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Peace reigns as votes cast in large numbers

By Guardian Reporters

MILLIONS of Tanzanians yesterday thronged polling stations from dawn and voted peacefully despite some hiccups.

The election attracted 15 presidential candidates along with 390 parliamentary, and 5,350 councillorship aspirants, though the race was tight between incumbent President John Magufuli of CCM and Tundu Lissu of the main opposition party, Chadema.

Most polling stations opened at 7 am and closed at around 4 pm with each station accommodating less than 500 voters. There were more than 80,000 polling centres across the country.

Reports from various regions indicated that Tanzanians conducted themselves with civility as they cast votes to elect the president, members of Parliament and ward councillors.

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) said that 29,188,347 people were registered to vote, while the ball is now in the court of the polls management body to conduct the counting, tallying and announcement of results.

NEC has won praise for the way it organized the polls but there are areas of needed improvement, on the basis with voters and observers airing their views at various polling stations.

Interviewed Dar es Salaam voters said that the voting process was easier compared to previous elections due to the digitization of procedures, including access to their names in polling stations.

The process was also gripped with



Tundu Lissu, the opposition Chadema's candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency, casts his vote yesterday at Ntewa A polling centre in Ikungi District, Singida Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Dr Hussein Mwinyi, the ruling CCM's candidate for the Zanzibar Presidency, casts his vote yesterday at a Kariakoo polling centre in Zanzibar. Photo: Rahma Suleiman



President John Magufuli, who is seeking re-election on the ruling CCM ticket, casts his vote yesterday at Chamwino in Dodoma Region. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Seif Shariff Hamad, the opposition Alliance for Change and Transparency's (ACT-Wazalendo) candidate for the Zanzibar Presidency, casts his vote yesterday at Galagala in Zanzibar. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

CUF agents 'barred' from polling stations

● Three sisters of CUF parliamentary candidate, his mother, arrested

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

POLICE in Tanga Region have arrested poll agents of several opposition parties for allegedly attempting to instigate chaos at polling stations, maintaining that they are in safe hands.

Regional Police Commander Blasius Chatanda said the arrest of agents followed uncertainty at the Tongoni and Ngamiani South polling stations.

"We are holding them for interrogation; they are in safe hands," he said, noting that the decision to apprehend them was reached after chaos erupted at specific polling stations, with their party followers "attempting to bar voters from practicing their constitutional right."

RPC Chatanda said police are holding agents of the Civic United Front (CUF), Chadema and ACT-Wazalendo. "We arrested them over fears that they might cause chaos and disrupt the

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Hushed calm as voters throng polling centres

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

AN unusual silence descended on Zanzibar yesterday as voters thronged polling stations to elect leaders in the General Election.

Shops, restaurants and roadside eateries were closed; commuter buses as well as private cars and scooters that habitually make many trips were nowhere to be seen.

The ordinarily busy sections of Zanzibar, namely Darajani, Mlandege, Michenzani and Kariakoo were deserted as single individuals or small groups of twos and threes could be seen heading to or leaving polling stations.

Darajani Market, a beehive of activity on other days was nearly empty as only a few butcheries

I have been standing here for hours but there no buses. I have to continue waiting as I cannot walk to Mpendae

were open, and near-deafening noise at the market was doused yesterday.

Residents of Zanzibar who hoped to conduct money transfers were disappointed as internet was low and mostly unavailable, with mobile money agents' kiosks mostly shut.

The silence yesterday was a rarity for years. Only contingents of police and other security units were seen patrolling the mostly empty streets.

"I have been standing here for hours but there no buses. I have to continue waiting as I cannot walk to Mpendae," said Mtumwa Haji, a stranded commuter at a bus stand.

Unguja South regional commissioner Ayoub Muhammed Mahmoud said the polling went

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“ So far I have not received complaints since the exercise began. I am told equipment arrived at every polling centre on time, so I congratulate NEC

challenges, including delays in opening some polling stations as well as confusion of some voters as to their proper voting centres.

Kulwa Wera, a voter at Uzuri polling station in Manzese, Ubungo Constituency said NEC has this year simplified the exercise as voters were able to access names and numbers through mobile phones.

"I was able to see my name through mobile phone, I pressed *152* 22# to access and verify my names as well as the polling station. I can see how NEC has digitized the process to reduce congestion of people in verifying their names manually in polling stations," he said.

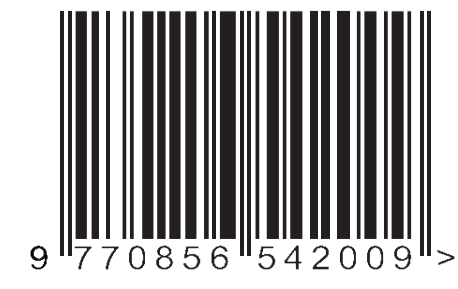
"I arrived at the polling station early in the morning but I didn't see my name in the notice-board but when I searched it through my phone, I saw it and was able to cast my vote."

Dickson Abel, a voter at Biafra polling station in Kinondoni constituency commended the process but a few people faced challenges as they were unsure of their polling stations.

Another voter at Tangibovu polling station in Kawe constituency, Samwel Hamza, decried improper arrangement and narrow space of the polling area.

"I arrived here around 6:45am but it took me hours to reach the voting chamber. The supervisors didn't arrange the names and lines well, a situation which confused voters as the

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President John Magufuli, who is seeking re-election on the ruling CCM ticket, lines up at a polling centre at Chamwino in Dodoma Region yesterday waiting for his turn to vote. At the head of the queue is First Lady Janeth Magufuli. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Elections results: Police call for tranquility

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone Commander Lazaro Mambosasa has urged Tanzanians to continue promoting and upholding the country's peace and unity as they wait for the elections results.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam soon after completion of the voting process, Mambosasa reminded Tanzanians that there is no way they can live and achieve their development goals without peace and tranquility.

"We are here at the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre where the National Electoral

Commission (NEC) will finalise the whole process of votes counting and announcement of results; we have witnessed a very calm situation since morning in all polling stations, let us all together maintain this environment."

According to him, those who have been campaigning for the country to enter into conflict have never witnessed the impacts of war.

Mambosasa commended all authorities and stakeholders who have contributed immensely towards having peaceful election campaigns and polls, has gone peacefully and smoothly.

He said the police force worked hard to ensure that peace and security was

maintained.

He said that since the election campaigns commenced two months ago, the police force hasn't used any tear gas bomb; a situation which shows that everything went well without chaos. "The role of protecting the country's peace is not only confined to the Police force but everyone in the country. I appeal for candidates to remain calm and wait for the election results to be announced."

Mambosasa emphasised Tanzanians to continue protecting the country's peace saying that it is the only tool that will make Tanzania a better place to live.

Responding over the fake ballot papers seized in Kawe constituency in Dar es Salaam, Mambosasa said that they are yet to receive the complaints but if it is true, the Police force will launch an investigation for further legal actions.

"Yes, we arrested Halima Mdee, the Chadema Parliamentary candidate for Kawe constituency interrogated and left her free, this candidate violated the country's laws by barring people to vote, we will supervise to ensure that election process goes well without anyone to interfere with the procedure," Commander Mambosasa said.

Hushed calm as voters throng polling centres

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smoothly without any serious breaches of the peace.

"I hope business owners will open after realizing that there is no violence; so far so good," he said.

Two leading Zanzibar presidential candidates, Dr Hussein Mwinyi of the ruling CCM and main opposition ACT-Wazalendo's Seif Sharif Hamad cast their votes in the morning at different polling stations.

Hamad was the first to cast his vote at Garagara polling station at 8:00 and Dr Mwinyi did so 30 minutes later at Kariakoo polling station.

Speaking soon after voting, Dr Mwinyi said that in a contest there is winning or losing, and he is ready for either of the results.

But in his remarks, Hamad said accepting results depended much on how the polls were conducted.

"It depends on whether justice was done. This includes a number of aspects such as how party agents were treated," he elaborated.

Yesterday's atmosphere was a sharp contrast to the chaos witnessed during early voting on Tuesday when police lobbed teargas and arrested scores of people.

The hostility broke out after the main opposition ACT-Wazalendo protested the absence of its agents at polling stations for the early exercise reserved for members of security forces and staff of the Isles elections management body.

Urban West Regional Police Commander Awadhi Juma told reporters here in the afternoon that 72 people were arrested for allegedly causing violence by burning tyres and throwing stones at police officers.



It depends on whether justice was done. This includes a number of aspects such as how party agents were treated



Queen Sendiga, the opposition Alliance for Democratic Change candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency, casts her vote at Unio Primary School in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Peace reigns as votes cast in large numbers

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area is too small to accommodate many people," he said.

Edmund Mnyanga, located at Kwembe 1 polling station in Kibamba constituency, Ubungo District said: the polling exercise delayed to commence for close to two hours but everything was going well. "I have already casted my vote and I am going back home to wait for the results."

Antonia Kunambi, a voter at Kwembe said that she arrived at the station before 7am but the voting process delayed for hours, with supervisors claiming that voting equipment was yet to arrive, she said, urging fellow women "to come out and vote for leaders who will bring development in our areas."

In Morogoro Region, voters came out in big numbers at various polling centres and voted peacefully without disturbances.

They converged on the 29 wards of the municipality, including Kihonda Maghorofani, Sabasaba, Kingo, Boma, Kingolwira, National Stadium, Kilakala Bigwa, Mji Mkuu and others in a calm atmosphere.

At the polling centres, many voters expressed satisfaction with NEC preparations in ensuring the centres were opened on time, while polling officials worked to prioritise people with disabilities, elders and pregnant women to vote first.

Shomari Salehe, a voter at Kihonda Maghorofani ward, hailed NEC for the good polling procedure as it took as short time for one to vote.

Abdul Aziz Abood, CCM parliamentary candidate for Morogoro Urban said he was satisfied by the conduct of this election, as the exercise went calmly and peacefully, praising security organs for beefing up security in the municipality.

"So far I have not received complaints since the exercise began. I am told equipment arrived at every polling centre on time, so I congratulate NEC," said Abood.

Chadema parliamentary aspirant for Morogoro Urban, Devatha Minja complained the move by centres' supervisors at Kihonda Maghorofani Centre, claiming that lists of voters were taken away from her polling agents in breach of poll guidelines.

The candidate also complained that in the Sultani Area ward, the police arrested some of her polling agents without being told of their offences.

However, Minja said apart from these deficiencies, the voting exercise went smoothly, including voting equipment arriving on time at polling centres.

Regional Police Commander Wilbrod Mutafungwa said after inspecting polling centres he saw no incidents or breach of the peace, as security was beefed.

The RPC communicated with OCDs in all districts who reported reigning

calm, without any incidents to actually report.

Chadema presidential candidate Tundu Lissu casted his ballot at Ntewa 'A' polling station at Ntewa primary school in Ntutu ward, Singida East constituency, where he expressed disappointment with the way NEC supervised the general election. There were massive violations of election regulations, he declared.

Civic United Front (CUF) presidential candidate Prof Ibrahim Lipumba called for fair counting of votes so as to have unbiased election results.

Lipumba, who casted his votes at Mtakuja Primary School polling station in Kunduchi ward of Kinondoni District, expressed concern over security of votes.

He said in this year's election there was no privacy of votes because the voter's ID numbers are written on ballot papers.

"I have been shocked to see a number of voter's ID being written on ballot paper; this removes the voter's privacy because anyone will be able to know who voted for whom, so this is a challenge I have noticed," he said.

Prof Lipumba called on Tanzanians to promote and maintain peace before and after announcement of results.

"Despite some challenges observed on Election Day, Tanzanians should remember that this is our country, so it is better to remain calm while we wait for the final results," he emphasized.

CCM presidential candidate John Magufuli casted his ballot at polling station in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region, describing Wednesday as an important day for Tanzanians to practice and strengthen democracy.

He encouraged registered voters to elect their leaders of choice, and appealed to Tanzanians to continue cherishing the country's peace and tranquility during the polls.

The head of the EAC Election Observer Mission, former Burundi president Sylvestre Ntibunganya who visited several polling stations including Kibamba Shule in Ubungo constituency in Dar es Salaam, commended authorities for properly organizing the exercise.

"We have been around here for ten days. We have visited several polling stations and we recognize that the election is well organized," he declared, noting that the EAC team comprises 59 observers being deployed in 13 regions across the country.

"Our role is to observe the whole process, turnout of people in the polling stations, security and the announcement of results," he added.

"Despite some challenges observed on Election Day, Tanzanians should remember that this is our country, so it is better to remain calm while we wait for the final results"

CUF agents 'barred' from polling stations

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entire process of voting," he stated.

Some of the agents were released shortly after they were educated on their responsibilities at polling stations, having been arrested over violation of election rules and regulations, he clarified.

Thobias Mwilapwa, the District Commissioner and chairman of its defence and security committee, said the voting exercise was peacefully conducted, with security enhanced at polling stations to allow Tanzanians to choose their preferred leaders.

In another development, four family members of a CUF parliamentary candidate, Mussa Mbaruku were yesterday held for interrogation following disturbances at the Ngamiani South polling station.

Mbaruku, former MP for Tanga-Urban constituency, told The Guardian that those arrested include his mother, Fatuma Hassan (70) plus his sisters—Changa Bakari, Mwanaidi Bakari and Mwanakombo Bakari.

Mbaruku's relatives were apprehended after they attempted to enter into the polling station as agents, but they all lacked identification letters offered by the ward executive officer.

"They were my agents; but the ward executive officer did not provide them with the required identity cards and letters. They have been arrested for interrogation," he said, insisting that all CUF poll agents have been barred from entering polling stations.

Meanwhile, police in the Region are holding four contestants of the councillorship seat. They are Twahiru Shahame (CUF) from Makorora ward, Ramadhan Makere (CUF) of Msambweni ward, Salim Yusuph (ACT Wazalendo) at Majengo ward and Rashid Hamza (ACT Wazalendo) of Mwanzange ward.

ACT Wazalendo regional secretary, Abdurahaman Lugone said that residents voted peacefully but some agents were barred from entering polling stations. He said such acts by some election supervisors violate the rules and regulations set by the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

ACT Wazalendo had a total of 20 contestants for the councillorship seat while CUF had 22 contestants, but the number of aspirants decreased significantly after the electoral body disqualified many aspirants.

Tanga Urban had a total of 601 polling stations with 227,192 registered voters.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein casts his vote at Bungi Primary School in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

When a voter has too much alcohol

By Guardian Reporter

A voter who identified himself as Joseph Lyamunga claimed to have arrived at Makongo Juu polling centre while drunk that prompted officials to accord him priority

Meanwhile, some party agents who were assigned to man polling centres complained of being denied access by election supervisors yesterday.

One of them, Khamis Sungura from ACT-Wazalendo said he was assigned at the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) polling centre in the Kinondoni constituency but he was denied access by the election supervisor.

"My name was assigned at this (Number Four) centre but I was prevented to enter, until I have an authorisation letter," he said.

The party's parliamentary candidate for Ubungo, Saed Kubenea said his more than 200 out of 790 agents for the constituency were denied access to their respective centres for similar reason. "The reasons are baseless, they were told to come with the letters, the requirement which is totally against the laid down procedures, it was all planned. Transparency at the centres is lacking, we have no agents therein for our party," lamented Kubenea.

He said the situation happened in the Hananasif and Mwenge centres, and added that he made efforts looking for the Kinondoni Returning Officer, but it was futile.

Meanwhile, voters at various polling centres gave their different views on this year's General Election.

Symfroza Elias, a resident of Mkunguni A said this election has many polling centres, but the problem is that the names of the voters are worn out.

"I have arrived at 8.30 am with my son to look for the names. Had it not been for him I would have surrendered and gone back home as the names were all mixed up. I future NEC should send SMS to voters to indicate their voting centres," he said.

David Mwaiesela, a resident of Mwananyamala Kisiwani said he arrived at the centre early and voted without taking much time. "Different to other years when queues were very long, yesterday priority was accorded to elders," Mwaiesela said.

A voter who identified himself as Joseph Lyamunga claimed to have arrived at Makongo Juu polling centre while drunk that prompted officials to accord him priority.

Musa haji who was on the same queue with Lyamunga said he decided to inform the nearest policeman of the man's restlessness while in the queue.

"This man has come here drunk, he is so restless," Haji told the policeman.

The police official who was not ready to disclose his name said he accorded him priority to avoid the fracas.

Asked by this paper what made him drunk, Lyamunga said he was disturbed after seeing some Chadema agents denied access into the polling centre.

"Chadema agents at Makongongo Juu Primary School polling centre have been denied access as they were asked to produce letters, there was some melee until I got bruised," Lyamunga said.

In another development, Chadema parliamentary candidate for Kawe, Halima Mdee was yesterday released from Police custody after she was earlier on arrested by police officers in the morning.

Kinondoni Regional Police Commander, Edward Bukombe said Mdee was taken by the police for questioning.

Bukombe said there had been an altercation and they decided to take her for questioning, stressing that she had been released and was continuing with her duties.

Earlier this morning, the candidate's secretary, Rose Moshi, claimed that Halima was arrested after questioning the votes which had been cast before agents arrived at Tarafani Kawe polling station.

Come out and elect leaders of your choice - Dr Shein

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday casted his vote at Bungi polling station in Unguja South District calling on all Zanzibaris to remove fear, come out and elect leaders of their choice as the government has beefed up security.

Addressing journalists soon after casting his vote, Dr Shein commended the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) for organising the voting process well, a move which has enabled the exercise to go smoothly.

Dr Shein was accompanied by his wife Mwanamwema Shein.

"I took a very short time at the polling station, I advise all Zanzibaris to go and

vote for their leaders, security has been strengthened to provide an opportunity for everyone to move freely from home to the polling stations," he said.

According to him, everyone has freedom and the right to vote for a leader of his/her choice so they should not panic.

"This is the time to exercise your constitutional right, so do it now, don't wait and start regretting later, your vote is an important tool," Dr Shein told Zanzibaris.

He urged anyone who will win the election to protect the country's constitution and lead Zanzibar as per laws and regulations.

For his part, Ada Tadea presidential candidate Juma Ali Khatib also

commended ZEC for organising well the election process by maintaining integrity and transparency.

According to him, candidates from all political parties have been engaged and participated in every process since the election process started.

"I have visited several polling stations and witnessed a calm situation, this is so encouraging, this shows how ZEC prepared well to ensure that everything goes well," Khatib said who also casted his vote at Kiembe Samaki polling station.

He urged fellow candidates to be ready to receive results and if they fail they have also to accept them.

Former ZEC chairman Jecha Salim Jecha said that the commission

invested its efforts to ensure that the election goes well.

"ZECA leadership should be hailed for this; the polling exercise has gone very smoothly, we have not received any complaint with the security organs fulfilling their obligations to strengthen peace and security," he noted.

Zanzibar Second Vice President Ambassador Seif Ali Iddi said that the exercise said that he had witnessed calmness in several polling stations where majority of Zanzibaris exercised their constitutional right to vote for leaders.

He said that the government will continue strengthening security and fight any kind of incident, group or individual aiming at disrupting peace.

Two Tanzanian varsities to benefit from \$2m funding for investment in research

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TANZANIA is among seven Science Development Councils in Africa south of the Sahara whose two universities will benefit from a total of USD 2 million for investment in research including research on viruses for human diseases and cure for malaria.

The universities to benefit from the plan include the Morogoro based Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) which will research on viruses causing human diseases, and the Nelson Mandela University of Science and Technology based in Arusha that will research on Malaria cure.

Speaking here early this week, the Head of Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease (SACIDS-ACE)

Prof. Gerald Misinzo said among

the criteria that saw Tanzania procure the researches after competing with 15 other African countries which were included in the plan was the competence of its researchers.

Prof. Misinzo from SUA who will supervise the research on viruses that cause human diseases said, the research will be done on animals living in families including goats, chicken, fish and pigs who are kept by the society.

He said through National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, International Economic Development Council (IEDC) of Canada and the seven Science Development Councils in Africa south of the Sahara will do research by building up wide understanding and strengthen development in knowledge.

SUA Vice Chancellor Prof. Raphael

Chibunda said in order to develop technology and innovation to improve lives of Tanzanians, it has established a Research Forum under Oliver Tambo Research Institute and through which they will procure USD 195.3 million every year in the next five years beginning 2020.

Prof. Chibunda said the step stems from the government strategy in investing in research and enable SUA solve various challenges facing Tanzanians.

Prof. Mohamed Sheik, research coordinator from the Commission of Science and Technology (Costech) said the money for research dished to the two universities will be used to African countries, and not Tanzania alone, the decision that will improve cooperation among the countries.



JUST TO BE SURE: Residents of Leganga in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region, pictured yesterday checking a strategic bridge eroded by recent rain. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT WATERAID TANZANIA



Deadline: 11th November 2020

It's hard to believe that today 844 million people do not have clean water and 2.3 billion do not have a decent toilet – around one in three of the world's population. Every two minutes, a child under five dies from diarrheal diseases caused by poor water and sanitation. We started because no NGO like us existed. We will end when no organisation like us is needed. In the meantime, we are making great progress – since 1981, we have reached 25 million people with clean water and, since 2004, 24 million people with sanitation.

WaterAid Tanzania is looking to fill the following vacancies to play a vital role in our mission to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere by 2030.

Country Director

Working within the senior management team, the primary purpose of the Country Director is to provide leadership to the Country Programme and to contribute to the regional, Pan-Africa and global leadership of WaterAid. The Country Director achieves this by steering the direction of the Country Programme, empowering and developing staff and partners and influencing public and private institutions on the impact that improvements in safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene can make to the poorest and most excluded – thereby contributing to wider poverty reduction and human development.

Head of Policy & Advocacy

The Head of Policy and Advocacy is responsible for organizing and conducting regular analysis of developments in national and sector policy, budgets and performance, and for using the analysis to advocate for pro-poor policy change and to inform country programme strategy and plans

Head of Business Development and Planning

The position of Head of Business Development will establish the vision of business development of WaterAid Tanzania in line with its funding plan. The job holder will liaise with national and international funding agencies (Institutional and other donors) independently and through organizational channels to ensure building robust and sustainable business relationships; leading to generate long-term resources to deliver on WaterAid Tanzania strategic objectives and program plans.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (PMES)

The primary purpose of this role is to support the implementation of WaterAid Tanzania's country strategy by ensuring that all activities are properly included in realistic and achievable annual plans and to lead on the effective monitoring of progress of programme implementation against objectives. The PMES will work in strong collaboration with programme team to ensure timely and accurate project monitoring and evaluation, quality assurance of programmes, learning and reporting. The role will work with programme team to develop and support the ongoing planning cycle, Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) systems, provide management information to support effective decision making, and support partners with effective planning, monitoring & evaluation systems, processes and practices. This position will ensure strong links between country programme wide planning, monitoring and evaluation and reporting approaches link with global M&E processes.

We are looking for people who share a commitment to our vision. We are looking for people with an appreciation and respect for different people and ideas, and the energy and expertise to help tackle the most important challenges. In return, you can expect to get inspiration from the change you help make happen, a sense of belonging and the feeling of being part of a global community. You will also experience stimulation and fulfillment, the chance to grow, and space to be yourself at your best. This is our pledge to you.

If you are interested in the position and have the right skills and attributes, please visit <https://jobs.wateraid.org/en-GB/search> to download job descriptions and application forms. Send your job application form to EArecruitments@wateraid.org stating title of the applied post in the subject line.

WaterAid is committed to ensuring that wherever we work in the world there is no tolerance for the abuse of power, privilege or trust. WaterAid reinforces a culture of zero tolerance towards any form of inappropriate behaviour, abuse, harassment, or exploitation of any kind. The safeguarding of our beneficiaries, staff, volunteers and anyone working on our behalf, is our top priority, and we take our responsibilities extremely seriously. All staff and volunteers are required to share in this commitment through our Global Code of Conduct. We will conduct the most appropriate preemployment references and checks to ensure high standards are maintained. WaterAid is an equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of sex, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, marital status, or pregnancy and maternity. We particularly encourage applications from women who are underrepresented at this level in the organisation.

Only candidates shortlisted for interviewing will be contacted within two weeks of the closing date for applications.

No recruitment agencies please.

Peace prevails as voters exercise right to pick national leaders



Residents of Chamwino in Dodoma Region await their turns vote, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Another scene as captured at a polling centre at Chamwino in Dodoma Region. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



SOME CHALLENGE HERE: A local government officer at Ngamiani in Tanga city under police custody yesterday following complaints by agents of opposition party candidates that he had unfairly denied them crucial identification letters. Photo: Correspondent Lulu George



Prospective voters from Songambele and Twiga villages in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, move to verify their eligibility to voting before lining up to wait for their turns to vote. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



RARE SIGHT: Prospective voters at Kinondoni Hananasif in Dar es Salaam wait for their turns to vote – from the relative comfort of chairs. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Prospective voters await their turns at Galagala polling centre in Mjini Magharibi, Zanzibar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Riot police officers out to ensure that peace reigns at a polling centre at Kinondoni Hananasif in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Yet another scene at Galagala polling centre in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siame

TAWA guns for 5m tourists to Kilwa-Kisiwani ruins by 2025

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Wildlife Authority (TAWA) will continue to allocate funds for restoration of all infrastructures in Kilwa-Kisiwani and Songo-Mnara ruins to woo five million tourists by 2025.

This was disclosed early this week by TAWA Board Chairman Major Gen (Rtd) Hamisi Semfukwe during the launching of the completed infrastructures at the Kilwa-Kisiwani ruins in Lindi Region.

Maj Gen Semfukwe said the ultimate completion of the infrastructures construction would transform the ruins to become more attractive to visitors, and would earn more foreign exchange for the country.

He said in 2018/19 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism decided to allocate responsibilities for the management of heritage sites among TAWA, TANAPA, TFS and NCAA with the management of the Kunduchi, Kilwa-Kisiwani and Songo-Mnara heritage sites handed over to TAWA.

He said TAWA has therefore the duty to safeguard, protect and develop the ruins and other resources therein by adhering to national and international laws for the benefit of the present and future generations.

He said TAWA prepared an implementation plan for the infrastructure development to cost 2.13bn/- that included the construction of toilets and refurbishment of berths at both Kilwa-Kisiwani and Songo-Mnara areas.

He cited other challenges as including lack of reception shed, hotel, clean and safe water, visitors' resting

areas and sea transport.

Maj Gen Semfukwe further said the construction for the first phase was 99 per cent complete at a cost of 179.47m/-.

"Work completed in the first phase included the construction of modern toilets for tourists, 799m of tourists' lanes, revamping of berths for vessels, the erection of sign boards and purchase of a glass bottom boat for viewing under sea creatures," he added.

Launching the infrastructures, Lindi Regional Commissioner Godfrey Zambi advised TAWA to work together with the District Council in refurbishment of infrastructures at schools, dispensaries and clean water supply for residents of Kilwa-Kisiwani.

He praised the government through TAWA for the effort in improving the infrastructures of the heritage site that would strengthen tourism in the country's southern areas.



Work completed in the first phase included the construction of modern toilets for tourists, 799m of tourists' lanes, revamping of berths for vessels, the erection of sign boards and purchase of a glass bottom boat for viewing under sea creatures



These pupils have been making do with the makeshift bridge in crossing the river from home to school and back since the bridge previously linking Hurui village in Kondoa District and Qash Village in Babati District was swept away by floodwaters recently. Correspondent Miraji Msala captured this scene earlier this week while in Kondoa, Dodoma Region.

Health, environment experts required to register - CMO

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

HEALTH and environment experts in the country are required to register and harmonise their licences so as to be identified for better service delivery.

The call was made here by the Acting Government Chief Medical Officer Dr Eliud Eliakim when opening the Environmental Council Phase IV.

Dr Eliakim said the ministry, working together with development partners have managed to harmonise ethics and disciplinary guidelines for public servants.

He said the guidelines requires every council to abide by in order to enforce ethics and discipline in the relative profession.

"The Health Environmental

Council is supposed to ensure all health experts in the country register themselves and harmonise their licences in order to well manage the environment by issuing guidelines and engage in general cleanliness to avoid infectious diseases that can erupt," he said.

The Council's Registrar, Iddi Hoyange said the council has given time, up to

February 2021 to the health experts for registration and harmonization of licences.

He said the month will mark the end for the registration exercise, hence they should ensure they started doing so right away, after which the council will start making inspection and take steps against all those who will defy the directives.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc commercial director Linda Riwa (L) presents a gift to MV Magogoni ferry Captain Abdul Ramadhani at the Kigamboni Ferry in Dar es Salaam yesterday, citing exemplary performance, as part of the commemoration of firm's 20 years of operations in the country. The firm also paid ferry fare for 6,000 people. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt assures PWDs of continued assistance

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has reassured people with disabilities (PWDs) that it will continue facilitating them in various ways including provision of health education at work places to enable them fully participate in the country's development.

The reassurance was given on Tuesday this week by Stella Ikupa, the Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth and People with Disabilities) at the opening

of a training session on Health Security organised by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for PWDs in Rufiji District, Coast Region.

Ikupa said the government recognises the big contribution of PWDs in the country's social and economic development, hence it would continue facilitating the vulnerable group by putting in place friendly production environment through its various institutions, including OSHA.

"The government, in partnership with OSHA and other stakeholders

including Tanzania Society for the Deaf (CHAVITA) will continue providing you with various training including health security at work places, as well as finding markets for the products you produce," she said.

Ikupa instructed OSHA to provide training against health hazards at work places to various groups of PWDs in the whole country, Khadija Mwenda, OSHA Acting Chief Executive Officer said the training was part of the strategies by her institution to reach out to various groups in the society so as to provide

training on health security.

"This is not the first time for our institution to provide such training to PWDs, as we had already done so in various other regions including Kagera and Dar es Salaam, hence we shall continue doing so in other areas of the country," she added.

Walusimbi Abdul, a training seminar participant praised OSHA for giving them the training and called on the authority to continue doing so to various other vulnerable groups including PWDs countrywide.

Expansion of Tanga port due to improve service delivery, lower transportation costs

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has said the rehabilitation and expansion of Tanga port will apart from improving service delivery enable the business community in northern regions to enjoy low cost transportation services.

Improvement of the port, according to TPA Director General, Eng Deusdedit Kakoko will reduce the cost of doing business for traders in Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara and Tanga regions as well as those from neighbouring countries.

Tanga port has also been earmarked for Ugandan petroleum product importers and other cargo going to Kampala through Tanzania. Upon completion, the port will be able to handle large ships, save time and ultimately double government revenue collections.

The port is now under expansion to increase berths and its depth from the current 3.5 metres to 15 metres. Dredging will increase the port's handling capacity to one million tonnes per year.

"Traders and shipping agents from Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga and Manyara regions will use the port at affordable costs," he said.

Eng Kakoko added that construction of a dry dock in Arusha Region is an important development which supports the operation of the Tanga port since it will help in reducing cargo congestion.

The TPA boss noted that previously some 200,000 tonnes of cargo were entering the country through other ports outside the country, but the number has now been reduced to 100,000 tonnes only.

"These on-going efforts to rehabilitate and expand most of the ports are meant to ensure that all

the cargo entering Tanzania passes through our ports," said Eng Kakoko.

He said the port improvement initiatives across the country have resulted in increased cargo to 2.5 million consignments. He said the increase in consignments has increased government revenues from 603bn/- in the 2016/2017 financial year to 951bn/- in the fiscal year 2019/2020.

Of all the 17.2 million tonnes, 11 million tonnes were cargo destined for Tanzania while six million tonnes were transit cargo going to neighbouring regions.

TPA is also working to improve infrastructure further inland. In late July it announced plans to build a dry port in the country's western Kigoma Region.

Located at Lake Tanganyika, the facility will serve the Great Lakes region, including Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia, and will be linked to the port of Dar es Salaam by the standard-gauge railway.



These on-going efforts to rehabilitate and expand most of the ports are meant to ensure that all the cargo entering Tanzania passes through our ports

Casting of General Election votes underway at various spots



Residents of Chamwino in Dodoma Region wait for their turns to cast their ballots yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



A police officer casts his ballot in Dodoma. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



A scene captured at a polling station at Kawe in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Being of an advanced age was no hurdle. In fact, it was a 'bonus' in that the elderly were accorded special consideration - casting their votes with greater ease than most other people. This one is just through the process at a polling station at Kawe in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Prospective voters await their turns at Galagala polling station in Zanzibar. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and his wife Mary (right in front of him) join other residents in waiting for their turns at Nandagala Primary School in Ruangwa constituency. Photo: PMO



Residents of Kinondoni Biafra in Dar es Salaam seek to verify their voting eligibility status before lining up ready to cast their ballots. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Her baby safely on the back, a voter casts her ballot at a Kawe polling station in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Over 70 stakeholders confirm participation in Dec's Kilimanjaro meeting on tourism

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

SEVENTY-FIVE tourism stakeholders—local and foreign have confirmed participation in the Kilimanjaro Tourism Summit meeting slated to begin on December 1, this year.

The meeting that aims to spur exhibition on tourism business will be used to bring together stakeholders in the country's tourism sector and government tourism authorities on commercial issues.

Co-director of Kili Fair Promotion Ltd, Dominick Shoo, yesterday said the Kilimanjaro Tourism Summit will be used to push for positive results in the drive for Tanzania's tourism growth.

"True, exhibitors of tourism products who will participate in the Summit next month have already been identified and were the very ones targeted," he said, adding that the firm is also organising the annual international exhibition for the tourism business in the country.

"The Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) is the centre for transporting nearly 80 per cent of tourists in the country, and that is why we have decided to come up with the summit meeting in order to create a new network in advertising our tourism," he said.

Kilimanjaro Tourism Summit meeting is cited as an important lever to bring together the main tourist firms from both inside and outside the country.

In July this year Karibu Kili Fair failed to conduct the international exhibition for the tourism business due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The exhibition which was earlier slated for June 5 to 7 this year was pushed forward to September, but also it did not take place.

The exhibition was supposed to involve more than 500 tourist firms from 15 countries in the world and was to attract more than 8,000 buyers

from within and outside the country, including members from the East African Community (EAC).

Last year, the event brought on board hundreds of participants from Africa, US, Europe and Asia targeting to present tourism companies in Tanzania, East Africa and Central Africa to the rest of the world through the business networking event in combination with a community fair to attract local people, families and other visitors.

Tourism and Natural Resources Deputy Minister Constantine Kanyasu was quoted as saying that achievements in the tourism industry depend on the collaboration between the government and the private sector. He described the fair as key tool in promoting the country's tourism sector thus increasing the number of tourists.

The 2019 exhibition attracted 370 participants.



The Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) is the centre for transporting nearly 80 per cent of tourists in the country, and that is why we have decided to come up with the summit meeting in order to create a new network in advertising our tourism



Tanzania Electric Supply Company's (Tanesco) Manyara regional manager, Rehema Mashinji (R), briefs journalists on Monday on the receipt of 520 electric poles from Mufindi in Iringa Region. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

'Frequent power outages hinder timely election updates in Rufiji'

By Guardian Correspondent, Rufiji

UNSTEADY power supply has left people of Western Rufiji in discomfort as they fail to closely follow election updates through their television sets.

Frequent power outage which has rocked Western Rufiji over the past several months now remains a huge challenge to TANESCO. Thirteen villages which are served by a supplier power line from Ikwiriri have been experiencing inadequate power supply for long spell now with solution not in

sight yet.

Voting has been very smooth in Mloka, the biggest village in Western Rufiji but people were left bewildered with outage of the power until it was restored later in the afternoon.

TanESCO manager in Rufiji Saidi Masoud has always said his area endures a big challenge in power supply as breakdowns from other places have been affecting Western Rufiji.

"Power outage has been caused by many factors including wildfires

that burns poles, heavy rainfall and others resulting from interlinkage lines of Mkuranga and Kilwa," said the manager. The manager has insisted that he needs steady flow of power but in most cases some breakdowns are out of control. "I don't like power outage but this challenge is an uphill though we are trying our best to stage a fight back," he says.

Meanwhile, the manager said his office is on its way to send a team of fieldsmen, electric poles and other equipment to facilitate power

connection to Mloka village that has colossal need of electricity connections.

"Nyakisiku suburb of Mloka is our next stop in an effort to wipe out darkness and improve people life," he says.

Bordering Nyerere National Park, Mloka villager experience untimely tour of wildlife particularly elephants during the nights. The visitors have been living in fear and euphoria every time they prowl the village as most of the houses are not self contained with outside toilets.



National Electoral Commission official Dorothy Mbogo takes members of the Hadzabe tribe through the basics of civic education at Yaeda Chini in Mbulu District last week. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

PwDs in Zanzibar commend authorities for ensuring good environment on Election Day

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

COMMUNITY of Persons with Disabilities in Zanzibar (JUWAUZA) has commended authorities for putting in place a conducive and peaceful environment on Election Day which included availability of all required voting equipment for the group.

Adil Mohamed Ali- Coordinator, Zanzibar National Association of the Blind (ZANAB) said that despite some challenges, persons with disabilities observed calmness in the polling station, a situation which enabled them to cast their votes in a peaceful way.

He commended the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) for valuing the group and enabling persons with disabilities to vote for the leaders they want. "The process is good but we came across some challenges where some of the ballot papers of Parliamentarians of the United Republic of Tanzania had no special writings that could be read by persons with disabilities instead they put a signal which required a translator to guide us, the ballot papers

for Zanzibar candidates were all good," he said.

For his part, Omar Ali, one of the PwDs in Zanzibar said that the group was treated well, security was strengthened to ensure people vote and go back home peacefully. "In the voting day the situation was so good compared to the early voting day, chaos and challenges observed yesterday (Tuesday) have ended and the situation is more attractive," he said.

Salama Sadati, chairperson of JUWAUZA claimed to have received complaints from some few persons with disabilities who were barred from voting as their disabilities were uneasy to be seen.

"This is unfair because ZEC issued special IDs to PwDs so as to enable them to be given special treatment in polling stations, but some police force officers barred some of them (deaf) claiming that they didn't see any sign of disability," Salama said.

According to Salama, the union leadership has already communicated with ZEC on the complaints so as to address the challenges.

ABC brings together researchers studying animal sound, hearing

By Special Correspondent

SEA Search and Stellenbosch University's Department of Botany and Zoology is next month expected to host three-day online second African Bioacoustics Conference (ABC), which will bring together researchers studying animal sound and hearing.

The conference is packed with more than 80 presentations, many of them leading scientists from Africa and the rest of the world.

Other topics include understanding why animals sing, eaves dropping in on communication in primates, and a special session on the basics of bioacoustics, including research methods and data collection, aimed at non-specialists and students.

Dr Tess Gridley, founder of the African Bioacoustics Community and co-director of Sea Search, said in a statement that the initiative is a proactive step to grow this field of science in Africa.

"Researchers in Africa have access to a wide range of behaviourally interesting and vocal species and unique environments which require better protection. Increasing industrialisation is resulting in noise pollution which can change behaviour and cause stress - so there are many reasons for scientists to explore the possibilities offered by bioacoustics," she said.

She said one of the primary reasons for developing the African Bioacoustics

Community, established in March 2018, is to provide training opportunities for students within the continent. The online event and student support offer provides valuable training to those who cannot afford to attend international conferences.

"With limited access to funding, African scientists are constrained in attending international conferences and consequently we miss opportunities to learn from and network with experts in the field," she

said.

The aim is to grow the field in Africa by providing a platform for people working on all aspects of bioacoustics research to interact and network, including scientists from diverse fields, students, environmental practitioners, policymakers and the general public.

As bioacoustics is becoming more important in conservation science, this year's conference will also feature a cross-over day with the Conservation

Symposium on November 4. One of the highlights of the crossover day is a session on how acoustic monitoring is being used to monitor illegal activities including deforestation, poaching and blast fishing.

Other activities include a Movie Event showcasing professional and amateur footage including behind the scenes insight into the bioacoustics research field as well as an in-person, Covid-19 compliant, networking event in Stellenbosch.

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Investment in nutrition needed for enhancement of economic growth

THE results of a National Nutrition Survey released in Tanzania in 2015 showed that between 2010 and 2014, chronic malnutrition - stunting or low height for age - among children under five in the country fell from 42 per cent to 35 per cent.

Nutrition is the science that interprets the nutrients and other substances in food in relation to maintenance, growth, reproduction, health and disease of an organism. It includes ingestion, absorption, assimilation, biosynthesis, catabolism and excretion.

The diet of an organism is what it eats, which is largely determined by the availability and palatability of foods. For humans, a healthy diet includes preparation of food and storage methods that preserve nutrients from oxidation, heat or leaching, and that reduces risk of foodborne illnesses. The seven major classes of human nutrients are carbohydrates, fats, fiber, minerals, proteins, vitamins, and water. Nutrients can be grouped as either macronutrients or micronutrients (needed in small quantities).

In humans, an unhealthy diet can cause deficiency-related diseases such as blindness, anemia, scurvy, preterm birth, stillbirth and cretinism, or nutrient excess health-threatening conditions such as obesity and metabolic syndrome; and such common chronic systemic diseases as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and osteoporosis. Undernutrition can lead to wasting in acute cases, and the stunting of marasmus in chronic cases of malnutrition.

The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Zlatan Miliši has called for more coordinated efforts to invest in nutrition citing it as a key accelerator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country.

Miliši made the remarks recently

during the commemoration of the World Food Day which was held at national level in Njombe Region recently.

According to him, investing in nutrition has enormous socio-economic benefits in development emphasising that high-level political commitment is a main driver of nutrition improvement.

Miliši noted that as per the government's National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan Mid-Term Review, Tanzania is heavily affected by the triple burden of malnutrition, with 1/3 of children stunted, 1/3 of women affected by anaemia, and 1/3 of women overweight or obese.

He however said that Tanzania has the potential to turn that around because it is globally recognised for its strong system for multi-sectoral nutrition governance.

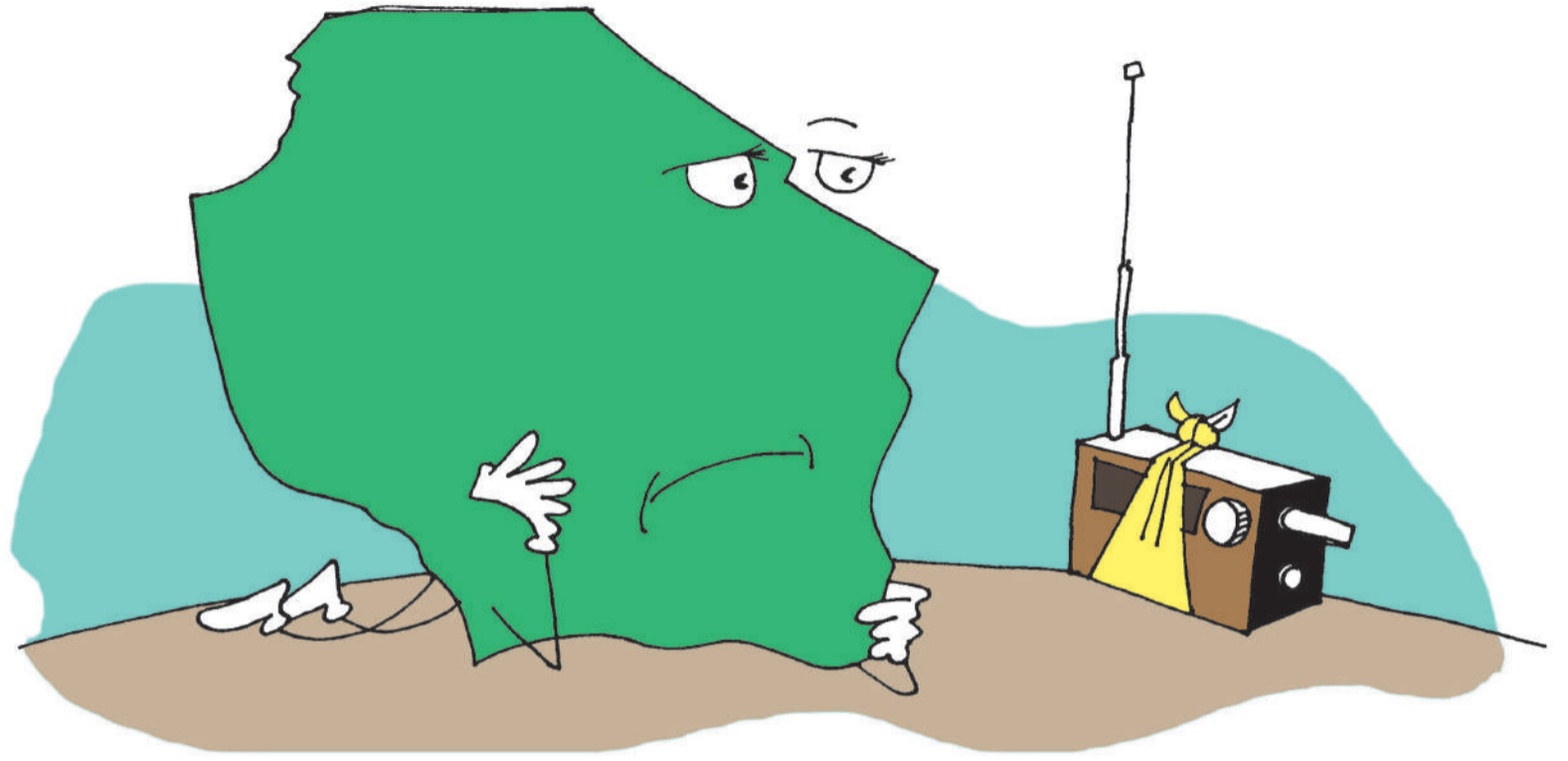
The official assured that the United Nations will continue to work closely with the government and communities to improve maternal, infant and young child nutrition.

According to him, the UN is committed to providing quality nutrition and health services, and promoting optimal breastfeeding and adequate and safe complementary feeding for children.

This year's World Food Day also marks the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s 75th anniversary.

In the same vein, the World Food Programme (WFP) has won the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to combat hunger, for improving conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.

The UN also supports communities by providing machines to process their harvest, constructing storage warehouses and connecting farmers with local and international markets, as well as lending institutions," he added.



Private sector ready to assist in economic recovery

By Busisiwe Mavuso

LET me start by stating the obvious: the COVID-19 crisis has been devastating to our economy. Two million people have lost their jobs, the economy will shrink by 8 per cent this year and government revenue is expected to fall by 14 per cent. This is the crisis that an economic recovery plan must confront. It is unprecedented in our lifetimes.

The economic recovery plan that President Cyril Ramaphosa presented last week on 15 October 2020 sets out a series of steps that, on paper, will go far in kickstarting growth. But, as is often said, South Africa is good at making plans but bad at implementing them.

Organised business, of which I am a part, has been highly active since the start of this crisis. Through Business for South Africa, many businesses volunteered to support government and the public through the crisis. B4SA created an extensive plan to guide a recovery, and Business Unity South Africa engaged with other social partners through Nedlac to develop a jointly agreed plan to present to the president. From mobilising global supply chains and sourcing PPE, to switching production to produce hand sanitiser, many businesses stepped quickly up to the plate to deal with the most urgent challenges. Business, along with other social partners, has now committed to assisting government in executing the recovery plan. We will mobilise skills and experience from the private sector where necessary so government can implement the plan effectively.

The president's plan reflects many of the issues that BLSA has repeatedly highlighted that are constraining growth. These have now been made priorities. Long running policy uncertainty around the MPRDA is to be resolved, the times to obtain water and environmental licences will be halved, visa rules and administration will be adjusted to attract skills and tourists and the release of high frequency spectrum will enable better broadband access. When delivered, the resolution of these issues will unleash investment. Another major constraint on investor confidence is the debate over land reform, but that too made a step in the right direction with the expropriation bill published this week that sets out a sensible approach.

The president also aggressively focused on energy security which is probably the biggest growth constraint we face. We have seen policy opening up to allow firms to generate their own power, though it is hard to see how his 2022 target to resolve the energy crisis will be reached without further



President Cyril Ramaphosa

liberalisation to enable consumers to generate their own electricity both for their own consumption and to feed into the grid. He said little about fixing Eskom's problems directly, particularly how its unsustainable balance sheet can be repaired, which will continue to worry investors.

Collectively, these policy certainty measures will take the foot off the brake, but we need to apply a foot to the accelerator too. We also need to drive the sort of industrialisation that creates internationally competitive businesses, but the plan is too focused on driving the local market to buy locally produced goods with little clear strategy on how to access the global market. For example, the green energy drive has the potential to underpin a major green industrialisation strategy with a view to supplying the global energy transition. With the African Free Trade Agreement giving access to a market of 1.3-billion people, there is substantial new opportunity for South African businesses. We should be looking outwards for new markets, not inwards.

The private sector also stands ready to work with government to implement its vision of a large-scale infrastructure investment rollout. The president has put infrastructure at the centre of his economic plans since his election and it has become ever more important since the crisis. He has achieved

much in establishing Infrastructure South Africa and the Infrastructure Fund and building a pipeline of projects. The critical issue, however, is the mechanisms that will mobilise private sector funding. The president spoke of PPPs in his speech, an area that I think has been underplayed as a mechanism to attract large-scale private investment. Improving the framework to launch PPPs could be a key part to doing so.

Employment is also obviously a critical issue. The president's mass employment stimulus will see the public sector creating 800,000 work opportunities at a significant cost to the fiscus. This is a welcome step in dealing with the immediate challenge of 2-million newly unemployed people, but it can only be temporary. There is no substitute to creating sustainable high-quality jobs in the private sector. We cannot, in the midst of a fiscal crisis, expect the public sector to be the provider of all new jobs in the economy. Yet, we continue to avoid having uncomfortable conversations about what would really boost employment in the private sector. While the growth-enhancing policy measures will certainly encourage growth and employment with it, we could do more to drive the employment intensity of this growth. We would welcome honest conversations in which we can put on the table in practical terms how labour

regulation constrains business from hiring more.

The second challenge facing the plan is its credibility. The public needs to believe that this time is different - that this plan really will be implemented. There was welcome continuity with the National Development Plan, which should be re-centred as a coordinating mechanism at the heart of public sector strategies across all departments and levels. If it is, you get leverage effects into the economy, as businesses confidently plan their own investments to meet public sector implementation as it happens. Rebuilding business confidence is a fundamental starting point to resuscitating investment.

To get that level of buy-in from the private sector, it needs to be confident that plans will become reality. That calls for accountability from our political leaders. The president promised in the State of the Nation address this year that his cabinet would be signing performance agreements which would be made public. We have not yet seen any announcements that this has concluded, but it would be a positive indicator to business that commitments will be stuck to.

We all have much work to do for South Africa to regain its economic momentum that will deliver the inclusive growth to make for better lives for all. Business is ready to do its part.

We need to preserve and protect important audiovisual material for future generations

THE World Day for Audiovisual Heritage takes place every 27 October. This commemorative day was chosen by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) in 2005 to raise awareness of the significance and preservation risks of recorded sound and audiovisual documents (films, sound and video recordings, radio and television programmes). Events are held in many countries, organised by national and regional sound and film archives, broadcasters, museums and libraries, and major audiovisual associations including the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA), International Council on Archives (ICA), International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) and International Federation of Film Archives (FIAPF) and the International Federation of Television Archives FIAT/IFTA.

Audiovisual documents, such as films, radio and television programmes, are our common heritage and contain the primary records of the history of the 20th and 21st centuries. Unfortunately, that heritage is now endangered, because sound recordings and moving images can be deliberately destroyed or irretrievably lost as a result of neglect, decay and technological obsolescence. Through initiatives such as the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage and the Memory of the World Programme, the work of preservation professionals is encouraged, in order to manage the range of technical, political, social, financial and other factors that threaten the safeguarding of our audiovisual heritage.

The General Conference of UNESCO approved the commemoration of a World Day for Audiovisual Heritage in 2005 as a mechanism to raise general awareness of the need to preserve and safeguard important audiovisual material for future generations, and for urgent measures to be taken to conserve this heritage and ensure it remains accessible to the public now, and to future generations.

Our collective histories are often

captured on film, video, audio or digital formats, and through these, we engage to learn about the past and to share our own histories with future generations. Increasingly recordings serve as our memories and tell the stories that constitute our cultural heritage. In recognition of the preservation efforts of the thousands of archivists, librarians and caretakers around the world who care for these valuable collections, this year's World Day for Audiovisual Heritage again celebrates their dedication and expertise. Without the knowledge and devotion that is required to preserve, digitize and provide access, large portions of our cultural heritage would disappear to be lost forever.

Audiovisual archives tell us stories about people's lives and cultures from all over the world. They represent a priceless heritage which is an affirmation of our collective memory and a valuable source of knowledge since they reflect the cultural, social and linguistic diversity of our communities. They help us grow and comprehend the world we all share. Conserving this heritage and ensuring it remains accessible to the public and future generations is a vital goal for all memory institutions as well as the public at large. The UNESCO Archives has launched the project 'Digitising our shared UNESCO history' with this very goal in mind.

The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) is a commemoration of the adoption, in 1980 by the 21st General Conference, of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images. The World Day provides an occasion to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents.

In this way, the World Day also serves as an opportunity for UNESCO's member states to evaluate their performance with respect to implementing the 2015 recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form.

Science, technology and innovation key to agricultural transformation in Tanzania

BY GERALD KITABU

Tanzanian scientists and researchers are well positioned to ensure transformation of agriculture in the country, but to effectively and efficiently fast track this transformation, they need to work hand in hand with other stakeholders like the seed companies, local and central government especially in the area of improved seed multiplication and dissemination of research results and allocation of adequate budget. Our reporter GERALD KITABU caught up with Professor Joseph Ndunguru (PhD), a Presidential medal award winner and one of the great scientists in Africa. Tanzania had ever had. He currently heads TARI Selian centre and here he sheds more light on agricultural transformation in Tanzania; Excerpts:

QUESTION: Can you briefly introduce yourself?

ANSWER: I am Professor Joseph Ndunguru (PhD), a Molecular Plant Virologist, currently working for the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) as Director of TARI-Selian Centre under the Ministry of Agriculture. I am award winner on Scientific Discoveries and Research Excellence and award for the best National Agricultural Research Scientist received in 2011. I am also an adjunct Professor at the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology. I was the National Biotechnology Research Coordinator in Tanzania until 2018.

My research interest is to understand plant viruses at molecular level, development of diagnostic tools and manage strategies for plant viruses of economic important crops in Africa. I am also keen to understand their genome organisation, gene expression and develop resistance to plant virus of economic importance. Some of the immediate man focus are Cassava mosaic geminiviruses, cassava brown streak virus and sweet potato viruses.

Q: As a Director at TARI Selian centre, briefly tell us about the Centre.

A: TARI-Selian centre is one of the seventeen Centres under Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute. Our mandate is to conduct research on wheat, barley, maize for medium altitude and beans. Our research is aiming at addressing the following challenges. One is low productivity. This is a major constraints to our farmers. So, to address this we have developed high yielding varieties of maize, wheat, barley. For example for maize we have Selian H115 which is very high yielding and we hope



Professor Joseph Ndunguru (PhD) in the Lab developing crop disease diagnostic tools. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

that when farmers receive these varieties their yields will increase from one or two tones per hectare to more than five on the same size of land. This is very important for crop improvement because when you have high yields, the farmers can earn income and improve food security. Another aspect that we are addressing at my research centre is the issue of challenges resulting from climate change. Here we are talking of drought, heat etc. to address this, the centre has come up with varieties that are drought tolerant. For example we have maize called Situkal which is drought tolerant and very popular now in all areas where rainfall is low. We have also developed beans varieties which are early maturing aiming to cope up with the issue of drought. But again, we are still doing research aiming at developing new and more varieties which are drought tolerant using molecular tools or mark assisted technology. This is the technology used by breeders to fast-track development of drought tolerant crop varieties. The other aspect the centre is addressing is the issue of nutrition. Poor nutrition is a challenge to many people including the farmers, children, youth and women. So, my

centre has come up with bean varieties that are nutritionally enhanced, foreexample we have bean variety called Jesca which is nutritionally enhanced with higher iron and zinc. Iron is for blood and zinc is for improvement of body immunity. The varieties have been promoted widely in institutions like primary schools for school feeding programmes and in districts like Mbulu and regions like Manyara, Singida, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Kagera and Mara. We also have maize called lische which has high protein. It is promoted again for nutritional improvement. The centre is also dealing with value addition. Under this aspect we are training farmers on how to process beans, maize into various products foreexample nutritionally beans that we are talking about can be processed into flour that makes biscuits, cakes, porridge etc. this will enable farmers to earn more income. We are also empowering farmers to obtain loans from various financial institutions but also we have farmer groups that have been trained by our Centre to process the nutritional foods into various products and this is in line with agricultural and industrial economy which Tanzania is aiming

at. The other aspect, we have worked on is soil health. Under soil health we have collected samples from all over the country and we use the sample to understand the soil characteristics in terms of soil PH, mineral nutrients so that at the end of the day we produce maps which show distribution and characteristics of soils in the country. We use the maps in collaboration with other policy makers to decide on where to deploy crops (which crop can be grown in particular area) so that we have strategic deployment of crops instead of planting crops haphazardly and everywhere, these maps should guide farmers. The maps also can help to decide on fertilizer application for example, if you know this part of Singida is low in phosphorous then you know type and amount of fertilizer to apply. Therefore, this is what we call precision agriculture using appropriate technology in appropriate areas for greater impact. So, all I have said is very much in line with agricultural development strategy (ASDP II) programme. Under this programme, one of the area is sustainable utilization of land and water. The aspect of soil I talked about is in line with that. Another area under

ASDP II is about increasing productivity. Here the research is brought in to ensure that transformation of agriculture that we are talking about, research has a big role to play. We know that without research there is no agriculture transformation and if there is no agriculture transformation, the industrial economy we are talking about will be just a dream because industrial materials comes from agricultural sector. That's why we have to ensure that science and technology, as well as innovations are applied in research to increase productivity so that the national industrial economy is realised.

Q: What is the current contribution of agriculture to the national economy?

A: If you look at a bigger picture, about 60 percent of global arable land is found in Africa and agriculture employ about 55 percent of labour work force but when you look at the contribution of agriculture sector on the DGP on average on the sub-saharan Africa is low. We are talking about 15 percent on average, this again shows that there is limited productivity and value addition. In Africa we have science agenda in agriculture. This is a strategy which emphasizes application of science

and technology and innovation to bring about agricultural transformation in Africa or triple agricultural productivity by 2025. So, all what I have said mean that Africa is very lucky because we have everything, we have land, people, weather is good what we need is just to embrace science, technology, Innovation and research as well as enabling policies. We have to make sure that research is empowered so that it can play a big role in agricultural transformation not only in Tanzania but also in Africa.

Q: What are you proud of at TARI Selian centre?

A: At Selian what we are proud of is human resource. We have capable young scientists who are well educated, energetic and vigilant. We have brought them together and provided guidance on how to write project proposals to mobilize resources and to align them to our institutional and national goal so that we work together as a team. If you go there you will find a lot of outputs. You will see demonstration plots along the road, near the airport. You will see very good maize varieties, beans, wheat, barley and our partners are very proud. We work together with seed companies and other users to make sure that our technologies are properly disseminated to the end users.

Q: What strategies are used to take your research results to the farmers and other end users?

A: We have various strategies for technology dissemination, one is innovation platform which brings together various stakeholders such as farmer groups, extensionists, researchers and policy makers. We work together looking at problem, how to address them and advice. Another strategy is to engage media such as TV and Radio programmes, on daily, weekly and monthly basis. We also take them to the field so that they can make and produce correct and effective programmes.

Q: What is your advice to the farmers and other stakeholders?

A: We as researchers we are well positioned to ensure that we empower and help them to ensure they increase their income and ensure food security. I would like to advice them that agriculture is no longer for subsistence but a business, you can make money and transform life. We have seen farmers who use improved crop varieties, most of them have graduated from subsistence to commercial agriculture. They are able to improve food security but also income. If you invest in agriculture, the sector will stimulate development of other sectors and create employment opportunities. The advice to other stakeholders like the seed companies, the local government and policy makers is that researchers alone cannot reach out to all people and as farmers. We must work together. We will continue partnering with them especially in the area of multiplication and dissemination of the improved seeds. We all understand that the budget is limited, therefore, we would like to call on the local government to set aside adequate budget to support research activities in the country so that at the end of the day the research results should not remain in the shelves but be taken to the farmers and other end users.

For the government, first of all I commend personal initiatives and efforts of our President Dr John Joseph Magufuli for the moral and material support to researchers in the country. We would like to call on the government to continue with the same spirit of supporting research activities. We request it to continue improving infrastructures and allocating adequate budget and training scientists. Together, we have a bigger vision to see that research plays a very big role in agricultural transformation in Tanzania and beyond.

Africa can't risk a major maritime cyber attack

BY DENYS REVA

Cyber attacks against African maritime infrastructure threaten the continent's recovery from COVID-19 and its long-term development and security aspirations. According to maritime cyber defence company Naval Dome, 310 incidents affecting maritime industries were recorded worldwide in 2019, a huge jump from 120 in 2018 and 50 in 2017. No data is available yet for this year, but the figure is expected to reach 500 incidents in 2020.

The spectre of attacks that might disrupt and disable critical maritime infrastructure exists against a backdrop of rapid digitalisation as ports and shipping companies increasingly rely on new information

and communication technologies. While this improves efficiency, it also exposes them to cyber threats.

About 90% of Africa's trade is seaborne, making the continent dependent on well run ports and shipping, and effective protection of its maritime resources. Digitalisation will make African infrastructure a high-risk target and the impact of cyber attacks could be severe.

A recent Institute for Security Studies (ISS) report examines how cyber security is fast becoming an integral part of Africa's maritime security needs. This new area must receive greater attention and collective action from African states, the ISS argues.

Increasing digitalisation will make African maritime infrastructure a high-risk target



Given the trends worldwide, a disruptive cyber incident in Africa could be just a matter of time. File photo

Cyber security is not the work of one country alone, which gives the African Union (AU) a leading role in facilitating maritime security capabilities in its member states. The AU made a positive start in 2014 when it adopted the Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (the Malabo Convention). The continental body also included cyber security as a flagship project in its Agenda 2063 plan.

These efforts won't however be enough to protect Africa from the kinds of maritime cyber attacks recently reported in other parts of the world. A notable incident occurred on 30 September when the information technology systems of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) were targeted. The IMO's website was shut down for two days but fortunately, no severe damage was reported.

The attack is highly symbolic, as it

comes mere months before an important IMO resolution enters into force on 1 January 2021. The MSC.428(98) resolution is the first attempt to create minimal international standards for states and the shipping industry around maritime cyber security. The resolution emphasises standardisation and a holistic and collective approach.

According to the 2019 maritime cyber security survey conducted by

Safety at Sea and international shipping association BIMCO (the Baltic and International Maritime Council), most incidents involve phishing and malware, not a targeted hacker attack. These incidents most often affected information technology system function or caused corporate data or financial losses, but didn't disrupt the vessel control systems.

Africa's efforts thus far won't protect it from the kinds of incidents recently reported elsewhere

The nature of the maritime cyber environment gives rise to some troubling scenarios. There are concerns that hackers may work with criminals or pirates to mislead a radar display or undermine a ship's navigational system to hijack the vessel. These have so far proven to be worst-case hypotheticals.

A recent study by Cambridge University's Centre for Risk Studies suggests that a coordinated cyber attack on Asia-Pacific ports, if it were to occur, could cause over US\$110 billion in damages. The widespread reverberations of such an incident would seriously disrupt international trade. The report emphasises that the global economic system remains largely unprepared for such events, which are likely to increase in probability.

A similar incident actually occurred in 2017, with global repercussions. Maersk, the world's largest container ship and supply vessel operator, suffered approximately US\$300 million in damages. It had to halt operations at 17 of its 76 terminals worldwide. The global scope of the impact - much of it collateral - is reinforced by the fact that Maersk was not the intended target of the cyber attack.

Agencies

Why the story of Covid-19's origin is still a mystery

BY MARIANA LENHARO

As the Covid-19 pandemic disrupts the lives of billions around the world, two questions continue to linger: Where did the virus come from, and how did it find its way into humans?

Scientists have been hunting for those answers since the first cluster of unusual pneumonia cases emerged in China in December 2019.

Investigating the origin of the novel coronavirus is a daunting task that can be compared with assembling a difficult jigsaw puzzle with most of its pieces missing. But mapping out the virus's spread is of crucial importance to prevent new epidemics.

Discovering where the virus came from could teach scientists and leaders how to avoid the situations where viruses are most likely to be introduced into humans.

The initial puzzle pieces of the pandemic were put together when whole genome sequencing of the virus showed that it shared 79.5 per cent of its RNA with SARS-CoV, the coronavirus that had been responsible for the 2003 SARS outbreak, and was even more similar (96.2 per cent identical) to another coronavirus called RaTG13, which had been previously found in a bat. This strongly suggested that the newly identified SARS-CoV-2 also came from bats.

Some of the earliest cases of Covid-19 were connected to a local seafood market in the city of Wuhan, which seemed to indicate that the market was where the virus made its leap from the winged mammals to humans.

However, it soon became clear that not all of the early cases could be traced back to the market. Only 66 per cent of the initial 41 patients had been exposed to the location. Notably, the first patient identified - who is not necessarily the first to have acquired the disease - had not been to the market.

Patient zero: a fruitless quest?

At that point, the quest to find the very first person who came down with Covid-19 - the pandemic's "patient zero" - became quite an unrealistic endeavour, according to scientists.

With the majority of people infected with Covid-19 suffering from mild symptoms or no symptoms at all, the virus could have been circulating silently in the population before it garnered the attention of health authorities.

"There's a window for that. You could look for it when you had very few cases by searching for people that have immunity to the virus," says Vineet D. Menachery, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Texas Medical Branch.

The issue is that now millions of people around the world have been exposed to the virus, so the window for that kind of tracing is closing for the pandemic.

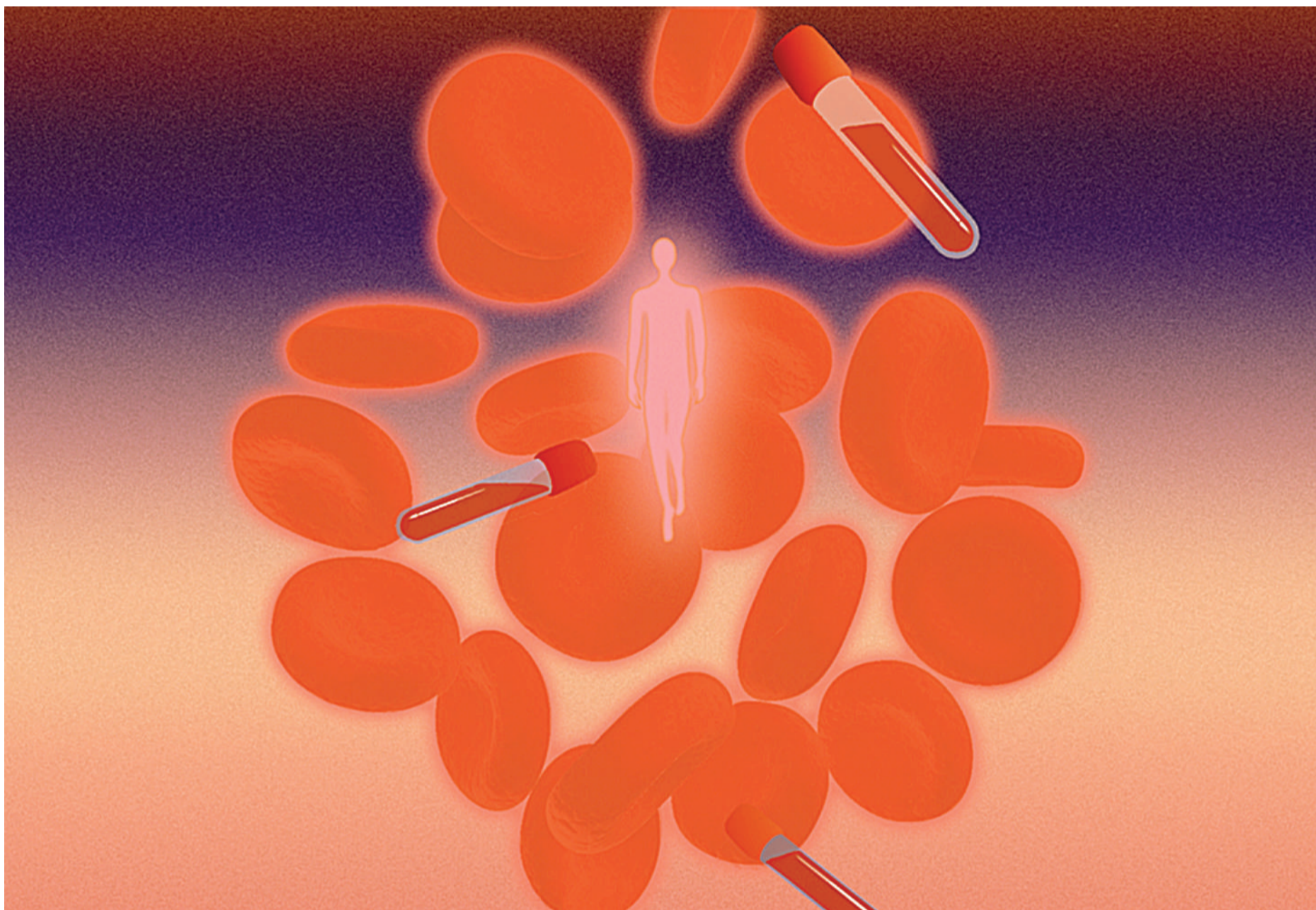
That doesn't mean that scientists aren't trying, though. One of the only ways to identify the first infection at this point would be searching through old samples predating the pandemic.

"There are biobanks for tissues, blood, nasal swabs... I guarantee that where those collections are, people are looking for SARS-like viruses," says virologist Robert F. Garry, PhD, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Tulane Medical School.

He and his team, for example, are looking into blood samples collected in West Africa, where they've been studying Lassa fever and Ebola for 15 years, to try to find antibodies to the new coronavirus to see if it could have been circulating there before the pandemic. "So far, nothing to report," Garry says.

There are circumstances where finding patient zero is possible. In the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, for example, scientists reported having found the presumed first person to have been infected - a two-year-old child who died from the disease in a village in Guinea.

"Ebola is a highly fatal disease," says David M. Morens, MD, a medical



virologist and a senior adviser to Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"If a first Ebola infection happens, it's probably going to be a serious illness, and everybody in that village is going to know about it," he adds.

Morens says that scientists don't use the term "patient zero", because it gives people a false sense that if scientists looked hard enough, they would find that first case. "No matter how good we are as scientists, we may never find it," he notes.

Discarding the possibility of lab manipulation

Although patient zero is an elusive character, scientists have already uncovered other important facts about the origin of the novel coronavirus, particularly about its evolutionary history, which adds new pieces to the puzzle.

Garry was one of the authors of an early report about the proximal origin of SARS-CoV-2, and says: "Our group spent quite a bit of time with those original genome sequences, comparing them to other viruses."

The team looked specifically into the spike protein of the novel coronavirus, a large protein that sticks out from the surface of the virus, giving it the appearance of a crown - or "corona" in Latin.

By analysing the sequence of the spike corresponding to the receptor-binding domain - a part of the spike that binds to the cells it infects - it became apparent that the virus was binding to a receptor (a protein that works like the keyhole that the virus unlocks to get inside the cells) called ACE2, present in various cells of the human body, particularly in the respiratory tract.

This was one of the first scientific articles to state that the virus could not have been constructed in a laboratory, but was a clear result of natural selection.

In fact, scientists working on this field think that theories claiming that the virus was a result of laboratory manipulation are silly. "Why would you spend millions of dollars and months of work to have a team of scientists create something that you could just go to a cave and get from a bat?" Morens asks.

When Garry and his colleagues

were analysing the SARS-CoV-2 genome, sequences emerged of coronaviruses found in pangolins, a scale-covered mammal that resembles an armadillo.

"The pangolin viruses are kind of interesting because their receptor-binding domain is remarkably similar to the SARS-CoV-2," Garry says.

This led to initial speculation that the pangolin could have acquired SARS-CoV-2 from bats and then transmitted it to humans, thus acting as an intermediate host. But, intriguingly, the rest of the genome is not that similar.

Garry, who keeps in his office a small pangolin model that showed up in his mailbox one day without a return address, says it's probably safe to exonerate the scaly anteater from the responsibility of the pandemic.

Taking 'recombination' into account

After Chinese scientists released the first SARS-CoV-2 genome sequences in January 2020, a diverse group of researchers working from Belgium, Scotland, China, Texas and Pennsylvania coalesced in a website called Virological, where they had been posting their own analyses of the data.

"It was the quickest international collaboration I have ever worked on," says Maciej F. Boni, PhD, associate professor of biology at Penn State University.

While analysing the sequence of SARS-CoV-2 and comparing it to other similar viruses to investigate the origin of the pandemic, this group carefully considered the fact that coronaviruses are especially adept at recombination, which is when a virus genome breaks apart and recombines with other viruses to form a completely new virus.

"Coronaviruses are essentially recombining all the time," says David L. Robertson, PhD, one of the scientists in this collaboration and professor of computational virology and head of bioinformatics at the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research.

He explains what the recombination process looks like: When bats, for example, are infected by different viruses, these distinct viruses can potentially end up replicating in the same cell. Then the viral

genome ends up as a mixed-up version of those different viruses.

"The problem is that it confounds your ability to look at the evolutionary history of a virus," Robertson says.

To disentangle which part of the virus genome came from where is no easy job. According to Boni, the scientists took genome sequences from different viruses within the same subgenus of SARS-CoV-2, called the sarbecoviruses, and went through all of them, trying to recreate all possible evolutionary histories where the viruses are mixing and matching different parts of the genome.

"It is computationally very intensive and it requires a lot of computing tricks," Boni sums up. Scientists also calculate the virus's evolutionary rate, which is the number of mutations that occur per year. That allows them to determine the point in time when two viruses shared a common ancestor.

By using those techniques, Boni, Robertson and their colleagues were able to understand the relationship between the novel coronavirus and its closest known relatives: RaTG13 (the aforementioned bat virus sampled in 2013) and a couple pangolin viruses sampled in 2017 and 2019 - the ones whose receptor-binding domain is almost identical to SARS-CoV-2.

The analysis showed that despite the genetic closeness, RaTG13 and SARS-CoV-2 split up quite a long time ago, possibly in 1969. It also suggested that the explanation for the similar pangolin virus receptor-binding domain is that this characteristic was present in the common ancestors of all these related viruses in bats, but it got lost in the lineage leading to RaTG13 due to recombination.

One of the important findings of this study is that the virus probably evolved in bats, where the virus developed the ability to infect humans, as well as other animals, like the pangolin.

"The virus is not specifically human-adapted. It's a bit of a generalist, so it's able to exploit other species," Robertson says.

This means that SARS-CoV-2 didn't have to evolve in humans for a long time to gain its current infecting abilities, indicating that its leap into people happened not too long before the outbreak in Wuhan.

"We can't be sure if it has not

been in humans for longer but, given how successful it has been, I think we would have known about it," Robertson adds.

Another group of scientists reached very similar conclusions by also taking into account the virus recombination proneness. The team led by Rasmus Nielsen, PhD, a professor in the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, concluded that the bat coronaviruses RaTG13 and RmYN02 (another recently discovered virus that is genetically close to SARS-CoV-2) split up from SARS-CoV-2 at roughly 52 and 37 years ago, respectively.

"For viruses, it's actually a pretty long time, as they can change a lot in this time span," Nielsen says.

He notes that he doesn't know what happened in the 40 to 50 years since those viruses diverged from SARS-CoV-2, and the missing link between those related coronaviruses found in bats and the novel coronavirus infecting humans remains a mystery.

The simplest explanation for the data is that the virus spilled over from bats into humans, but it's not known when and how that happened. Samples of the similar viruses were found in caves geographically far from Wuhan.

Did a person infected by bats - possibly through contact with the bat's body fluids, like saliva, urine or faeces - travel to Wuhan? Was an infected bat - or another animal that got the virus from bats - brought to live animal markets in that region? So far, these are still unanswered questions.

More data are required to dig deeper

Like other researchers investigating the origin of SARS-CoV-2, Nielsen believes that scientists have done their best to trace the origins of the virus with the data currently available.

"There's only one way really to get those questions answered now. It's to go out and sample more, presumably in China, especially in Wuhan and Yunnan, the province where the bats that carry the most related viruses were found," he says.

He adds that if scientists can find viral sequences that are more closely related to SARS-CoV-2, they might provide more insights.

One of the greatest experts

in that type of work is virologist Shi Zhengli, PhD, director of the Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. She has been conducting virus-hunting expeditions in bat caves in China for the past 16 years, activity for which she has earned the nickname "bat woman".

Ever since the new coronavirus emerged, Shi and her colleagues have collected samples from various animals in different locations, including the Wuhan seafood market and farms in the region, she told Science in July.

According to Shi, many groups in China are carrying out studies like these and publishing their results. "We are tracing the origin of the virus in different directions and through multiple approaches," she told Science.

Although China has been accused of lack of transparency on coronavirus data, scientists interviewed for this story don't believe the country has been systematically withholding information from the international scientific community - at least this wasn't the case in the first months of the epidemic.

"In January and February, the Chinese public health and virology communities were very forthcoming with all their data," Boni says, adding: "Since March, it has changed a little bit. And that's all because of politics."

In an ideal world, scientists would be able to identify pandemic-causing viruses even before they emerged. While it may take a lot of time for the SARS-CoV-2 origin puzzle to be completed, scientists are already working to find the next viruses that could jump into people.

For Menachery and his team, that means identifying the key elements that allow a virus to infect humans. With that knowledge, it would be possible to look for viruses with those characteristics in the wild and take the necessary precautions to keep them away from the population.

Menachery has been studying the potential emergence of coronaviruses for years. Back in 2015, he and his colleagues published a paper about the risk of the human emergence of a bat coronavirus circulating in China.

Sound familiar? He thinks there will be increased interest in broader coronavirus research in the next few years, but he warns that it's important to explore the science of other viruses as well to prepare for what might come next.

"Hopefully now society will invest more in exploring these questions," he says, adding: "But it's also easy for people to forget and move on to the next thing."

● **A report in Elementa, a Medium publication about health and wellness. Mariana Lenhara is a science and health journalist with a special interest in evidence-based medicine and epidemics.**



More availability of regional data can help protect Africa's forests

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

EAST and southern Africa are home to a wide variety of forests - from tropical and subtropical forests, to savannah, acacia and miombo woodlands - which provide livelihoods for millions of people, and significantly contribute to regional socioeconomic development. Apart from providing wood fuel for energy, timber for construction, medicine and food, they also protect soil from erosion, regulate rain patterns and offer recreational opportunities for tourists and locals alike.

To protect these valuable forests, many African countries have signed onto international conservation programs, such as REDD+ (Reducing Emissions caused by Deforestation and forest Degradation) and the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFRIIO). However, these efforts are sometimes undermined by a lack of clear information and monitoring systems at the regional level, according to Paolo Cerutti, a

Nairobi-based forester with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

"Current forest information and monitoring systems in East and Southern Africa are hampered by the lack of regional data and standardized methodologies to produce it, especially on forest use and cover trends," said Cerutti.

"Lack of up to date and comparable data makes it difficult to establish baselines for monitoring and reporting on the regional state of the forest, hence also helping countries report on their own pledges to international processes such as REDD+ and other climate-related targets and obligations."

To address these issues, in 2017 CIFOR and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) developed a prototype for a regional forest observatory, which they named the East and Southern Africa Forest Observatory (OFESA). Their goal was to produce a comprehensive and harmonized regional dataset on the

latest trends and threats to forests, and to make information useful and easily accessible to policymakers, funders, forestry practitioners and citizens.

Following a positive reception from users, this initiative just received new support to move on to the next stage. With funding from the European Union, CIFOR and RCMRD are launching a new project to consolidate the observatory, increase its reach, and improve its capacity to produce much-needed regional data.

One of OFESA's main goals is to contribute to cross-border integration of forest and natural resources management. As regional integration advances through bodies such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a growing need exists for streamlined data to support collaboration in forest management and address common issues.

This project seeks to address that need and foster data-sharing across the region. This entails two activities: first, creating a coherent governance framework which incentivizes and enables participating countries to share, use and analyze data; and second, ensuring that countries and regional organizations are provided with the information they need when they need it.

"Data sharing will only be successful if users feel that the information that they provide to the observatory will return to them with some value added," said Douglas Bwire, an institutional analysis expert with CIFOR. Consequently, the development of a governance framework to enable countries to collaborate and share data will be a key step to ensure that the data and information that OFESA produces is relevant, consented, and salient for policymakers, he said.

What's next?

"For OFESA to advance from a prototype to a well-established observatory, CIFOR and RCMRD

first need to lay the groundwork to allow this transition," said Ngugi Kimani, RCMRD Team Leader for OFESA.

They must, for example, work closely with various ministries and other regional and country-level actors to understand their needs, strengthen their capacity to collect data, and address gaps and data quality issues.

"At the beginning, the focus will be on getting participating countries' needs assessed thoroughly, both in terms of information and data, as well as the know-how needed to use them," said Kimani. "Then we'll have a series of ad-hoc trainings to prepare and implement. Hopefully soon we'll have increased the level of expertise, agreed on standardized sharing protocols, and OFESA can start producing and displaying relevant and coherent datasets and information."

The project kicked off in September 2020 and will be implemented over the next three years.

FAO out to tap Africa's potential in effort to end hunger and malnutrition

ROME/HARARE

THE Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Qu Dongyu has said Africa's potential gives him hope that the battle against poverty and hunger can be won.

He made the remarks at the opening of the ministerial segment of the 31st session of the regional conference for Africa.

"We meet in trying times, but the opportunities ahead of us give me hope," Director-General Qu said. "Africa is the continent of untapped potential and remains a key priority for me. I am convinced that agricultural and rural development are the keys to winning the battle against poverty and hunger in Africa."

Hosted virtually by the government of Zimbabwe and in collaboration with FAO, the conference brings together more than 95 ministers and government officials from 48 countries - a record attendance. Representatives from observer countries, donor organisations, civil society and the private sector are also attending, making it FAO's largest meeting in Africa.

"This year's FAO regional conference for Africa is a unique multi-sectoral platform," President of Zimbabwe Emmerson Mnangagwa said in his opening address. Zimbabwe is the Conference Chair, taking over from Sudan. "We must share experiences and proffer solutions to common problems affecting the African region...The elimination of hunger in Africa and the response to the different structural challenges we face as a continent requires strong partnerships, collaboration and commitment among the various stakeholders," he said.

The Conference comes amid rising hunger in Africa, driven by climate change, conflict and economic slowdowns. The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating existing food insecurity.

Amid several challenges, the Director-General mentioned concrete examples of partnerships among FAO, Members and donor partners, such as the Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control to ensure a strong coordinated approach at country, regional and global levels as well as the good progress in the control of the desert locust.

"In East Africa, the anticipatory action approach was quite successful with national Governments in collaboration with FAO and partners, protecting over 580 million USD worth of crops, enough to meet the annual cereal needs of 13 million people," Qu said.

The Director-General also pointed to gender equality as part of the solution. "We must give equal opportunities and rights to rural women," he said. He also set out Africa's opportunities to transform its agri-food systems, including new jobs stemming from growing food markets, the continent's growing urban middle class, and the rapid adoption of digital technologies particularly by Africa's young people.

He reiterated FAO's agenda of transformative action to build a dynamic, inclusive and agile Organization that serves its Members to achieve the "four betters": better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life.

The Director-General acknowledged African leadership for having prioritized the agenda of agriculture development through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Agriculture Transformation, and showed his appreciation for the contribution of Members to the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund at FAO.

He invited country delegations to nominate locations to take part in FAO's new 1 000 Digital Villages Project which will convert villages or towns into digital hubs, recognizing that digital linkages and rural tourism could be engines to in-

crease resilience, diversify farmers' incomes and build back better.

"This is your conference - the regional Governing Body session. My colleagues and I will be listening closely," Director-General Qu said.

He invited the delegations to share the priorities they wish to see included in the new FAO Strategic Framework that is under preparation, as well as their expectations for the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, and encouraged countries to identify and rally behind regional champions in the lead up to it.

The Director-General also alluded to the national priorities for the transformation of agri-food systems and the strong political commitments of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG2 and SDG1 at country level.

FAO has been supporting governments across Africa in carrying out predictive analysis for the potential secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food systems, markets and agriculture. It is estimated that 12 million people across the continent have so far benefitted from this effort.

For FAO to continue to carry out its actions to address the pandemic in a holistic and comprehensive manner, the Director-General stressed the importance of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Program, which aims to mitigate immediate impacts, while strengthening the long-term resilience of food systems and livelihoods - in line with the United Nations approach to "build to transform" and in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Programme is also closely linked to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, FAO's new business model for collaboration that uses a broad spectrum of partnerships and leverages the technical and data capacity of the Organization to determine the best options to reach the most vulnerable and have the greatest impact on poverty and hunger.

Mark Lowcock, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, called for action on several fronts: fully fund all humanitarian response plans, invest in disaster risk reduction, and refocus multi-lateral cooperation to address the root causes of hunger. "All of this is achievable if we agree to work together, with an understanding that it is in all of our shared interests to do so. We really are all in this together," he said.

Representing the private sector, Lucy Muchocki from the Pan African Agribusiness and Agroindustry Consortium, said: "We want to commend the efforts of FAO in engaging the private sector to address some of the most important issues in agriculture and trade in Africa. We hope Dialogues of this sort become regular events, as we must maintain momentum to develop practical and action-oriented solutions that require collective efforts."

Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission commended the strong collaboration with FAO to lead a multi-stakeholder response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including establishing a joint taskforce.

Other speakers at today's opening session included Khalid Mehboob, the Independent Chairperson of FAO's Council and Thanawat Tiensin, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security.

The Conference is hosted virtually for the first time because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The modality has allowed more people to connect, making it the largest ever Regional Conference for Africa. Hundreds of delegates have joined the Zoom sessions, and many more are watching the live webcast.

Other sessions today have focused on the pandemic's impacts on food security and nutrition, and FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

Software provider for Africa's 'pay-as-you-go' eight-year-old startup solar industry has raised \$13.5 million in total

BY YOMI KAZEEM

AS small-scale renewable energy solutions have become mainstream across African households over the past decade, one of the key drivers has been easing the financial access barrier for end users.

In the past, the sheer cost of purchasing full range solar energy units typically put them out of the reach of millions across the continent - including some of those who need them the most.

But the falling prices of solar panels combined with scalable payments software and device metering technology now mean solar-powered devices can be made affordable both for initial purchase and follow-

on micro payments linked to usage in pay-as-you-go offerings.

With a significant amount of users in low-income households, solutions that make these devices more affordable has been pivotal, according to development analysts and come with a lot of upside. It's a view that's increasingly shared by renewable energy investors as well, as is evident from the latest investment in Angaza - a software provider that enables solar power device makers and distributors offer pay-as-you-go consumer services.

The eight-year old startup has raised \$13.5 million in a series B funding round led by KawiSafi Ventures, an East Africa-based energy



impact fund, with participation from Total Carbon Neutrality Ventures, the investment arm of French energy giant, Total. Existing investors including Ajax Strategies, Emerson Collective, Rethink Impact, and Salesforce Ventures also participated in the round. It follows a \$10.5 million Series A round in 2017 for the San Francisco-based Angaza, whose technology is deployed in 33 African countries so far.

Angaza's mobile app serves as a point of sales tool that allows sales agents of distributors of solar-powered devices collect and manage payments as well as customer data from users. The company also provides metering and monitoring technology that manufacturers of solar-powered products can embed in their devices and remotely power them

based on customers' payments status and, when necessary, collect usage and diagnostics data.

While some manufacturers make devices and also build customized software and technology in-house to power them, it is a time and cost-intensive process which several others are unable to do.

"This was a big gap in the market that we identified," says Lesley Marincola, CEO of Angaza. "Distributors really need to digitize their operations and automate a lot of workflows, be able to make mobile money payments and track those automatically - and there just wasn't a complete software solution to do all of that," she said.

Solutions that boost access to electricity across Africa will prove

particularly timely this year as latest data from the International Energy Agency's (IEA) World Energy Outlook shows the number of people living without electricity in Africa is set to increase for the first time in eight years, largely due to Covid-19 related challenges.

In addition to democratizing access to electricity, digitized pay-as-you-go solar energy solutions also offer the extra benefit of helping customers build credit history - a major boon given the well-documented barriers to accessing credit, particularly for low-income households, says Marincola.

"We see distributors offering solar home systems on credit which the end user can pay off over six to 18 months and develop a credit history in the system.

By Karl Taro Greenfeld

We may never know the full story of Covid-19

Journalism, even when practised at its highest levels, has an element of chance. Reporters spend hours riding in taxis or trains or aeroplanes, or on the telephone or online, hoping to land - and cover - that meeting that might yield a quote or secreted document resulting in a story.

And if the story is particularly noteworthy, that's a scoop. A big scoop for a reporter is like hitting your number at a roulette table.

In 2003, when SARS was threatening to become a global calamity, those of us covering China had to work long hours and put our chips down. SARS barely registered in the United States.

The invasion of Iraq was looming, and the resources of big news operations were devoted to the Middle East. But for those of us in East Asia - I was the editor of Time Asia - SARS was what mattered.

I never had a big scoop. I told myself that was because I'm not lucky. But others were able to report on the disease with a remarkable level of detail.

Looking back on the SARS outbreak from the vantage point of the 2020 pandemic, I'm struck by how easy we had it. I would never have used that word at the time, but I see now that grit plus luck was sufficient, for some, to break open the SARS story. I doubt if the same will be true for Covid-19.

For reporters, uncovering the 2003 outbreak often meant seemingly interminable drives on treacherous Chinese highways to provincial capitals where the local public health officials would refuse to see you.

Although the United States' Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organisation both frequently cooperated with reporters to provide reliable data, Chinese officials were reluctant to speak with Western reporters.

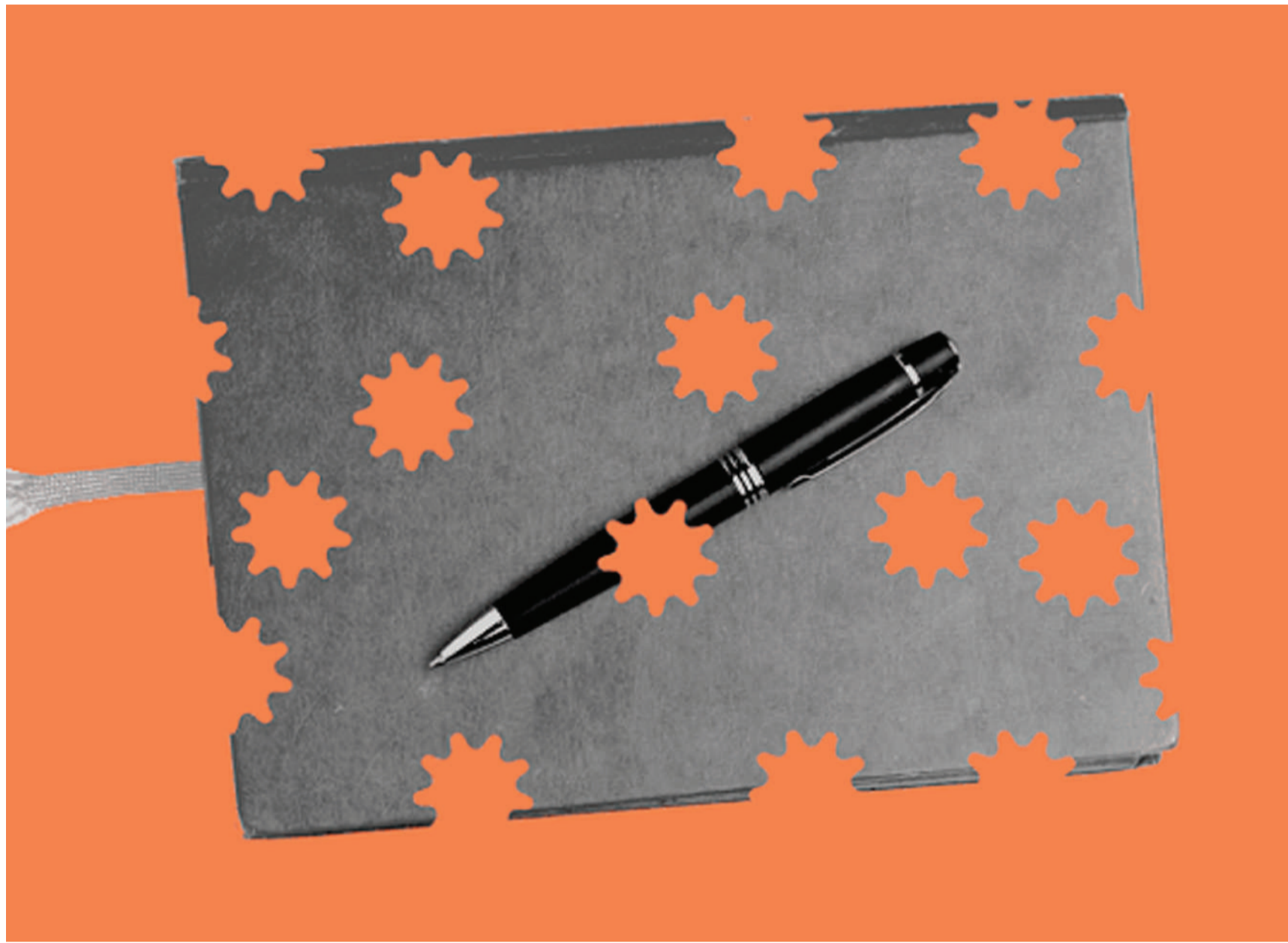
By the officials' career calculus, the risks of being seen to have revealed an embarrassing truth outweighed the potential contribution to the commonweal. Most of my long drives ended at closed doors to empty offices.

Better journalists than I got lucky, however: John Pomfret and Philip Pan of The Washington Post, Charles Hutzler of The Wall Street Journal and Susan Jakes of Time magazine among them.

They developed contacts and methodically interviewed doctors and scientists and discovered where and when the virus emerged and who the index patients were. They reported that the SARS coronavirus jumped from bats to civet cats to human beings in Guangdong Province in late 2002, where it first infected workers in the wild-animal trade.

Some of these doctors and scientists, many of whom had been educated in the West, were ultimately willing to speak with American journalists in part because they had seen how independent scientific apparatuses functioned.

The Chinese CDC, obfuscating and hiding data, was not acting up to the international standards these doctors and scientists had witnessed firsthand. "They looked at Western news media as an outlet for truth about Chinese society because those stories could be refracted back into Chinese society," John Pomfret, who covered the 2003



outbreak for The Washington Post, told me.

Journals such as Caijing, published in Beijing, wrote up digests and analyses of foreign stories under the pretence of criticising or analysing foreign media with the net result that important stories could reach the Chinese public.

The SARS outbreak also coincided with a period of relative press freedom, particularly in Guangdong where Southern Metropolis Daily was publishing aggressive articles questioning the central government.

The 2003 death of migrant worker Sun Zhigang in police custody became a national scandal because dogged Chinese journalists did the work - and got lucky and got the scoops.

Such relative press freedom was also due to the looming Beijing Olympics. The Chinese Communist Party was courting international goodwill, lest the Games, something of a global coming-out party, be imperiled.

We were already worried that our phones were being monitored. But we could easily switch out SIM cards or use the ubiquitous pay phones at local grocery stores. The surveillance system back then still relied on people following other people. And even trained state security

agents can lose track of people.

Under this relatively lax regime, Jakes, the Time reporter, was able to contact a trauma surgeon from Beijing's 301 Hospital, Jiang Yanyong, who revealed the true extent and scope of the outbreak and the astonishing scale of the cover-up. That included patients being wheeled out of hospitals via back exits as WHO inspectors were entering the front.

Jakes had gotten lucky when Jiang's daughter reached out to her and said her brother wanted to write an open letter on what he had seen. Jiang told Jakes that the Chinese government could not be relied on to tell the truth about the number of infected, sick and dying.

The mayor of Beijing and the Health minister would both resign after Jakes' stories, the only instance I can recall of high-level Chinese government ministers resigning courtesy of a scoop.

Because of changes in China and the United States, reporting on the Covid-19 outbreak is more challenging. For a few weeks this January and February, journalists in Wuhan, some of them ordinary citizens, told the world what was happening at great personal risk.

Then, in March, Chen Qiushi, one citizen journalist who wrote

critical stories of the Chinese government's initial handling of the outbreak, simply vanished. Chinese journalists and scientists have since been wary of speaking out. And very few Westerners have managed to report from Wuhan.

We haven't definitely learned much more about the origins of the disease since those first reports last year: Who was the index patient? Where does the host species reside? What species was the intermediary, if there was one? In other words, the answers to the journalistic questions who, what, when, and where?

China is practically a cashless society, where transactions are made via smartphone. And buying a new SIM card requires an official, state-issued identification card that is duly noted and logged. A system that tracks you by your smartphone can always find you via your smartphone. In 2003, Jakes talked with Jiang on a pay phone before going to meet him on a subway; that sort of scenario is improbable now.

This time, the US, along with China, has been accused of manipulating scientific data for political ends, as the Trump administration has, among other attempts at interference, requested that some Covid-19 data

be sent from the US-CDC and the FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) to the White House before being released to the public.

China might still be manipulating scientific data for political ends. That's not news. But now the US appears to have joined in, casting doubt at a crucial time on the veracity of what had been one of the global standards for scientific probity, the CDC.

So highly regarded was the American CDC that China chose the same acronym for its own infectious-disease bureau. The US appears to have adopted part of the authoritarian playbook, subsuming science to politics, without any of the benefits. China has largely contained the outbreak, while the US has the world's highest death toll.

America's failure to contain the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in an emboldened China much less concerned about its global public image. Journalism visas used to be freely issued to international news organisations in Hong Kong. No longer.

Hong Kong public health officials, who used to reliably answer the press and provide accurate data, have become as elusive and dissembling as their mainland colleagues.

We might never know the full truth of what happened in Wu-

han. And if we don't know where the host species resides and exactly how the virus jumped to humans, we might be damned to continue this cycle of outbreaks.

In 2003, after repeated requests for an interview for my book on the SARS outbreak, China's then newly appointed Health minister, Wu Yi, agreed to meet me in Beijing on November 18.

I flew there from Hong Kong and met with her in a gilded, red-carpeted office with high-backed chairs. It was exceedingly rare for a politburo member to meet a member of the foreign press, so I was stunned when my assistant told me we had the interview.

"No way that interview happens today," Ian Johnson, a reporter for The Wall Street Journal who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on China, told me, adding: "There is basically no upside to talking to a foreign journalist. There is only risk."

The meeting didn't result in any scoops, and fell into the broad category of "building good relations". Still, as a reporter working on a book about a disease outbreak, I felt that it was important to get the highest-ranking officials in the country on the record.

I had another meeting in Shenzhen that afternoon and so flew back to that city across the border from Hong Kong. I then took the train from Lo Wu to Hong Hum station, where I set down my briefcase to buy an Octopus card, as the local subway passes were called.

My briefcase, with my computer and notes in it, was snatched. I lost the first 40,000 words of the book and a huge trove of my notes, which I had been backing up on an iPod, which back then could be used as a hard drive, and which I had reflexively shoved into the briefcase before beginning my transaction.

I reported the theft to the nearest Hong Kong police station, where a Sergeant Yiu took down my statement and the theft officially became case O3027895. He made it very clear that there was little the police could do to find the thief.

It was one of the worst nights of my life. I had never felt so unlucky. Nearly a year of reporting and writing was gone. I felt as if all my dreams had been destroyed. It took more than a month for me to even begin thinking about starting my book again.

My wife and several other reporters raised the possibility that the Chinese government had set me up, had snatched my briefcase and computer to see what I knew - indeed, to check to see if I had a scoop.

I dismissed this speculation. It seemed grandiose to imagine that I was important enough for the Chinese government to monitor, track and then rob.

I hoped that it had been a simple theft, rather than a government operation, for the safety of my sources. But if they wanted to be absolutely sure I didn't have anything truly embarrassing to the state, that was the only way. Now they could just hack my phone.

• **A dispatch originally published in The Atlantic. Karl Taro Greenfeld is a journalist, novelist, television writer and the author of, among other books, China Syndrome: The True Story of the 21st Century's First Great Epidemic.**

By Kathleen Smith

A therapist recommends cure for burnout when the usual strategies no longer apply

What do you call it when, after months of feeling pandemic-related burnout, you burn out from the burnout itself? Burn down? Burn away? Burn in?

Burnout is an ambiguous catch-all term originally coined to describe the stress-induced exhaustion of people in the helping professions: the mental and physical depletion, distancing from others, and lower productivity they experienced when things got to be too much.

In this moment, drained by the stress of living in a pandemic and staring down an uncertain year ahead, everything feels like too much all the time. Burnout isn't a departure from the default state anymore. It is the default state.

So, how do we recover from burnout-related burn-

out? Usually, when people suffer from burnout, they're advised to develop a better work-life balance, or make more time for self-care practices, or consider if a big life change would benefit them.

But in our current world, these suggestions sound like fantasies. How can you find balance or set boundaries when your children are home all day and your office is your bedroom? When you can't ask friends or family to jeopardise their own health to come help you?

Those are questions I've been hearing a lot lately as a therapist. Here are the answers I give my clients - One: Focus on strengthening a few relationships. It may feel like a hundred years have passed, but it was only a few short months ago that we threw a reinvigorated energy into our relationships, scheduling endless Zoom calls and won-

dering why we had never made more of an effort to stay in touch with one another.

When the backlash hit - as it inevitably did for each of us - it hit hard: Suddenly, a jam-packed calendar of video calls was more exhausting than rejuvenating. We withdrew and settled into a routine with much less contact.

The trouble with distancing yourself, though, is that it's only a short-term solution to stress, a quick calm at the expense of long-term mental health. Humans are social creatures, and we need each other to survive and thrive.

We also have only so much energy when we're in survival mode. And often, those two facts are in direct conflict with each other.

Rather than vacillating between extreme socialising and hermit life, try finding the middle ground:

meaningful connections with a few choice folks.

Focus on one or two relationships that could use some energy and attention this year. This is different from scheduling calls with your entire family or staying active in your group texts.

It's about building stronger one-on-one relationships where you can turn off the superficial chitchat and talk about more than Covid-19 statistics or how hot it is. You need a few people with whom you can discuss your real challenges, joys and questions about the future.

To create those spaces for yourself, here are some questions you can ask: What are one or two relationships I'd like to see grow over the next year? How can I make space to share what's really going on with me? How can I stay connected when I'm tempted to with-

draw?

Making one or two relationships less superficial and more substantive will help you build a stronger sense of self. The more you know who you are and what you want, and the more you share that with others, the less hopeless you'll feel in stressful times.

Two - Purpose: Finding a sense of purpose is a common strategy for recovering from burnout. We tend to be less stressed when we're helping others, solving interesting problems, or otherwise engaging the part of our brain that is curious rather than anxious.

But in a pandemic, finding a new purpose can be tricky. A significant life change feels like an inaccessible luxury to most of us.

People are worried about losing the jobs they do have. They can't think about graduate school when

they're trying to homeschool their children. They're not fantasizing about an Eat, Pray, Love trip - they're wondering how to make it all the way to Grandma's house without having to use a public bathroom.

How do you find purpose when you're just trying to make it through the week? You redefine the scope of "purpose".

When you assume that finding purpose is only about changing the world, you lose sight of the fulfilment that can come from changing your world: discovering that you love a different genre of fiction, or that you can write really funny emails to a friend who's lonely, or that you feel better when you put on real pants or pick up groceries for an elderly neighbour.

Finding purpose is about being driven by your values, not your

anxiety. And when you look for the small pockets of purpose in a day, your energy level tends to rise.

Big changes may bring immediate relief to burnout, but they don't really make you a calmer person, or a better person, in the long run. They don't change how you treat yourself or how much creativity you bring to a hard problem.

We have to stop searching for 2019 burnout cures in a 2020 world. Ask yourself what's worth doing today, and you'll have enough energy to ask yourself the same question tomorrow.

• **Originally run in Forge, a Medium's publication on personal development. Kathleen Smith is a therapist and author of the book Everything Isn't Terrible: Conquer Your Insecurities, Interrupt Your Anxiety, and Finally Calm Down.**



Thursday 29 October 2020

DCB targeting high net-worth clients, introducing premier banking services

By Francis Kajubi

AS it seeks to lure many high net-worth individuals in the market, DCB Commercial Bank Plc is set to introduce premier banking and a Visa Card services by December this year.

DCB Commercial Bank Plc's Managing Director, Godfrey Ndalaha said the bank which rediscovered its profit making ways last year after three years of loss making, targets to boost its depositors.

Ndalaha said in Dar es Salaam last week while handing over dividend pay cheques to the bank's major shareholders that premium banking services dubbed DCB Royal Family will enable the regional bank to be more competitive in the market.

"We are finalizing arrangements of the special personalized service which will guarantee a seamless and pleasurable banking experience in keeping with customers' life style," he said adding that DCB Royal customers will be rewarded through dedicated services at all of its eight branches in the country.

"We want to provide banking services with a difference in the market," he added saying the 500m/- dividend payout emanating for profits made last year, will



DCB Commercial Bank Plc managing director Godfrey Ndalaha addresses shareholders at this year's annual general meeting.

certainly double this year based on performance so far.

Ndalaha further noted that DCB Bank is targeting to enable its customers enjoy the freedom of making transaction across different ATMs and online globally through Visa Card partnership.

"We have managed to attract more than 200,000 customers across the country and our target is to double this number at least in the next two years," he stated while arguing that clients like digital banking platforms that allow them freedom to transact anywhere and anytime.

Earlier, Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemeni Jafo advised DCB's management to go for the majority of the people who are unbanked instead who are rural based.

"DCB Bank has to go for workers

who are undertaking major projects in remote areas such as Standard Gauge Railway, Mwalimu Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Project and others so as to broaden your base," Jafo advised.

He said large numbers of youths who are employed in these projects have no bank accounts hence need to be recruited. "You need to bring this group of people into main stream banking to enhance financial inclusion," he added saying there are many other projects with large following of youths with no formal banking services.

According to him, even though the bank's stronghold is Dar es Salaam Region, he has learnt that DCB has done nothing to attract new customers from the city's maga projects like Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Project.

"DMDP is a project implemented through 660bn/- with more than 2,000 direct and indirect workers recruited. They are all paid salaries but you have done nothing to convince them open accounts with the bank through which their salaries will be paid," Jafo charged. He also dared DCB management to seize the opportunity being provided by the commercial capital's municipalities in using the bank to collect revenue.

Bitcoin faithful say this time is different after price increase

NEW YORK

Bitcoin advocates say this time will be different as the virtual coin surges back to price levels last seen in the wake of the collapse of the cryptocurrency market bubble almost three years ago.

The largest cryptocurrency has jumped about 30% this month and topped \$13,852—the high from June 2019—on Wednesday. It's now at levels not seen since January 2018, when it was on the way down just weeks after climbing to an all-time high of about \$20,000. Bitcoin later dropped to as low as \$3,136 in December 2018.

Proponents of digital assets say the recent rally isn't another speculative frenzy among individual investors. They point to rising institutional interest, PayPal Holding Inc.'s decision to allow customers access to cryptocurrencies and the use of JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s JPM Coin to make a payment for the first time.

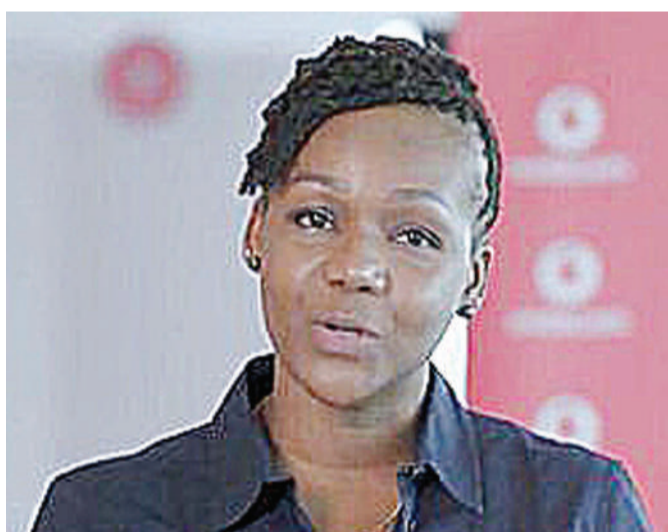
"This rally seems to be more driven by allocators with larger balances getting involved, rather than a flurry of retail investors," said Nic Carter, co-founder of researcher Coin Metrics.

The largest cryptocurrency spiked above \$13,000 last week for the first time in over a year following an announcement from PayPal that customers will be allowed to buy and spend digital currencies on the platform. Bulls cheered the development, with many saying the move suggests greater mainstream acceptance.

"PayPal's announcement will help to educate millions of people about the value of Bitcoin and digital assets to their lives, their wealth and freedom," said Guy Hirsch, managing director of US for the eToro trading platform. "We are very excited about the news and looking forward to seeing other major payments apps get into the space." PayPal's news came amid several signs that traditional financial groups are leaning into cryptocurrencies.

Fidelity Investments launched a Bitcoin fund over the summer, becoming one of the most prominent firms yet to express interest in crypto. Public companies Square Inc. and MicroStrategy Inc. have also recently invested in the coin. The European Central Bank said it will start experimenting with a digital version of the euro, as China continues to ramp up testing of a digital yuan.

While some countries have started to express interest in creating digital currencies, there is little evidence to support claims that crypto will displace fiat currencies anytime soon. Mike Novogratz, founder and chief executive officer of Galaxy Investment Partners, argues that the token serves as "digital gold" and is a long way from everyday use.



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation's Director, Rosalynn Mworira.

By The Banker Reporter

WALKING the talk as the market's largest telecommunications company with billions of shillings invested in science, technology and innovation, Vodacom Tanzania Plc has bankrolled Young Scientist Tanzania competition with a 20m/- funding.

Vodacom Tanzania Foundation's Director, Rosalynn Mworira said in Dar es Salaam this week that for the past 20 or so, Vodacom Tanzania Plc has played a key role in supporting development of the innovation ecosystem in the country.

Mworira said the telco has been fostering closer linkages between technology and the innovation ecosystem in the country within its longstanding innovation hubs, industry partnerships programs. She said because of the strong belief in science, technology and innovation, the telco continues to support initiatives such as the recently held Young Scientist Tanzania 2020 by sponsoring awards in the social science category.

"From mobile financial services to interesting bundles and packages people can now do more than just connect. Innovation in service and products leveraging on our vast digi-

tal infrastructure has expanded services to include financial payment systems through M-pesa, agriculture through M-Kulima, education through our digital learning platforms like Instant Schools," Mworira explained.

The VFT Director further added that the telco's management is proud to be an enabler in the innovation ecosystem where it supports and trains young talented minds through initiatives such as Code Like a Girl Program which is offered in partnership with Dlab.

"We help nurture and transform young girls' minds all over the country, empowering them to take an active role in innovative initiatives and science that solve problems in their communities," she added noting that innovation is central to translating scientific knowledge and technological expertise into useful products solving various social challenges.

According to UNESCO Investing in science, technology and innovation is essential for economic development and social progress. Research and development can foster sustainable development by building greener, more inclusive societies. This year's Young Scientist Tanzania co-winner of the

Vodacom backs Young Scientist competitions in Tanzania, gives a 20m/- award

social science category, Mary Mshana, a form five student at Mawelewele Secondary School in Iringa Region said she was inspired to join the program to improve her quality of work. Her winning innovation focused on accessing the impact of free education on quality education.

"I was encouraged to enter the competition in order to boost my thinking capacity on how to prepare a good and quality project that impacts society," Mshana said while adding that "The aim of our research which was conducted here in Iringa Municipality, was to provide insights to the government and education stakeholders towards providing effective strategies for better implementation of education policies."

In second place, co-winner a form five student at Kisimiri Secondary School in Arusha Region, Calister Sanga said her reason for joining the Young Scientist Tanzania 2020, was to get a better platform of identifying and solving different problems in the community.

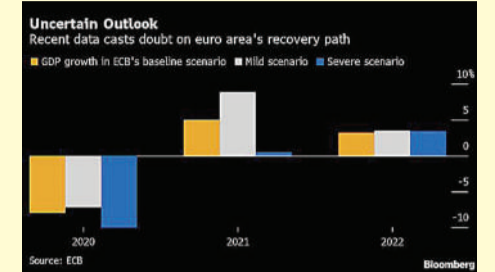
"In our research titled, 'The Sounds of Beautiful Birds at Ngarenanyukiwe,' we looked at challenges facing girls in this village where our school is lo-

cated. We sought to identify the challenges and analyze reasons behind them. These included female genital mutilation, early marriages and discrimination caused by a patriarchy system, cultural traditions, illiteracy and poverty," Sanga said.

In third place, co-winners Gloria Mbonde and Zawadi Mkai who are form four students at Kikuyu Secondary School in Dodoma Region, said they were inspired to join the YST 2020 to learn how they can be more creative in solving different problems facing society.

"Our project titled 'Viability of Using Games in Teaching and Learning,' looked at how to make students more active in their studies using games making the whole learning process interesting and interactive. Application of this creativity pays off as it can be used anywhere, even in places without modern technology such as television and radio," Mbonde said.

She commended Vodacom for playing a crucial role towards providing opportunities to development of ideas and practical implementation through technological solutions which results into economic empowerment of communities as social-development challenges are addressed.



ECB graph.

ECB stimulus signal sought

FRANKFURT

The European Central Bank will get much of the evidence it needs this week to justify adding more monetary stimulus as the resurgent coronavirus rampages across the continent.

While economists and investors don't expect policy action at Thursday's virtual meeting, they do want a signal from President Christine Lagarde that more support will almost certainly be coming before the end of the year.

Confidence gauges are set to show businesses and consumers turning despondent as a second wave of the pandemic forces renewed lockdowns. Economic data will highlight falling prices and elevated unemployment, and the sole bright spot – a strong summer rebound in gross domestic product – is already out of date.

"The market will probably be disappointed if it doesn't get a clear hint at more action in December," said Gilles Moec, chief economist at AXA SA. "By acting now the ECB would show determination, but we have some major sources of uncertainty."

A key calculation facing officials is how much stimulus the economy needs, and in that regard they have time to think. With more than half the L35 trillion-euro (\$1.6 trillion) pandemic bond-buying program still unspent, they have plenty of firepower, and can accelerate purchases if needed. Economists predict another 500 billion euros will be added in December, when policy makers will have updated economic forecasts that include a first projection for 2023.

They might also have a clearer view of critical issues by then, including the US presidential election, any UK trade deal with the European Union, the impact of Covid-19 containment measures, and progress toward a vaccine.

Investors are likewise betting on more ECB bond-buying by the end of the year. Yields have plunged, and S&P Global Ratings unexpectedly raised the outlook for Italy's government debt on Friday, highlighting the positive impact of central-bank support.

Lagarde has already warned that the economy is in deeper trouble than hoped. While the ECB's current projections assume an uneven recovery, she said this month that the resurgent spread of the virus has come sooner than scientists expected and that is "not a good omen."

Purchasing managers' indexes show growth has slowed dramatically since the summer, and could shrink in the final three months of the year. France's private-sector output contracted in October, and German business confidence fell for the first time in six months. Spain and Italy are being battered as tourists are kept away.

More bond purchases by the ECB can't do much to revive demand during the pandemic, but they can keep markets stable as governments raise spending and debt burdens to levels unprecedented in peacetime to protect jobs.

"Further bond purchases will not solve the subdued outlook for inflation and the wider economy," said Piet Christiansen, chief strategist at Danske Bank. "The most important task for the ECB is to backstop and support fiscal stimulus packages by resolving potential market fragmentation."

Even when this phase of the crisis is past though, ECB officials will need to address their primary mandate: price stability. They've fallen short of their inflation goal of just-under 2% for years, and the rate has been below zero since August.

Chief economist Philip Lane, who writes the monetary policy proposals, has made clear that he intends to rectify that as soon as possible, returning price growth to the pre-pandemic path.

Mkuranga DC demands reversal of DED's decision on fishing seasons

By Beatrice Philemon

A decision by the Mkuranga District Executive Director to restrict fishing activities along the Indian Ocean to between February and April annually has come under attack, described as abnormal and worth rescinding.

Mkuranga District Commissioner, Philberto Sanga said he is not aware of the abnormal fishing season hence has promised to follow up on the matter and if necessary overturn the decision. "Thank you for the information because I was not aware of this, next week I will visit them and a face to face discussion to see how we can address it," Sanga told The Guardian when asked about complaints by artisanal fishermen that the restrictions are denying them necessary catches.

The artisanal fishermen group Chairman, Said Msati from Mdimni Village had earlier last week requested the DC to intervene because fishing communities are struggling to survive because the approved fishing season coincides with storms and chilly weather.

"We can practically not do any fishing during February and April because the seas is rough with regular high speed winds which makes it difficult for us to locate and catch fish which also disappear into hibernation," Msati said.

The Mkuranga DC said he will also consult with the DED to find out reasons behind such abnormal restrictions because fishing is one of the main sources of revenue to Indian Ocean



Artisanal fishermen offload their catch.

bordering district which has limited farming activities.

"I am also aware of the impacts of climate change on fisheries and marine resources hence the fishermen's concern are very genuine and need urgent measures to address," Sanga noted while promising to also make sure that mitigation measures are taken to reverse effects of

climate change in Mkuranga. He mentioned some of the seabed villages that have been decimated by climate change effects as Nasibugani and Mavunja which are largely inhabited by fishing and farming communities.

Presenting the over 400 artisanal fishermen's complaints on the fishing restrictions, Msati said they want the district

officials to allow them conduct their activities between July and September when the ocean waters are calm.

"During the period July to September, the ocean is calm and waters are warmer which enables us to easily get fish because large numbers come to the surface," he noted while stressing that fishing during the rough

windy season has also caused them loss of lives and property in terms of fishing boats.

The 52 year old veteran fisherman further warned that the Mkuranga District restrictions have forced many to abandon fishing as an occupation hence worsening the poverty situation among fishing communities along the Indian Ocean eastern

Sub-Saharan Africa mergers and acquisition transactions total US\$16bn in third quarter

DUBAI

Refinitiv today released the investment banking analysis for the Sub-Saharan African for the first nine months of 2020. According to the report, investment banking fees in Sub-Saharan Africa reached an estimated US\$40.9 million during the third quarter of 2020, less than half the value recorded during the second quarter of 2020 and the lowest quarterly total since Q1 2005.

Around US\$264.6 million worth of fees were earned in the region during the first nine months of 2020, down 38% from last year and a seven-year low with fee declines recorded across M&A advisory, debt capital markets underwriting, and syndicated lending.

Advisory fees earned from completed M&A transactions generated US\$51.4 million, down 71% year-on-year to the lowest first nine-month level since 2003. Debt capital markets underwriting fees declined 19% to US\$46.6 million, marking the lowest first nine-month total for bond fees in the region since 2016, while syndicated lending fees fell 35% to a six-year low of US\$105.2 million. Equity capital markets underwriting fees totalled US\$61.4 million, more than double the value recorded during the same period in 2019.

Government & Agency fees accounted for 22% of total investment banking fees earned in the region so far during 2020, up from 12% during the same period last year. South Africa generated the most fees in the region, a total of US\$160.2 million accounting for 61%, followed by Nigeria with 12%. Standard Chartered earned the most investment banking fees in the region during the first nine months of 2020, a total of US\$23.4 million, or an 8.8% share of the total fee pool.

Mergers & acquisitions

The value of announced M&A transactions with any Sub-Saharan African involvement reached US\$16.0 billion during the first nine months of 2020, 74% less than the value recorded during the same period last year when Nasper's US\$35.9 billion internet assets spin-off boosted merger activity to an all-time high. The value of deals recorded so far this year is the lowest year-to-date total since 2004. The number of deals declined 11% over the same period to a seven-year low.

The value of deals with a Sub-Saharan African target declined 58% to a seventeen-year low of US\$7.9 billion, as domestic M&A within the region declined 69% from last year and the combined value of inbound deals reached just US\$5.2 billion, the lowest first nine-month level in five years.

The largest deal involving a Sub-Saharan African target was announced at the start of September - US pharmaceuticals firm Mylan agreed to buy the thrombosis business from South African drugmaker Aspen Pharmacare for US\$758.5 million. Deals in the energy and power sector accounted for 26% of Sub-Saharan African target M&A activity during the first nine months of 2020, followed by materials (23%) and financials (14%). South Africa was the most targeted nation, followed by Uganda and Senegal.

Outbound M&A reached a four-year high of US\$4.6 billion during the first nine months of 2020, 80% more than the value recorded during the same period in 2019, despite an 11% decline in the number of deals. The value was boosted by Angolan state-owned Sonangol's purchase of PT Ventures from Africatel Holdings for US\$1 billion and Templar Investments' US\$1 billion offer for Jindal Steel's Oman unit.

With advisory work on eleven deals worth a combined US\$1.7 billion, JP Morgan holds to the top spot in the financial advisor ranking for deals with any Sub-Saharan African involvement during the first nine months of 2020.

Standard Bank, Mastercard and Google collaborate to help SMEs

JOHANNESBURG

As Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) accelerate digital transformation efforts in response to the pandemic, Standard Bank, Mastercard and Google announced a collaboration to help them move their businesses online, accept digital payments and attract more customers.

Through the collaboration, SMEs can get free access to Standard Bank's SimplyBlu, an all-in-one e-commerce solution powered by Mastercard Payment Gateway Services, plus free Google Ads to the value of R500. These capabilities have been packaged as a bundled solution to help support business owners to tackle the economic challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"As one of South Africa's leading financial service providers, Standard Bank is acutely aware that small businesses play an important role in driving economic growth and generating employment opportunities. Our strategic relationships with leading brands such as Mastercard and Google ensure that we are able to support small businesses and offer our clients tangible benefits that add real value," says Nelisa Zulu from Standard Bank.

Launched in 2019, SimplyBlu enables SMEs to create an online presence through the plug-and-play e-commerce store builder, which is interfaced with an instant online checkout. Taking skill levels and resource constraints into account, the platform has been designed in such a way that users can set it up and start accepting payments in a matter of minutes.

"We recognise the overwhelming pressure that small business owners are currently facing and are commit-

ted to supporting them through Covid-19 and beyond as they adapt to a new way of operating and evolved customer needs. Through this collaboration, our mission is to help as many SMEs with tools and support to expand their digital capabilities and take their operations to the next level," says Suzanne Morel, country manager, Mastercard, South Africa.

With Google Ads, SMEs can get access to a digital marketing channel that will further help them in driving increased website visits to grow online sales, bookings or mailing list signups; more phone calls and customer interest queries; as well as more in store visits.

"Small businesses have been hardest hit during this period. Many of them have had to figure out quickly how to pivot their operations to a 'digital-first' approach. Yet, there remains a gap between those who can access these online opportunities and those who can't. That's the gap we want to bridge with this collaboration," says Alistair Mokoena, Google South Africa Country Director.

Rise of e-commerce
E-Commerce has been a boon for small businesses over the last few months, largely due to consumer's rapid adoption of online shopping and digital services as they opt to shop from the safety of their homes.

"E-commerce is a powerful tool for small businesses - be it retail operators or merchants offering services ranging from home maintenance to professional services. Our SimplyBlu platform has seen over 100 percent growth during the Covid-19 period, with business owners increasingly realising the benefits of operating their businesses on online platforms," says Zulu.



Standard Bank's Nelisa Zulu.

NEWSINDEPTH

KCB named Kenya's safest bank in new global survey

NAIROBI

KCB Group has been named as the Safest Bank in the country by Global Finance rankings. The 29th annual World's Safest Banks ranking recognises KCB among 14 African banks in the list consisting

of lenders from 112 countries. KCB was the only bank in Kenya that made the list of safest banks globally.

The Safest Banks by Country were selected through an evaluation of long-term foreign currency ratings - from Moody's,

Standard & Poor's and Fitch - and the total assets of the 1,000 largest banks worldwide. The agencies ratings reflect the position in loss-absorbing capital buffers, possible risks in relation to asset quality and profitability and adoption of stronger resolution plans in the

event of bank failure.

KCB was also ranked at position 667 globally in The Banker's Top 1,000 World Banks ranking for 2020, climbing 40 places in the survey that shows stabilisation in the finances of the majority of African major lenders. The

performance is an improvement from position 717 last year in the ranking, which tracks the health and wealth of the global banking sector. In 2018, KCB was ranked 809.

KCB was rated number one in eastern Africa and was top

10 among African banks in key parameters such as liquidity, growth, profitability, operational efficiency and soundness, reaffirming its strong credentials.

The survey analysed close to 2,000 financial institutions globally, based on 2019 full-year

financial results. Global Finance said KCB's improved ranking is due to its strong capital base, which is well within both internal and regulatory limits, solid business performance and a well-established corporate and retail franchise.

President Magufuli's courage, integrity behind Twiga Minerals 'blue-chip'

By Finnigan wa Simbeye

A section of the public has commended President John Magufuli's courage and honesty in brokering a deal with the world's largest gold miner, Barrick Gold Corporation that resulted in the demise of Acacia Mining Plc and the birth of Twiga Minerals Corporation.

Twiga Minerals which was established jointly by Treasury and Barrick Gold last year replaced the defunct Acacia which was the latter's subsidiary listed at London Stock Exchange. Treasury has a 16 percent stake in TMC.

"The fact that this company is already making profit and paying dividend to Treasury is a big achievement by President Magufuli administration thanks to his courage and integrity," said Dr Petrol Mwachade from Oslo University in an emailed statement.

Dr Mwachade said taking on the Canadian based miner which has the financial muscles to pay the best lawyers to contest any attempt to challenge the 1990s signed mineral development agreement, needed a leader with extra courage and determination.

"Magufuli is a kind of new breed of African leaders that this continent urgently needs to address imbalances resource extraction contracts signed with multinational corporations many of which deny the public a fair share of revenue from their resources," he pointed out.



Barrick Gold Corporation's president and CEO, Mark Bristow talking to journalists last week on the impressive performance of Twiga Minerals Corporation in Dar es Salaam. File Photo.

Dr Mwachade's observation was backed by veteran gold miner based in Chunya District of Songwe Region, Mzee Yusufu Idd who noted that President Magufuli's firm stance is now earning the country billions in revenue.

"He is an honest and patriotic leader who is always putting national interest first which is uncommon among many African leaders," said Mzee Idd who also dismissed some opposition leaders who had threatened the government that challenging Barrick's MDA which was signed by another government would lead to a legal dispute to be decided at international arbitration institutions.

"Some of these opposition leaders were

issuing threats against the president's move to ban any mineral sand exports until such time that a legal agreement on revenue sharing is reached. These people were wrong as now a new joint company has been established," said Mzee Idd.

In March 2017, President Magufuli banned the exporting of mineral concentrates and ores because of alleged cheating by Acacia Mining. Over 270 containers loaded with mineral sand and ores comprised of metallic minerals such as gold, copper, nickel and silver were detained at Dar es Salaam Port.

Dr Magufuli then formed a probe team to investigate what exactly was being shipped by Acacia in the containers.

The Presidential Commission's findings were shocking as the cheating was of international standards.

Among other things, the probe team's report said large quantities of gold between 671 grams per ton and 2,375g/t or an equivalent of on average 1,400g/t were found in the samples drawn from the containers. The report said as much as 28 kilograms of gold in a container with 20 tons of gold ore were present hence for the 277 detained containers at Dar Port, it translated into approximately 7.8 tons of gold worth 676bn/- or US\$307.2m at the time.

On copper, the report stated that 277 containers had 1440.4 tons which was

worth 17.9bn/- although shipping documents indicated that the average rate of copper was only four tons of copper in each container, an equivalent of 1,108 tons worth 13.6bn/- for all the containers.

A deal was then reached between the government and Barrick's negotiating teams which ended up with a tax backlog of US\$300m which the miner has since paid. "My government's objective was to see the country benefit from its resources by sharing fairly with investors."

With this agreement, Barrick is welcome to mine anywhere in Tanzania and be our good ambassadors to other international investors to consider our country as the best destination to come and invest," Dr Magufuli said recently while receiving a US\$40 million dividend pay cheque from the mining conglomerate.

Presenting Twiga Minerals third quarter results last week, Barrick's President and CEO, Mark Bristow announced an interim dividend of US\$250 million (over 579.37bn/-) to be paid to its shareholders for the period.

Bristow said in the last business agreement that Barrick signed with the government, the miner accepted to pay Treasury US\$300 million to settle past backlog of payments owed by the defunct Acacia Mining Plc.

"In addition to the first US\$100 million tranche of the settlement, Barrick's assets in Tanzania have since paid more than US\$200 million to the government in taxes and

royalties," he said adding that the fact that so much value has been delivered in such a short time is a tribute to the power of what he believes is the first partnership of its kind in Africa.

"With the framework agreement now fully implemented, we have settled most of the landowner disputes and are well on our way to ensure that we are fully compliant with environmental permits as well as with local content legislation," the Barrick chief added.

He revealed that a rehabilitated and re-energized North Mara is ahead of plan in the year to date and Bulyanhulu has resumed underground mining operations and is scheduled to restart processing of underground ore by the end of 2020.

"We are gearing up to potentially make North Mara and Bulyanhulu into a combined tier one complex, capable of producing at least 500,000 ounces of gold annually for more than 10 years in the lower half of the industry's cost profile," Bristow explained while noting that the Canadian based miner will also be looking to expand the life of operations as well as other new Tanzanian opportunities within the Twiga framework.

It was formed when Barrick took over the operations of the defunct Acacia Mining in September last year and subsequently entered into a framework agreement with the government to settle disputes over payments and ownership. Treasury has a 16 percent stake at Twiga Minerals.

Bank Zero reveals account pricing

JOHANNESBURG

Bank Zero has announced its account pricing as it edges closer to launch. The mutual bank is currently up and running in a closed beta for a small group of customers.

As widely telegraphed (it's in the name!), the bank will have no monthly account fee. However, to ensure customers actually use their 'check' (sic) accounts so that they do not become dormant, a fee of R5 a month is charged if there are no transactions in six months.

Bank Zero says "basic banking should be free and extras should be paid for - not the other way round." Typical free transactions, as at other banks, include payments to other Bank Zero customers, transfers as well as card swipes.

However, it says it is "the first bank in the country" to not charge for EFT payments and not charge for debit orders. Most accounts at other banks - which charge monthly account fees, some in the hundreds of rands - bundle a certain number of 'free' debit orders and EFT payments. Additionally, prepaid airtime, data and electricity purchases via the bank's app are free.

Clever positioning
It has cleverly positioned fees for withdrawing cash, send-money transactions (to people who are not Bank Zero customers), as well as balance enquiries at point-of-sale or other bank ATMs as "third party costs which are passed on to you."

A so-called 'nuisance fee' of R2 is charged when a transaction is declined for insufficient funds, or exceeding card limits, for three incorrect PINs, or if a new card is used before activating it (or old deactivated card is used). Card personalisation and delivery to a Clicks store will cost R79, while the same service delivered to your door will be R139 in major centres (R179 for outlying ones).

Disputing a card transaction (chargeback) will cost R30, while disputing or stopping a debit order will be R8. Customers can also receive money via a unique QR code. Here, the fee is 0.5% of the amount received. For example, a R1 000 payment will attract a fee of R5.

It says this "brings relief in the micro-payments space for specifically businesses, which now have an answer to the high rates typically paid when accepting online card payments - just add your unique QR code to that invoice or on your online checkout screen or in your physical store." Importantly, both the receiver and person paying must be Bank Zero customers. It is clear it plans to use this as a linchpin to grow its base.

Statements, which the bank says will run from the first to the last day of the month (not an arbitrary period) are e-mailed to you and are downloadable from the app for free for three months. Thereafter, these cost R10 each.

Opening an additional 'check' account on (either) your (personal or business) profile



Bank Zero's co-founder Michael Jordaan.

costs R100, but the account itself has no monthly admin charges. Additional savings or notice accounts can be opened for free.

Competitive environment
The new bank enters a fiercely competitive market, where obvious comparisons will be drawn to TymeBank and African Bank which also charge no monthly account fee, as well as ultra-low-cost options from Capitec, Absa, FNB, Nedbank, Standard Bank and Old Mutual.

In the past few years, there has been significant downward pressure on pricing, with a bifurcation in the market with lower-priced accounts trending towards free and 'private banking' (and faux private banking) account fee ratcheting significantly higher. The bank says: "Although there have been some

shifts in the industry towards bringing down the costs for individuals, the focus has only been on entry-level accounts, with customers then forced to pay more should they want to upgrade to better functionality. With Bank Zero the same advanced payment functionality and real-time control are available to all customers."

Bank Zero maintains that "businesses still pay far too high basic banking fees." Its basic, one-page pricing structure applies to both individuals and businesses. Currently, it supports private companies (Pty) Ltds, close corporations and sole proprietors. Trusts and partnerships will be included in time. The most interesting (and important!) comparisons are yet to be made with rival business bank account offerings.

Telkom implores Icasa to probe Vodacom, MTN spectrum deals

JOHANNESBURG

Communications regulator Icasa is putting the cart before the horse in forging ahead with plans to licence access to new spectrum bands before it has concluded an inquiry into the mobile broadband services market.

That's the view of Telkom group executive for regulatory affairs and government relations Siyabonga Mahlangu who said an Icasa inquiry, which kicked off with live-streamed public hearings on Monday, must scrutinise Vodacom and MTN's network-sharing deals with Rain, Cell C and Liquid Telecom and their impact on the market. And it must do so before it licences 4G and 5G spectrum bands, which it is expected to do by March 2021.

"Competition is not working," Mahlangu said. "The structural problems in the mobile market are entrenched. Effective regulatory measures are needed to prevent the problem from getting worse." He said Icasa's inquiry "must take precedence over the licensing of spectrum."

His request to Icasa comes after Telkom earlier this month said it had approached the Competition Tribunal to object specifically to Vodacom's roaming agreements with Rain. That move was surprising given that the Competition Commission had previously sanctioned the arrangement.

Mahlangu on Monday accused South Africa's two largest mobile operators of creating "sophisticated structures to subvert regulations" through agreements such as Vodacom's deal with Rain (for additional national 4G coverage), Vodacom's deal with Liquid Telecom (for a new 5G network roll-out) and MTN's deal with Liquid Telecom (also for additional national 4G coverage). Instead of "roaming" agreements, which is how Vodacom and

MTN have described these deals, they amount to "spectrum trading," he said.

'Alignment'
Not only should the Icasa inquiry take precedence over the licensing of spectrum and the invitations to apply (ITAs) for that spectrum, but it should also closely scrutinise the implications of these network-sharing deals, Mahlangu said. (MTN and Vodacom are both scheduled to make presentations to the Icasa hearing.)

"We know the ITAs (for spectrum to commercial operators and a planned wholesale open-access network) have been issued. But there has to be alignment between the outcomes of this process and the licensing of spectrum," he said. "If you finish this inquiry later than the (licensing of spectrum), you will see a market determined by the outcomes of the ITAs for the next 20 years."

In his presentation, Mahlangu said that between them MTN and Vodacom control more than 70% of the market in terms of both subscribers and revenue and more than 80% when it comes to operating earnings. The two companies have "control over the best sites, have preferential spectrum assignments, have access to distribution channels and there is a lack of pro-competitive regulation to keep them honest."

"Telkom remains the only most viable challenger to these two operators, at least if you are looking at infrastructure-based competition. The other players have coalesced around the two operators. Yet Telkom, being the challenger, does not have sub-1GHz spectrum (useful for providing wide coverage and good in-building signals). On top of that, Telkom has to contend with the fact that these incumbents have access to additional spectrum through network-sharing deals... Although labelled as facilities-

leasing coupled with roaming, they are not that. They are means by which the big operators can access extra spectrum and therefore solidify their positions in the market.

"Because of these spectrum-trading deals that have been entered into in the form of these network-sharing deals, it is no longer important to focus only on spectrum ownership. It is important to focus on access to spectrum, which will determine the type of competition we will see in the market," Mahlangu said.

Speaking on behalf of Telkom at the same presentation, Mark Williams, MD of consultancy Berkeley Research Group, said arrangements such as the one between Vodacom and Rain and MTN and Liquid Telecom allow the two big incumbents to "extend their lead". In effect, Williams said, the deals "transfer smaller operators' capacity to the incumbents and constrain those smaller operators to niche areas of the market." "This has profound implications for the way competition works. It has implications, too, for the ITA: Vodacom and MTN can access more spectrum than is included in their licences, before the upcoming auction. This should have been factored into the design of the ITA," he said. "Failure to manage spectrum properly will distort competition in LTE and 5G."

In addition, Icasa should ensure there is "equitable" access to high sites to ensure effective infrastructure-based competition. "There is a highly unbalanced market for sites - Vodacom and MTN are far ahead of the other MNOs. Commercial negotiations are one-sided, leaving smaller players at a disadvantage. Core problems relate to 'feet dragging' by incumbent MNOs, and operational terms are worse for third-party access seekers than for their own internal businesses."

WORLD

AMERICA'S CHOICE 2020:
President Trump or Biden's big economic
challenge: Millions of struggling Americans

WASHINGTON

THE winner of the race for the White House will face a generation of low-to-middle income Americans struggling to get back to work because of a health crisis not seen in more than 100 years.

Whether it's President Donald Trump or Democratic challenger and former Vice President Joe Biden, the reality is grim: about half of the 22 million who lost their jobs during the pandemic are still out of work.

New hiring is slowing, dimming prospects for the low-wage workers hit hardest by job losses. Infections of the virus that killed more than 225,000 Americans are rising to new records. Hotels, transportation companies and food providers warn that more layoffs are coming, and the government aid that helped many pay the bills is long gone.

Securing a future for a vast, growing underclass "is the most important challenge America faces over the next few years, 10 years, 20 years," said Gene Ludwig, a former comptroller of the currency under President Bill Clinton and author of "The Vanishing American Dream," a book about the economic challenges facing lower and middle income Americans.

"We cannot sustain a democratic so-

ciety that has these kinds of numbers of low and middle income people that aren't able to have a hope for the American dream and live decently."

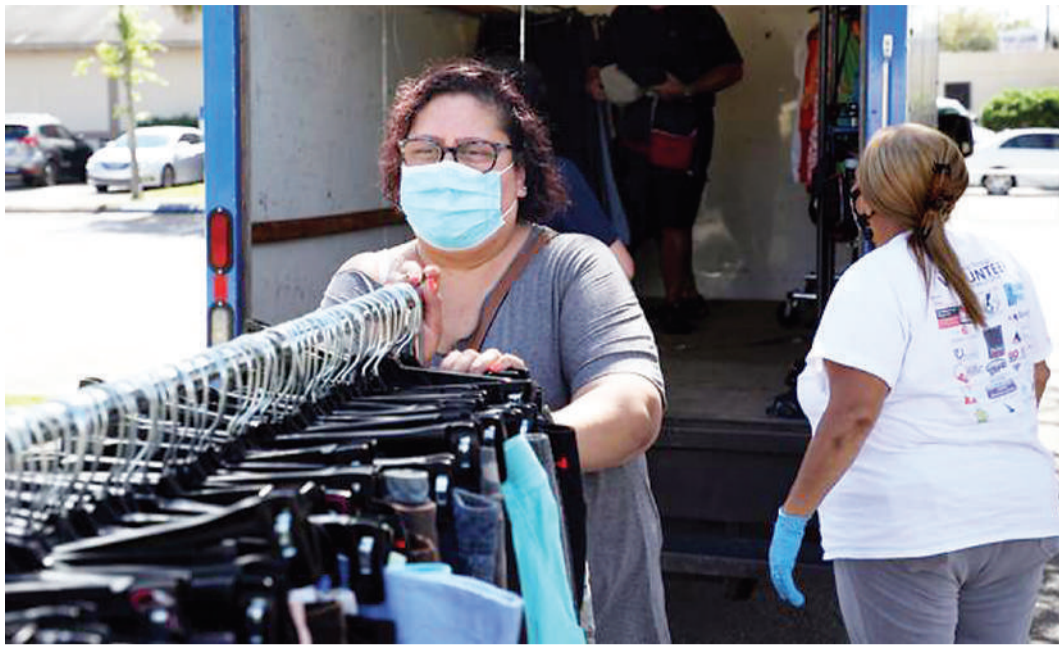
Congressional Democrats and the Trump administration have been trying to negotiate a \$2 trillion coronavirus aid bill, but many Senate Republicans object to the cost and question whether more stimulus is needed. A deal may not be reached until early 2021.

SAVINGS DRY UP

That's going to be too late for some.

Direct cash payments and enhanced unemployment benefits established by the CARES Act, which added \$600 a week to state unemployment benefits, lifted more Americans out of poverty in April even as unemployment soared, according to research here by the Center on Poverty & Social Policy at Columbia University.

People receiving the enhanced benefits were able to spend more, build savings and pay off debt, according to an analysis by the JPMorgan Chase Institute here. But after the benefits expired at the end of July, poverty is once again on the rise - with the monthly poverty rate reaching 16.7% in September from 15% in February, according to the Columbia study. After a decade of decline, hunger is rising nationwide.



Lisandra Bonilla, who was furloughed from her job at an employment agency due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, helps set up the 'It Takes a Village' clothing and provisions outreach event, part of the extensive volunteer work she does, in Kissimmee, Florida, U.S., October 24, 2020. Picture taken October 24, 2020. REUTERS

Lisandra Bonilla, 46, saved roughly a third of the enhanced unemployment benefits she received after she was furloughed in late March from her job at an employment agency in Kissimmee, Florida. "I had saved a lot because I didn't know what was going to happen," she said.

It was smart planning: in August her benefits were cut to \$275 a week before taxes, the maximum in Florida, down from more than \$800.

Bonilla returned to work part-time in late September, but now she is struggling to pay the bills on half her previous pay, and fears her savings will be gone by December.

If she isn't hired full time soon, she needs to find another job. "We're trying to shovel ourselves out of the hole, but at the same time the hole is getting bigger," said Wendy Edelberg, director of the Hamilton Project and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. Two factors are particularly worrying, she said. More than 420,000 small businesses shuttered between March and mid-summer, which is more than three times the typical pace, she estimates. And permanent layoffs are also on the rise, hitting 3.8 million in September from 1.3 million in February - similar to levels seen before the 2008 election.

THE LONGTERM UNEMPLOYMENT TRAP

Bishop Donald Harper has been on more than 50 job interviews since he was furloughed in March.

Harper, 55, a veteran chef, most recently oversaw five restaurants at an Orlando resort. But with occupancy still low, it's not clear when he'll get back to work. Applications for jobs at super markets or in health care have also been fruitless.

"I can do anything and everything," said Harper, who also serves as a bishop for a nondenominational church. He is struggling to pay for food and utilities on \$275-a-week unemployment, and three months behind on his \$1,900 a month rent.

"I don't want to be homeless," said Harper, who lives with two children ages 10 and 13. He has reached out to more than 20 groups seeking rental assistance, with no luck.

The United States has 2.4 million and growing "long-term" unemployed, officially defined as those who have been out of work for 27 weeks or more. Getting everyone back to work is crucial, but economists say these job seekers are at greater risk of dropping out of the labor market or taking lower paying jobs.

Agencies

Father of Black man killed by Philadelphia police urges calm after more unrest

PHILADELPHIA

THE family of a Philadelphia Black man shot dead by police appealed on Tuesday for calm as a second night of protests over his death brought renewed violence, with clashes between police and demonstrators and some looting of stores.

Tension has gripped the streets of Philadelphia since Monday's deadly police shooting of Walter Wallace, 27, who was armed with a knife and described by relatives as suffering from a mental breakdown, in a confrontation with law enforcement.

Hundreds of marchers demanded racial justice with some jeering and skirmishing with police

through the night and into early Wednesday, as Philadelphia became the latest flash point in the United States on issues of race and police use of force.

Tuesday's rallies began peacefully but grew confrontational as darkness fell, just as on the previous day.

Police turned out in force to cordon off a West Philadelphia commercial district that was looted the previous night.

But looters broke into business elsewhere, including in the city's Port Richmond section, aerial news video from WPVI television showed. At times, police in riot gear shoved protesters back from barricade lines.

The dead man's father, Walter



Wallace Sr., appealed to people to "stop the violence" out of respect for his son and family.

"I don't condone no violence, tearing up the city, looting of the stores, and all this chaos," he told reporters and a gathering of people. "It's an SOS to help, not to hurt."

He also called for justice in a case still being investigated.

The unrest in Philadelphia fol-

lows that in other cities where police have killed Black men.

Tensions have stayed high at demonstrations across the nation since the May 25 death of George Floyd after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

New York police arrested about 30 people as hundreds of protesters took to the streets of Brooklyn late on Tuesday following the Philadelphia shooting.

One police officer suffered "non-life threatening" injuries during the protests, a police spokesman said. Police said some of their vehicles were damaged and NBC News reported that someone tried to drive a car through a group of police.

ELECTION BATTLEGROUND

The scene in Philadelphia resembled those in Minneapolis and other cities in recent months: a peaceful protest gives way after dark to looting and clashes with police.

The events have been leveraged for political purposes in the campaign for next Tuesday's presidential election, with liberals arguing for racial justice and police reform while conservatives decry the chaos and property damage.

Philadelphia and its largely minority population ranks as the largest city in Pennsylvania, a crucial battleground state in the race between Republican President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden. Agencies

Erdogan calls for French boycott as row deepens

LONDON

TENSIONS between Turkey and France have stepped up with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan calling for a boycott of French products because of the country's attitude toward radical Islam.

Earlier this month, French teacher Samuel Paty was headed near Paris after having a discussion with pupils about cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, which are considered offensive to Muslims. Those cartoons sparked the deadly attack on the offices of French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in January 2015.

Several people accused of helping Paty's attacker are currently on trial in Paris, reopening the fiercely-contested debate over blasphemy and freedom of speech. After showing the car-

toons to his pupils as part of a discussion on the topic, Paty was murdered.

France, which has Europe's largest Muslim population of around 6 million, is a secular state. President Emmanuel Macron has defended the right to freedom of speech, saying that France "will not give up our cartoons".

That has upset Muslims in many countries and prompted Erdogan to say "what is the problem this person called Macron has with Islam and Muslims? Macron needs mental treatment", which caused France to withdraw its ambassador to Turkey.

According to Turkish government statistics, France is Turkey's 10th largest source of imports, but now the Turkish leader is calling for a boycott.

"Never give credit to French-



labeled goods, don't buy them," he said, calling the treatment of Muslims "a lynch campaign similar to that against Jews in Europe before World War II", and urging European leaders to "tell the French president to stop his hate campaign".

His calls for a boycott have had some impact in Muslim coun-

tries, with protests taking place in Bangladesh, Iraq, Libya and Syria, and the removal from sale of some French products in Qatar, Jordan and Kuwait.

In a tweet, Pakistan's President Imran Khan said Macron was "attacking Islam", but France's European allies have expressed solidarity.

Turkey is not a member of the European Union but shares a land frontier with EU member state Greece, which has been an area of great tension during the ongoing refugee crisis.

Solidarity of allies

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said on social media that "personal insults do not help the positive agenda that the EU wants to pursue with Turkey", while expressing his "full solidarity" with the French leader. Dutch Prime

Minister Mark Rutte also gave Macron's stance his support.

Heiko Maas, the foreign minister of Germany, which has a significant Turkish community, called Erdogan's comments "a particular low point", with government spokesman Steffen Seibert adding that they were "defamatory" and "completely unacceptable".

Tensions between France and Turkey have deeper roots than the Charlie Hebdo incident. As recently as August, France sent a military presence to the Eastern Mediterranean when Turkey began oil and gas exploration in disputed waters.

France temporarily withdrew from its NATO role in Libya, accusing Turkey of breaking arms embargoes on forces involved in the Libyan civil war. The countries also have differing views on the current conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Agencies

China-foreign cooperative parks
a key for economic success

The China-Germany Ecopark is a successful example of the latest generation of China-foreign cooperative industrial parks, which aim to build not only concentrated industrial areas but also livable communities based on the concept of sustainable development.

China established its first industrial park in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province in 1979.

In 1994, the first China-foreign cooperative industrial park, the China-Singapore industrial park, was established in Suzhou, East China's Jiangsu Province. The move upgraded China's industrial parks to a new technological advanced level through international cooperation.

As of 2018, about 5,000 foreign companies from more than 70 countries and regions have registered and operated in the industrial park in Suzhou, and more than 500 Chinese and foreign enterprises have set up research and development centers in the park, the park revealed in May 2019 when it celebrated the 25th anniversary of its establishment.

The park has received \$31.5 billion in foreign investment and realized a total import and export volume of more than \$1 trillion over the past 25 years as of 2019.

The Suzhou Industrial Park has introduced and absorbed international advanced technology and management experiences, implemented an innovation-driven strategy and achieved a leap forward in development.

It has played an important role in promoting mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Singapore, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said in a congratulatory letter to the park.

Lin Yifu, counselor of the State Council and honorary dean of the National School of Development at Peking University, previously told media that an important experience of China's economic success is to use the advantaged technology to promote rapid technological innovation and industrial upgrading in China.

Economic zones and industrial parks play a vital role in the process by helping reduce the cost of technical development and serving as forerunners of economic development, Lin noted.

According to Ministry of Commerce, there are 219 state-level economic development zones covering 31 provinces and regions in China, including 107 in the eastern region, 63 in the central region and 49 in the western region.

According to media reports, more than 22,000 industrial parks of all levels have been established across the country.

With decades of experiences, these parks are exploring new opportunities of international cooperation, along with the Belt and Road Initiative, to help developing countries in Southeast Asia and Africa build parks as well as expanding their own scales and output.

Global Times

Russia approves bill allowing
laws to trump foreign treaties

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S parliament approved a bill yesterday that would give national legislation precedence over international treaties and rulings from international bodies in cases when they conflict with the constitution.

The State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, said in a statement that lawmakers had voted to approve the bill, originally proposed by President Vladimir Putin, in a third reading.

It said the country's legislation would have a "provision stating that the decisions of interstate bodies ... contradicting the constitution of the Russian Federation are not subject to execution in Russia".

To come into force, the bill still needs to be approved by the upper house of parliament and signed by Putin, but it is not expected to be challenged.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said all of Russia's obligations under international treaties remained in force and that Moscow remained fully committed to international law.

Putin first proposed the reform during his state-of-the-nation address in January.

Russia this year adopted sweeping constitutional changes that will allow Putin to run again for president twice when his current term comes to an end in 2024.



President Vladimir Putin

Chinese Embassy in India urges US to stop undermining regional peace, stability

NEW DELHI

THE Chinese Embassy in India on Tuesday urged the United States to "respect facts and truth, abandon the Cold War and the zero-sum mentality, stop hyping up the so-called 'China threat,' and stop the wrong actions that undermine regional peace and stability."

The statement was issued against U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark Esper for openly attacking China during their visit to India to attend the India-U.S. 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

The statement said Pompeo and other senior officials repeated lies, attacked and made allegations against China, vio-

lated the norms of international relations and basic principles of diplomacy, instigated China's relations with other countries in the region, which once again exposed their Cold War mentality and ideological bias.

"The Chinese side expresses its firm opposition to it," it said.

"The U.S. side once again tries to shift the blame onto China on

COVID-19, which is indeed distorting facts to mislead the public," it said, adding that "what China has done and achieved in our fight against the virus are open for all to see."

We hope U.S. politicians could focus on their own epidemic response and saving lives instead of shifting blame on others."

The statement noted that the

so-called "Indo-Pacific strategy" proposed by the United States is to stir up confrontation among different groups and blocs and to stoke geopolitical competition, in a bid to maintain the dominance of the United States, organize closed and exclusive ideological cliques.

China has been advocating that the development of bilat-

eral relations between countries should be conducive to regional peace, stability and development, and not infringe upon the legitimate rights and interests of a third party, the statement said.

Also, noting that the boundary question is a bilateral matter between China and India, the statement said that the two

sides have been discussing disengagement and de-escalation in the border areas through diplomatic and military channels.

"China and India have the wisdom and ability to handle their differences properly. There's no space for a third party to intervene," it added.

Xinhua

All in-person meetings suspended at UN New York headquarters due to COVID-19 infections

UNITED NATIONS

ALL in-person meetings at the UN headquarters in New York were suspended on Tuesday after five diplomats of a country's UN mission tested positive for COVID-19, a UN spokesman said.

"Yesterday, the UN Secretariat was informed by a permanent mission that they had five positive cases among their staff. The UN medical service immediately initiated contact tracing with the full cooperation of the permanent mission. As of now, all in-person meetings have been suspended for today," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, at the regular noon briefing.

Dujarric refused to disclose the country name of the mission. Media reports said earlier that the five infected diplomats are from Niger, a member of the 15-member Security Council that last met in person on Thursday.

Diplomats said people who attended Thursday's meeting were being tested for COVID-19, and an in-person meeting on Syria planned for Tuesday was instead held virtually.

According to Dujarric, there had been 1,300 to 1,400 swipes of ground pass into the UN buildings at its New York headquarters over the last two or three weeks compared to about 11,000 swipes before a work-at-home order

was issued in March.

Volkan Bozkir, president of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, wrote a letter to all member states on Monday evening, saying that the organization's medical unit had suggested the cancellation of in-person conferences on the headquarters on Tuesday.

Bozkir added that the conferences would likely be cancelled pending the outcomes of contact tracing.

Dujarric told Xinhua in an email saying that as of Tuesday afternoon, there had been 132 COVID-19 cases in the entire UN system, including 10 diplomats from relevant countries' UN permanent missions and 45 international staff. When answering the question about how long the lack of any in-person meetings will take place, Dujarric said that "my estimate is that we will continue for a few more days."

He said that for the secretary-general, "it is of foremost importance that staff be safe, that delegates be safe, that you be safe, all those who are coming into the building..."

"I think our staff have done a tremendous job during the lockdown," he added.

On March 12, the first case of COVID-19 at the UN headquarters was reported by a diplomat with the Philippines mission to the UN.

The UN chief on March 13 demanded all UN staff to work remotely from



Photo taken on Oct. 27, 2020 shows the empty lobby cafe at the United Nations headquarters in New York. All in-person meetings at the UN headquarters in New York were suspended on Tuesday due to the infections of COVID-19 by five diplomats of a country's UN mission, a UN spokesman said. (Xinhua)

March 16 to April 12, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 at the UN headquarters in New York. The telecommuting rule has remained unchanged

ever since. The UN Security Council held an in-person meeting on July 14 at UN headquarters in New York, the first of its

kind since mid-March when COVID-19 forced the Council to convene virtually. **Xinhua**

First component of Sputnik V received by 19,000 people in Moscow Region

MOSCOW

ABOUT 19,000 people have been administered the first component of the Sputnik V vaccine in Moscow and the Moscow Region, about 6,500 of whom have already received the second component, Director of the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Healthcare Ministry that developed the vaccine, Alexander Gintsburg said in an interview with the Russia-24 TV channel on Monday.

"To date, about 19,000 people have been inoculated with the first component, and about 6,500 people - with the first and the second component," he said.

The scientist added that side effects observed in the inoculated are "insignificant and fully correspond to the instruction manual for this preparation."

"Sputnik V" ("Gam-COVID-vac") was developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center and passed all clinical trials.

This is a two-component vaccine and should be administered twice. Repeat vaccination is recommended after a three-to-four-week interval. According to the scientist, the preparation is developed in such a way that not only antibodies to the given agent are produced but neutralizing antibodies appear as well.

The titer of neutralizing antibodies in the inoculated is 1.5-2 times higher than in those who had the infection.



Sputnik V ("Gam-COVID-vac") was developed by the Gamaleya National Research Center and passed all clinical trials

Nigeria considers social media regulation in wake of deadly shooting

ABUJA/LAGOS

NIGERIA'S information minister said "some form of regulation" could be imposed on social media just a week after protesters spread images and videos of a deadly shooting using Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Images, video and an Instagram live feed from a popular DJ spread

news of shootings in Lagos on Oct 20, when witnesses and rights groups said the military fired on peaceful protesters.

The protesters had been demonstrating for nearly two weeks to demand an end to police brutality. The army denied its soldiers were there.

Social media helped spread word of the shootings worldwide, and international celebrities from Be-

yonce and Lewis Hamilton to Pope Francis since called on the country to resolve the conflict peacefully.

Information Minister Lai Mohammed told a panel at the National Assembly on Tuesday that "fake news" is one of the biggest challenges facing Nigeria.

A spokesman for the minister confirmed the comments, and said "the use of the social media to

spread fake news and disinformation means there is the need to do something about it."

Officials have said some videos and photos posted during the protests were fake news but have not said that about the shootings.

In the weeks before the shootings, protesters had also used social media to organise, raise money and share what they said was proof of

police harassment, which increased pressure on authorities to respond to their demands.

Twitter Inc CEO Jack Dorsey Tweeted to encourage his followers to contribute, and the hashtag #EndSARS was trending for several days, referencing the widely feared Special Anti-Robbery Squad that they successfully demanded be abolished.

China sees robust development of digital economy

EVERY DAY there are huge data being transmitted on China's optical fiber broadband network and 4G network, the largest of their kind in the world, reflecting the rich online activities of over 900 million Chinese internet users.

The period between 8:00 am to 10:00 is usually peak hours for on-line news reading, and many would choose to order meals on their phones about one or two hours later. Before getting off work in the evening, some of them would pay for the commodities they have already added to their virtual shopping carts, while the rush hours of short video and social media apps always come at around 10:00 in the night.

Behind this splendid internet lifestyle are smooth networks and efficient services. As of August 2020, the per capita data consumption in China had hit 11 gigabytes. The country has an above-average network speed for both its fixed broadband and mobile networks, but its internet fees have been reduced by over 90 percent compared with those five years ago.

China's 13th Five-Year Plan, which charted the course for the country's development between 2016 and 2020, for the first time raised a clear target for internet penetration - introducing fixed broadband network to 70 percent of the country's households and mobile network to 85 percent of its residents.

Thanks to the constant improvement of internet infrastructure, technological innovation and continuously optimized services, the



A 5G automatic-following dolly is exhibited at the Exposition to World Digital Economy Conference 2020 & the 10th China Smart City and Intelligent Economy Expo held in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang province, Sept. 11. File photo

target had already been achieved and even over-fulfilled in advance.

Mapping of Xiangyang, central China's Hubei province, is a village situated at an average altitude of 1,100 meters where huge mountains hinder the stability of network signals, so online classes were always hard to be accessed by local students. After this year's Spring Festival, the employees from Xiangyang branch of China Unicom, one of the largest three communication carriers in China, transported devices weighing hundreds of kilograms to the village and managed to build a new base station in just four days.

The online classes, simultaneously attended by hundreds of millions of students during China's epidemic prevention and control period were an epitome of the country's improved network infrastructure and technical capabilities.

China has established the world's largest optical fiber broadband and mobile communication networks.

More than 93 percent of internet users are optical fiber broadband subscribers, and those using 4G make up 80 percent of all mobile phone users. More than 98 percent of administrative villages have access to fiber optic cables and 4G service, and 99 percent of impoverished villages are covered by optical fiber broadband network.

The network construction is continuously narrowing the digital gap. Even Sansha, south China's Hainan province, one of the youngest cities in China, has covered all of its inhabited islands with 5G network.

A woman surnamed Chen living in Chongming Zhuyuan residential complex in Wuhan, Hubei province would always place two to three orders on online grocery

platforms everyday recently. The orders she placed were delivered to where she lives, so she didn't have to go to the vegetable market or supermarket. So far, three community-based group buying platforms have been launched in Chen's residential complex, which enable residents to receive their orders they placed online the next day in a convenient store near their residence.

"These platforms, on which we can compare their products and services, offer us more choices, and the price is also reasonable," Chen told People's Daily.

Mobile applications and services are also gaining speed in this express road of internet. According to latest statistics, there are more than 3.6 million mobile applications offering abundant internet services. At the beginning of this year, the users of online education, government affairs, online payment, online videos, online shopping, instant messengers, online music and search engines expanded over 10 percent from those at the end of 2018.

Instant messengers, short video platforms and livestream applications lowered the threshold for internet, enriching people's cultural and entertainment activities, while online government affairs are focusing on addressing the practical demand of the people.

Internet serves its users, and the huge amount of internet users also make a vast consumption market, laying a solid foundation for digital economy. **People's Daily**

Millions vote in India's first election in shadow of coronavirus

LUCKNOW

HEALTH authorities in one of India's most populous states faced a big test yesterday with the country's first state assembly election being held since the novel coronavirus epidemic began, despite calls to postpone it.

The world's biggest democracy has one of its worst outbreaks of the coronavirus, with nearly 8 million infections, and voters lining up on the first day of a three-phase election for a new legislature in Bihar state were met with masks and temperature checks.

"Face masks and sanitizers have been provided to the staff deployed on election duty," said a polling officer in the holy city of Gaya, who declined to be identified as he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"Face masks are also being provided to people who are reaching polling stations without wearing one."

In August, the Supreme Court rejected a bid by a Bihar political party to postpone the vote, ruling that the virus was not a valid reason to do so.

Voters followed social-distancing guidelines as they queued outside polling stations and some covered their mouths with shawls or scarves, video footage from Reuters partner ANI showed. Polling officials checked voters' temperatures.



Voters stand within circles marked to ensure social distancing at a polling station during the first phase of state elections at Paliganj, in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, yesterday. AP

Bihar is India's third-most populous state with a population of more than 100 million people. Voting takes place over three days, winding up on Nov 7.

The outcome is not expected to have any major implications for national politics more than a year after Prime Minister Narendra Modi secured a second term with a sweeping general election victory.

Modi, whose ruling alliance in Bihar is up against a united opposition, recently praised Bihar's handling of the coronavirus. Bihar has recorded more than 213,000 infections,

fewer than many better-off Indian states with smaller populations.

India's daily increase in virus infections has been dipping since a September peak, but health experts warn that the numbers could surge again.

India is set to pass the milestone of 8 million infections on Thursday, as 43,893 new cases were reported in the past 24 hours, taking its caseload to 7.99 million, health ministry data showed.

India has the second-highest number of infections after the United States but its death toll has been relatively low at 120,010. **Agencies**

Johnson is making his own side 'miserable' with UK virus plans

By Bloomberg

BORIS Johnson's Cabinet meetings have become frosty affairs. To comply with UK pandemic rules, his senior ministers now gather in cavernous rooms in the Foreign Office, where they have to sit two meters apart with the windows wide open for ventilation, even as the weather turns colder.

It is not a happy scene, and Johnson himself is not enjoying the task that fate has dealt him as coronavirus takes hold across the country again, according to those who work closely with the British premier. To make matters worse, senior ministers have started

to squabble, while restive members of Parliament in his own Conservative Party are forming pressure groups to lobby him publicly for their chosen goals.

"It is bloody miserable for everyone," said one senior minister, speaking on condition of anonymity. Johnson's office declined to comment.

On Monday, more than 50 Tories signed a letter to the prime minister warning that his strategy of targeting COVID-19 hot spots is disproportionately damaging the northern districts they represent, with many now under the highest level of pandemic restrictions.



They also pointed out that it was their constituencies that gave Johnson his majority of 80 parliamentary seats in last December's election. The message was clear: Without them, he loses power.

The letter, coordinated by former minister and Johnson backer Jake Berry, is a graphic demonstration of all that's gone wrong for the premier in the 11 months since his electoral tri-

umph. Party discipline has fractured and his authority has been damaged, according to members of the government.

Tory challenge

It was also the first significant salvo from the newly formed Northern Research Group, which may be the most serious threat to Johnson so far. The name is a conscious echo of the European Research Group, the alliance of Tory Brexit purists who blocked former Prime Minister Theresa May's strategy for leaving the European Union before she was eventually forced out.

The NRG MPs, many of whom come from traditional Labour Party seats in northern England that fell to the Tories last year, have the numbers to defeat Johnson in parliamentary votes if they join forces with opposition parties.

So far, Johnson and his team of whips - the officials responsible for enforcing party discipline - have dodged the fights, and bought off a series of revolts with compromises in order to avoid exposing the extent of the divisions.

But the result is that discipline and unity have been damaged. Many Conservatives elected in 2019 feel frustrat-

ed, isolated and bored, according to ministers and MPs. One Tory said the whips are too soft and must be willing to enforce their will on the new generation, while Johnson and his aides and allies should also be better at reaching out to their rank-and-file colleagues.

COVID-19 restrictions are making it harder to keep the wider Tory team happy, with video calls plagued by technical difficulties. "Zoom is not the same," one minister said. "You can't reassure people as easily when you can't see the whites of their eyes and Number 10 technology is rubbish so every time they try to do something it breaks." **Agencies**



Ruvu Shooting defender, Juma Nyoso (R), challenges Simba SC winger, Luis Miquissone, when the clubs met in a Vodacom Premier League match at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam last Sunday. Ruvu Shooting won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Manara issues apology for Simba SC's defeats in VPL

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

THE Vodacom Premier League defending champions, Simba SC, suffered two consecutive defeats in league games against amry clubs last week.

Simba SC, headed by Belgian coach Sven Vandebroek, had first succumbed to 1-0 loss to Prisons at the latter's backyard, Nelson Mandela Stadium, in Rukwa on October 22.

In the second clash, Simba SC went down 1-0 to Coast Region's Ruvu Shooting at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, leaving the former's fans hugely disappointed.

Haji Manara, Simba SC Information Officer, has therefore sought to apologize to the club's supporters for the two defeats.

In his social media account, he disclosed: "First of all I would like to apologize for the series of bad results we have had."

"This, to us, is not normal, this is not the kind of team we want to watch, but it is the reality and we really have to accept what happened."

"Brothers and sisters, I know it hurts a lot, but Simba SC is our club and we don't have any other club we love deep down our hearts other than this."

"It may seem a bit confusing. If we can get back to our best, I will be the last person to believe that we will not win the league's trophy this season."

"Assessing ourselves and finding where we have probably erred is all we need to do. We should not repeat mistakes."

"I repeat that it could be an unexpected outcome, considering in both matches we wasted several chances to get better results."

"We need to be calm during this difficult time for us, we must unite."

"We have carried the word 'Unity' in our hearts and as our motto 'Simba SC, One Force' says, if we let unity go, we are not Simba SC."

"I conclude by telling you this is a time

you will be torn apart in social media, offices, homes as well as your villages."

"I see all these as a personal burden but I am strong and I still believe we are going to lift the fourth consecutive VPL silverware."

Apart from losing both games, there is a possibility that Simba SC midfielder Bernard Morrison will not play in the club's league duel with age old rivals, Yanga, dubbed 'Dar Derby', which is expected to be played in Dar es Salaam on November 7.

Pursuant to article 39 (5) (5.2) of the VPL regulations, any player who either fights or strikes an opponent before or after the end of the match shall be liable to a minimum of three games' ban and a fine.

Article 39 (6) of the regulations stipulates a player who is found guilty of repeated misconduct is often banned from playing between five to 10 games and fined not less than 1m/-.

If the two regulations are followed, Morrison stands to miss the 'Dar Derby' as the article 35 says he will be banned for three matches, whilst Simba SC has two matches left prior to locking horns with Yanga.

In the Sunday match between Simba SC and Ruvu Shooting, Morrison was seen beat Ruvu Shooting defender Juma Nyoso after the match had been stopped on the 72nd minute because of a violent conduct.

The violence was caused by Ruvu Shooting players disputing a decision by the match's referee to award Simba SC a penalty after the latter's winger Luis Miquissone had been fouled by the former's defender, Renatus Morris, within the penalty area.

Simba SC captain John Bocco took the spot kick and failed to convert it as his effort came off the post.

As a result of the violence, Ruvu Shooting midfielder Shaaban Msala was shown a straight red card by referee but Morrison got away with what he did.

The referee's failure to see the incident was perceived to have contributed to his failure to punish Morrison.

Australia confirms playing India in all three formats

MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA will kick off its international summer with limited overs series against India in Sydney and Canberra from Nov. 27 before the four-test series starts in Adelaide as a day-night match on Dec. 17, Cricket Australia (CA) said on Wednesday.

A tour worth about A\$300 million (\$214 million) to Australian cricket will commence with three one-day internationals followed by three Twenty20's at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) and Canberra's Manuka Oval, CA said in a statement.

The second test will proceed at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in the traditional Boxing Day slot on Dec. 26, with the third test at the SCG from Jan. 7.

The fourth starts at the Gabba in Brisbane from Jan. 15.

India's squad will arrive in Sydney on Nov. 12, subject to authorisation from Australian border authorities, and will undergo a mandatory quarantine in Sydney prior to the first match of the tour.

"Across all three formats, Australia and India represents one of the great rivalries in world sport and we are delighted to welcome Virat Kohli's outstanding squad to Australian shores this summer," Nick Hockley, CA interim chief executive, said.

"We would also like to especially thank the NSW Government for allowing players from both teams to safely prepare during quarantine."

REUTERS

Arrangement of venues for VPL games should not offer unfair advantage to clubs

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

YANGA played against Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC in a 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) match at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on October 25 while both teams are based in Dar es Salaam.

The KMC FC were the game's hosts after deciding to move the match there in accordance with the rules set by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB).

The TPLB rule provides for teams to transfer at least two games to one of the non-VPL stadiums for the current season.

The decision was reached with a view to helping a number of clubs that were complaining that playing in Dar es Salaam alone had been a no-brainer.

Several clubs, including Yanga and Simba SC, complained. The two clubs had previously complained about the lack of income, whenever the clubs feature in away matches, especially after the adoption of the rule that each team would take all revenue allotted for clubs in home games.

Initially, clubs had shared gate collections and match revenues in each game but the change was approved and was adopted for the hosts to take all revenue. Complaints then started right there.

The TPLB felt that it could make things easier by giving the complainants a chance to look at how to increase the revenue and especially opting to host matches at stadiums the board feels there is a need for people to see the clubs.

The KMC FC saw the need to host Yanga in Mwanza, believing people will need to watch both



Arusha's Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium. The venue is currently used by Kilimanjaro's Polisi Tanzania for the outfit's home fixtures in this season's Vodacom Premier League.

sides considering it is the first time for the league's clubs to play a game in the region this season.

The KMC FC leadership, in this case, knew the side will earn enough money from the match.

Everyone is trying to find ways to earn a living, KMC FC looked excited to host the match at CCM Kirumba Stadium.

With this principle, one can clearly find out TPLB aims at helping clubs earn more income.

Despite the TPLB's good intentions to partner with clubs, there is a strong reason for some issues to be added to the regulation with a view to protecting its intention.

A VPL outfit should, in this case, be certain that the decision to host a match at a certain venue targets to see to it the

side earn more cash, not seeking to put itself in an advantageous position, when it comes to getting good results.

The approach should be taken into consideration when outfits are seeking to either avoid relegation to the First Division League (FDL) or win the domestic top flight silverware.

A club might feel it will contribute to making the opponents' players experiencing fatigue by opting to host the former's home fixture far away.

A side will, for instance, play a game in Mwanza and later take part in a clash in Mbeya in the next three days, this will certainly not be right.

There is a fear that this regulation, which sometimes does not exist, should not be used to hurt some of the outfits.

The regulation targets to help clubs boost their income and performance, it should not be

used to weaken opponents.

Several regulations have been designed by the TPLB and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) in a bid to develop soccer but the regulations have at times been misused.

Although the TPLB has come up with the regulation to improve soccer, with clubs approving it, there is still need for the two parties and the rest of domestic football stakeholders to see to it the regulation is used justly.

Yanga look to have been lucky to have locked horns with KMC FC in Mwanza, given the former will later take on Biashara United in Mara and thereafter make their way back to Mwanza to play Gwambina FC.

The KMC FC's decision to host the clash in Mwanza has helped Yanga minimize travel expenses for trips to Mara and back to Mwanza.

KMC FC apologizes for striker's indiscipline

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

KINONDONI Municipal Council (KMC) Football Club has apologized for an indiscipline act by the outfit's forward, Hassan Kabunda, during this season's Vodacom Premier League match between the club and Yanga, which took place in Mwanza last week.

The gifted forward performed what was termed as an offensive goal celebration during the pulsating clash, played at the CCM Kirumba Stadium.

Yanga came from a goal down to win 2-1 in the two outfits' first encounter this season.

Kabunda committed the indiscipline act shortly after he had netted the opener for KMC FC.

He jubilantly ran out of the pitch and was quickly handed a monkey face mask by one of his club's supporters.

He wore it for a few seconds as he was mobbed by team mates to celebrate the goal.

He was shown a yellow card by the game's referee, Ramadhan Kayoko, for the incident.

Kabunda's action was deemed as mockery to Yanga that is still smarting from offensive comments by the club's former head coach, Luc Eymael.

The KMC FC disclosed their player had no intention to signal any bad sign, noting his action was merely aimed at celebrating.

The outfit had, on Tuesday, released a post on its social media account, apologizing for Kabunda's action.

The side said: "The Kinondoni Municipal Council FC leadership would like to inform the soccer fraternity about the act by our player Hassan Kabunda who celebrated the goal against Yanga by wearing a beast mask, the action does not have any negative interpretation to our opponents in the game."

"We apologize to all those who were offended by the goal celebration made by our player and we emphasize that it was not a bad intention for the opponents



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC striker, Hassan Kabunda (R), negotiates his way past Rwanda's AS Kigali Club's players during the first leg of the previous season's CAF Confederation Cup competition's preliminary stage, which took place in Rwanda. The two outfits settled for a 0-0 draw. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KMC FC

but the joy led him to do so."

"The KMC FC joins Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) and all clubs in condemning the unscrupulous acts being shown in football, sports are fun."

The match between KMC FC and Yanga ended with the latter winning three points.

The KMC FC netted the opener on the 27th minute through Kabunda, Yanga then levelled matters on the 41st minute through an expertly taken penalty by winger Tuisila Kisinda.

Striker Waziri Junior scored the second goal for Yanga on the 61st minute, heading in a well taken corner kick by winger Farid Musasa.

It was the first league goal for

Junior this season, with the forward having joined Yanga from Mbao FC, currently battling it out in the First Division League (FDL).

Speaking shortly after the match, a jubilant Junior said he has now played 60 matches in the domestic top flight, netting 34 goals and providing 13 assists.

He said he had all along dreamt of beating all top domestic goalkeepers, noting beating veteran keeper, Juma Kaseja, who played for KMC FC against Yanga, was an amazing feat for the Yanga striker.

Junior said he had also beat other top keepers, Aishi Manula, Deogratius Munishi 'Dida' and Beno Kakolanya.

In the previous season, Junior scored 13 goals and he was one of the domestic players who scored

the most Premier League goals. Kagera Sugar forward Yusuph Mhili and Simba SC forward John Bocco are also in the list.

The victory against KMC FC has seen Yanga cling to the second position in the Vodacom Premier League table with 19 points from seven matches.

The Vodacom Premier League leaders, Azam FC, have played eight games and collected 21 points.

Biashara United are placed third in the domestic top flight's standing with 16 points from eight matches.

The league's defending champions Simba SC are placed fourth with 13 points, having played just seven league games.

Bayern, English clubs win in Champions League as Real Madrid scramble draw

LONDON

HOLDERS Bayern Munich continued their perfect start to their Champions League title defence on Tuesday as Real Madrid had Casemiro's late goal to thank for scrambling a 2-2 draw away to Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Liverpool and Manchester City also made it six points out of a possible six in Europe this season, after Bayern needed a late Joshua Kimmich strike to claim a 2-1 win at Lokomotiv Moscow in Group A.

Leon Goretzka put the Germans ahead early on in front of a limited crowd in the Russian capital, but Anton Miranchuk tucked in an equaliser for Lokomotiv in the second half - Miranchuk's twin brother Aleksei scored for Atalanta in the Champions League last week.

But Bayern were not to be denied a record 13th straight win in the competition as Kimmich controlled a Javi Martinez pass and volleyed home low from outside the box 11 minutes from time.

"We had to work hard for the victory," Kimmich admitted to broadcaster DAZN.

In the same group Atletico Madrid came from behind to beat Salzburg 3-2, with Joao Felix grabbing their late winner.

The Portuguese starlet had hit the bar with a stunning overhead kick before Marcos Llorente put Atletico ahead in the Spanish capital.

Dominik Szoboszlai levelled before the break and then a Felipe own goal put Salzburg ahead just after half-time.

However, Joao Felix equalised on 52 minutes and then won it five minutes from the end.

- City cruise -

In Germany, Real were heading for another defeat in Group B, six days after losing 3-2 at home to Shakhtar Donetsk, as Marcus Thuram netted twice for Gladbach, either side of half-time.

But Casemiro set up Karim Benzema to reduce the deficit in the 87th minute and the Brazilian midfielder then scored himself deep in injury time to salvage a point for Zinedine Zidane's team.

"If we continue to play like that, we'll do great things and we'll win matches, that's for sure," said Zidane.

It is Shakhtar who lead the section, though, by two points from

Inter Milan and Gladbach, after a 0-0 draw with the Italians in Kiev.

Pep Guardiola's City eased to a second straight win in Group C with Kevin De Bruyne setting up Ferran Torres for the early opener against Marseille after the hosts had carelessly ceded possession.

Ilkay Gundogan and Raheem Sterling added late goals to make it 3-0, leaving Marseille without a point.

Guardiola was confident City could build on their victory after an indifferent start to the Premier League season which has seen them come in for criticism.

"Part of the criticism was right, but you've got to accept it. It's part of our job," Guardiola told BT Sport.

"It's about where we've come from in the last month, with lack of preparation, injuries and Covid-19, but the Champions League is in a good place now."

In the same group Porto beat Olympiakos 2-0 in Portugal with Fabio Vieira and Sergio Oliveira on target.

- 'Tough night' for Liverpool -

Meanwhile, Liverpool built on their 1-0 victory at Ajax last week by defeating Danish champions Midtjylland 2-0 in a low-key game behind closed doors at Anfield in Group D.

Diogo Jota finished off a fine move to give Jurgen Klopp's team the lead early in the second half, before Mohamed Salah made sure of the points with a late penalty.

Klopp rested Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino from his starting line-up but his defensive worries deepened as Fabinho went off with an apparent hamstring injury.

"It was a tough night," Klopp told BT Sport.

"It's a bit like in a marriage, there are good and bad times. It's not a bad time but it's a tricky time."

He added: "It was a hard game to play. But winning 2-0 is completely fine so that's it -- let's carry on."

Liverpool now have a double-header against Atalanta, who came from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 at home to Ajax.

A Dusan Tadic penalty put the visitors ahead on the half-hour and Lassina Traore made it two, only for Duvan Zapata to save Atalanta with two goals in the space of seven second-half minutes.

AFP

Solskjaer blasts Van de Beek criticism

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer has hit back at claims Manchester United made a mistake in signing midfielder Donny van de Beek and insisted he will play a key role at Old Trafford this season.

Van de Beek, a £40 million summer signing from Ajax, was an unused substitute for the 0-0 draw with Chelsea on Saturday, prompting Patrice Evra to say his former club "don't need him," while former Netherlands forward Marco van Basten said the player should have joined a club where he can play more regularly.

Van de Beek has not started a Premier League game so far this season, managing just 61 minutes in five games, but Solskjaer is backing the 23-year-old to come good.

"I realise the topic is Donny van de Beek and it's nice for some players or commentators to have a little go," Solskjaer told a news conference on Tuesday. "I know you're short for time when you're on telly and you have to put your points across very quickly but you have to know that you don't have to start the first three games to be a very important player in the squad."

"When Donny has played, he's played really well. I think it says a lot about our depth of quality in the squad that we don't have to use him every single game because we

have other players as well. I also think it says everything about our ambitions -- we want to push on, we want to challenge for trophies this season. Donny is going to play a big, big part this year. Donny's going to be very very important for us, don't worry about that."

Van de Beek has competition for a place in Solskjaer's midfield, which has not been able to accommodate Paul Pogba for the last three games with the France international consigned to a place on the bench.

Scott McTominay is also challenging for a place in United's midfield and he has told Van de Beek not to "panic" about his lack of opportunities so far.

"I'm so confident Donny will be such an important figure throughout the season," McTominay said. "He's lifted everybody else, along with Alex [Telles] and Edinson [Cavani]. They're top quality players who can lift the dressing room."

"It's no time to panic for Donny. You can be so quick to come to an assumption that he's not playing but you need to give him time and let him adapt."

United face RB Leipzig at Old Trafford in the Champions League on Wednesday looking to build on the impressive victory over Paris Saint-Germain to start the group stage.

(Agencies)

Arsenal seek Europa League boost as confident Spurs go to Belgium

LONDON

ENGLISH rivals Arsenal and Tottenham are aiming to build on winning starts in the Europa League on Thursday while Zlatan Ibrahimovic will look to transfer his incredible Serie A form to the continental stage.

Smarting from a 1-0 loss at home to Leicester at the weekend, the Gunners host Irish side Dundalk in their second Group B fixture following a come-from-behind victory in Austria in their opening match.

Dundalk are just the third Irish representative to reach the group stage, having matched their achievement in 2016/17 and that of Shamrock Rovers in 2011/12.

They lost 2-1 at home to Norwegians Molde in their first game, and their Italian coach Filippo Giovagnoli is acutely aware the odds are stacked against the club from County Louth on Ireland's east coast.

"Arsenal have better players, better coaches and better everything than us, but this is the challenge. We need to play with a lot of heart, run a lot and be a little crazy and brave, but we're going to try," said Giovagnoli.

Tottenham's solid start in the Premier League has stirred up talk they could potentially end a long title drought, with no team yet to truly assert themselves after a truncated pre-season.

"We know with the team we have got and the players we have got we can do something special," captain Harry Kane, who is two goals shy of



Zlatan Ibrahimovic is showing few signs of slowing down despite turning 39 at the start of October. (Agencies)

200 for Spurs, told the BBC after Monday's 1-0 win at Burnley.

Jose Mourinho's side head to Belgium to play Antwerp this week after easing past Austrian outfit LASK Linz 3-0 in their Group J opener.

- Gerrard's Rangers unbeaten this season -

Leicester, the third English club in the competition, travel to AEK Athens as they too chase a second straight victory in Group J.

Scottish Premiership leaders Rangers are at home to Lech Poznan in Group D. Steven Gerrard's

men are unbeaten this term and have won their last seven games.

Celtic, who are targeting a record 10th successive Scottish title, lost ground to Rangers at the weekend and have work to do in Group H after they were beaten 3-1 by Milan.

The task won't get any easier with a visit to Lille, who are level on points with Paris Saint-Germain in France and the only unbeaten team left in Ligue 1.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic has scored seven times in five games this season despite missing a handful of matches after testing posi-

tive for coronavirus.

The 39-year-old former Sweden international netted twice for the third time in a row in Serie A as Milan drew 3-3 with Roma on Monday.

Ibrahimovic would become the second-oldest scorer in Europa League history if he hits the target against Sparta Prague.

Molde's Daniel Hestad holds the record, scoring against Celtic in November 2015 aged 40 years and 98 days.

Real Sociedad host Napoli as two famous European names do battle for the first time in Group F.

Fixtures (kick-offs Groups G-L at 1655 GMT, Groups A-F at 1900 GMT)

Group G
Zorya Luhansk (UKR) v Braga (POR)
AEK Athens (GRE) v Leicester City (ENG)

Group H
AC Milan (ITA) v Sparta Prague (CZE)
Lille (FRA) v Celtic (SCO)

Group I
Sivasspor (TUR) v Maccabi Tel-Aviv (ISR)
Qarabag (AZE) v Villarreal (ESP)

Group J
Antwerp (BEL) v Tottenham Hotspur (ENG)
LASK Linz (AUT) v Ludog-

orets (BUL)

Group K
Feyenoord (NED) v Wolfsberg (AUT)
CSKA Moscow (RUS) v Dinamo Zagreb (CRO)

Group L
Red Star Belgrade (SRB) v Slovan Liberec (CZE)
Gent (BEL) v Hoffenheim (GER)

Group A
Roma (ITA) v CSKA Sofia (BUL)
CFR Cluj (ROM) v Young Boys (SUI)

Group B
Arsenal (ENG) v Dundalk (IRL)
Molde (NOR) v Rapid Vienna (AUT)

Group C
Slavia Prague (CZE) v Bayer Leverkusen (GER)
Nice (FRA) v Hapoel Beer-Sheva (ISR)

Group D
Benfica (POR) v Standard Liege (BEL)
Rangers (SCO) v Lech Poznan (POL)

Group E
Omonoia Nicosia (CYP) v PSV Eindhoven (NED)
Granada (ESP) v PAOK (GRE)

Group F
Real Sociedad (ESP) v Napoli (ITA)
AZ Alkmaar (NED) v Rijeka (CRO)

AFP

Bartomeu resigns as Barcelona president, drops European Super League bombshell

BARCELONA

JOSEP Maria Bartomeu resigned as Barcelona president on Tuesday, along with his board of directors, and left with a bombshell admission that he had accepted a proposal for the club to play in "a future European Super League".

Bartomeu's departure comes following mounting pressure from fans and his public falling-out with Lionel Messi.

His resignation could affect the future of Messi, who will now be given a new project after trying to leave in August.

"I want to communicate my resignation along with the rest of the board," said Bartomeu in an official announcement. "It's a composed and relaxed decision, agreed with all my fellow directors."

However, it was his revelation about a Super League which seems certain to make the biggest waves beyond Catalonia.

Bartomeu said he accepted a proposal on Monday for Barcelona to play in "a future European Super League" which "would guarantee the financial stability of the club".

Earlier this month, Barcelona announced losses of 97 million euros (\$114m) for last season, with debt more than doubling to 488 million euros.

- 'Weak and imaginary competition' -

Bartomeu and his board could even be held personally liable for the financial shortfall, which could be why he was keen to present a Super League as their money-making solution.

La Liga president Javier Tebas tweeted: "Unfortunate statement from Bartomeu on his last day about Barcelona joining a weak and imaginary competition which would be their ruin. It confirms his ignorance about the football industry."

An election for Bartomeu's successor will take place within three months, with an interim board taking charge in the meantime.

The position of Ronald Koeman, appointed coach in August, becomes more uncertain. A new president could bring in their own coach, either immediately or at the end of the season.

Bartomeu's six-year tenure saw a dramatic decline in the performances of the team, culminating in the 8-2 defeat by Bayern Munich in last season's Champions League.



Josep Maria Bartomeu resigned as Barcelona president on Tuesday after months of crisis at the Camp Nou. (Agencies)

He then oversaw Messi, the club's greatest ever player, trying to leave for free.

Bartomeu's resignation means avoiding a vote of no confidence, which had been triggered after over 20,000 Barcelona members signed a petition for him to be removed.

Attempts to delay the vote, including launching an investigation into false signatures and referring to problems caused by coronavirus, were rejected by the local government in Catalonia, with Bartomeu quitting on Tuesday fol-

lowing a board meeting.

He said the local government's decision was "irresponsible" and cited the vote as the cause of his resignation in the context of the health crisis.

"We cannot and do not want to be in the situation of having to choose between protecting health and exercising the vote," said Bartomeu.

But his departure had long been a possibility after a series of political blunders created anger and distrust between the board and players.

- Chaotic years -

Messi reacted angrily in January to suggestions the players were to blame for the sacking of coach Ernesto Valverde and then criticised the board in March over their handling of pay negotiations.

There was also the 'BarcaGate' scandal in February, when the club denied hiring a company to boost the board's image on social media, in part by discrediting key players like Messi and Gerard Pique.

Barcelona's decline on the pitch had begun far earlier, perhaps as far back

as 2017 when Neymar joined Paris Saint-Germain, prompting a chaotic few years in the transfer market.

Huge sums were spent on replacements for Neymar but few proved successful and some of the most expensive -- Antoine Griezmann, Ousmane Dembele, Philippe Coutinho -- are yet to deliver.

While Messi failed in his attempt to force a way out, he made clear his anger towards Bartomeu in an interview with Goal.

"He didn't end up keeping his word", said Messi. "It has been a long time since there has been a project or anything at all."

Victor Font and Joan Laporta are expected to run to be Bartomeu's successor.

Font has attached his campaign to the appointment of ex-Barcelona midfielder Xavi Hernandez as coach while Laporta was president during the golden era under Pep Guardiola.

"Barça need a rescue," wrote Font on Twitter. "Tonight I tell you with more enthusiasm than ever that we have the ideas, the team and the drive to rebuild the club."

Barcelona are currently 12th in La Liga. Bartomeu's last match was Saturday's 3-1 defeat by Real Madrid.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal seek Europa League boost as confident Spurs go to Belgium

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

EATV THURSDAY

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12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Draw looms for COSAFA Men's Under-17 and Under-20 zonal qualifiers

CAPE TOWN

THE respective draws for the COSAFA Men's Under-17 and Under-20 Championships to be played later this year will take place on Monday, as the competing teams learn their fate in what are zonal qualifiers for the continental finals.

The draws will start at 10h00 and will be streamed live on COSAFA.TV, with the Under-17 competition to run from November 19-30 and the Under-20s from December 3-13.

Both tournaments will be played in South Africa's Nelson Mandela Bay, which is also set to play host to the COSAFA Senior Women's and Under-17 Women's Championships next month in what is a bumper period for football in the region.

Nine teams have confirmed their participation in the Under-17 Men's competition, namely Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Malawi, last year's runners-up Mozambique, South Africa, defending champions Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The tournament is a zonal qualifier for the 2021 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations that is scheduled to be played in Morocco during July next year.

With the continental finals competition having been expanded to 12 teams, it means the two finalists in the COSAFA Men's Under-17 Championship will earn their place in the field.

Angola sealed their berth in the last Cup of Nations in 2019 after winning the COSAFA title in Mauritius, and ended the competition in third place, which was enough to qualify them for the FIFA Under-17 World Cup that was staged in Brazil last year.

That will also be the end-goal for the COSAFA sides that start their journey in Nelson Mandela Bay, who will have an eye on the global finals that are slated for Peru some time in 2021.

It will be a similar story for the teams at the COSAFA Men's Under-20 Championships, with 11 sides to take part in the competition - Angola, Botswana, Comoros Islands, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, last year's runners-up South Africa, defending champions Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The two finalists will also book their place in the U-20 Africa Cup of Nations that is scheduled for Mauritania in February-March 2021.

That in turn will serve as a qualifier for the 2021 FIFA Under-20 World Cup that is penciled in for Indonesia from May 20-June 12. The top four sides in the African competition will head to the global finals.

South Africa used that route to qualify for the last two FIFA Under-20 tournaments and will hope to do so again, though now with a new generation of players.

Zambia and South Africa have dominated the regional COSAFA competition in this age-group, between then winning each of the last nine tournaments played dating back to 2008.

South Africa have five titles in that time to Zambia's four, with the last team to break their stranglehold being Zimbabwe, who lifted the trophy in 2007.

Other sides have come close, with Lesotho, Angola, Namibia, Mozambique and East African guests Kenya all reaching the final in that time.

GP Pak Stars demolish Kutchi Leva in 2020 Caravans T20 tourney



The GP Pak Stars Cricket Club's Tawmbe Rashid bats against Aga Khan SC in a 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's clash, held in the city recently. Aga Khan SC won by six wickets. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GP PAK STARS CRICKET CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

GENERAL Petroleum (GP) Pak Stars Club has proved it is eager to be a force to reckon with in the 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament, cruising to five-wicket victory over Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC) in Group A tie that took place in the city last Sunday.

With two wins in their hands, GP Pak Stars are, in this case, still positioned third and keeping on putting pressure on the group's top two clubs, Aga Khan SC and Aces Club.

The GP Pak Stars, though, have taken part in more matches than the top two outfits, given the former have played three

matches whilst the latter have taken part in two games apiece.

The SKLPSC scored 128 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 20 overs after they were put in to bat first by GP Pak Stars at Leaders Club venue.

Vinesh Gorasiya's tenacity with the bat once again came in handy for the SKLPSC, given his performance in the innings proved to be key to

the squad's acquisition of the score.

He was the top run getter, recording 28 runs and cracked two fours.

Opening batsmen, skipper Naran Vekariya and Manoj Gondaliya, had earlier ended with 15 runs and 17 runs respectively in what was overall a good start.

Vekariya nailed two fours in his spell whilst Gondaliya had time to

crack a six.

Anil Pindoriya scored 15 runs, which included two boundaries, to significantly boost the outfit's total.

His dismissal greatly affected the SKLPSC's quest for an imposing total, given the rest of the batsmen failed to help the team stay in control of the innings.

Mukund Vekariya was the only other batsman who somewhat chipped in, posting 11 runs not out

which consisted of two boundaries.

Vipul Pindoria was one run short of double digit figure, nailing one boundary. Athuman Siwa ended with eight runs in what was a below par display by the duo that are the team's key players.

Zafar Khan had an impressive performance during GP Pak Stars' turn with the ball given he took three wickets and leaked 31 runs in four overs.

The GP Pak Stars confidently chased SKLPSC's score, recording 129 runs for five wickets in 16 overs.

Youthful player, Abdullah Jabiri, put in solid displays at the crease and saw to it GP Pak Stars smoothly mount a successful chase.

They had to endure a scare in the early stages as opening batsmen, skipper Muzamil Hussain and Nisar Ahmed, were sent back to the pavilion in quick succession.

Ahmed ended one run short of double digit score, blasting two fours, in his relatively short spell with the bat.

Sheraz Khan managed to stay at the crease for three overs, registering 13 runs which included two fours.

Jabiri's 49 runs, which consisted of five fours and two sixes, happened to be decisive, when it came to

realizing the chase.

Zafar Khan chipped in with 10 runs which consisted of a boundary. Ayaz Mustafa, who posted 16 runs not out, forged a sixth wicket stand with Ashmir Bade, who recorded 14 runs not out, to ultimately win the match for GP Pak Stars.

Pacer Hassan Rahim had two wickets and leaked 23 runs in four overs in the SKLPSC's unsuccessful attempt to foil GP Pak Stars' chase.

Aga Khan SC, Aces Club and GP Pak Stars have recorded four points each, only to be separated by net run rate.

The SKLPSC are still rooted to the bottom of Group A without victory in four games they have taken part in.

Union Sports Club is placed fourth, having won one game and lost two games to stay two points below the top three clubs.

The competition, which is an annual feature, is hosted by Caravans Club in cooperation with regional cricket governing body, DC, in a bid to improve promotion of the sport at the domestic level.

Petrofuel Company, Color Flex Inks & Coatings, Grand Restaurant and Alliance Insurance Company are sponsors for the 2020 DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament.

Arusha Girls cricket team romp to victory over Women Combine

By Guardian Reporter

ARUSHA Girls team have tasted victory for the first time in the 2020 Women Cricket Premier League, notching an eight-wicket win over Women Combine in Group A match which took place in Morogoro on Sunday.

Women Combine recorded 89 runs for the loss of six wickets in 20 overs once they had won the toss and chose to bat at SUA ground.

Opener Fatuma Mwangombe ended as the only batter that had a performance worth writing home about in the innings, posting 16 runs not out.

Fatuma in the process made up for fellow opener Swaumu Aziz's below par showing, which had the latter making her way back to the pavilion without a run.

Arusha Girls' Lisa Justin curtailed Fatuma's efforts to make her presence felt at the crease, as the former executed a catch to dismiss the latter from Mwanaisha Bakari's delivery.

Mwasiti Ramadhani ended one run short of double digit score in



Arusha Girls cricket team pictured after playing one of the 2020 Women Cricket Premier League's matches, which took place in Tanga recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

what was generally an encouraging performance at the crease.

Fatuma Mohamed chipped in with seven runs not out, which included a four, as Women Combine vainly sought to record an

imposing total.

Arusha Girls' Mwanaisha had the best bowling figure, as she ended with three wickets, leaking 11 runs in four overs.

Lisa chipped in with one wicket and leaked nine

runs in three overs, posting an economy rate of 3.00.

Arusha Girls later got down to successful chase with ease, dropping two wickets in 13.1 overs.

They were not perturbed by early exits

of opening batters, Careen Christopher and Mwanaisha, given Grace Raphael and Angela Agustino carried the day for the team.

Careen ended two runs short of double digit score,

nailling a four, whereas Mwanaisha could only post two runs.

Angela showcased her batting virtuosity after notching 55 runs not out which included six fours and ended as the most impressive batter.

She forged an unbeaten partnership with Grace that scored 15 runs not out which included a boundary.

Angela deservedly walked away with the match's best performer prize.

Swaumu and Fatuma Mwangombe had one wicket apiece for Women Combine.

Arusha Girls are placed fourth in Group A following the win, having played four matches.

Group A leaders Dar Combine Girls have posted three wins and one loss to record six points, followed by second-placed Simba Queens that have won two matches and lost one to notch four points.

Uluguru Stars are placed third with victory in two games they have featured in, Women Combined have been placed last without a win in three games.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

