over 15,000 children;
- abduction of over 25,000 children; and
- nearly 17,000 attacks on schools and hospitals.

The numbers reflect a grave – and timely – reality. On May 12, terrorists blew up a hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, killing 24 people, including two infants. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has since pulled out from the hospital citing security concerns.

This only deepens the problem for marginalised populations such as women and children. Fore said children in conflict zones who are now further caught in the pandemic are at a "double disadvantage", given that they're likely finding themselves at "increased risk of violence, abuse, child marriage and recruitment to armed groups".

A general increase in conflict Experts say there has been a general increase in organised violence in various parts of the world under the pandemic. Sam Jones, communications manager at Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), a data collection and crisis mapping project, told IPS that they've documented state repression and consequential violence in some places under the pandemic, while in some other cases, "warring parties have used the pandemic as an opportunity to escalate campaigns or push the advantage".

Jones' concern was reflected in



The ongoing conflict and continued prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Mali, creates a worrying picture for the West African nation. File photo

Fore's speech on Jun. 23, where she pointed out that when states manipulate this kind of crisis, it's the children who are hardest hit.

"Far too often, parties in conflict are using the pandemic and the need to reach and support children...for political advantage," she said. "Children are not pawns or bargaining chips - this must stop."

Certain areas have seen what Jones said is the largest increase in organised violence since the pandemic broke out around the world: Libya, Yemen, India, Mali and Uganda.

For all the countries, except Uganda, it was a mere intensification of already existing vio-

lence; in Uganda, the violence came in the form of government restrictions.

"By mid-April, ACLED had already recorded more than 1,000 total fatalities from conflict in Mali. Over the first three months of the year, we recorded nearly 300 civilian fatalities specifically, a 90 percent increase compared to the previous quarter," he said. "At best, violence has continued despite the pandemic, while at worst both armed groups and state forces could be using it as an opportunity to ramp up activity and target civilians," he added.

How conflict affects children and girls

The crisis in Mali is especially of importance as human rights advocates released a statement of concern just a day after the briefing, about Mali's failure to curb female genital mutilation (FGM).

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) raised alarms about the report released by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which stated more

than 75 percent of girls under the age of 14 had gone through the practice as of 2015.

Among other findings, the committee found that government has "failed to guarantee victims of female genital mutilation access to adequate and affordable health care, including sexual and reproductive health care". Concerns raised by experts such as Fore and Kowalski, when put next to the data about the ongoing conflict and continued prevalence of FGM in Mali, creates a worrying picture for the West African nation.

The committee report found that the women and girls in Mali already had limited access to sexual and reproductive health.

Meanwhile, Fore pointed out that the pandemic has exacerbated the lack of access for women and girls in countries that were already struggled to provide access. This raises the questions about how, on top of being a country in conflict, the pandemic is further exacerbating the health of girls who suffered FGM in Mali.

Fore said the current pandemic further adds layers to the crisis surrounding children in armed conflict.

"As the pandemic spreads, healthcare facilities have been damaged or destroyed by conflict, services have been suspended, children are missing out of basic medical care including vaccination, and water; sanitary systems have been damaged or destroyed altogether making it impossible for children to wash their hands," she said.

Meanwhile, Kowalski of IWCH raised concerns about U.S. President Donald Trump's recent decision to pull funding from the World Health Organisation, and what that means for girls caught in conflict.

"In addition, in most countries affected by COVID-19 we are experiencing increases in gender-based violence, reduced access to contraception, abortion, and other reproductive health services, and a decrease in the quality of maternal health care – all which are intensified for women and girls in conflict," she said.

Gamba, after sharing the statistics of children suffering in conflict, ended her speech on an important note.

"Behind these figures are boys and girls with stolen childhoods and shattered dreams, and there are families and communities torn apart by violence and suffering," she said. "The only thing children and communities have in common today is their hope for peace, a better life and a better future. We must rise to meet that expectation."

Agencies

By Chen Yingqun

**F**OR the past few years, Andrew Gatera has run a travel agency catering to visitors from around the world wishing to visit Rwanda and other East African countries.

He said his business was very promising until the COVID-19 pandemic struck the continent, totally changing people's lifestyles and ravaging economies.

Gatera, 34, managing director of G-step Tours, based in Kigali, the Rwandan capital, said that even though some African countries have started to lift lockdowns imposed to contain the novel coronavirus outbreak, the situation is still difficult, especially for the tourism industry.

Since the outbreak emerged in Rwanda in March, his company has halted nearly all its business.

"We have had so many cancellations from clients who were supposed to visit Rwanda and elsewhere in East Africa," he said.

Gatera, who is uncertain about the future of his business, frequently asks people if they will have the confidence to travel again soon, or if they will only start thinking about doing so next year.

He also said his family and friends have become accustomed to wearing face masks and keeping at least 1 meter apart from each other.

Meanwhile, in Cairo, the Egyptian capital, Michael Lee, 36, business manager at a Chinese internet company, said all commercial visits to clients have been canceled, and he has to rush home each day before a curfew takes effect.

"Some of my friends in Africa have returned to their home countries, as they are concerned about the spread of the virus as well as the limited medical services in Egypt," he said.

More than three months after Africa's first coronavirus case was reported on Feb 14 in Egypt, the outbreak has spread to all 54 countries on the continent.

Some African nations have recently started to gradually and cautiously ease anti-coronavirus measures to help life return to some semblance of normality and for economies to recover. Others have extended lockdowns or strengthened containment measures to avoid a rise in the number of new infections.

## Schools reopening

South Africa partly lifted a national

lockdown, allowing people to work outdoors, worship, exercise or go shopping. Mines and factories can now operate at full capacity again.

But the Department of Basic Education has delayed reopening of schools for students in grades 7 and 12 by a week, as teachers' unions and governing bodies said the schools did not have enough protective equipment to keep pupils safe.

Cyril Ramaphosa, the country's president, said last month that restrictions in most areas, except a number of COVID-19 hotspots, would be eased to allow more businesses to reopen and greater movement of people.

A strict lockdown was imposed in the country in late March, with people only allowed to leave home to shop for food or seek medical help. On May 1, the restrictions were eased slightly, with some businesses allowed to reopen.

Egyptians were ordered to wear face masks in public when using private transportation and when visiting government offices, as the country eased a partial lockdown imposed during the Eid alFitr holiday after the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Violators will be fined and a national curfew from 8 pm to 6 pm has been extended for another two weeks.

In Morocco, a national lockdown imposed in late March has been extended until June 10, with the situation in the country remaining "stable and under control, but not entirely reassuring", Prime Minister Saad Eddine El Othmani said.

Tang Xiaoyang, a researcher in African studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing, said African countries have tried hard to contain the outbreak, with most nations imposing lockdowns or other restrictive measures. The number of infections and deaths has not been as high as initially predicted.

He said that although a shortage of testing kits in many African countries may have given a false picture of the number of infections, a relatively young population, as well as high temperatures, "could have also made the continent less vulnerable to the virus".

Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organization's regional director for Africa, said recently that in most of the continent's countries "there will be a slower peak and a lower level of in-



Chinese medical experts share their experience of fighting the coronavirus with their counterparts in Mashonaland Central province, Zimbabwe, last month. (XINHUA)

fections than initially projected in our modeling". The revision was based on the success of some measures put in place by African governments, such as partial lockdowns, social distancing and hand-washing.

An earlier WHO assessment predicted that coronavirus infections in Africa would peak five weeks after the first case was reported in February, and that about 26 percent of the continent's population would become infected.

Tang said that although the situation seems better than predicted, the pandemic has weakened Africa's fragile health systems, ravaged its economy and aggravated food security threats. These three challenges will not disappear anytime soon, as the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Africa is still growing.

"For the moment, African countries should be cautious about reopening and also be prepared to coexist with the virus for a certain period of time," he added.

He Wenping, a researcher at the In-

stitute of West-Asian and African Studies and China-Africa Institute at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said African countries have relatively weak healthcare systems, poor sanitary conditions and public awareness, and face a shortage of medical supplies.

"Africa's fragile healthcare systems, which have already been overwhelmed by other infectious diseases such as the Ebola outbreak and HIV, will not be able to cope with a large-scale transmission of COVID-19," she said.

She added that many African countries do not have enough medical workers, and some face severe shortages of essential supplies such as face masks and personal protective equipment. In Mali, for example, there is just one ventilator per 1 million people.

"African countries should be alert to the changing coronavirus situation and make quick and effective responses accordingly. If the virus began to spread rapidly, it would be a disaster for the continent," she said.

The pandemic has badly affected the African economy, with at least 42 countries imposing partial or full lockdowns to contain the pandemic. Businesses have shut down, demand for products and services has dropped and there has been a lack of operational cash flow.

In a recent report, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa estimated that a one-month full lockdown across the continent would cost it about 2.5 percent of annual GDP, equivalent to some US\$65.7 billion per month. This is separate from and in addition to the wider external impact of COVID-19 on Africa in terms of lower commodity prices and investment flows.

Companies surveyed by the commission reported operating at only 43 percent of normal capacity, while 70 percent of slum dwellers said they were skipping meals or eating less as a result of the outbreak.

Hisham AbuBakr Metwally, an economics researcher at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Trade and Indus-

try, said African countries have weak economies and high unemployment rates, making the task of combating the pandemic extremely difficult.

"I believe that reopening the economy, and at the same time preventing the spread of the pandemic, is a very difficult matter, but exceptional laws can be enacted to prevent large gatherings, in addition to setting safety instructions for all industrial and commercial establishments and others," he said.

## Food security threats

One of the most sensitive issues facing policymakers is the impact of lockdowns on food security. The 2020 Global Nutrition Report said Africa has to tackle increasing food and nutrition security threats, as the pandemic is worsening already-fragile agricultural systems and undermining the continent's efforts to feed its people.

According to the UN World Food Programme, before the pandemic emerged, Africa accounted for the majority of some 212 million people worldwide who are "chronically food insecure and the 95 million who live amidst acute food insecurity".

Moeti, from the WHO, said COVID-19 has escalated food shortages in Africa, as containment measures such as lockdowns, curfews and social distancing hamper the storage, processing and transportation of food. Moreover, low-income households have borne the brunt of restricted movements amid loss of income and an inability to access open-air markets often the source of local staples.

Tang said African countries should adopt careful and gradual reopening based on active learning and data collection of the virus, which is still accelerating in many nations on the continent.

"Getting Africa back to normality will be a difficult process and will require global communities' support, whether in medical supplies, food supplies or economic recovery," he said.

Tang added that African countries should take advantage of being behind the curve (of infections) to learn from other regions' experiences with lockdown exit strategies. They should also quickly put in place testing and treatment systems in collaboration with global communities.

Xinhua

## NAIROBI

## Clamour grows in Africa to rename Lake Victoria

COINCIDING anti-racist protests sweeping the world, the clamor is growing in Africa to rename Lake Victoria which lies in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya.

Known as Africa's pride, the largest tropical lake with a surface area of 59,947 square kilometers (23,146 square miles) was named after Queen Victoria by the British explorer John Hanning Speke in 1850.

"Lake Victoria is our pride as Africans. It has the name the British have chosen. We want it back," said Victor Onyango, a businessman from Kenya, who lives on the shores of the lake.

There is already an online petition where Kenyan, Ugandan,

and Tanzanian citizens are urging their governments to shed the colonial legacy by renaming the lake.

The lake is the source of the Nile River and the second-largest freshwater lake in the world after Lake Superior in North America.

Among the various ethnic groups that live around the lake, it goes by indigenous names such as Nalubaale, Nyanza, Ukerewe, and Lolwe.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency Patrick Loch Otieno Lumumba, renowned Kenyan scholar and former director of the anti-corruption commission said it was

nonsensical to call the lake as Victoria.

"I do not doubt in my mind that all these colonial names should be changed. If you look at the history of many African countries the very first thing that they did was to change the colonial names," he said.

Among the notable names that were changed in the African continent over the years include Salisbury, which became Harare and Lourenço Marque which was renamed as Maputo.

"I am wondering why we did not change the name of Lake Victoria. Queen Victoria was one of

the leading supporters of slavery and I hope that the African community will take a decisive move to have that lake renamed," said Lumumba.

He said that Africans are torturing themselves by living with the disreputable historical landmarks and figures which have never been part and parcel of their plight. "I do not doubt in my mind that Lake Victoria should be renamed, Victoria falls, Mosi-oa-Tunya should be renamed. You cannot continue to give dignity to these colonialists. Even Egerton University should be renamed," he added. The Kenyan scholar

said the protests all over the world following the murder of George Floyd in the US is an outpouring of the pent-up anger suppressed over many years.

"My problem with African countries is that we have not been sufficiently angry at racism and colonization in comparison to the anger of the Jews against holocaust. We should be talking about reparations for slavery and even for the neo-colonial project," said the professor.

Lumumba noted that the Black Lives Matter protests in the US have opened up the opportunity for Africans to examine the very

substratum of colonial history.

Former South African President Jacob Zuma told a conference in 2017 that he wished the East African leaders could restore the name of Lake Victoria to its indigenous name.

In 2019 a proposal was moved by Tanzania's representative Abdullah Makame in the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) to change the name of the lake. But it was rejected after failing to garner majority support.

The motion was supported by Gabriel Alaak Garang Dining South Sudanese EALA representative. He said changing the name

to its indigenous one would be the beginning of changing and liberating African minds.

Many, however, feared that the lake which is a lifeline for various African countries will become a source of conflict if the name was changed.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, many people living on the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya supported the idea of reviving the indigenous name for the lake.

"I am sure we will not fight over a name. We can take any name that comes from Kenya, Uganda, or Tanzania. Anything is better than having the names of the people who tortured us because of the color of our skin," said Martin Otieno a fisherman, who had just finished his task in the lake.

## African migratory locusts tear through southeastern Zimbabwe, putting lives of farmers at serious risk

By Sharon Mazingaizo

SWARMS of African migratory locusts are tearing through Zimbabwe's southeastern lowveld region threatening farmers' livelihoods and food production, as the country battles food insecurity and a coronavirus pandemic.

The locust outbreak, fuelled by unseasonably heavy rains in the region, is now posing a threat to sugarcane plantations, winter crops and vegetation.

"Tackling swarms of locusts is challenging because they are unpredictable in their movements and it's hard to contain their spread. But we are working on effective control methods using chemical insecticides," said Shingirayi Nyamutukwa, an entomologist in the government's department of plant quarantine and the Plant Protection Services Institute.

"But managing the outbreaks by spraying them with insecticide is proving to be a challenge because farmers are harvesting and eating the locusts. This is creating a conflict because spraying the locusts would make them toxic, while the farmers view the locusts as food."

The locust outbreak comes as nearly 4.3 million people in rural Zimbabwe face severe food insecurity.



Emmanuel Masosota, a farmer living in Malilangwe in the southeastern lowveld – the

area where the video above was shot – is worried about losing his winter crops.

"I have 5ha of sugar beans, maize and wheat. Once the swarm of locusts arrive on a

farm, they eat everything and it's just devastating. Most of the farmers in this region are

sugarcane farmers. If the locusts destroy our crop that will be a huge blow because we rely on it for food and income. The outbreak is not only threatening our food source but it is also exposing us to a famine," said Masosota.

Locusts are destructive: each one can consume its own weight in food in a single day and swarms can fly 100km a day.

"The danger is African migratory locusts have a continuous reproductive and development rate.

As a government department we are taking measures to control the outbreak but Zimbabwe is also facing a fuel crisis and this makes it difficult to travel around the country to monitor the insects' movements and growth," said Nyamutukwa.

Farming communities are also taking measures to protect their food source by making loud noises to ward off locusts, while most farmers have resorted to eating the insects.

"Locusts have long been considered a delicacy in Zimbabwe, so why not eat them as a control method?" said a farmer in Malilangwe.

African migratory locust outbreaks have also been reported in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia.

## Mobile technology, partnerships, innovation are converging to transform the digital payment ecosystem in East Africa

By Adam Jones

TECHNOLOGICAL advancement and innovation are rapidly transforming the digital payment ecosystem in Tanzania. Today, interplay of fintechs, mobile network operators and traditional financial institutions are placing customized payment solutions in the hands of everyone through tools they already own, their mobile devices.

In 2013 there were about 23 million mobile telecom subscribers in Tanzania, according to data from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA). Today, the number has almost doubled to 44 million out of a population of 56 million with 83 percent of people accessing the internet doing so through these same devices.

It's not just the technology that matters – it's about simplifying the everyday life of consumers and SMEs across different touchpoints. These innovations are most relevant today as the world prepares for a post COVID-19 era making it imperative to ensure that people and businesses have access to the networks, tools and solutions that can help them reach their potential as we all strive for a world where there is financial security for all.

Thankfully, the growing reach of mobile technology creates a tremendous opportunity for the payments and technology industries in Africa to place these tools in more hands and help bring more people and businesses into the formal economy.

Leveraging our global payments capability, local innovation from our Lab for Financial Inclusion in Nairobi and partnerships with mobile network operators, fintechs, banks and governments, Mastercard has over the past two years introduced numerous solutions which are transforming the digital payment ecosystem in Tanzania.

Three major ones have been the Mastercard QR (quick response), which boosts touchless payments to merchants; Mastercard virtual card which enables consumers participate in e-commerce locally and internationally and our Mastercard Payment Gateway which enables online shopping at small and large domestic merchants.

Embedded in these three solutions are capabilities that simplify almost all payment touchpoints in the everyday life of consumers and merchants. These touchpoints range from making payments in malls or neighbourhood stores; to buying fuel; to supporting transit; to even e-commerce payments with local and global merchants. Each of these examples demonstrate how bringing together key players to provide locally relevant solutions, is having a far-reaching impact in driving financial inclusion of consumers and including them in the digital economy.

Launched in East Africa in 2017, Mastercard QR has a consumer base of over 15 million in Tanzania alone. Today, the QR technology is accessed by consumers across key major telecom providers in the country, with TigoPesa and Airtel Money users able to pay for transportation through this technology.

In addition, Mastercard's partnership with Selcom, Tanzania's leading fintech, has enabled their consumers across banks and all the leading mobile network operators to accept Mastercard QR payments thereby adding over 50,000 new merchants in two years.

## Dar women entrepreneurs discover a 'pearl' in social media marketing

By Jenifer Gilla

ASHURA Selemani one of few women entrepreneurs in Dar es Salaam who have started benefiting from the effective use of social media marketing to scale up their businesses.

A mother of two is engaging in selling wedding gowns, and owning a beauty salon business in Gongolamboto on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

She started with a very small capital of 1m/-, but now her capital has grown to more than 10m/-. This has been attributed to effective use of social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook to market her products.

Unlike other entrepreneurs, whose businesses have been affected by lockdowns during this time of Covid-19, a 31-year-old woman has not been shaken by the pandemic.

"I had no doubt that lockdowns will affect my business, because I do my business differently, my phone is my second office," says Ashura with confidence.

The secret behind Ashura's self-reliance is the use of social media to promote her business. She has been doing online business for the past five years.

Ashura started her online business in 2014, where she was selling wedding gowns, when one of her customers introduced the online idea.

"The day I posted the dress I got 200 likes and 5 orders, I did not believe my eyes," she says, noting that the feedback she got encouraged her to open a business account on Facebook and Instagram where she promotes her products.

The business has enabled her to open a saloon and a shop for kitchen appliances. All these products are sold online, with orders coming from all over the country.

She gets between 10 and 15 orders, two times more before the outbreak of Covid-19. The use of online platforms enables her to earn between 150,000/- and 200,000/- per day for all her three businesses.



Ashura is not the only woman to harvest the fruits of her creativity as Grace Maiko is also among the women in the city who are benefiting from the use of digital platforms to boost businesses.

Grace, who sells secondhand handbags at Mwenge market, has managed to sustain her customers who were getting lost because of the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus.

"I used to sit in my office all day without any customers, and then I thought why not take pictures and post to customers," she said.

Through online business Grace sells between 5 and 10 handbags per day, where she gets between 50,000/- and 100,000/- depending on the

quality of the products.

The increase in the number of women who use digital platforms has been caused by the development of the social media industry in the country, whereby there are more people using online platforms.

Kareen Alfred, founder and managing director of the Kibaha-based AKSVIN farms who has been motivating women to invest in digital agriculture. This is through a programme known as 'UthubutuwaMwanamke', which encourages women to venture into the use of social media to scale up their businesses. The programme provides a room for women to share knowledge on the good use of the internet.

"One of the issues that I ad-

dress women in seminars is the use of digital platforms to promote their business because this has been my winning gear in my farm business," says Kareen who grows fruits and vegetables. Kareen has been in the business since 2016 and she has been using digital platforms to market her products.

The use of digital media platforms, according to Kareen, has helped her avoid the use of middlemen who offer low prices to farmers.

She however advises women to use social media positively to boost their businesses rather than using them as luxury.

Zaituni Njovu is the manager and founder of Zaina Foundation, which creates digital security awareness to women in the

quest to empower them to adapt to emerging threats as it pertains to digital privacy and online data security.

She says it's so encouraging seeing women use digital platforms as a source of income.

"This means women are awake and have their rights to the internet effectively, and we are still encouraging them to use these rights," she says, encouraging women to use social media for economic gains. "We are doing our best to convince talented women entrepreneurs to use social networks to share their ideas and motivate others."

"There are big numbers of women who have access to internet but very few who use them positively like to promote their business and promoting human rights," says Ibrahim Salim, Director of Project, Programs and Communications at Action for Rural Women Empowerment

He says: "There a need to educate women on the good use of the internet, especially social media because it is a powerful source of income."

Today, the world boasts of 4.5 billion internet users, 23 million of whom are Tanzanians.

Based on the Economist Intelligence Unit country-disaggregated data, men remain 21 percent more likely to be online than women, rising to 52 percent in the world's least developed countries (LDCs).

GSMA 2019 Report reveals that high prices of mobile telephones prevent the majority of women from mobile ownership hence denies them the access to the internet in Tanzania.

In Tanzania 77 percent of women own mobile phones but only 17 percent only use the internet.

UN Secretary-General, António-Guterres, once quoted as suggesting: "There is a limited gain in gender equality and women's rights made over the decades are in danger of being rolled back due to the COVID-19 pandemic and urge governments to put women and girls at the centre of their recovery efforts."

# Africa could stand to benefit if the US-China cold war gets hotter

By Ronak Gopaldas and Bronwyn Williams

**T**HE ongoing strategic rivalry between the United States and China has been dubbed the Cold War of the 21st century. Much like its forerunner - which saw a multi-decade contest between capitalism and communism - the current rivalry between Washington and Beijing lays out competing political and economic systems and visions for the future. The fault lines between the two vastly different approaches have created stark choices for policymakers and businesses to contend with. Most notably, they have highlighted trade-offs and tensions in the pursuit of economic prosperity between authoritarianism and democracy, stability and liberty, and nationalism and globalism.

While these tensions have bubbled under the surface for some time - first through periodic currency wars then through a Trump-induced trade war and more recently through technological hostilities - they have yet to escalate into sustained conflict. This low level of competitive intensity and the economic interdependence between the two countries had supported the belief that escalation would be contained and controlled, despite episodes of turmoil.

However, recent events have rendered this view less certain.

The fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic has seen a significant uptick in tensions which seem to be approaching an inflection point. With Trump routinely calling the coronavirus the "China virus" and "Kung Flu", withdrawing funding from the World Health Organisation due to allegations of Chinese favouritism, and generally scapegoating China ahead of the upcoming US election, China has fallen firmly into Washington's firing line.

Discounting the theatrical nature of Trump's methods, the approach is no doubt reflective of an underlying American enmity towards China, and a commitment to curb its expanding global influence. China has not backed down in the face of these actions. Moreover, its quick containment of the virus and its strong economic and healthcare diplomacy efforts (including the supply of cash and medical resources to vulnerable countries, most notably in Eastern Europe) have allowed it to exploit the leadership vacuum traditionally filled by the US.

With financial, geopolitical and ideological battle lines being drawn, there is now a distinct possibility of this cold war escalating into something "hotter".

Cynics... believe that the strategy of lending money at seductive rates - only to seize strategic assets of vulnerable nations - is a modern form of imperialist exploitation.

The implications of such a rupture would be profound. In a world where isolationist America and imperial China were to go head to head, such a development would trigger contagion and strategic realignment across the globe. As was the case during the original Cold War, developing countries would become a theatre for competition in this game of geopolitical chess. As the powers compete for access and influence, and ultimately economic gain, countries that provide strategic value will be heavily courted; they will find themselves at crossroads, needing to make critical choices that best serve their national interests.

For countries that fall within this orbit, the calculus will centre around which side presents the more compelling proposition, and where they are able to achieve maximum diplomatic and financial returns. Determining how, when and on what terms to align with which power will be the multi-billion-dollar dilemma.

Three areas in particular stand out as arenas of contestation. First, nations should re-evaluate their international debt and equity funding options. Second, there is an opportunity to redesign international institutions on a more equal footing. Third, nations need to carefully consider the technological trade routes currently being laid down.

**Funding dilemmas - between a rock and a hard place?**

Caught with their pants down from the Covid-19-induced economic shock, many emerging markets are now scrambling for funding. External



US President Donald Trump with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, after reviewing honour guards during a welcome ceremony in Beijing, China, on 9 November 2017. File photo

sources of financial assistance, notably IMF funding and Chinese assistance, have emerged as the primary creditor options.

Enamoured by the lack of conditionality and less expensive nature of Chinese arrangements, a number of countries in Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia have already fallen for the charms of Beijing. Such loans, which typically assume the form of cash-for-infrastructure, and are heavily aligned to China's flagship geostrategic project (The Belt and Road Initiative), have enjoyed widespread support among emerging nations. Enthusiasts argue that these present a compelling alternative to the paternalistic and strict nature of Western financing arrangements, while simultaneously helping to plug the pervasive infrastructure deficits that exist in these countries.

Cynics, however, believe that the strategy of lending money at seductive rates - only to seize strategic assets of vulnerable nations - is a modern form of imperialist exploitation.

While leaders have favoured such instruments because they are perceived to have "no strings attached", the opaque nature of these loans and allegations of debt-trap diplomacy have dampened some enthusiasm for Beijing in recent times.

Meanwhile, the recent uptick in IMF involvement across Africa may offer an opportunity for the US to launch a charm offensive and reverse some of the lingering resentment stemming from the structural adjustment programmes of previous decades. While many countries maintain an ideological aversion to the IMF due to the perceived negative impact on sovereignty, a lack of alternatives could see the tables turn in Washington's favour - especially in light of China's reluctance to provide widespread debt forgiveness. Taking advantage of such an opportunity would present a significant return on investment if it were to win hearts and minds and cement a more permanent allegiance to the United States.

**Institutional architecture - a shifting balance of power?**

Donald Trump's May 2020 announcement that the US would terminate its relationship with the World Health Organisation over its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic is the latest in a long list of cracks emerging in the international institutions set up by

Western powers in the aftermath of World War II.

The move follows a trend that can be traced back to the beginning of the Trump presidency in 2017, when the US announced it was pulling out of the Paris Agreement on climate change mitigation. Since then, the US has threatened to leave the World Trade Organisation over claims that China's "economic imperialism" and anti-competitive trade policies are damaging to the other nations in the group. Movements advocating for the US to leave the United Nations are also gathering momentum.

The more recent WHO announcement is just further confirmation that the US is no longer the centre of the globalisation project. Indeed, all indications suggest the opposite - with the US turning inwards, it is effectively rejecting both its historical leadership role as well as the very institutions it helped craft.

Simultaneously, China's intent to extend its global reach has seen it gradually increase its influence over those very same organisations; as is evidenced by the WHO and the UN siding with China over Taiwan's inclusion and sovereignty.

Strategically, it makes sense for less powerful nations to align with the side where the balance of power is likely to shift towards in the future rather than where that power lies in the present.

As these old multilateral institutions begin to splinter from within, the question becomes, what comes next? Will the existing organisations survive a "management change" without the US's support? If not, are we headed for a leaderless, fragmented new age of Balkanisation? Or will new institutions arise to replace the power vacuum left behind?

If the latter (more likely) option prevails, the questions then become which nations will have the controlling stake in the next generation of globalisation initiatives? And, what new interregional and international alliances will emerge? Absent the US, will the next generation of global organisations be shaped by China's vision for the world or by a global emerging market alliance; or even possibly a global South consensus?

In the near term, following global economic and population growth patterns, China's vision is likely to prevail. Looking further ahead, to the mid-century, there is an opportunity for the balance of power to shift towards India and Africa, along with their demographic dividend windows, as the world's youngest economies come of age.

Strategically, it makes sense for less powerful nations to align with the side where the balance of power is likely to shift towards in the future rather than where that power lies in the present. Right now, the vision of the future presented by the leaderless, fragmented Western powers is a lot less compelling than China's clear plans for increased dominance of the global stage. The trade-offs, of course, are that siding with one power could make an inadvertent enemy of the opposing faction. However, if smaller nations are strategic in how they approach their diplomatic relations with the respective global powers, there is a possibility to play the opposing powers off against each other, as Mauritius, Djibouti and Kenya have succeeded in doing. The countries have employed savvy economic diplomacy strategies - aimed at leveraging their geographic, military and strategic importance - for maximum financial gain.

That said, the strongest bargaining positions are available to nations and regions with deep enough economies and trading blocs of their own. For this reason, the best way for Africa to defend its own rapidly approaching demographic

dividend is to accelerate the implementation of the African Union's long overdue Continental Free Trade Area.

**Technological highways - access or privacy?**

George Orwell wrote, "Who controls the past, controls the future; who controls the present controls the past." Perhaps a better way to put it is that those who control the medium, control the message. In the modern world, the medium is global telecoms, specifically the wifi networks established to enhance global connectivity.

China's Huawei is currently the leading contender to own the controlling stake of the 5G networks that are set to dominate the telecommunications space for the foreseeable future. China is well aware of the strategic geopolitical advantage that soft-power technology represents to its future literal and figurative belt and road initiatives. China's influence over Western technology usage goes beyond 5G networks. Western mass-adoption of Chinese-origin social media and communication apps, including as TikTok - security and surveillance concerns notwithstanding - illustrates just how much influence Chinese technology already has over Western business and culture. As of May 2020, there were 32.9 million US-based TikTok accounts.

Likewise, more powerful economies such as the US and the UK are well aware that the political and economic risks involved in allowing Chinese companies to set up virtual trading ports in strategic points within their national economies are likely to outweigh the infrastructure cost savings on offer - illustrated by regulatory hurdles implemented by these nations. Civil society activists across the democratic world have also expressed concerns over data security, personal privacy and freedom of speech linked to Chinese-controlled technology.

That said, the strategic threat Huawei's 5G dominance poses is less about security and more about economic control over onramps and offramps to the virtual information highways that now represent the bulk of future global economic growth. According to Apptio's "2018: The State of the Global Technology Economy" report, if the global technology sector was an independent nation, it would be the third-largest economic force on the planet after the US and China. According to Compita, the global information technology industry is likely to be worth \$5.2-trillion in 2020.

As such, it makes sense that wealthier economies with robust telecommunications industries would choose to invest in their own 5G networks, even at a significant cost premium, rather than agree to a Faustian bargain with an increasingly dominant foreign power.

If the African continent can work together strategically, its trading bloc will become the global kingmaker; the deciding vote that determines whether the Western liberal capitalist view of the world or the Chinese centrally planned economic vision of the future prevails.

However, smaller, less-developed economies face a different set of trade-offs by allowing China to control their telecommunications networks. What emerging economies stand to gain, in terms of cheap communications, increased access to global markets, and economic opportunity, often far outweighs the potential loss of autonomy and freedom.

Indeed, in regions where internet access matters more to citizens than data privacy, there is more than one kind of freedom to be considered. Simply put, personal and national freedom is less useful where financial and practical (technological) freedom is lacking. As such, emerg-

ing economies in Africa and Asia are likely to feel justified in ceding control over their communications networks to Chinese players. In doing so, these nations will be entrenching their economic and political allegiances to Beijing over Washington; tacitly taking a side in the increasingly hot new cold war.

**Reflect, recalibrate and renegotiate**

With much of the rhetoric around the new cold war centring around the superficial question of who is "winning", the time has come to recalibrate the geopolitical equation and for it to be seen through a different lens. Far from being a threat to the African continent, the conflict between Washington and Beijing offers a rare opportunity for emerging markets in general and Africa in particular to renegotiate terms of trade on a more level playing field.

By 2050, one in four people will be African. As the world's youngest continent, Africa's future is largely the future of the world's economy. Foresighted nations will understand that getting African nations on their side may be their best chance at sustained economic growth over the next century. This presents African leaders with increased bargaining power at an opportune time, when virtually every significant global trade, finance and governance agreement is open for renegotiation.

The partnerships that African leaders choose - and the deals they strike now - will determine the success or failure of the continent. It is therefore essential to devise a calculus based on the continent's future development needs rather than short-term gratification. This will require a strategic, rather than tactical approach, a huge element of positive agency, and learning from the mistakes of bygone eras.

If the African continent can work together strategically, its trading bloc will become the global kingmaker; the deciding vote that determines whether the Western liberal capitalist view of the world or the Chinese centrally planned economic vision of the future prevails.

Now, as diplomatic relations between Trump's America and Xi Jinping's China move from unofficially cold to openly heated, it's up to Africa to fan the flames in its favour.

# PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, PROGRAMMES AGENTS BEHIND ATTAINMENT OF SDGs

By Property Watch Reporter

**T**HE private sector has been incorporating issues of environmental conservation, poverty alleviation through employment in its corporate plans, Vodacom Tanzania Plc Managing Director Hisham Hendi said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week.

Hendi who was a panellist during a webinar session titled, 'Private sector resilience: Looking at how collective leadership can reverse nature loss,' said the private sector has long played an integral role in poverty reduction and economic development in line with Sustainable Development Goals.

He said the private sector provides nine out of 10 jobs in developing countries and has an important role to play in achieving SDGs and solving global problems by facilitating improved efficiency, technological adoption and innovation.

Hendi noted that most corporations have an environmental agenda attached to their corporate social investment programs in line with United Nations SDGs. "Responsible corporate citizenship through sustainable practices is an important element of what we do at Vodacom Tanzania. It guides all aspects of our investment, expansion, growth and service delivery," said the Vodacom Tanzania CEO.

He explained that though Vodacom Tanzania Foundation, the company's charity investments arm, the midterm strategy perfectly aligns with the national development plans for 2016/21 and SDGs both of which are geared to propel Tanza-



Vodacom Tanzania Plc's head office in Dar es Salaam.

nia to become a middle income economy by 2025.

"Our work in driving financial inclusion through M-PESA and working with various community groups, women and youth groups also support the achievement of SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities)," Hendi elaborated.

United Nations Development Programme's Deputy Country Representative, Sergio Valdini called for strengthening partnerships with the private sector in financing and facilitating green technologies and practices.

Valdini's comments were supported by Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania, Elizabeth Jacobsen who underscored the need for concerted efforts involving multiple actors to strengthen responsible business practices. "We need to promote an open society with multiple stakeholders playing their part through dialogue on environmental consideration in order to adopt best ideas on green technologies and innovations," Jacobsen said.

Tanzania Breweries Limited's Managing Director, Philip Redman concurred with his fellow panellists by pointing out that sustainability must be a core part of businesses and not add-ons in order to ensure that such initiatives are ingrained as part of any business' philosophy.

AngloGold Ashanti's Vice President, Simon Shayo aligned with his peers on need for an open dialogue of stakeholders and collaboration with expert organizations to support government efforts in ensuring equitable socio-economic growth that contributes to attainment of all 17 SDG goals.

"The private sector continues to play a pivotal role in financing and facilitating many sustainability initiatives bringing positive changes in communities including social, economic and environmental gains," Shayo noted.

The session brought together industry leaders from a cross section of businesses and development partners to strengthen collective efforts on how to leverage on accelerator functions in achieving business targets and advance ethics, eco-friendly practices and financing green initiatives geared towards achieving SDGs.

## NMB maiden virtual AGM draws over 1,000 shareholders - a record

By Property Watch Reporter

**O**VER 1,000 shareholders attended NMB Bank Plc's virtual annual general meeting held in Dar es Salaam mid this month, setting a new record for the largest number of participants but also being the first bank listed at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange to do so.

As a regulatory requirement, NMB as a listed entity has to hold an AGM annually but the coronavirus outbreak meant that an ordinary meeting was impossible to avoid spreading the Covid-19 pandemic.

The market's largest bank in terms of profit generation and physical branch network, used its digital infrastructure prowess to conduct the 20th AGM on its digital platform. NMB's acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna said the virtual AGM was a monumental step in supporting the adoption, increased use and advancement of new technologies in the country as Tanzania strives to create a digitally supported national economy.

"We are happy to have successfully done our first ever digital AGM which also paved ways for other listed banks to follow, remember we made this history by becoming the first among listed companies at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange," Zaipuna said.

Responding to journalists' questions on the 20th AGM, Zaipuna noted that the attendance set a record on having the largest number of attendees noting that no AGM has ever registered more than 6,000 shareholders for the past decade.

"After the Covid-19 outbreak, we are leveraging on the use of our investment in digital banking technology for innovative products such as NMB Mkononi, Internet banking, cashless payments through point of sales and NMB Wakala," she noted adding that decision to hold the virtual AGM was in line with the bank's focus on digitization.

Among other things, the virtual AGM saved the bank from spending more and polluting the environment by avoiding delegates travel time to the venue, logistics to hold the actual meeting at a physical location not only for the board members, management and shareholders themselves but also other supporting services such as journalists.

"With online meeting, you save a lot of time because you can broadcast the meeting online from your office, so that no one loses any more travel time," Zaipuna who steered the bank to an over 140bn/- net profit last year, added.

During the virtual AGM, shareholders approved payment of 48bn/- as dividend being an increase of 45 percent compared to last 2018 payment.



NMB Bank Plc's head offices in Dar es Salaam.

## Kenyan court declares railway contract with China illegal

NAIROBI

**A** KENYAN appellate court has ruled that the USD 3.2 billion railway contract between Kenya and the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) is illegal.

The Court of Appeal, which handles cases arising from the High Court's decisions in Kenya, observed that state-run Kenya Railways had failed to comply with and violated the country's law "in the procurement" of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), a multibillion-dollar Chinese-funded project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Kenyan activist Okiya Omtatah and the Law Society of Kenya, an association of practising advocates, filed the suit in 2014 in a bid to halt the construction of SGR. They said the railway was a public project that should have been subject to a fair, competitive and transparent procurement process. The plaintiffs said that the agreement was single-sourced without being put up for tender, despite the burden of loan repayments on Kenyan taxpayers.

The High Court had dismissed the case and ordered that the documents used by the plaintiffs to support their case, including the agreement and other negotiation papers, which the government described as classified, was illegally obtained and were to be expunged from court records, according to SCMP.

Upset with the High Court's decision, the plaintiffs made a fresh appeal at the appellate court.

Interestingly, the Court of Appeals decision in favour of the plaintiffs comes even after a large section of the project has been completed and is operational since 2017. While the next course of action is unclear, the Kenyan government or CRBC could challenge the ruling of the appeal court or seek its interpretation in the Supreme Court.

Both CRBC and Kenya Railways defended the agreement, saying that the Kenyan government had negotiated a financing deal with Exim Bank of China for two loans, each amounting to USD 1.6 billion, to support the SGR project.

In 2014, the CRBC was awarded the contract to build the railway line from Mombasa port to Nairobi. Its parent firm, the China Communications Construction Company, later stepped in to construct an extension from Nairobi to Naivasha, a town in the Central Rift Valley, for another USD 1.5 billion, SCMP reported.

Both projects have been completed and passenger and cargo trains are operating. In 2017, the Africa Star Railway Operation Company, a subsidiary of CRBC, was awarded the contract to manage operations of both passenger and cargo trains on the SGR.

Kenya had planned to extend the rail line to Malaba, situated on the country's western border with Uganda.



A Kenyan SGR train at a station in Nairobi.

However, Exim Bank of China, which financed the first two phases, asked the Kenyan government to redo a feasibility

study for the Malaba extension for commercial viability before funds were released.

With Kenya facing the heat to pay its debt in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic that has put the African country's economy in peril, the government has been forcing importers to use the train. However, truckers and importers have resisted, asserting that it is more expensive to use railways instead of trucks. The SGR had last year earned a revenue of USD 136 million from cargo and passenger services.

Earlier this month, the Kenyan Parliament said that Kenya Railways had not paid USD 380 million in management fees to Africa Star Railway. The Chinese Embassy in Nairobi confirmed that Africa Star Railway had not been paid part of the fees but "appreciated the efforts that the Kenya government has made to clear the pending payments".

# HALOTEL'S MOBILE MONEY GOES DIGITAL WITH LAUNCH OF HALOPESA APPLICATION

By Property Watch Reporter

**C**USTOMERS of HaloPesa mobile money platform can now easily transact through their smartphones and other electronic gadgets such as tablets thanks to the launch of an application to support the service.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week during the launch of a campaign dubbed, 'ChilaxNaHaloPesaApp,' the company's Head of HaloPesa Business, Magesa Wandwi said the application is crafted with simplicity and user friendly ingredients to provide customers with a next level desired experience on the use of various HaloPesa services.

The #ChilaxNa HaloPesa App campaign is driven by a desire to provide customers with an outstanding experience including not binding their mobile number to a fixed device. Wandwi said that additionally, HaloPesa subscribers can simply send money safely and securely to other numbers from their phone book contacts list, make various payments for goods and services by just scanning the QR codes available at the merchants as well as initiating transaction reversals in case of a wrong transfer.

"Our customers can now enjoy our various HaloPesa services with the application including personal transfers, airtime purchases, withdrawals, bill payments, merchant payments and gambling," he added while noting that through HaloPesa's P2P, withdraw charges are well displayed in the App.

The HaloPesa Business Head further added that with the HaloPesa App, transactions are convenient, fast and much secure without consuming data while allowing customers to check their balance at no cost.

"We are very happy and delighted today to inform the public and our esteemed customers with smartphones and tablets, when they download and install the HaloPesa App successfully, they will receive a free 1GB internet bundle and 10 min airtime valid for seven days," Magesa promised.

The telco's mobile money platform has seen a rapid increase of agents who now number over 52,000 across the country hence being conveniently placed to provide services to subscribers. HaloPesa has recorded an overwhelming growth of over 100 percent yearly since its launch in 2016 defying stiff market competition.



Halotel Tanzania offices in Dar es Salaam.

"It's in our best interest to ensure that customers enjoy services all the time, with over

two million active users so far, we are grateful for their loyalty and their continued use

of our services," Wandwi noted while pledging to continue providing quality products

and services at affordable charges to the market.

## JPM warns ministers against ignoring major infrastructure projects

By Francis Kajubi

CABINET ministers supervising implementation of major infrastructure projects in the country have been warned against concentrating on re-election campaigns while ignoring such projects.

In a speech to wind up the 11th parliament last week in Dodoma, President Magufuli ordered his ministers to stay alert and ensure that contractors are doing their job properly with completion dates in mind.

"Key projects should not delay or stop just because of doing campaigns. Construction of ports, the Mwalimu Nyerere Hydro power project, standard gauge railway and power connection to rural households, will not stop," he insisted.

Clarifying the essence of the ongoing key projects by implemented by the government, Dr Magufuli said they are important facilities to speed up the country's development towards mid-income and semi-industrialized status by 2025.

The President who has revived Air Tanzania Company Limited noted that the government is investing heavily in all modes of transportation including water with a number of new maritime vessels under construction including ships to sail between Mtwara and Comoros but also that for Kalema port and Kalemii in DR Congo.

"We want cars and cargo shipped through at our seaports to go directly to their destinations other than passing through neighboring countries. We want them shipped directly from Dar es Salaam Port to DRC," he stressed.

He asserted that in strengthening the transportation sector, railway, air and water ways, the government had in the past five years invested in new ferries while renovating a record 17 old ferries.

On seaports, he said the government is currently undertaking different projects on expansion and modernization



A renovated MV Victoria docked at Mwanza Port.

of Dar es Salaam, Mtwara and Tanga Ports while similar investments are also being made Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa.

On Lake Victoria for example, the government has renovated five ships namely;

MV Victoria, MV Butiama, MV Clarions, MV Umoja and MV Wimbi and is currently building a new big ship christened MV Mwanza HapaKazi Tu. The ship will have a capacity of boarding 1,200 passengers and 400 tons of

cargo. "In Lake Tanganyika, the government had built a new oil tanker MV Sangara and the government is also in the process of starting renovation of MV Liemba on Lake Nyasa," the head of state added.

## Fate of 23 new hotels uncertain on virus

NAIROBI

THE fate of 23 internationally branded hotels that were set to open shop in Kenya remains uncertain after Covid-19 crippled the local and international hospitality sector.

The hotels had promised to deliver 3,588 rooms before the global spread of coronavirus under deals captured under the Hotel Chain Development Pipelines in Africa 2020 report. Most of the rooms (3,298) in Kenya's pipeline were slated to be in Nairobi, though it remains unclear when and if at all the new signings and the hotels under construction will open. "It is still too early to evaluate the impact (of Covid-19) on the time line," said Bani Haddad Managing Director, Aleph Hospitality. "It will largely depend on how long the borders will remain closed and when international traffic will resume. However, we estimate a delay of about 12 months."

Aleph Hospitality are developing three properties across Kenya including one in Kisumu, an airport hotel in Nairobi and another at the coast. "We see development activity slowing down considerably for a while, because of the supply-demand scenario, and also because of greater scarcity of funding. More hotels are likely to be pushed out into the "to be confirmed" (TBC) opening date category," reads the Pipeline 2020 report.

The report indicates that hotel development in Africa will "slow-down, obviously, with those hotels under construction (57 percent of the pipeline rooms) delayed because construction sites are closed in the lockdown, and finance will be scarcer.

KIGALI

Road Project

THE Auditor-General, Obadiah Biraro recently released his annual report for the financial year that ended June 2019. The audit was revealed issues in different projects Implementation.

The audit identified 22 cases of stalled projects worth Rwf115.3 billion that resulted from inadequate contract management. Doing Business has looked into some of the stalled projects.

Rwf80bn Base-Butaro-Kidaho-

Upgrading the road Base-Butaro-Kidaho road (63Km) at the cost of Rwf80.2 billion was supposed to be completed in March 2018. However, after spending over Rwf17 billion, the project stalled.

The contract with the previous contractor was amicably terminated on 24 December 2018 and the works completed were valued at Rwf17.4 billion which was higher than the value determined by the supervisor of the contract which was Rwf11.9 billion. This, audi-

## Stalled projects worth an estimated Rwf115 billion

tor noted, has resulted in a loss of Rwf15.4 billion. However, the process for hiring a new contractor was initiated. The project for rehabilitation works of Nyagatare-Rwem-pasha-Kizinga Road in Nyagatare District at the cost of Rwf1.1 billion was supposed to be completed in February in 2018. Rwf737.8 million had been paid to the contractor when the contract was terminated. A new contractor is yet to be hired

to complete the work.

The Rwf585.4 million project by WASAC to supply water in Bugesera has also stalled. It was supposed to be completed in 2016. Rwf117 million had been spent by the time the previous contract was terminated. A new contractor is yet to be hired to complete the remaining work. In December 2019, three years after the expected date of completion, the auditors carried out another

physical verification and observed that the project was cancelled. The Auditor's reported noted delays in the completion of works on the access road to the Rusizi III hydroelectric (147 MW) dam. The project was to be completed in 2015 but the contract with the previous contractor was terminated and the new contractor is not yet hired to complete the remaining work. Rwf1bn Gisenyi modern market Construc-

tion works of Gisenyi Modern Market in Rubavu at the cost of Rwf1 billion were supposed to be completed in June, 2013.

The district after getting advice from MININFRA was committed to ensure completion of the structure and operationalization of the market. On 10 October 2019, this market was changed ownership from public property to become district private property.

This was to help the district to make a decision on its completion. However, by the time of audit in December 2019, Rubavu District did not provide any plan on how this market will be completed or any other resolution regarding its use in future.

Design and installation of software of management of taxpayers in Gicumbi District at the cost of Rwf8.7 million was not completed yet Rwf5 million has been paid to the contractor. It was supposed to be completed in 2013.

## TECHNOLOGY

## CAN TOURISTS SAVE GREECE'S ECONOMY?

### ATHENS

In a crisp, white open-neck shirt with the deep yellows and oranges of the island sunset melting into the Aegean Sea behind him, Greece's prime minister declared his country open for the summer.

"We're ready to extend Greece's legendary hospitality and welcome the world again," Kyriakos Mitsotakis said on Saturday evening during a day trip to Santorini, the picture-postcard jewel in the crown of his country's vital tourism industry. "We feel we are taking an extremely calculated risk," he said. "It's not an option to do nothing." It marked a pivotal moment for Greece in the fight against the coronavirus, and one that other countries will be watching closely.

The land of azure waters, islands and breathtaking beaches has had a good crisis compared with rival summer destinations such as Spain and Italy. The government won international praise for its response to Covid-19, locking down its population quickly and keeping deaths to below 200. But if the country has won the pandemic war, it needs to make sure it can monetise that success. With that comes a gamble on tourism, the lifeblood of the economy.

The plan is to sell Greece as a safe place for sunseekers. The country reopens on Monday to foreign visitors with the first scheduled international flights set to arrive in Athens and Thessaloniki, the biggest cities, although with varying rules of entry depending on the place of origin. From July 1, all restrictions will be lifted, with some possible exceptions for certain countries. Flights will be allowed to resume to regional airports including on islands such as Santorini.

Along with Cyprus further east, nowhere in Europe depends so much on foreign vacationers packing resorts and dining on octopus, sea bream and grilled meats in sea-front tavernas as Greece. The question is whether inviting an influx of visitors ends up triggering a second wave of the pandemic and another costly lockdown.

Maintaining social distancing and the compulsory wearing of masks on all forms of transport as well as new rules for the operating of hotels and restaurants are all part of the mix. Mr Mitsotakis said his government had enough data to "feel comfortable about opening up to the world". Even small islands have received testing equipment, he said.

Gkikas Magiorkinis, an adviser to the



Greek coastal town of Sparta is a tourist favourite and is expected to see more visitors when the country lifts restrictions and allow more international flight on July 1.

government on how to address the coronavirus outbreak, acknowledged the possibility of an increase in cases even if everyone were to be tested for the virus before arrival. "We can't ask people to stay in a glass jar," said Mr Magiorkinis, assistant professor of hygiene and epidemiology at the University of Athens. "Our job is to contain the risk. There is no other solution."

While the financial fallout from coronavirus is international, Greece had only just emerged from its last economic meltdown. A decade-long crisis that saw the country need three bailouts and cost a quarter of its economic output. The danger is that the metrics start looking like the dark days again.

Tourism has been the very industry that's helped sustain Greece. It accounts for around a fifth of the economy and more than a quarter of jobs. Historically, Britain and Germany are the main tourist source markets. While the government in Berlin implemented widespread testing to contain the pandemic, the UK is the worst hit country in Europe, with more than 41,000 deaths. Greece said on Friday it will maintain a ban on flights from the UK until June 30.

"It's too early to reach any conclusions on how this season will be, but it won't look like previous years," said Alexandros Vassilikos, president of the Hellenic Chamber of Hotels. "Our aim is not to have an empty 18-month period before the 2021 season. We are getting our hotels ready while being optimistic and responsible."

The scale of the downturn is huge. Overall, if there were 100 requests from foreign tourism agencies at this time last year, the number is now no more than a dozen, according to Lysandros Tsilidis, president of the Federation of Hellenic Associations of Tourist and Travel Agencies.

"There is a gradual show of interest although at a very low rate from travel organisers and agencies worldwide," said Mr Tsilidis. "The fear of the virus exists and that fear is the big enemy." Demand will pick up after flights to all Greek airports restart on July 1, he said.

Mr Mitsotakis arrived in Santorini at a time when the island would normally be heaving with tourists and day trippers arriving from cruise ships. Instead, many hotels were in wait-and-see mode with swimming pools empty. Only a

few Greek tourists were eating at tavernas while locals sipped iced coffee as they waited for the first foreign visitors.

Their eventual arrival would be some reward for Greece as Mr Mitsotakis, whose approval rating has risen during the pandemic, tries to stop the economy from tipping back into crisis. After Greece reported its first death on March 12, the government closed bars and restaurants within four days. A lockdown followed a week later. By contrast, Spain had reported 136 deaths on March 14 when the authorities ordered people to stay at home.

Indeed, Greece has been Europe's biggest untold success story during the first stage of the fight, in part because it was so unexpected, according to Francois Heisbourg, a former official in the French government. Much of the credit goes to Mr Mitsotakis, who understood the threat quickly when he saw what was happening in nearby Italy, locking Greece down even before Rome acted, Mr Heisbourg said. There was also national pride to restore, after the pain and ignominy of the debt crisis.

"When people are always looking at the Greeks as indebted layabouts, here was a chance to do something really remarkable—and they did," said Mr Heisbourg, who also served on France's pandemic preparedness committee in 2010. "Mr Mitsotakis found the right words for the moment: 'We've faced worse crises than this.'"

On Saturday evening, the 52-year-old prime minister was again aiming to choose the right message as he prepared to leave Santorini. He said Greece's aim was to salvage what it could from 2020 and hope for a bumper season next year. A lot will depend on how safe people feel when traveling by plane or car to the country.

"I'm interested in making Greece the safest destination in Europe, not the first destination," Mr Mitsotakis said. "There is no risk-free approach in life and I feel very comfortable that we have a plan. But it's not just up to us."

## Global solar capacity addition to more than double over the next decade

### ABUDHABI

SOLAR energy capacity addition is set to expand 125 per cent globally over the next decade as countries switch from fossil fuels to greener alternatives, according to a study by Fitch Solutions.

Solar energy is expected to take up a 6 per cent share of global electricity generation by 2029, an increase from 2.7 per cent at the end of last year. A net total of 734 gigawatts of solar power capacity is likely to be added by the end of 2029, with installed solar generation capacity set to grow to 1,321.8GW, up from 587.5GW in 2019.

"Growth in emerging markets will also support our positive global solar outlook. We forecast 36 markets will add more than 1GW of solar capacity over the coming decade, with 48 markets expected to add over 500 megawatts and 72 markets expected to add at least 100MW," Fitch Solutions said.

Decarbonisation of the global energy system away from fossil fuels to renewables could generate \$98 trillion in cumulative growth between now and 2050, adding an extra 2.4 per cent to gross domestic product, the Abu Dhabi-based International Renewable Energy Agency said in an April report.

China will remain the single biggest individual market driving solar power generation, with 285.7GW of capacity addition expected over the next decade, just short of 40 per cent of the total, according to Fitch Solutions.

Beijing added 4GW of solar capacity in the first quarter of the year, according to official data. This was despite the Covid-19



A man cleans solar panels at the Benban Solar Park in Aswan, Egypt. Solar energy is expected to take up 6% share of global electricity generation by 2029 from 2.7% at the end of 2019.

pandemic, which prompted strict lockdowns across China, bringing factory activity to a standstill. The US and India are also expected to drive growth in the sector, with 110.4GW and 84.4GW of capacity additions respectively, over the next decade. India selected bidders for the world's largest solar tender - a 12GW mega-scheme - on Tuesday as it looks to phase out reliance on fossil fuels, particularly coal. Both India and China are increasingly using gas as a cleaner alternative as they switch to renewables. Burning coal has resulted in smoggy skies and high pollution levels in metropolises in both countries, raising public health concerns.

Meanwhile, Colombia will emerge as a "net growth outperformer" among developing markets, Fitch Solutions

said. "We foresee the country's total solar capacity rising from 332MW by end-2019 to just under 1,500MW in 2029. We note significant upside risk in Colombia's market as more than 12GW of potential solar projects have been registered with the government since early 2019, and have designated the country as our 'market to watch' this quarter," the research company said.

Across Europe, Spain, France, Germany and Italy will be the main growth drivers, with each market estimated to add between 12GW and 24GW of capacity over the next decade. Technological improvements in solar panel equipment will also continue to drive the cost of generation lower, the report said.

## Helium supplies at risk from plunging oil prices

By Jon Gluyas, The Conversation

OIL prices have plummeted as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. While the world needs far less oil than it used to, the decline in oil production will have a severe knock-on effect that could hinder efforts to combat COVID-19. This is because an important by-product of petroleum production is helium, which has various medical uses, including those related to breathing issues.

On April 1, scientists at the University of Arizona College of Medicine reported on the invention of a new breathing device that has potential to help patients suffering with lung damage to recover from COVID-19 using a mix of oxygen and helium gases called heliox.

Heliox has about the same viscosity as normal air but lower density, and the way it flows requires much less energy for the lungs to take in the oxygen it carries than is the case for air. The gas is non-toxic and non-reactive so is already beginning to be used to help people with asthma and a range of other conditions in which patients have breathing difficulties.

About 22% of all helium produced already goes to medical uses, and breathing mixtures account for 2%-3%. Should the application of heliox become widespread, then demand would grow dramatically. But helium is already in short supply globally. And, since 87% of helium supplies comes directly from petroleum production the oil decline could put significant further strain on the market.

Supply problems  
 Petroleum production has long been linked to helium. On Earth, helium is only found in substantial quantities in natural reservoirs below the Earth's surface. Typically, it shares the pore spaces in the rock with petroleum gases and other non-petroleum gases such as nitrogen.

Helium may only occur as a tiny percentage of the total trapped fluids in the pore spaces. As a rule of thumb, however, if a natural gas discovery includes just 0.3% helium, it could be more valuable than the natural gas itself.

The North Dome gas field in Qatar is the source of 31% of today's helium

supply. Here helium makes up about 0.1% of the natural gas field and extraction would not be economic were it not for the fact that the natural gas is also extracted, liquefied and shipped around the world.

The cryogenic plant used to liquify the gas to make it easier to transport allows removal of the small quantities of helium. So cease to produce the natural gas and you also lose helium production.

In the long-term, as the world is moving away from fossil fuels, co-produced helium supplies were always going to be a problem. But that problem may now be exacerbated due to the demand that COVID-19 could bring.

There is urgent need for new sources of helium - something I've been involved with. Helium sources have historically only been found by accident when looking for petroleum. So, along with Chris Ballentine, a geochemist at Oxford University, my colleagues and I sought funding to develop an exploration strategy specifically for helium.

A start-up exploration company Helium One used our strategy and made a major discovery of helium in the Rukwa area of the East African Rift Valley in Tanzania a few years ago. The composition of gases that were found naturally seeping from the ground here included 10% helium - significantly more than is generally found in petroleum sources - along with around 90% nitrogen. Because the Tanzanian discovery was free of hydrocarbons, it is also free of greenhouse gases.

The discovery has yet to be appraised or brought to market but is believed to be globally significant. Because the helium is present at around 10%, it will more efficient to extract than the fractional percentages found among petroleum gases.

The lessons learned during the work to deliver the Tanzanian discovery are now being applied elsewhere around the world. So far, the research suggests that the Tanzanian discovery is unlikely to be unique. History will however judge whether we can find and develop the helium resources needed to meet societal demand.

## Carnival Cruises reports \$4.4bn second quarter loss as ships remain in ports

### MIAMI

CRUISE titan Carnival Corporation reported a second-quarter loss of \$4.4 billion including \$2bn in impairment charges, and warned that it is unable to predict when it will be able to resume operations given the lingering coronavirus shutdown.

The world's largest cruise company said its adjusted net loss for the period ended May 31, excluding the charges, was \$3.30 a share. That's far deeper than analysts' expectation of a \$1.95 loss. Revenue was just \$700 million, an 85 per cent plunge from the year-earlier \$4.8bn. Carnival's shares skidded in early trading on Thursday.

While rival Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings this week extended its cruising suspension through to the end of

September, Carnival said it couldn't provide a resumption target at all. Norwegian's announcement slammed the brakes on what had been a remarkable recovery for cruise stocks, and Carnival's further downbeat news is likely to extend losses.

Carnival is working to downsize its fleet, expecting a long, phased return to cruising when it eventually comes. The Miami-based company said it has preliminary agreements to dispose of six ships and is the process of concluding more such deals.

Like other cruise operators, Carnival has taken steps to shore up its cash and debt positions in an effort to weather the pause. The company said it has a total of \$7.6bn in available liquidity and faces \$250m a month in operating and administrative expenses.



## WORLD

## IMF revises down global economy forecast, warns of record debt levels

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised down its forecast for the global economy amid mounting COVID-19 fallout, warning of record debt levels in both advanced and emerging markets and developing economies.

Global output is projected to decline by 4.9 percent in 2020, 1.9 percentage points below the IMF's April forecast, followed by a growth at 5.4 percent in 2021, indicating a grimmer economic outlook as the pandemic continues to ripple across the globe.

"Compared to our April World Economic Outlook forecast, we are now projecting a deeper recession in 2020 and a slower recovery in 2021," IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath said on Wednesday in a virtual news conference, noting that these projections imply a cumulative loss to the global economy over two years of over 12 trillion U.S. dollars from the crisis.

"The downgrade from April reflects worse than anticipated outcomes in the first half of this year, an expectation of more persistent social distancing into

the second half of this year, and damage to supply potential," Gopinath said.

## SYNCHRONIZED DEEP DOWNTURN

The multilateral lender is projecting a synchronized deep downturn in 2020 for both advanced economies, and emerging market and developing economies, noting that over 95 percent of countries are projected to have negative per capita income growth this year.

Advanced economies are projected to contract 8 percent this year, 1.9 percentage points lower than the forecast in the April WEO, according to the updated report.

The U.S. economy is expected to shrink 8 percent, the Euro Area is on track to contract 10.2 percent, and the Japanese economy could decline 5.8 percent. Emerging markets and developing economies, meanwhile, are projected to shrink by 3 percent this year, 2 percentage points below the April WEO forecast, the report showed.

Brazil and Mexico are projected to contract by 9.1 and 10.5 percent respectively, while India's economy could see a



IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath

contraction of 4.5 percent. China is expected to grow by 1 percent, the only major economy that could see growth this year.

The latest report also showed that global growth is projected at 5.4 percent in 2021, which would leave 2021 gross domestic product (GDP) some 6.5 percentage points lower than in the pre-COVID-19 projections made in January 2020.

"The unprecedented global sweep of this crisis hampers recovery prospects for export-dependent economies and jeopardizes the prospects for income convergence between developing and advanced economies," Gopinath said.

The IMF chief economist also noted a high degree of uncertainty surrounds this forecast, with both upside and downside risks to the outlook. On the upside, better news on vaccines and treatments, as well as additional policy support, could lead to a quicker resumption of economic activity, she said.

On the downside, further waves of infections could reverse increased mobility and spending, and rapidly tighten financial conditions, triggering debt distress, she said, adding that geopolitical and trade tensions could damage fragile global relationships at a time when trade is projected to collapse by around 12 percent.

In its latest Global Economic Prospects released early this

month, the World Bank Group said the global economy is on track to shrink by 5.2 percent in 2020 amid the pandemic. A downside scenario could lead the global economy to shrink by as much as 8 percent this year.

## RECORD DEBT LEVELS

Sizable fiscal and financial sector countermeasures deployed in several countries since the start of the crisis have forestalled worse near-term losses, according to the updated WEO report, which noted that fiscal measures amounting to about 11 trillion dollars have been announced worldwide.

"It's important for us to recognize that when confronted with a deep downturn of this kind, something we've never seen before the magnitude and the breadth of this downturn, that policies should respond aggressively to prevent that even worse outcome from happening," Malhar Nabar, division chief of the World Economic Studies Division in the IMF's Research Department, told Xinhua in a video interview Wednesday.

Nabar, however, noted it could be an issue going forward. "It's true that with the elevated debt levels and if financial conditions were to tighten again," it could create some problems for some economies, especially emerging markets and developing economies, and "tip them into a very difficult situation."

Warning that the crisis will also generate medium-term challenges, Gopinath said that public debt this year is projected to reach the highest level in recorded history in relation to GDP, in both advanced and emerging markets and developing economies. "Countries will need sound fiscal frameworks for medium-term consolidation, through cutting back on wasteful spending, widening the tax base, minimizing tax avoidance, and greater progressivity in taxation in some countries," she said.

Xinhua

## Beijing hits back at Pompeo's slanders against China

BEIJING



CHINESE Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian on Wednesday urged US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to spend some time on managing domestic affairs before pointing finger at others.

Speaking via videolink at the Copenhagen Democracy Summit and in some recent interviews, Pompeo attacked China on a range of issues including Xinjiang-related matters.

In response, Zhao said at a regular press conference that Mr Pompeo has been launching unwarranted attacks and slanders against China on every possible occasion.

"However, lies repeated a thousand times are still lies. His groundless clichés expose deep-rooted Cold-War mentality, a zero-sum game mindset, ideological bias, and his nature of lying, cheating and stealing," Zhao said.

Zhao said that one can never wake a person who pretends to be asleep. The lie of "one million Uyghurs detained in Xinjiang" was actually made up by an NGO funded by the National Endowment for Democracy after interviewing only eight persons.

And Mr Pompeo blindly cites it with no verification. China has stressed time and again that the vocational education and training centers lawfully set up in Xinjiang are active attempts on and useful exploration of preventive counterterrorism and de-radicalization measures.

They are essentially the same as other countries' practice to this end, and they have already yielded good results.

Xinjiang hasn't seen a single terror incident in the past three years or so. By the end of 2019, all trainees who received trainings including standard spoken and written Chinese, understanding of the law, vocational skills, and deradicalization had completed their courses, secured employment, and started a life of tranquility.

Zhao said that the Chinese government protects its people's freedom of religious belief. In China, there are nearly 200 million religious believers, of which over 20 million are Muslims. There are more than 380,000 clerical personnel, approximately 5,500 religious groups and more than 140,000 places of worship registered for religious activities.

Xinjiang now has 24,400 mosques, one for every 530 Muslims. By contrast, the number of mosques in the whole of the US is less than one tenth of those in Xinjiang. Xinhua

## China's inactivated COVID-19 vaccine starts phase-3 clinical international trials

BEIJING

CHINA'S inactivated COVID-19 vaccine candidate has started its phase-3 clinical trial globally in the United Arab Emirates, according to the vaccine developer China National Biotec Group (CNBG).

The clinical trial was officially initiated after a cooperation agreement was signed Tuesday, during a videoconference jointly held in Beijing.

Wuhan and Abu Dhabi, the company said, adding that it is the first time that China's self-developed vaccine has carried out phase-3 clinical research internationally.

The CNBG will cooperate with Group 42 (G42), an Abu Dhabi-based artificial intelligence and cloud computing company, in the clinical trial. They will also cooperate in the localized production of the vaccine.

The inactivated vaccine developed by the Wuhan Institute of Biological Products under the CNBG completed its phase 1 and 2 clinical trials in China.

The results showed a good safety record and no severe adverse reactions were found in clinical trials, and vaccine receivers inoculated with two injections in different procedures and doses have all produced high titers of antibodies.

For those receiving two injections at an interval of 28 days, the seroconversion rate of neutralizing antibodies reached 100 percent.

Another inactivated COVID-19 vaccine developed by the CNBG's Beijing Institute of Biological Products has also entered into clinical trials. To increase its manufacturing capacity, the company has built a large production unit in Beijing that can meet high bio-safety protection requirements.

The unit will be able to produce 120 million doses of vaccine per year once mass production begins. Another vaccine production facility in Wuhan is expected to produce 100 million doses after completion.

The clinical research of vaccines is usually divided into three phases. Phase-1 clinical trials mainly evaluate the safety and phase-2 clinical trials evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine, as well as the immunization procedures. Phase-3 clinical trials evaluate the safety and efficacy of the vaccine in a larger population.

Liu Jingzhen, chairman of Sinopharm which the CNBG is affiliated to, said the company will accelerate international cooperation in clinical trials and maintain close communication with the World Health Organization.

The company will also make efforts to ensure the accessibility and the affordability of the vaccine, Liu said.

Xinhua

## Wang urges just, reasonable solution to Palestine issue

BEIJING

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for a just and reasonable solution to the Palestine issue when delivering a written speech on Wednesday local time at the United Nations (UN) Security Council's video conference.

The Palestine issue has always been at the core of the Middle East issue and a just and reasonable solution is a prerequisite for the region's lasting peace and security, Wang (pictured) said, adding China is deeply concerned about the continuing tension between Palestine and Israel.

He said that under the current circumstances, the four-point proposal put forward in 2017 by Chinese President Xi Jinping for settling the Palestine issue is of more practical significance.

Based on the proposal, China would like to emphasize the following four points, Wang said.

Deviation from international consensus should be avoided. The "two-state solution" is the bottom line of international fairness and justice and history cannot be reversed, he said.

China supports Palestine in establishing an independent state with full sovereignty based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, Wang said, adding that the national rights of the Palestinian people should not be traded.

Meanwhile, Israel's right to exist and its legitimate security concerns should also be fully respected, Wang added.

He emphasized that relevant UN resolutions, the principle of "land for peace" as well as the general direction of the "two-state solu-



tion" should be observed and reaffirmed.

Peaceful dialogue should not be abandoned, Wang said, calling for an early resumption of equal dialogue between Palestine and Israel to rebuild mutual trust, defuse conflicts and find a way to coexist peacefully.

In accordance with relevant UN resolutions, the issue of the occupied West Bank should be

resolved as soon as possible, said Wang, stressing that the final boundary between Palestine and Israel should be delimited through peaceful negotiations.

International support should not be relaxed, Wang said, adding that the Palestine issue should remain at a core position of international agenda.

He urged the international community to take an objective and fair stance and make sincere and real efforts for the peace process in the Middle East, saying that any plan that is detached from the Middle East peace track will not bring a long-lasting peace to the region.

The humanitarian issues should not be ignored either, Wang said, calling for a full removal of the blockade of Gaza as soon as possible, as well as an earnest implementation of the obligations stipulated in the Paris Protocol and

other international treaties.

The international community should support Palestine's economic development and the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, so as to help improve the humanitarian situation in Palestine, Wang said.

China and Palestine are true friends, Wang said, noting that the Chinese side always cares about the peace process in the Middle East, sticks to international axiom and justice, and supports any efforts that are conducive to easing the situation there.

The UN Security Council bears the prime responsibility of safeguarding global peace and security, and is obliged to play its due role in pushing for a comprehensive, just and enduring solution to the Palestine issue, Wang added.

Xinhua

## US appeals court orders Michael Flynn case dropped amid long-run political fight

WASHINGTON

A U.S. federal appeals court on Wednesday ordered District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan to dismiss the case against Michael Flynn, the first national security adviser to President Donald Trump, likely to end a long-run political fight stemming from the Russia investigation.

Ruling 2-1 with two Republican-appointed judges carrying the majority, a three-judge panel on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals approved Flynn's petition to intervene in the case and ordered Sullivan to grant the Department of Justice's (DOJ) move to drop charges against the former White House adviser.

If unchallenged with further appeals, the ruling exonerates Flynn

after he sought to change his plea and claimed innocence, local media reported.

"Flynn's petition for a writ of mandamus be granted in part; the District Court is directed to grant the government's ... motion to dismiss; and the District Court's order appointing an amicus is hereby vacated as moot, in accordance with the opinion of the court filed herein this date," the court order read.

Trump cheered the decision immediately, tweeting: "Great! Appeals Court Upholds Justice Department's Request To Drop Criminal Case Against General Michael Flynn!"

Sullivan had tapped an outside counsel to argue against the DOJ's move and the panel said the judge overstepped his authority in sec-



ond-guessing the prosecutors' decision.

"In this case, the district court's actions will result in specific harms to the exercise of the Executive Branch's exclusive prosecutorial power," judge Neomi Rao, who was appointed to the circuit court by Trump, wrote in the ma-

ority opinion.

"The contemplated proceedings would likely require the Executive to reveal the internal deliberative process behind its exercise of prosecutorial discretion, interfering with the Article II charging authority," Rao wrote.

Judge Robert Wilkins, an appointee by then democratic President Barack Obama, dissented from the decision, saying he would grant Sullivan the space to explore the DOJ's request for dismissal.

"It is a great irony that, in finding the District Court to have exceeded its jurisdiction, this Court so grievously oversteps its own," Wilkins wrote in his dissent.

"This appears to be the first time that we have issued a writ of mandamus to compel a district

court to rule in a particular manner on a motion without first giving the lower court a reasonable opportunity to issue its own ruling," Wilkins wrote.

The Justice Department last month dropped its charge that Flynn had lied to the FBI about his communications with then Russian ambassador to the United States during Trump's presidential transition period in late 2016. Democrats have slammed the DOJ decision and cited it as an example of the department becoming politicized under Attorney General William Barr.

Instead of immediately grant the motion, Sullivan appointed an outside counsel, former federal judge John Gleeson, to outline a counter-argument to the DOJ's move.

Agencies

MOSCOW

## Putin stresses Soviet contributions in V-Day celebration

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday praised Soviet contributions in World War II, as the country marked the Soviet victory against the Nazis.

"After defending their own land, the Soviet people continued to fight and liberate the states of Europe from invaders," Putin said in a speech at a ceremony celebrating the 75th anniversary of the victory of the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War in Moscow's Red Square.

The Russian leader led a minute of silence to commemorate the numerous Soviet soldiers who fell during the war fighting and defeating the Nazis.

Russia will protect and defend the fair truth of the Great Patriotic War, an integral part of World War II, according to Putin, adding that the country will never forget the contributions of the Soviet Union's allies from the anti-Nazi coalition and their courageous fighters, he added.

Russia is open for dialogue and cooperation on the most burning issues, including creating a common reliable system of security, which the complex and rapidly-changing world needs, Putin said in his speech.

"We understand how important it



is to strengthen friendship and confidence among peoples ... Only by uniting together can we protect the world from new dangerous threats," he noted.

Before Putin's speech, Russian De-

fense Minister Sergei Shoigu in a black open-top limousine reviewed the troops lined up at Red Square, greeting them and wishing them a happy Victory Day. The troops in full dress chanted "Hooray!" in reply.

Putin's speech was followed by a military parade involving about 14,000 soldiers and more than 200 units of military hardware, including the legendary T-34 tanks used by the Red Army, as well as modern tanks and missile systems.

Troops from 13 foreign countries, including China, also marched across

Red Square. The parade culminated with an air show featuring 75 warplanes and helicopters, including strategic bombers and the latest fighter jets.

The air show ended with six attack aircraft painting the sky over Red Square in the three colors of the Russian national flag.

More than 2,000 guests, including a number of foreign leaders, attended the celebrations in Red Square.

After the parade, Putin and foreign leaders laid flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Alexander Gar-

den near the Kremlin wall.

Military parades of various scales were also held in 27 other Russian cities on Wednesday, as well as at the Hmeymim air base in Syria.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Russia postponed the annual Victory Day parade from the traditional date of May 9 for the first time since 1995 when the day was declared a national holiday.

The Soviet Union held a historic parade in Red Square on June 24, 1945, marking the victory of the Great Patriotic War, which claimed about 27 million lives of people of the Soviet Union, according to official statistics

Xinhua





The Green Ribbon Initiative donates materials to Italy to help the latter better cope with the COVID-19 epidemic, March 25. P(Files photo)

## Non-governmental assistance conveys great love in COVID-19 response

VIRUSES respect no border, and the world should unite as one to fight them. In the fight against the rampant COVID-19 pandemic, nongovernmental forces actors have played an indispensable role.

In China, NGOs nongovernmental forces groups have taken an active part in the global battle against the epidemic pandemic, offering mutual assistance with people around the world. What they presented was the glorious humanity that elevated the love for individuals to one that cares for all in the world, their devotion to their country and families, as well as the traditional character of the cultural inheritance of the Chinese nation.

Working together to tide over the difficulties, people around the world are filling the globe with love. The touching stories they have written well explained their profound relations that enabled them to return a favor with greater kindness.

Chinese NGO nongovernmental organizations have always shared weal and woe and fought together with other global countries. The Silk Road Community Building Initiative launched by China Association for NGO Cooperation has facilitated cooperation with dozens of countries regarding material donation, experience sharing and volunteering services. Besides, a campaign titled the Green Ribbon Initiative was jointly established initiated by over 150 social organizations and other units, and has donated anti-epidemic materials to around 20 countries, including Italy, Iran, Sri Lanka and Russia, as well as the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

The China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation donated set up hand wash stations in to Nepal, and has been offering "food packages" to impoverished children in Ethiopia and Myanmar every month on a monthly basis. The donation made by China Foundation for Peace and Development also went to over 10 countries.

Their kind deeds are an epitome of the sincere friendship and mutual assistance between the Chinese people and the people in the rest of the world. Pakistani Ambassador to China Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi noted that the selfless assistance offered by Chinese NGO nongovernmental organizations fully demonstrated great compassion love, friendship and trust.

Chinese enterprises also demonstrated a sense of responsibility in epidemic pandemic response. Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Foundation delivered materials to 150 countries and regions, and donated to the World Health Organization (WHO) 100 million surgical masks, 1 million N95 masks and 1 million nucleic acid test kits.

Chinese tech giant Tencent launched a \$100 million Global Anti-Pandemic

Fund, offering 7.7 million pieces of medical equipment for 15 countries. The virus testing laboratories built in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates by China's BGI, one of the world's leading life science and genomics organizations, have made key contribution to local epidemic response.

Besides, working around the clock, Chinese enterprises exported anti-epidemic materials to 200 countries and regions and injected huge positive energy in to the global battle.

What they did showcased the kindness, bravery and responsibility of the Chinese, winning high reputation and appreciation from the world. Some foreigners said that they are confident in defeating the virus because they are fighting together with their Chinese friends.

When "infodemic" of misinformation threatened the global cooperation on epidemic pandemic response, the Belt and Road News Network (BRNN) joined by 205 media organizations from 98 countries around the world issued an open letter, calling for its members to play their due roles as media, report reliable information, convey solidarity and support to the public, fulfill the responsibility of media and uphold human justice, so as to promote mutual assistance and unity among Belt and Road countries.

The people-to-people bond maintained by the Belt and Road brought kindness and warmth from China to the people in Belt and Road countries. Iqbal Survi, Executive Chairman of South Africa's Independent Media and member of the First Council of the BRNN, remarked that the Belt and Road is full of confidence, trust and hope.

It's not difficult to discover the reason for China's nongovernmental forces actors to actively join the global epidemic pandemic response, as it is something that are genetically coded in the culture of the Chinese nation.

The Chinese people have a kind of patriotic sentiment that compels people to share responsibility for the fate of the nation, believe that a just cause should be pursued for the common good, and carry a fine tradition of developing themselves to help others with the well-being of the world in their mind.

In the global efforts to contain the epidemic pandemic, Chinese scientists selflessly shared experiences; Chinese enterprises offered active assistance; Chinese NGO civil organizations helped other countries by different means; and Chinese media also shouldered their responsibility and upheld justice.

The Chinese people well understand that mankind is a community with a shared future, and only when people around the world join hands can their well-being be protected to the maximum and human civilization progressed.

People's Daily

## Biden to accept Democratic Party's nomination at scaled-back convention

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden is poised to accept the party's nomination at a scaled-back convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) said Wednesday.

"Leadership means being able to adapt to any situation," Tom Perez, chairman of the Democratic National Convention Committee, said in an announcement.

Biden's campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon said the former vice president would "proudly accept"



the party's nomination at the scaled-back convention, according to a report from The Hill.

Xinhua

The DNCC also said a "process is being developed" to ensure all delegates can cast their votes on matters, including the presidential nomination, remotely during the convention.

The convention will be moved from the Fiserv Forum to the smaller Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee for the four nights of programming on Aug. 17-20, said the report.

This year's convention will also eliminate large-scale events attended by thousands of people, including welcome receptions for media and delegates as well as an event for volunteers, said the report.

## Amid US reckoning on race, Black candidates harness voters' fervour for change

NEW YORK

AS election results trickled in from New York showing he was leading 31-year veteran Democratic Representative Eliot Engel, Jamaal Bowman told supporters he was part of a movement to deconstruct a system that is "literally killing us."

"Eliot Engel...used to say that he was a thorn in the side of (President) Donald Trump," Bowman, a Black school principal running in his first political campaign, said on Tuesday night. "But you know what Donald Trump is more afraid of than anything else? A Black man with power."

On Wednesday, Bowman held a commanding 27-point lead over Engel with absentee ballots still pending in Tuesday's election in the New York district covering the northern Bronx and nearby suburbs.

From New York to Virginia to Kentucky, Tuesday's elections showed voters are favoring a new generation of minority candidates amid a national reckoning on racism after the death of George Floyd, a Black man, in police custody last month.

"People are tired of the status quo," said Maurice Mitchell, a Black activist and national director of the liberal Working Families Party. "I think it's further cemented at a time when all of our systems have failed us."

Even before Floyd's death triggered a wave of protests across the country over police mistreatment of African Americans, the number of minority candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives had increased dramatically in 2020.

In the 22 states that held primaries before Tuesday, 31 percent of House candidates were minorities, up from 22.3 percent in the same states in 2018, according to research by Bernard Fraga, a political science professor at Indiana University. That is the largest uptick from one cycle to the next since at least 2006.

Perhaps more significantly, Fraga said, minority candidates have won or forced runoffs in nearly a third of their contests - the same percentage as the total number of candidates of color, suggesting they are as likely to win as white candidates.

The winners include candidates like Ella Jones, who this month was elected the first Black mayor of Ferguson, Missouri, six years after the police killing of teenager Michael Brown there galvanized the Black Lives Matter movement.

Meanwhile, pressure is mounting on Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden to select a minority running mate. Biden, a 77-year-old white man, defeated the most diverse slate of candidates in U.S. history to clinch the nomination to face Trump in the Nov. 3 election.

Some Black activists said Republican President Donald Trump's 2016



Jamaal Bowman

victory accelerated the shift. Adrienne Shropshire, the executive director of BlackPAC, a super PAC focused on Black Democrats, noted the historic victories for women of color in 2018: 43 minority women were sworn into the current House, a record.

"Voters are saying they want candidates and elected leaders who can address the issue of structural racism," Shropshire said.

### SENDING A MESSAGE

In Virginia on Tuesday, Cameron Webb, a Black doctor, defeated a raft of fellow Democrats to win the nomination in a competitive Republican-leaning House district.

In Kentucky, Black state lawmaker Charles Booker, until recently an afterthought in the Democratic primary to select an opponent for Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, mounted an unexpectedly robust challenge to Amy McGrath, the former Marine fighter pilot backed by the party leadership. The race was too close to call with absentee ballots pending.

Mondaie Jones and Ritchie Torres, either of whom would be the first openly gay Black member of Congress, appeared likely to prevail over crowded primary fields in two open House seats in heavily Democratic districts in and around New York City.

The 14-term Democratic Representative Carolyn Maloney of New York held a narrow lead over Suraj Patel, a 36-year-

old business professor of Indian descent who has questioned whether Maloney, 74, is the right person to address institutional racism.

The increased diversity is not limited to Democrats. The number of Republican House candidates who are members of minorities rose from 12.6% in 2018 to 20% in 2020 in the 22 states that held primary elections before this week, said Fraga, the Indiana University professor.

Many of the contests on Tuesday featured overlapping dynamics beyond race, including generational and ideological clashes.

Bowman and Booker were among those endorsed by liberal stalwarts like Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren over more moderate incumbents, while young candidates like Patel argued their campaigns represented an opportunity for change.

The protests have deepened Black voters' determination to send a message, according to Cliff Albright, the co-founder of the nonprofit group Black Voters Matter Fund.

He traveled from his home in Atlanta to Kentucky for Booker's primary, where he saw dozens of voters, many of them Black, chanting "Open the doors!" outside a polling place that closed at 6 p.m. in Louisville.

"I don't know if I've ever seen, at a polling place after it closed, people banging on the doors," he said.

Agencies

## Constitutional amendments vote begins in all regions of Russia's Far East

MOSCOW

THE vote on amendments to the Russian constitution began on Thursday in all the 14 administrative regions of Russia's Far Eastern federal district, regional election commissions and administrative bodies said yesterday.

In Yakutia, polling stations started their work at 10:00 local time (04:00 Moscow time). The region has 816 polling stations in total, including 25 temporary ones, set up at remote mining facilities, military garrisons and meteorological stations.

The vote in Buryatia began at 03:00 Moscow time (8:00 local time), while the Trans-Baikal Region and the Amur region launched the process an hour earlier, at 2:00 Moscow time.

At 01:00 Moscow time, the vote began in the Primorye and Khabarovsk regions and the Jewish autonomous region.

The Magadan region opened its polling stations at midnight Moscow time.

Russia's easternmost regions of Kamchatka and Chukotka were the first to begin the vote, at 23:00 Moscow time on Wednesday.

About the constitutional amendments vote

On March 11, the Russian State Duma (lower house of parliament) approved the final reading of the constitutional amendments bill proposed by Russian President Vladimir Putin. On the same day, it was approved by the Russian Federation Council (upper house of parliament) and Russia's regional parliaments.

The text of the bill was published on the official legal information portal. After the Constitutional Court's ruling, which states that the bill does not violate the Constitution, a public vote will be held. If over 50% of the Russian public approve of the changes, the bill will enter into force.

The vote was initially set to take place on April 22, however, Putin chose to postpone it due to the situation with the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Russia.

During a working session earlier, Putin approved July 1, 2020 as the new date for the vote. The vote will be held over a seven-day period ending on July 1 due to epidemiological concerns.

The document proposes to expand the powers of the Russian parliament and the Russian Constitutional Court, a fixed number of presidential terms, as well as the prevalence of the Russian Constitution over international agreements.

The document also expands the government's obligations in the social sphere. The amendments to the Constitution stipulate that the Russian head of state can only serve two terms, however, one of the amendments proposes that the current president can be re-elected if the new version of the Constitution comes into force.



**The text of the bill was published on the official legal information portal. After the Constitutional Court's ruling, which states that the bill does not violate the Constitution, a public vote will be held**

# Internet-empowered poverty relief revitalises rural China

INTERNET has given a big leg up to poverty alleviation in Longnan, northwest China's Gansu province in recent years. In the demonstration city of poverty alleviation by e-commerce, e-marketing is now a new "farm work" for local farmers.

Zhang Jiacheng is one of the many that have turned into anchors on livestreaming platforms. Last year, the wholesale prices of apples have tripled. By showing his followers around in his apple orchard on a livestreaming platform, the man earned more than 200,000 (\$28,239) yuan last year.

Since China promoted internet services in rural areas for poverty alleviation more than three years ago, rural areas have seen constantly improving network infra-

structure. With the help of the internet, distinctive agricultural products from rural areas are reaching more places in the country, and high-quality education and medical resources have become available in rural areas, revitalizing the countryside with better internet connectivity.

Local government in Longnan has vigorously supported the e-commerce sector in recent years. The city is home to 14,372 online shops and more than 33,000 individual e-commerce businesses.

In 2019, the average per capita income of impoverished people in the city increased by 840 yuan spurred by e-commerce. 536 state-level impoverished

counties are learning from Longnan's experience in relieving poverty through e-commerce, according to the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

E-commerce now covers all 832 state-level poor counties across China. In rural China, there are about 1,700 county-level e-commerce public service centers and logistics and distribution centers, as well as more than 130,000 village-level e-commerce service stations.

Besides, the country has trained more than five million people for e-commerce in rural areas. Last year, the online retail sales of agricultural products reached 397.5 billion yuan, 1.5 times higher than

that in 2016.

The deepening internet-driven poverty alleviation has been constantly optimizing network infrastructure in poverty-stricken areas.

As of October 2019, more than 98 percent of China's administrative villages had been connected with optical fiber network and 4G network, and 99 percent of the impoverished villages had been linked with broadband internet services. The internet has not only boosted sales of agricultural products, but also profoundly changed the lives of the poor people.

Besides, the internet has strengthened the role of education in poverty relief in rural China. Li Zimin is a junior middle

school student in Hulu township, Guangzong county, north China's Hebei province. As she introduced, she now has two teachers - a top teacher invited by the school for tele-education classes, and a local teacher assisting the former in the classroom.

Li noted that in the college entrance examination four years ago, only one student in her county was admitted to first-tier universities, and the figure jumped to 112 last year.

Internet-based education is introducing more excellent education resources to impoverished areas, such as top teachers, schools and education institutions, greatly curbing the intergenerational poverty.

Telemedicine is another sector where the internet could play a role in poverty alleviation. Recently, doctors from a hospital in Lingtai county, Pingliang of northwest China's Gansu province, conducted remote consultations via a video link with a health center in the county's Dudian township for a poor villager named Zhang Hongcai in Zhangpo village.

"It's convenient and economical to invite doctors from the county hospital to take part in my treatment via the video link," the farmer said happily.

Internet-based healthcare provides impoverished people with convenient access to quality medical resources, playing an important role in preventing people

from fall into or slipping back to poverty due to illness.

However, to have the internet play a bigger role in poverty alleviation, China still needs to bolster areas of weakness as soon as possible, for instance, the logistics.

Statistics indicate that 96.6 percent of the Chinese townships have established delivery service stations, but such facilities are only available in 35 percent of the villages. To bring more agricultural products out of the rural areas, a special project was launched by the State Post Bureau, aiming to offer express delivery services to all incorporated villages in three years.

People's Daily



A billboard depicting Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic and the Christian Orthodox monastery of Ostrog is seen on a building in Belgrade, Serbia, Wednesday, June 24, 2020. Djokovic has tested positive for the coronavirus after taking part in a tennis exhibition series he organized in Serbia and Croatia. The top-ranked Serb is the fourth player to test positive for the virus after first playing in Belgrade and then again last weekend in Zadar, Croatia. (AP Photo)

## Djokovic's parents defend their son, blame another player

BELGRADE, Serbia

NOVAK Djokovic's parents defended their son on Wednesday and blamed another tennis player for spreading the coronavirus at a series of exhibition matches hosted by the top-ranked player.

Djokovic and his wife tested positive for the virus on Tuesday. The 17-time Grand Slam champion then apologized online for organizing the Adria Tour events, which brought together professional players from various countries to play matches in Serbia and Croatia.

Thousands of spectators attended the matches and no social distancing was observed. Djokovic's outspoken father blamed the cancellation of the tour on Grigor Dimitrov, one of the three other players to test positive in the last few days. There is no evidence to suggest Dimitrov spread the virus to others.

"Why did it happen? Because that man probably came sick, who knows from where," Srdjan Djokovic told RTL Croatia TV. "He didn't test here, he tested somewhere else ... I think that's not fair."

"He inflicted damage to both Croatia and to us as a family in Serbia," Srdjan Djokovic said. "Nobody is feeling well because of this situation."

Dimitrov, a three-time Grand Slam semifinalist from Bulgaria, was the first Adria Tour participant to test positive for the virus. He was followed by Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki.

The infections raised questions about the full-

fledged return of competitive tennis, including the scheduled U.S. Open in August.

"We were wrong and it was too soon," wrote Djokovic, who has previously said he was against taking a vaccine for the virus even if it became mandatory to travel.

Dimitrov played in matches in both Belgrade and at the Croatian Adriatic resort of Zadar. He reportedly arrived in Serbia from the United States and his native Bulgaria. He did not immediately respond to The Associated Press' request for comment while recovering from the infection in Monaco.

NBA player Nikola Jokic, a Serb who plays for the Denver Nuggets, has also tested positive for the coronavirus. He was pictured shaking hands with Djokovic at an exhibition basketball event in Belgrade this month.

Jokic is reportedly recovering in his hometown of Sombor.

Djokovic's mother said both her son and his wife Jelena are feeling fine, but are suffering because of the widespread criticism.

"It is horrible what is being written, but we are used to it," Dijana Djokovic told the Belgrade Blic daily newspaper.

The coronavirus outbreak led to the suspension of the ATP and WTA professional tennis tours in March. Plans were announced last week for the sport's sanctioned events to return in August.

The U.S. Open is scheduled to begin Aug. 31 without spectators.

AP

## Black artists call on Hollywood to prove Black Lives Matter

LOS ANGELES

MORE than 300 Black actors and filmmakers, including Idris Elba, Queen Latifah and Billy Porter, on Tuesday asked Hollywood to divest in the police and invest in anti-racist content.

An open letter addressed to "Our Allies in Hollywood" attacked what it called the industry's "legacy of white supremacy" and said Hollywood "encourages the epidemic of police violence and culture of anti-Blackness."

The letter, organized by the group Hollywood 4 Black Lives, was written in the midst of a cultural and political reckoning in the United States about systemic racism and mass protests about the killing of Black people by police.

Specific demands included abolishing the employment of police officers on sets and putting pressure on Los Angeles city authorities to reduce budgets for policing.

It called on the movie and television industry to "end the intentional glorification of police brutality and corruption in our storytelling" and for studios to employ more Black people with executive, budget and green lighting powers.

Long-running police TV shows "Live PD" and "Cops" were canceled earlier this month. Multiple celebrities, including talk show hosts Jimmy Kimmel and Jimmy Fallon, and "30 Rock" creator Tina Fey have issued public apologies for wearing black face or depicting white characters made up as Black people.

"It is time for Hollywood to acknowledge its role and take on the responsibility of repairing the damage and being a proactive part of the change," Tuesday's letter said.

According to a report on diversity in Hollywood published in February by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), people of color took 27.6% of lead roles in top films for 2019, almost triple the percentage in 2011.

Heads of movie studios were 91% white and 82% male, according to the UCLA report.

Signatories to Tuesday's letter included campaign groups Black Lives Matter and Color of Change, as well as actors Viola Davis, Tiffany Haddish, Janelle Monae, Mahershala Ali, Laverne Cox, Cynthia Erivo and "Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman.

REUTERS

## Bill Cosby appeal will test scope of #MeToo prosecutions

PHILADELPHIA

IN a stunning decision that could test the legal framework of #MeToo cases, Pennsylvania's highest court will review the trial decision to let five other accusers testify at Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial in 2018, which ended with the longtime TV star's conviction.

Cosby, 82, has been imprisoned in suburban Philadelphia for nearly two years after a jury convicted him of drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his home in 2004. He's serving a three- to 10-year sentence.

The Supreme Court has agreed to review two aspects of the case, including the judge's decision to let prosecutors call the other accusers to testify about long-ago encounters with the actor and comedian. Cosby's lawyers have long complained the testimony is remote and unreliable.

The court will also consider, as it weighs the scope of the evidence allowed, whether the jury should have heard Cosby's own deposition testimony about getting quaaludes to give women in the past.

Secondly, the court will examine Cosby's argument that he had an agreement with a former prosecutor that he would never be charged in the case. Cosby has said he relied on the alleged promise before agreeing to give the deposition in trial accuser Andrea Constand's lawsuit.

Those issues have been at the heart of the case since Cosby was charged in December 2015, days before the 12-year statute of limitations expired.

Prosecutors in suburban Philadelphia had reopened the case that year after The Associated Press fought to unseal portions of Cosby's decade-old deposition in Constand's sex assault and defamation lawsuit. Cosby paid \$3.4 million to settle the lawsuit in 2006.

Cosby, in the deposition,



Bill Cosby

acknowledged a string of extramarital relationships. He called them consensual, but many of the women say they were drugged and molested.

Dozens came forward in the years that followed to accuse Cosby, long beloved as "America's Dad" because of his hit 1980s sitcom, of sexual misconduct. Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill allowed just one of them to testify at Cosby's first trial in 2017, which ended in a mistrial.

But a year later, after the #MeToo movement exploded in the wake of reporting on Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein and other powerful men, the judge allowed five other accusers to testify at the retrial. The jury convicted Cosby on all three felony sex-assault counts.

Lawyer Brian W. Perry argued in the appeal that letting other accusers testify in #MeToo cases "flips constitutional jurisprudence on its head, and the 'presumption of guilt,' rather than the presumption of innocence, becomes the premise."

However, the judge said he found "striking similarities" in the women's

descriptions of their encounters with Cosby, and said the testimony was therefore permissible to show evidence of a "signature crime."

"In each instance, (he) met a substantially younger woman, gained her trust, invited her to a place where he was alone with her, provided her with a drink or drug, and sexually assaulted her once she was rendered incapacitated," O'Neill wrote in a post-trial opinion. "These chilling similarities rendered (their) testimony admissible."

Spokesman Andrew Wyatt on Tuesday said the decision comes as demonstrators across the nation protest the death of Black people at the hands of police and expose the "corruption that lies within the criminal justice system."

"The false conviction of Bill Cosby is so much bigger than him - it's about the destruction of ALL Black people and people of color in America," Wyatt said in a statement.

Constand, a former professional basketball player who now does outreach to sex assault victims, asked the appeals court Tuesday to not allow

"Cosby's wealth, fame and fortune to win an escape from his maleficent, malignant and downright criminal past."

Questioned about the encounter with her in the 2006 deposition, Cosby described being on his couch and putting his hand down her pants after giving her three pills he identified as Benadryl. Constand said they made her pass out.

"I don't hear her say anything. And I don't feel her say anything. And so I continue and I go into the area that is somewhere between permission and rejection. I am not stopped," he said.

Legal experts said the appellate review could help clarify when judges should allow "prior bad act" testimony from other accusers in sex crime cases, at least in Pennsylvania, and whether a supposed verbal promise from one prosecutor should bind their successor.

"I think that Cosby still has an uphill battle. The good news is the state Supreme Court will look at the appeal," said Loyola Law School professor Laurie Levenson.

The AP typically does not name people who say they have been victims of sexual assault without their permission, which Constand has granted.

This story has been updated to show the judge's first name is spelled Steven, not Stephen. It has also been updated to show that Bill Cosby's first trial in 2017 ended in a mistrial, not an acquittal.

## Koepka, Simpson withdraw from PGA event after caddie positives



Four-time major winner Brooks Koepka, left, will not play in this week's Travelers Championship after caddie Ricky Elliott, right, tested positive for COVID-19 (AFP Photo)

NEW YORK

FOUR-TIME major champion Brooks Koepka and past US Open winners Webb Simpson and Graeme McDowell are among six golfers who won't compete the US PGA Travelers Championship after three COVID-19 positive tests at the event.

US PGA commissioner Jay Monahan has tightened restrictions in the tour's health and safety plan in the wake of positive tests by US player Cameron Champ, McDowell caddie Ken Comboy and Koepka caddie Ricky Elliott.

"I haven't tested positive for COVID-19, but as I've said all along, I'm taking this very seriously," Koepka said. "I don't want to do anything

that might jeopardize the health of any player in the field or his ability to compete.

Fourth-ranked Koepka is set to seek a third consecutive PGA Championship title in August.

"The right thing to do right now is get home, support Ricky and feel confident that I'm doing what I can do protecting my fellow tour members," Koepka said.

Americans Cameron Champ, Nick Watney and Chase Koepka are the other golfers who will miss the event starting Thursday at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, Connecticut, in the tour's third event back from a three-month coronavirus shutdown.

"We all need to learn to live with this virus. It's pretty clear this virus isn't

going anywhere," Monahan said.

"We're going to have more positives going forward. We're just going to continue to refine (safeguards) and get better and better and find new ways to mitigate the risk."

Watney tested positive last week in South Carolina. Champ was positive on Tuesday. Comboy and Elliott tested positive after Koepka, his younger brother Chase and Northern Ireland's McDowell practiced together Tuesday.

"I have experienced some fatigue and muscle soreness myself," 2010 US Open winner McDowell said. "I didn't think of it as COVID related... but now that Kenny has tested positive... I have to take those symptoms more seriously. I'm not keen on risking the

possibility that I could pass it onto anyone else this week."

Simpson, the 2012 US Open champion who won last week's Heritage title, tested negative twice for the deadly virus but withdrew after a family member tested positive. He plans to quarantine in North Carolina.

Tighter protocols include additional tests upon arrival in every event city and bringing the tour's fitness trailer on site each week so golfers avoid gym visits.

"We will probably continue to make adjustments. The changes we've made this week are a very good step," said Monahan. "We're going to make sure we take time to reinforce the strong protocols we already have."

"We feel like we're going to be in position to sustain our return."

Monahan promised punishments for anyone not following social distance, masking or other protocols inside the PGA's safety zone.

"For those who do not, there will be serious repercussions," Monahan said. "Consequences will be significant."

"We've gotten a little bit lax or away from protocol. That's the kind of tightening we need to do to make sure we're in a good position moving forward."

- Confident in fan plan -

The PGA plans to welcome back spectators to events in mid-July at the Jack Nicklaus-hosted Memorial in Dublin, Ohio. "We're confident in that plan," said Monahan, adding, "We're only going to do it if it's a healthy and safe environment for our players, caddies and the fans who would be attending."

Monahan says while there are COVID-19 risks in staging events, he doesn't expect so many positives it would force another tour shutdown. "They are containable and we're going to avoid that scenario," Monahan said. "We're confident in the plan we have and we're hopeful we're not going to be in that position."

Charley Hoffman, a member of the Players Advisory Council, said playing in Texas and South Carolina was "pretty much the wild, wild west" after tight virus safeguards in California.

"We're learning from our mistakes," he said. "We're not perfect. We're working on that daily. We're going to get better and we're going to lead by example."

"If we still want to keep playing golf, we've got to understand this virus."

AFP

## Lionel Messi's evolution as a player: From Ronaldinho's Barcelona understudy to GOAT candidate - 2

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer  
ESPN FC

SUAREZ'S presence was critical in allowing Messi to return to the right wing on a more permanent basis, though always with licence to come inside and create. Suarez was perhaps the perfect synthesis of Ibrahimovic and Eto'o; he had Ibrahimovic's technical ability, but Eto'o's work rate and intelligent movement.

In addition, Suarez quickly developed an understanding with Messi, clearing the path with well-timed runs that took defenders out of position and always making himself available for a pass. And Neymar's presence on the left wing helped tremendously, as it meant opposing teams could not simply overload Messi's flank.

The 2015-16 season saw things continue in much the same vein, though having Suarez around for the full campaign, rather than just five months, meant Messi could leave some of the attacking burden. Operating farther away from goal, we saw different aspects of his game. His shots from distance, for example, went up to a career-high 62, and he improved his scoring rate from distance, netting a career-best six goals.

He continued to dribble less (his attempts fell to 766) and, partly because he was farther away, both his xG (0.62, lowest since 2008-09) and xG/shot (0.13, lowest since 2007-08) declined from the highs of previous campaigns. At 28, his defensive output also continued to fall: His possession-adjusted tackles plus interceptions were 1.02.

This was a Messi who was far more team-oriented and willing to make players around him better, though that is easier to do with the likes of Neymar and Suarez. Alves, the full-back with winger skills who allowed Messi to spend much of the previous seasons as a wide man in name only, moved on in the summer of 2016, and Messi spent increasing periods of time away from the penalty area.

In doing so, Messi became even more lethal from distance, converting eight of 66 shots from beyond 21 yards; his xG from open play was a whopping 0.45. He ended the campaign with 31 non-penalty league goals and 51 across all competitions.

Post-Neymar (2017-present)  
The summer of 2017 featured a pair of key departures from the Camp Nou. Enrique was replaced by Ernesto Valverde, while Neymar activated his release clause to join Paris Saint-Germain for a world-record fee of \$250 million.

The move caught Barcelona unprepared, and the proceeds of the sale were spent on players with different

skills. Ousmane Dembele, 20, was more of a direct, up-and-down runner and was beset by injuries, failing to make much impact. Meanwhile Philippe Coutinho, who arrived in January 2018, was more of a creator, and he too struggled in Valverde's system. Suarez also began showing signs of wear and tear as he turned 31, developing into more of a traditional center-forward.

Messi necessarily adjusted. His touches in the box increased (10.99 in 2017-18 and 10.26 in 2018-19) as he found himself farther forward, closer to Suarez, but he also shot more from distance when the path into the box was blocked.

Again, Messi did it very well, scoring 16 goals in 171 attempts from beyond 21 yards over the two seasons. Part of the success was due to free kicks, a quality of his game that seemed to improve with age: He netted 12 over two years, having previously had 21 in his entire career.

He still was, nominally, a right winger; still was a hugely effective dribbler and regularly ranked among the league leaders. But it was often more a case of using the dribble to set up a shot or a pass, rather than taking off on the sort of exhilarating runs we saw when he was younger. Meanwhile, his defensive output continued to decline, and he rarely tracked back, likely a function of age. In fact, it was not uncommon to see him and Suarez jogging back and leaving the midfielders tasked with regaining the ball.

Messi's numbers for 2019-20 are what you would expect from a 32-year-old GOAT candidate who sometimes tried to carry the team like he once did. Prior to La Liga's shutdown, his xG/shot was a career-low 0.11, but he still managed a healthy 16 non-penalty league goals. Typically, his long-range shooting was making the difference: Seven of his 16 non-penalty goals came from distance, by far the highest proportion of his career: Four of those were free kicks, further evidence that the ability to strike a ball is the last thing to go with age.

The old term "Messi dependency" came back in vogue as Valverde's teams, despite winning two Liga titles, largely failed to impress and leaned heavily on their talisman. In some ways, outside the Guardiola years and MSN era, it has been the story of Messi's career. The difference, perhaps, is that these days Messi will pop up occasionally – often with ballistic exploits from afar – rather than continuously picking apart opponents with the entire team at his service.

Still, as career twilights go, it is the sort about which most mortal players only dream.

## Real's Ramos slams La Liga conspiracy 'noise'

MADRID

SERGIO Ramos has hit out at the "noise" surrounding Real Madrid's title bid, saying talk of referees helping out the La Liga leaders is "imagining things."

Ramos, 34, scored a free kick as Madrid beat Mallorca 2-0 on Wednesday to maintain their advantage over rivals Barcelona – level on 68 points, with a superior head-to-head record.

Last week, Barca's Gerard Pique hinted officials were favouring Real Madrid in the title race before the team benefited from key decisions going their way in a win at Real Sociedad on Sunday. "All the noise that's being made is because we're leaders now," Ramos told Movistar. "When we weren't, people didn't talk so much. Referees and VAR are here to help... I don't think they take any predetermined decisions. The noise needs to stop. It's as if we should be thanking the referees for being leaders. People shouldn't be imagining things."

The Real Madrid defender is enjoying his best-ever goal scoring season, having found the net eight times in this La Liga campaign.

"Football is a team sport," he said. "But on a personal level, statistics and personal challenges motivate

me and make me proud. It's a reward for consistency, for a lot of years of hard work." Coach Zinedine Zidane also praised Ramos' contribution.

"I'm happy with his goal," he said. "He's our captain and our leader. He always shows us the way. He practices taking free kicks, so to score one is satisfying for him and for us... I always tell him he has to retire here."

Real Madrid have played four games in eleven days, winning all of them, since the return of La Liga. They have seven more to play in a hectic schedule before the domestic season ends on July 19.

"You could see the tiredness in the team today, with games every three days," Ramos said. "The recovery time is what it is. There will only be one 'coronavirus league' and we want to win it, as a reward for all the effort we've put in to keep playing during these months."

"We aren't able to train too much," Zidane added. "We can't do exactly what we want. We're playing every three days. The attitude today was impressive. Now we have seven finals left. It's true that we're noticing tiredness after so many games. But it's the same for every team, it's a special situation, with the heat as well. We have to face it."

(Agencies)

# Title within Liverpool's reach, but COVID-19 denies celebrations

LIVERPOOL, England

LIVERPOOL are now within touching distance of the club's first league title in 30 years. They could even be champions within 24 hours if Manchester City fail to win at Chelsea on Thursday, but after beating Crystal Palace 4-0 at Anfield on Wednesday, the only red to be seen outside their famous old stadium was in the traffic lights on the deserted streets.

A year ago, Jurgen Klopp and his players were welcomed back from the Champions League final in Madrid by 750,000 fans on the streets of the city as they paraded the club's sixth European Cup. And with the 30-year wait to be crowned champions of England now almost over, you could expect similar scenes of passion and frenzy in normal circumstances. This, after all, is a club whose supporters relish their reputation as being the team's 12th man with all the noise and colour they bring to games, home or away.

But in a world turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic, these aren't normal circumstances, and that was made abundantly clear with Liverpool's crucial win against Palace being played out with Anfield, closed to spectators, surrounded by what resembled a ghost town. The roads were empty, there were no stalls selling cheap merchandise outside the stadium, and a gated perimeter around Anfield – patrolled by police officers and stewards – ensured that nobody without official accreditation, certainly not a hopeful supporter, could get within 100 yards of the ground.

"Imagine how this stadium would've been today," Klopp said at the end of the game. "All the people could have experienced it live – that would've been amazing."

Winning this league championship was always going to be a strange sensation for Liverpool with their charge to the title halted abruptly by COVID-19, which led to the Premier League being suspended for 100 days beginning in mid-March, but it feels so strange to witness their final steps to glory being taken in deafening silence.

Having gone into the shutdown with a 25-point lead over closest challengers City, the only doubt over Liverpool's claim on the title was whether the league would be declared null and void in the event of football not returning in time to complete the 2019-20 season, but that was never a realistic prospect.

Liverpool have been so dominant this season – they have lost just once and drawn two of their 31 league games – that they would always be regarded as champions, with or without an asterisk



Liverpool's famous Kop end was draped in flags for Anfield's return behind closed doors (AFP Photo)

alongside their name. But as Klopp said last week, the only asterisk that should now accompany their imminent title success is one that symbolises the unique challenges his team has had to overcome to win the league "in this most difficult year."

Sunday's goalless draw at Everton was an underwhelming return to action for Klopp's team, though, and their failure to win at Goodison Park meant they could not seal the title with a win against Palace at Anfield. Winning on home turf would have been the perfect scenario, but after waiting so long, it is unlikely that anyone at the club will care where, or when, Liverpool's 19th title (one behind Manchester United's record of 20) is confirmed.

They can even afford to be choosy. Do they want to win it by beating reigning champions City at the Etihad next Thursday, in what would be a true baton-passing moment? Or would they rather Pep Guardiola's team trip up at Chelsea

on Thursday simply to get the job done? If the latter happens, Liverpool could then travel to City expecting Guardiola's players to welcome them onto the pitch with a guard of honour – COVID-19 safety protocols permitting, of course.

"We are in a good position, so hopefully we can get over the line soon," said Liverpool's opening goal scorer, Trent Alexander-Arnold. "We have to focus on ourselves. We are not hoping Man City drop points – we know it's in our hands. We still have to go to City next week and get a result."

When Liverpool are finally confirmed as champions, the relief and joy could spark the kind of scenes that would normally have greeted this victory. They have waited so long that it would be unthinkable for Liverpool's supporters to allow the moment to pass without a party.

But football isn't staging any parties right now, which is a shame, because Liverpool deserve their moment. They

deserve to break points records and winning-margin records this season, and they are back on course for those historic milestones after cruising past Palace.

Fittingly, Liverpool were set on their way with a goal by a local boy, with Alexander-Arnold opening the scoring with a 23rd-minute free kick. Mohamed Salah made it 2-0 on the stroke of half-time before Fabinho and Sadio Mane completed the scoring with a goal apiece in the second half. Palace could barely lay a glove on Liverpool, and they never looked like inflicting a first home defeat on the Reds since they became the most recent visiting team to win a league game at Anfield, in April 2017.

It was a rout and another clinical performance by Klopp's team, Liverpool's 23rd consecutive home league victory. But outside the stadium, the traffic lights continued to flicker from green to red as though nothing else was happening.

It might be different in 24 hours.  
(Agencies)

## New generation of Liverpool fans prepares for title glory

LONDON

WHEN Liverpool were last crowned English champions, in April 1990, Margaret Thatcher was prime minister and the Premier League was two years away from its glitzy launch.

Now Jurgen Klopp's runaway leaders are a Manchester City stumble away from once again ruling the roost after seeing off Crystal Palace 4-0 on Wednesday.

If City fail to beat Chelsea on Thursday, then it will all be over.

In 1990 it was business as usual for Kenny Dalglish's dominant Reds, who had finished in the top two every year since 1973, apart from one season.

Their triumph came a year after the trauma of the Hillsborough disaster, which claimed the lives of 96 Liverpool fans after a terrace crush.

Off the pitch, Britain was in the final months of Thatcher's long premiership.

Fierce opposition to the ruling Conservative Party's plans for a "poll tax", which included riots in London, contributed to her downfall in November 1990.

Britain still faced a threat from the Irish Republican Army and was heading for an economic recession.

- Liverpool change -  
The city of Liverpool suffered high unemployment and rioting during the turbulent 1980s.

Joe Moran, professor of English and cultural history at Liverpool John Moores University, said northern cities suffered during Britain's accelerated economic transformation under Thatcher from a traditional manufacturing base towards a more service-based, consumer-oriented economy.

Liverpool's long-term decline as a port exacerbated the problems.

"The year 1990 wasn't the bleakest year in the city's history but it was just coming out of it," said Moran.

"Hillsborough happened a year before and it wasn't really until the mid-1990s that the city was being transformed, partly because it was coming out of recession, and through European funding.

"Winning the title, it was more important because the city was going through quite a hard time."

- TV riches -  
The football landscape was also radically different three decades ago, with the English game yet to be flooded with the TV riches that came with the launch of the Premier League.

Bryan Robson remained the most expensive footballer traded between English clubs, nine years after his £1.5 million (\$1.9 million) transfer from West Brom to Manchester United.

Moran said the 1990 World Cup in Italy was a catalyst for the "complete transformation" of football.

"I think the commercial changes to football since



Jurgen Klopp

1990 are in some ways a more extreme version of what happened in society," he said.

"They were a sort of turbo-capitalism, a hyper-mercenary trade" in which a small group of clubs powered away from the rest financially.

Manchester United, under Alex Ferguson, were in prime position to take advantage of the money flooding into the game,

establishing a dominance to match Liverpool's in the previous two decades.

But they are just one of seven different clubs who have won the English top-flight since 1990 on a list that includes Blackburn and Leicester.

Joe Blott, chairman of the Spirit of Shankly supporters group, says Liverpool's last title is a fading memory.

"You have to be about 40 years of age to remember the last time Liverpool won it," he said. "There's almost a generation-and-a-half of fans who are waiting to see Liverpool win the league for the first time."

Blott, 59, said the game itself had changed from a national league to a "global commodity".

Chelsea, backed by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, and Abu Dhabi-owned Manchester City have invested huge sums to win seven Premier League titles in the last 10 years.

Liverpool are also now American-owned, but Blott believes the Fenway Sports Group has invested wisely after the troubled days under previous American owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett.

Blott reserves special praise for Klopp, who he says has produced a side that mixes flair and steel to stand alongside the great teams of the past.

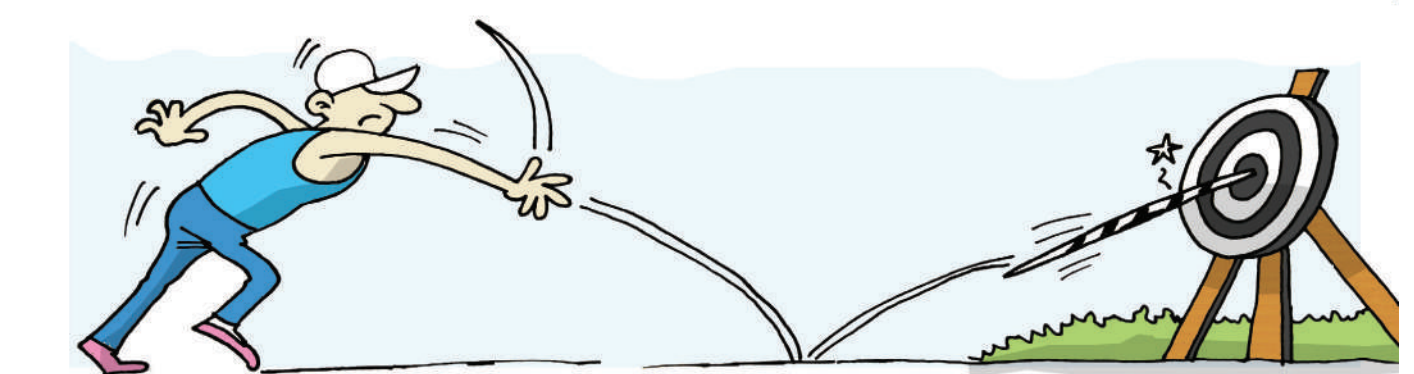
"At the moment we have got for the first time since the heady days of winning everything the Holy Trinity of manager, players and fans pulling in the same way," he said.

"He just gets us," he said, talking about Klopp. "He's immersed in the Scouse, Liverpool mentality. He understands what it's like to be a football fan."

"He ensures everyone is part of the victories, part of the losses. If ever there was a son of (former manager Bill) Shankly it's certainly Klopp."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



## AT seeks to field many runners in Olympic Qualifiers

# SPORT

Title within Liverpool's reach, but COVID-19 denies celebrations

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

### Namungo FC now maintains unbeaten run in Premier League

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

NAMUNGO FC's 2-2 draw with Yanga in a Vodacom Premier League encounter between the two squads has seen the former stretch their unbeaten run in the top flight to 15 matches.

The thrilling clash, which was played at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, saw hosts Yanga toil to cancel out the visitors' lead on two occasions.

Namungo FC still clings on to the fourth spot in the top flight standing after notching 55 points.

The Lindi-based side has, in the process, set season record, given no other top flight outfit has managed to play the mentioned number of games without conceding loss.

League leaders Simba SC comes second as the side has not conceded defeat in 12 matches.

Yanga, positioned third in the top flight log, are third in the record as they are unbeaten in 11 outings this season.

There will be no squad which will manage to surpass Namungo FC record, given Simba will have maintained unbeaten spell in 11 games, if they will not concede loss in their remaining games.

Yanga will have maintained unbeaten spell in 12 games, should they not concede loss in their remaining games.

Namungo FC last conceded loss to Simba, when the latter scrapped a 3-2 victory over the former in a top flight match, which took place on January 29 this year.

The Lindi outfit later went on a 15-match unbeaten run, posting victory in five outings and registering draw in 10 games.

After the defeat to Simba, Namungo FC thrashed Mbo FC 3-0 and later recorded 1-1 draw with Alliance FC.

Namungo FC thereafter posted barren draw with Ndanda FC and then edged Singida United 1-0. They later recorded 1-1 draw with Mwadui FC.

Namungo FC went on to command 2-1 victory over KMC FC and thereafter beat Azam FC and Lipuli FC 1-0 and 2-1 respectively.

They thereafter recorded draw in four outings in a row, managing 1-1 draw with Mtiwba Sugar and later registered 0-0 draw with Polisi Tanzania.

Namungo FC was held to 1-1 draw by Biashara United and then recorded 1-1 with Yanga in the top flight's first phase encounter.

After the top flight was given green light to restart, Namungo FC notched 2-2 draw with Coastal Union, trounced Kagera Sugar 2-0 and then posted 2-2 draw with Yanga.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has stated it plans to send many athletes to the qualifying tournaments for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, slated to resume next month.

Tullo Chambo, AT information officer, said the country is geared to send more athletes to the qualifying events as the current number of domestic athletes, who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, is not sufficient.

The country has only two athletes, namely Felix Simbu and Failuna Matanga, who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics which has been shifted to next year from the previous July 23-August 8.



Domestic athletes battle it out in a past National Open Athletics Championships, which was held in Arusha. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

He, nevertheless, could not name the dates and countries which will host the qualifying events, saying he needs more time to crosscheck with his seniors.

"The qualifying events for Tokyo Olympics are expected to start next month, as the local athletics federation we aim at sending more athletes so that they can compete to qualify for Japan Olympics," Chambo stated.

"Currently we have only two athletes who are qualified for the Olympics, looking at the population and talents which the country has we feel having only two athletes at the Olympics is not good, we want to be represented by more athletes," he said.

After the International Olympic

Committee (IOC) and Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee announced that the Tokyo Olympics will be delayed for a year, Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) Secretary General Filbert Bayi described the development as a blessing in disguise for the country.

He said the development will provide a platform for more local athletes to seek qualification for the Games.

The other local sporting disciplines' athletes that are seeking qualification for Tokyo Olympics include boxers, judo players and volleyball players.

Due to the Coronavirus outbreak, many top athletics events were postponed.

They include London Marathon, which was supposed to be held on April 24, and will now be held on October 4.

The Boston Marathon, originally scheduled for April 20 and later postponed for five months, has been cancelled for the first time in its 124-year history.

Organisers of Boston Marathon, on May 28, opted for a 'virtual event' in which participants,

who verify that they ran 26.2 miles on their own, will receive their finisher's medals.

Other events are Amsterdam, Paris and Barcelona marathons, which were postponed, and the Tokyo Marathon which has been pushed to March 1 next year.

The Tokyo Marathon, which usually attracts 300,000 participants, was restricted to only 200 elite runners.

### Waluguru Original Band prepares for album launch

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

MOROGORO'S Waluguru Original Music Band has started preparations for launching the band's new album slated for next month.

The band's Director, Deogratius David 'Killer Boy', confirmed the news when he spoke of the preparations for the album's launch.

The album, he noted, will be the first for the band this year.

"Entertainment events were put on hold in an effort to fight the coronavirus pandemic when we had already prepared tracks for the new album," he disclosed.

"We were therefore forced to stop our activities at the time but we have resumed the preparations," he noted.

David said the band has six songs, with some of them having been recorded and sent to various radio stations in Morogoro with a view to bringing forth few details on the new album.

"Waluguru Original band has new songs, namely 'Morogoro Yetu', 'Mwanzo wa Mapeenzi', 'Cha Kupewa', 'Ngalile Mwanangu Ndole', 'Supu' and 'Nataka Nilewe'," he disclosed.

"We have already sent the 'Morogoro Yetu' song to various radio stations in the region."

David moreover said the 'Morogoro Yetu' song might as well carry the album's title, claiming the band's fans have always been requesting for the track in the live shows held in the

region.

"We are keeping on recording our songs as part of preparations for the album's launch, we moreover do our shows given the government has given green light to the restart of entertainment and other activities," he disclosed.

He pointed out apart from recording the tracks their band is communicating with one of prominent bands, based in Dar es Salaam, to feature in the former's album launch.

He said once the talks reach conclusion he will mention the Dar es Salaam band.

He disclosed they have planned to invite the band to perform with them at the album launch.

### OBFT; Boxing clubs ought to meet Open Championship's costs

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Open Boxing Federation Of Tanzania (OBFT) has advised its affiliates to see to it their respective clubs meet participation costs for the Open and Club championships set for the end of next month and August.

The federation was, as disclosed by its secretary general Lukelo Wililo on Wednesday, supposed to hold the two events last month.

The championships, according to him, were postponed due to suspension of sporting activities, effected by the government, with a view to containing the coronavirus pandemic.

Wililo stated the two events, Open Championship and Club Championship, will be held in Dar es Salaam and Manyara in July and August respectively.

He said OBFT is not financially stable and it for that matter cannot fund the two championships meant to select boxers for the national team.

Wililo said at the Open Boxing Championship, slated for July 25-30 in Dar es Salaam, they expect more than 100 boxers to attend while the Manyara Club Championships scheduled for August 25-30 is expected to attract 15 clubs.

He said it is the duty of individual boxers and clubs to source funding for the events.

"We don't have money to host the two events, we are asking the individual boxers and clubs to source funds on their own, we have given them enough time to court the corporates, they need to find money for accommodation and other expenses," he said. The OBFT official said he is confident that the Club Championship will be held smoothly as many clubs are either sponsored or owned by the army, police, prisons and other government agencies.

He said the two events are of great importance as OBFT plans to use them to identify boxers for the next year's Tokyo Olympics.

He moreover asked all boxers to keep on training so as to be fit and shape ahead of the two events.

"It is our wish to take every outstanding boxer to the national team, but for them to earn selection they must impress the coaches," he said.



Waluguru Original Music Band's artiste, Deogratius David 'Killer Boy' (2nd L), sings alongside fellow musicians at the group's recent show, which took place in Morogoro. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

### Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV FRIDAY**  
TONIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 S5ELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA !  
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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88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

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