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TANZANIA

FRIDAY 22 MAY, 2020

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US agency hands Astra \$1bn for its new coronavirus vaccine final push

LONDON

BRITISH pharmaceuticals group AstraZeneca on Thursday said it had secured more than \$1.0 billion from a United States government agency to help fund production of its coronavirus vaccine.

AstraZeneca is partnering with the University of Oxford in developing and distributing a vaccine being put on trials in the UK.

It comes amid concerns that the United States could have a vaccine before other countries thanks to its large-scale funding of pharmaceutical companies around the world.

France has slammed Paris-based drug giant Sanofi for suggesting the US would receive its vaccine first, as world leaders demand that the science should be shared among nations.

AstraZeneca said it had "received support of more than \$1.0 billion from the US Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority for the development,



AstraZeneca is also in discussions with governments around the world to increase access

production and delivery of the vaccine."

The company however added it was in contact with governments and international health institutions to ensure the vaccine is available globally.

AstraZeneca said it had concluded deals for the first 400 million doses of the vaccine - and has manufacturing capacity for one billion doses, hoping to begin deliveries in September.

"AstraZeneca is advancing its ongoing response to address the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, collaborating with a number of countries and multilateral organisations to make the University of Oxford's vaccine widely accessible around the world in an equitable manner," it further asserted.

The company was engaging with international organisations, including the World Health Organization, for the fair allocation and distribution of the vaccine around the world, it stated.

"AstraZeneca is also in discussions with governments around the world to increase access."

Britain this week pledged £84 million (\$103

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HESLB issuing third quarter funding to students, varsities

By Guardian Reporter



President John Magufuli addresses senior government officials after swearing in newly appointed ambassadors and Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children deputy minister Dr Godwin Oloyce Mollé, at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: State House

THE Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) has started issuing loans for the third quarter of the 2019/2020 academic year as part of preparations for reopening of colleges and universities on June 1.

HESLB said the move is meant to implement President John Magufuli's directive that colleges and universities should reopen by early next month.

HESLB Executive Director Abdul-Razaq Badru said in a statement that the board has so far deposited 63.7bn/- in colleges and universities' bank accounts for meals and accommodation.

He said that loan beneficiaries will receive the monies starting Thursday next week.

The issuance of loans (accommodation and meals) to students is part of routine disbursements to beneficiaries which are conducted four times in an academic year, he explained.

"When the government announced closure of schools and colleges mid-March, the board had already paid for the first and second quarter of the academic year. The payments were made in January 2020," the statement indicated.

Apart from payments for food and accommodation for students, HESLB is also finalizing payments amounting to 59.1bn/- for students' tuition fees paid to over 70 higher learning institutions.

"HESLB pays students tuition fee to universities in two phases per year. The fees are paid only after the board obtains approval on students registered in the

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'National parks COVID-19-free and secure settings for tourists'

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

AS the high tourism season sets in amid global coronavirus concerns, Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) officials are flinging open their gates ready to receive tourists after a number of countries were reported to ease lockdowns.

Dr Allan Kijazi, Tanapa's Commissioner of Conservation, has said that June is usually the month during which the high tourism season starts in Tanzania and the rest of East Africa.

"We still hope to get leisure visitors here

despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and in fact some tour operators have confirmed a number of bookings," he affirmed.

Speaking at the Arusha National Park, a destination located at the foot of Mount Meru, Dr Kijazi pointed out that while some are skeptical, asserting that few tourists will be visiting Tanzania in these tough times, Tanapa was confident that the number could even surpass that of previous years.

"It is also very possible for Tanzania to

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Minister: First tourist plane makes it to KIA

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE first plane with seven passengers including four tourists yesterday landed at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA), right after the government declared Tanzanian airspace to be open, moving away from Covid-19 closures.

Isack Kamwelwe, the minister for Works, Transport and Communications said here yesterday that from next Thursday tourism authorities expect to receive many more flights carrying tourists.

The plane landed at the country's second busiest airport at around 9 a.m. "The plane had four tourists and three crew members and have

already been received and proceeded to view game," he elaborated.

He said the ministry has a schedule of other incoming planes and bookings are already full, with many planes expected to land in the next few months.

"There are airlines that had already prepared for opening of air travel, including Emirates, Ethiopian Airlines and KLM. For those carrying cargo we started with Rwandair which transported fish fillets and today we have added an Ethiopian Airline plane that will transport 19 tonnes of fish fillets," the minister specified.

Next Sunday, an Ethiopian Airlines plane

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19



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HESLB issuing third quarter funding to students, varsities

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specific colleges," the director noted.

The monies are paid so as to capacitate institutions to afford operating costs of providing quality education to students, he said, assuring all universities which have submitted requests that they will be paid tuition fees by the end of next week.

In the 2019/2020 fiscal year the government is providing a total of 450bn/- to 132,119 student beneficiaries in various universities.

"The amount covers accommodation, tuition fees, books, research, field practicals and special needs in some of the faculties," he explained.

Speaking soon the swearing-in of Tanzania's ambassadors to Kenya, Algeria and Mozambique as well as Health deputy minister Godwin Mollé at the Chamwino State House in the capital, President John Magufuli ordered the reopening of universities, colleges and high school classes effective June 1, as the number of Covid-19 cases maintains a declining trend.

Students will resume classes after staying home for more than two months since schools were closed on March 17th when the country recorded the first case of the novel coronavirus.

He directed the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology as well as HESLB to make necessary preparations, including issuance of loans, "which must be issued to students immediately after reopening the colleges."

Dr Godwin Mollé, recently appointed Health deputy minister, was easily the most eye-catching appointee at the swearing-in ceremony, with ambassadors going to represent Tanzania in various countries.

President Magufuli assured Tanzanians that the number of Covid-19 cases is declining, expressing optimism that this trend will be maintained.

"The wave of Covid-19 spread has dropped drastically. Considering that the situation is improving, we

have decided to reopen colleges and universities by June 1," he stated.

With Form Six students nearing final examinations, they should also go back to school on the same date, he emphasized.

He said college students are mature enough to adhere to protocols of hygiene, social distancing, not shaking hands, wearing the face masks and protecting themselves from contracting the virus.

Dr Magufuli noted that primary and secondary school students should wait a little longer as the government monitors the status of the pandemic.

"I am happy that Tanzanians continue engaging in productive activities including farming," he said, directing sports activities to also resume from June 1.

"Health specialists have proved that herd immunity improves when people are in contact. If you lock people inside houses, by the time you set them free their body immunity will have gone down by up to 30 percent," he remarked.

The president also cautioned officials to be careful with donated Covid-19 protective gears. He said donations should be handed to the Ministry of Health so that they are checked before being distributed. Protective gears ought to be bought locally, he further noted.

He commended the Global Fund, an arm of the World Bank Group traditionally used to source funds for combating HIV/AIDS for supporting Tanzania financially in the fight against the spread of Covid-19.

Dr Magufuli said Tanzania will open aviation services including private, freight and passenger flights from Wednesday May 27th and Thursday 28th.

He said there are a good number of tourists who have already booked flights to come to the country.

Aircrafts will start landing on the specific dates and those coming will not be subjected to the 14-day quarantine as long as their body temperature is normal.



Dr Godwin Oloyce Mollé (L, foreground), the Siha legislator recently named Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children deputy minister, is introduced to some of the Health ministry's employees after he was sworn in Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday. To his left is Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umy Mwalimu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'National parks Covid-19-free and secure settings for tourists'

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receive more visitors this year as most people who were in the corona-driven lockdown abroad, would prefer to get out and take refuge in national parks that provide endless plains, wildlife and breeze of fresh air, without worrying about dangers of mingling with crowds of people," the conservator explained.

The 21 national parks in the country were in lockdown for lack of tourists for about three months, in which

case the precincts are untouched, unpolluted and untampered with for at least that period. They are among areas in the world where no traffic has been taking place for 12 weeks, restoring their natural atmosphere in part.

On his part, Sirili Akko, an executive with the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO), said he was still contacting members to find out the number of tourists that have confirmed their itinerary with each member

company.

Addressing the nation yesterday, President Magufuli said tourists would be flowing into the country from the end of May and early June.

Dr Khamis Kigwangalla, the minister for Natural Resources and Tourism said the ministry has designated health facilities to cater specially for tourists and service providers in the tourism sector.

Tour operators need to ensure that each visitor arriving in the country

is backed with an insurance package providing for air evacuation in case of emergency, while the ministry was deploying mobile ambulance services in view of likely need.

Tanzania has more than 500 tour operators and the country usually was handling around 1.5 million leisure visitors per year. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the tourism authorities were targeting to obtain two million foreign visitors by the end of this year.



Khalid Selemani and Mussa Kipfumu, coordinator and chairman of the Tanzania Red Cross Society in Kigoma Region, respectively, pictured yesterday presenting humanitarian assistance to Kigoma regional commissioner Brig Gen (rtd) Emmanuel Maganga (R, in jungle hat) for use by flood victims in Uvinza District yesterday. The package includes 100 buckets, 1,000 mattresses and 200 blankets. Photo: Correspondent Pendo Thomas

US agency hands Astra \$1bn for its new coronavirus vaccine final push

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million, 93 million euros) to be split between researchers at Oxford University and Imperial College London to help finance a Covid-19 vaccine. The UK government had already given £47 million.

Human trials of the vaccine developed by Oxford's Jenner Institute began last month, with hundreds of people in Britain volunteering to be part of the study.

The Covid-19 pandemic has killed more than 325,000 people worldwide, three-quarters of them in Europe and the United States, since breaking out in

China last December.

More than five million have been infected globally by the pandemic, sparking a rush by pharmaceutical companies around the world to try and develop treatments and vaccines.

"This pandemic is a global tragedy and it is a challenge for all of humanity," AstraZeneca chief executive Pascal Soriot said in yesterday's statement.

"We need to defeat the virus together or it will continue to inflict huge personal suffering and leave long-lasting economic and social scars in every country around the world," he added.

Minister: First tourist plane makes it to KIA

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will fly to Mwanza to carry 40 tonnes of fish fillet, he further noted.

"Mwanza Airport is an international airport and is now open, so there will be international cargo flights. We are discussing with Livestock and Fisheries to facilitate beef exports by air," he elaborated.

Air Tanzania Corporation Ltd (ATCL) was also finalizing procedures to start carrying commercial cargo to Europe, the minister noted.

On April 11, the Tanzania Civil

Aviation Authority (TCAA) suspended all commercial flights following Covid-19 eruption.

However with a substantial improvement in the infections and hospitalisation situation, on Monday the government announced an immediate reopening of commercial flights.

This widens the arc for international travel and landings where earlier only humanitarian aid, diplomatic flights, emergency flights and other special flights would have been considered.

EACJ to rule on application to strike out Govt notice of appeal early next month

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Appellate Division of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) is on June 9 expected to deliver its ruling on an application seeking the striking out of a notice of appeal by the Government of Tanzania challenging the court's ruling in favour of media stakeholders in respect of the country's Media Services Act (MSA) of 2016.

The Arusha-based Court reached the decision yesterday after hearing arguments from both parties through teleconference.

The Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and Tanzania human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) had filed Reference No. 2/2017 before First Instance Division of EACJ challenging the East African Cooperation Agreement for being incompatible with the spirit and basics of good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights.

The court ruled in favour of the applicants on March 28, 2019 but the respondent - the government - was dissatisfied and subsequently appealed the judgment in April 2019.

In its judgment, the court cited clauses 7 (3) (a) (b) (c) (f) (g) (h) (i) and (j), 13, 19, 20, 21, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 50, 54, 52, 53, 58, and 59 of the MSA as contravening the spirit and basics of good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights.

The Court also ruled that the law in question contravened clauses

6(d), 7(2) and 8 (1) (c) of the East African Cooperation treaty and the Constitution of United Republic of Tanzania.

Speaking after the hearing of the application to strike out the government's notice of appeal, advocate Fulgence Massawe for the three applicants said by December 2019, the government had not appealed. "According to the court's regulations, the appeal was supposed to be presented within 30 days after the presentation of notification of appeal but until December 2019 when we presented Application No. 5/2019 on the notification for appeal, the government had not formally appealed," he said.

"And as we were following up on the compliance of the March 28, 2019 judgment by the court, the government was telling us that there was a notice for appeal," he said, adding that the said notice was blocking the implementation of the court's ruling.

The counsel noted further: "Today the Court heard about our application and has accepted arguments from both sides and will come up with a ruling on June 9, 2020."

Since its enactment on 2016, MSA has been applied to suspend five newspapers at different times and for different durations - Mawio weekly newspaper (two years), Tanzania Daima daily newspaper (three months), Raia Mwema weekly newspaper (three months), MwanaHalisi weekly newspaper (two years), and the Citizen daily newspaper (seven days).



Masasi district commissioner Selemani Mzee (L) presents water tanks to Masasi District Police Commander Mushi Sokoro yesterday for use in the washing of hands at police stations as part of a strategy to prevent Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri

Heavy rains in Kigoma force over 300 people out of their residences

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

Days of heavy rain in Uvinza District, Kigoma Region have caused damaging floods as hundreds of residents are without shelters. At least 311 households have been swept away by floods from the ongoing heavy rains.

The floods affected the district's six wards and destroyed over 800 hectares of crops including foods that had been stored as well sweeping away livestock.

Uvinza District Commissioner Mwanamvua Mrindoko said yesterday when the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) for Kigoma region presented humanitarian assistance to the flood victims.

Kigoma Region TRCS chairman Mussa Kipfumu said their institution through its members were working together with the government to offer humanitarian assistance whenever disasters happen.

The society had donated 100

mattresses, 200 blankets, 100 water buckets all valued at 9,273,200/-.

He they have also constructed better pit latrines and provided health facilities in refugees' camps at Nyarugusu and Mtenderias well as donating safe blood in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality.

Kigoma Regional commissioner Brig Gen. (ret) Emmanuel Maganga appealed to the residents to abide by directives from their government to stop erecting settlements near rivers.

A Kirando village resident, Malilo Ezekiel said the floods had washed away his two houses. Hence, his family is housed by relatives, saying all his crops that were ready for harvesting had also been swept away by floods.

The region and district authorities had also provided assistance to flood victims including 2,772 kgs of flour, 4,119 kgs of beans and 2m/- in cash was realised at a fund raising event while Kirando village chairman Abdallah Shein donated 3 tonnes of maize flour.

Govt working on strategies to improve welfare of pack donkeys - TALIRI director

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (Taliri) is conducting a study on donkeys in effort to improve welfare of the pack animal in the country and advise the government accordingly.

Globally, donkeys are facing a population crisis because of the huge demand for their skins, bones and meat in China, where they are used to make health foods and traditional medicine.

Donkey meat is also a popular food, but a huge drop in the number of Chinese donkeys and the fact they are slow to reproduce, has forced suppliers to look elsewhere.

Tanzania like other African countries has been badly hit because the animals are such an important part of life for transport and farming - particularly in poorer communities.

Dr Jonas Kilima, director, technology transfer and researcher at TALIRI told this paper that there is need to establish several factors affecting development of donkey in the country, noting that there is very little information about the animal.

He said his institution is working to get to know among others gestation period of the animals, the reproduction cycle in general and what best can be done to improve their welfare.

"Unlike other animals such as goats, sheep and cows, little is known about donkey, one of the domestic animals that is commonly used for transport and other duties mainly in the rural areas" he said.

According Dr Kizima, donkeys in the country have come under serious threat since establishment of donkey abattoirs in Dodoma and Shinyanga few years ago. Both facilities were started by Chinese.

He pointed out that one of the most important problems in promoting donkeys is the lack of knowledge about their socio-economic status, husbandry and health needs

While the Dodoma based abattoir is closed down, the Shinyanga one is operating at full capacity and its management has asked the government to allow them process as many donkeys as possible. It currently operates under slaughter permit of 30 donkeys per day.

Dr Kizima said during a visit to districts of Iringa, Chemba, Arusha district council, Longido and Dodoma, several farmers complained of theft of donkeys by people who reportedly transport them to the nearest abattoirs.

According the researcher, there is need to establish the best way to promote the working animals to ensure the multiplication lest they face extinction.

Dr Stanford Ndbalema, a director in the Department of Veterinary Services under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries noted that the government allowed slaughter of donkeys in the country because a lot of donkeys were being smuggled to Kenya

The government also believed it was losing out on potential revenues from donkeys stolen in Tanzania and slaughtered in Kenyan abattoirs for export to China.

"We found ourselves in a situation where we had no slaughter houses operating, and yet more donkeys were being stolen from Tanzania and smuggled to Kenya. There were buyers in Tanzania who were encouraging and incentivising donkey theft and smuggling into Kenya," Ndbalema said.

"With the ever-increasing number of stolen donkeys trafficked into Kenya, we decided to let the abattoirs re-open in February 2018. The idea was to let them operate while government worked out ways of regulating the industry to ensure it does not drive our donkeys to extinction."

He acknowledged that there is serious decrease of donkeys in the country, thus the need to see how to increase the number of animals.

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has endorsed the ratification of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch keeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995 which aims at further promoting safety of life and property at sea.

The international convention is also aimed at promoting the protection of the marine environment by establishing common agreed international standards of training, certification and watch keeping for personnel employed on board fishing vessels.

Speaking when he tabled the convention in House yesterday, Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani who represented, Works, Transport and Communication Isack Kamwelwe said by ratifying the convention, Tanzania would join other 33 countries members of the International Maritime

Tanzania joins international maritime agency - Kalemani

Organization (IMO) that have ratified.

"This convention is aimed at administering training, and quality of certificates offered to 24 -meter long fishing vessel personnel both locally and abroad," the minister said.

The minister said as of 1994 fishing was seen as one of the risky jobs globally as it caused deaths to an average 24000 seafarers yearly. This was ten times of the deaths caused by merchant ships.

According to the International Labour Organisation until 1977, it was seen that seafarers were spending more hours at work without taking into consideration working conditions and without working tools.

The ministers said this was a result of lack of inspectors and trained assessors

on fishing vessels.

The minister said the ratification of the convention will now allow the training institutions to offer global recognized deep sea fishing training and certificates at local colleges located Bagamoyo in the Coast region, Nyegezi in Mwanza, Kibirizi in Kigoma, Rolya Mara and Mikindani in Mtwara.

The minister said delay to ratify the convention was denying Tanzanian seafarers the qualifications to be employed by international seafaring organizations.

This was also making Tanzania not a safe place for fishing because it has not reached the international standards hence making the country lose revenues because Tanzanians could not be employed elsewhere.



The construction of a culvert along the Bashay-Endaguday-Hydom-Yaeda Chini road in Manyara Region is well in progress, as captured yesterday. The one previously there was swept away by floodwaters recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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'Govt has done well in improving public healthcare, arresting emerging infections'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

A well-coordinated public health system for the detection and control of emerging infections and antimicrobial resistance requires an effective partnership among health care providers, academic health centres, and the traditional public health system.

Effective infectious disease surveillance necessitates that physicians send samples to competent laboratories for confirmation of their diagnoses and that they report the findings through the public health system, according to Ministry of Health.

In the same vein, government has heightened internal monitoring systems of patients and health events from the grassroots level in addition to screenings at ports of entry and border posts.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ummu Mwalimu said the purpose was to protect the lives of the citizens at any cost.

"We're monitoring at the community level, health facilities and other areas across surface and water territories," she said.

The minister was responding to a question from Special Seats MP Mgeni Kadika (CUF). The lawmaker had initially claimed that there are so many diseases in the world that use different methods of diagnosis apart from screening gadgets commonly used at airports and ports.

What other actions are the government taking to protect its citizens? She queried. In her written response, the minister said the monitoring system includes use of mobile applications in reporting health and diseases as they occur across all healthcare service centres.

The minister went on to explain that the operational costs of running

the system, is billed by the Ministry of Health. This allows healthcare providers to send and receive instant messages without being charged.

Mwalimu emphasised that the ministry monitoring system including rumors of diseases and health events at community levels. The reason, according to the minister is that not all health and diseases information gets to health centres.

"We engage the community through a toll free help line ... the ministry's number allows the member of the community to inform the ministry or the health centre for unusual medical, health event in the community," she said.

The public health officers have also been directed to also make follow-ups of such allegations or information published in social and mainstream media to allow the government take necessary actions.

"Some of the methods used to identify these patients are as well as physical examination, observation, interrogation asking them about their health history to determine they are/was at risk of getting infected," she said. Adding, "body temperature sensing, examining samples to confirm infections as well as using a computerised tomography (CT) scan are among the methods."

Mwalimu insisted the methods are used worldwide for monitoring and diagnosing patients on various epidemics.



We're monitoring at the community level, health facilities and other areas across surface and water territories



A Dar es Salaam resident finds it especially tricky boarding a commuter bus at the Kawe stand yesterday, with mud scattered all over following two consecutive days of light rain in most of the city. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Reporter

NORTH Mara Barrick executives and its Board have been advised to select a friendly technology for the economic environment particularly in the treatment of waste waters produced from the gold mine.

The suggestion was given by the Minister of State in the Vice president's Office (Environment, Mussa Hassan Zungu at the week when inspecting wastewater dump of Barrick's North Mara Gold Mine.

In his one-day visit, Zungu was accompanied by the Minister for

Address challenges faced in treatment, management of waste water - minister

Energy, Dotto Biteko, Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development Angela Mabula and the chairman of the National environmental Management Council (NEMC) Prof Esinati Chaggu.

Speaking to Nyamongo residents, Zungu assured them of abiding by the laws and environment procedures saying: "Safety of waste waters exists

and often we conduct inspections to ensure the waste waters do not affect the health of residents surrounding the mine."

NEMC managing director Dr Samuel Gwamaka said they are working on the complaints from the residents surrounding the mine and frequently inspect whether environmental procedures are followed.

"Barrick's North Mara Gold Mine is among the mines that we follow up closely to ensure its operations do not destroy the environment and health risk to the people around it," he added.

However the government, in collaboration with various authorities continue to ensure friendly environment at mines, miners and people surrounding them.



Omari Kumbilamoto (C), Deputy Mayor of Dar es Salaam's Ilala municipality, presents items worth 7.9m/- to Bajaj riders chairman Nyaiokoma Msabi (L) on Wednesday. It is support by the National Institute for Medical Research in collaboration with Tanzanians studying in Australia specifically meant to help people with disabilities in the war on Covid-19. With them is NIMR director general Prof Yunus Mgaya. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

PRODUCERS across Tanzania have been urged to use right measurements in order to get quality products for local and foreign uses.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during commemoration of the World's Metrology Day Director General of Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Dr Athuman Ngenya said more steps were needed to improve quality of products.

Use right measurements, manufacturers ordered

He said the government intends to make sure that there are many industries which create more employment that would stimulate business and economy of individuals and the whole nation through quality goods.

"I want to inform industrialists and traders that production of quality and standard goods is possible, TBS

through its metrology laboratory is the custodian of nation standards," he said.

He said at the moment, the metrology laboratory can provide service on science measurement in weights, length, temperature, pressure, electricity and chemicals.

Dr Ngenya insisted that international

trade can be conducted easily once production will adhere to the correct measurements found in every standard of the related product.

The theme for World Metrology Day 2020 is Measurements for global trade.

This theme was chosen to create awareness of the important role measurement plays in facilitating fair global

trade, ensuring products meet standards and regulations and satisfying customer quality expectations.

The science of measurement plays a central role in scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, in improving the quality of life and in protecting the global environment.

Govt will supply electricity to the whole of Namtumbo District, declares ministry

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government intends to provide electricity to all villages in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region, by the end of the year 2021, the National assembly was told here yesterday.

The Ministry of energy said in a written response to a question from Namtumbo Member of Parliament Edwin Ngonyani (CCM) who wanted to know when will the government supply electricity to Namtumbo.

In response the ministry said through the Rural Electrification Agency phase three which started in June, 2017 and expected to end in June 2021, electricity will reach all villages in Namtumbo.

According to the ministry, through first round of the REA phase III Grid Extension 23 villages will be electrified before the end of 2020.

According to the MP Namtumbo did not receive electricity in the first and second phases of REA. She had sought to know what are the government's plans to ensure the district is electrified in the third phase.

The MP also wanted to know when the Makambako-Songea grid project will supply electricity to the remaining villages in Namtumbo.

In response the ministry mentioned the villages to be electrified include Utwango, Litola, Mchomoro, Luego,

Namabengo, Lumecha, Nahoro, Ukiwayuyu, Kumbara, Mtakanini, Songambele, Migelegele, Nangero, Mwinuko, Ruvuma, Nambehe, Misufini, Namahimba, Muungano, Sasawala, Liwawa, Mlalawima and Mnalawi.

He said the project involves supplying electricity to 23 villages to a distance of 56.3 kilometers and connect electricity to 875 houses worth \$657,815.10 million (4.034 bn/-)

The Makambako-Songea was completed in September 2018 by supplying electricity to various villages in Namtumbo and nearby districts and was launched by President John Magufuli on 5th April, 2019.

In 2016 REA announced the beginning of implementation of the Rural Electrification Programme Phase III, a project that aims to electrify more than 7,873 villages in rural Tanzania for 5 years. 7,697 villages will be connected to the national grid, while the remaining 176 will be connected to other energy sources.

The project is implemented by private contractors and supervised by REA, the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) and a Trust Agent.

As of June 2016, 4,395 villages in Tanzania were connected to electricity during Phase I and II of the project

World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations.

The convention set the framework for global collaboration in the science of measurement and in its industrial, commercial and societal applications. The original aim of the Metre Convention - the world-wide uniformity of measurement - remains as important today as it was in 1875.



Tanga Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority director Geoffrey Hilly (2nd-R) presents a sets of hand washing items yesterday to Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella (in glasses) for distribution across Tanga municipality, including in hospitals and at bus stands. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

Kagera crowded islands, markets in great need of Covid-19 PPE, says RAS

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

AUTHORITIES in Kagera Region have said the regions' outlying islands in Lake Victoria and many auctions areas are in great need of items for the protection against Covid-19 infections.

This was revealed by Kagera Region Administrative Officer (RAS) Prof Faustine Kamuzora when receiving, on behalf of the Regional Commissioner, various items for the protection against the pandemic's infections donated by World Vision Tanzania.

The items included 198 loud speakers, 200 bottles sanitisers, 500 masks, 45 water buckets 106,000 pairs

of gloves and 38,000 chlorine tablets all valued at more than 37.2m/-.

Prof Kamuzora said the government was planning to meet with some stakeholders to ask them for assistance of protective items for the areas in order to control the spreading of the disease.

The items included 198 loud speakers, 200 bottles sanitisers, 500 masks, 45 water buckets 106,000 pairs of gloves and 38,000 chlorine tablets all valued at more than 37.2m/-.

He said he knows that islands areas have huge gatherings of people hence they are in great need of the protective items, but also at the auctions where many people meet for business transactions, who must be reminded of the importance of protecting themselves.

The Representative of World Vision for Kagera Region Joseph Potino said they will continue working together with the government in the fight against Covid-19 infections as so far the institution has provided anti-Covid-19 items worth 61.5m/-.

Kagera Region is claimed to have more than 26 islands that are inhabited.

'Govt working to improve industrial infrastructure for more job creation'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THERE are 476 small scale industries in Mpanda Municipality and the government is working to improve existing and new infrastructures to help the facilities contribute potentially on the economy including job creation.

In his written response to the special seat legislator Rhoda Kunchela (Chadema) question, minister for Industry and Trade Innocent Bashungwa said the ministry is further expanding series of strategies that will help the industries.

"We have surveyed, mapped and allocated a 30-acres of land in Misunkumilo ward. This piece of land has all the necessary infrastructures, water, electricity, latrine and security ... until March 2020 a total of 42 small factories were established creating 200 employments," he said.

Bashungwa said the ministry is also strengthening public awareness knowledge on doing business and it has been offering training on agro-processing in an effort to add value to produces.

Initially, Kunchela had in her principle question inquired clarification on government strategies to support local small scale industries to create employments and thus contribute to economic growth in Mpanda Municipality. "Mpadeco is a sunflower factory in Mpanda but it has failed to create more jobs recently," she said demanding the government to explain whether there are strategies in place to support such factories.

But the minister said the government in Tanganyika allocated 50m/- during the financial year 2020/21 specifically for the procurement of machines and renovating the Mpadeco factory. "After

rehabilitation and renovation the factory can help creating more jobs and offer solid market for sunflower farmers," the minister said.

The minister said the government is also supporting local small scale factories with friendly technologies to be able to maximise productivity and values agricultural products such as sunflower, sesame, honey, groundnuts and paddy.

Bashungwa said authorities are also working in identifying all new small and macro factories to be able to produce high-quality products. "We're licencing this factories, providing them with specific guidance in running industries," he added.

In addition to soft loans, the government said it has also build sufficient road networks to help farmers and factories get their products to targeted markets.

VACANCY



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

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

Position:	Staff Physician.
Job Number:	GGM-2020-TR-06.
Number of Positions:	02 (One Year Fixed Term)
Works For:	Chief Medical Officer
Qualifications:	Degree of Medicine (MD). Registered with Medical Council of Tanganyika.
Experience:	A minimum of 3 years' experience with ability to provide patient critical care
Purpose of the Role:	To maintain a healthy workforce and working conditions to achieve high productivity and retain the social license to operate at Geita Gold Mining Limited.

Medical Practice

- Practice medicine using Medical Council of Tanganyika standards and maintaining good stand.
- Assist Chief Medical Officer in provision of leadership in the performance of medical activities including Primary Health Care (Preventive, Counseling and Treatment Measures), Occupational Health and Public Health.
- Recommend plans to Chief Medical Officer and implement medical programs out of approved plans to improve provision of medical services and facilities, develop medical protocols to comply with medical ethics, regulations and guidelines, establishment and storage of medical reports, statistics and records.
- Institute and manage continuing professional education, in-service training, and orientation of clinical staff.
- Diagnose and treat a variety of injuries and diseases; examine patients using medical equipment; order, execute and analyze tests to diagnose patients.
- Supervise and provide systematic care to patients in the emergency room, ward and OPD and critical care to patients having cardiorespiratory complications
- Work in a method that is reliable with health and safety practices, especially concerning to the handling and disposing of body fluids and sharps.
- Advise patients about hygiene, diet, disease prevention and other medical topics.
- Keep informed of the latest medicinal information.

Community Health

- Participate in the collection of information from different areas of the company operation to determine impact of activities and nature of working areas to the health of employees and contractors.
- Participate in departmental health programs such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other public health activities.

Clinic Supervision/Administration

- Assist Chief Medical Officer to oversee patients' satisfaction and communicate with the patients in case of complaints.
- Assist Chief Medical Officer to ensure smooth running of the clinic, this includes checking on the staff, supplies, and any other problem which can affect the smooth running of the clinic.
- Assist Chief Medical Officer in carrying out good level of communication in the health department in order to make the entire system work in a coordinated fashion.
- Accountable for clinic supervision/administration when on duty or on call.

Computer skills

- Proficient in Microsoft Office products.

Workplace Competencies

- Willing to attend standby and call-out duties.
- Team player.
- Experience in management of people and teams.
- Skills in negotiating and managing partner relationships.
- The ability to work across all disciplines, where rigorous engagement and interaction is expected.
- The ability to handle conflict resolution.
- The ability to communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing with good presentation and facilitation skills.
- The ability to work and communicate with people at all levels/good interpersonal skills

Driving skills

- Driving competency (Tanzania Driving License Class B and D)

Main or Key Accountabilities:

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

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Position:	Nurse.
Job Number:	GGM-2020-TR-07.
Number of Positions:	05 (One Year Fixed Term).
Works For:	Patron
Qualifications:	Diploma in Nursing. Registration with the Tanzania Nurses and Midwives' Association
Experience:	Minimum of 2 years work experience in the clinical/emergency settings
Purpose of the Role:	Provision of nursing care to critical and non-critical patients

- Main or Key Accountabilities:**
- Responsible for general patient care
 - Administration of medications and injections
 - Cleaning of wounds and dressings
 - Carry out infection prevention and control procedures
 - Carry out triage
 - Keeping records of patient properly and ethically

- Additional Requirements:**
- Computer Skills (Ms Office)
 - Excellent Communications skills both English and Swahili
 - Able to work independently
 - Self-Driven
 - Excellent physical fitness
 - Good practical skills in areas of cardiac and respiratory nursing support

Mode of Application: Application cover letter (Subject should be: **Application for Nurse** and/or quote the **job number**), detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e-mail and telephone contacts, names and addresses of three referees, to be forwarded to below address. Potential internal applicants are encouraged to apply.

You will be required to bring **original certificates** if you are contacted for interviews.

Contact Address: Senior Manager Human Resources,
Geita Gold Mining Ltd,
P.O.Box 532,
Geita.
Email: jobs.geita@AngloGoldAshanti.com

NB: Internal applicants may submit applications to departmental HR Officer. All internal applications must be endorsed by the applicant's head of department.

Application Deadline: Application letters should reach the above on or before **27th May 2020 – 17hr30. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.**

BEWARE OF CONMEN! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing 24cthonesty@ethics-line.com or use the internet at www.tip-offs.com.

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WATER

KAHAMA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION AUTHORITY - (KUWASA)



Telephone: 028-2710349
Fax: 028-2710349
Email: info@kuwasa.go.tz
Web: www.kuwasa.go.tz

P O BOX 102
KAHAMA,
SHINYANGA



Kahama Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (KUWASA) is a full autonomous public entity established with the water work Act (Cap 272), which has been replaced with the water supply and sanitation Act No 5 of, 2019. The authority was established to operate reliable, affordable and sustainable water supply and sanitation services in Kahama Town. As a result of expansion of the existing distribution network, that has also made a substantial increase of customer base, KUWASA wishes to recruit competent Tanzanians to fill the following vacant posts.

JOB TITLE	: ASSISTANT BILLING OFFICER.
APPOINTING AUTHORITY	: MANAGING DIRECTOR
EMPLOYMENT TERMS	: UNSPECIFIED CONTRACT
REPORTS TO	: BILLING OFFICER.
SALARY SCALE	: KWSS 8 A

REQUIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A Diploma in Computer Science or Information Technology (IT), with at least three (3) years working experience in a reputable organization. Knowledge of business administration is an added advantage. Age limit 45

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The holder of this position heads Billing and Metering Section and is responsible for carrying out management, development and maintenance on the customer metering and billing efficiency. The outputs of this position are thus ensure water supplied is metered and billed accurately. Shall perform the following duties:

- Preparing and undertaking the monthly billing processes.
- Monitoring the monthly customer bills preparation processes.
- Monitoring and ensuring the correctness of data stored in the customer database.
- Analyzing the documented daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports and recommending improvement plans.
- Monitoring customer meter readings, bills preparation and dispatching processes
- Inspecting viability and correctness of the proposed customer bills adjustments before they are recommended for approval by the appropriate officials.
- Monitoring the use, storage and maintenance of data loggers.
- Performing any other duties as may be assigned by Commercial Manager.

JOB TITLE	: SENIOR ACCOUNTANT
APPOINTING AUTHORITY	: MANAGING DIRECTOR
EMPLOYMENT TERMS	: UNSPECIFIED CONTRACT
REPORTS TO	: FINANCE MANAGER
SALARY SCALE	: KWSS 11A

REQUIRED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Holder of Bachelor's Degree/Advance diploma in Accountancy/Finance/Business Administration (BBA) majoring in Accountancy or equivalent from a recognised institution and must be an Associate Certified Public Accountant (ACPA(T)) or ACCA. Must be knowledgeable in accounting packages, computer literate and working experience of at least five (5) years in Accounting/auditing and must be ICT literate with good interpersonal communication skills.

Age limit 45

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To coordinate provision of support in ensuring timely and effective provision of financial services to the Authority and Audit queries are as well timely answered and tabled to external Auditors.
- To coordinate monitoring of financial expenditure as per approved budget, procedures and policies.
- To coordinate provision of support in overseeing establishment and application of systems and procedures for finance.
- To collaborate in ensuring that all approved and normal operations pertaining to finance are carried out on time and according to approved budget.
- To collaborate in overseeing prudent management of the Authority's resources, including keeping records on their utilization.
- To coordinate preparation of time-based reports on financial performance.
- To coordinate preparation of operating and capital expenditure budgets.
- To collaborate in preparing annual financial statements.
- To collaborate in controlling, applying and monitoring routine finance functions.
- To collaborate in monitoring and controlling all receivable accounts.
- To effectively supervise and guide members of staff reporting on the job.
- To undertake any other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Mode of Application

Application should be sent to KUWASA as registered mails by Postal office, EMS and DHL, Prospective candidates are invited to submit applications in their own handwriting together with copies of their certificates, two (2) passport size of the applicant (recently taken), fully typed curriculum vitae with e-mail address, a reliable postal address and telephone numbers, copies of relevant certificates/ testimonials /transcripts and addresses of at least two professional referees to the following address.

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
Kahama Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (KUWASA)
P.O. Box 102
Kahama
Shinyanga.

Closing Date.

Fourteen (14) days after the first appearance of this advertisement.

- Only short-listed applicants will be contacted.
- The Authority employment policy is not gender biased hence all prospective applicants are encouraged to apply.

157487

Budget for upgrading road in Masasi District totalled 860m/- in 2019/2020, reports ministry

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE budget meant for road improvement in Masasi District has increased from 686.1m/- in 2018/19 to 860 m/- in 2019/20 financial year, the National Assembly was told yesterday.

The Ministry of State, Local Government and Regional Administration said in a written response to a question by Masasi Member of Parliament Rashid Chuachua who wanted to know when the government will increase the road improvement budget for the district through the Tanzania Rural Road Agency (TARURA).

The MP asked: "Masasi district receives 700m/- as budget for infrastructure improvement what is the government's plan to increase this amount?"

In response, the ministry said the government is determined to increase the budget depending on the collection of revenues to facilitate infrastructure improvements in the district through TARURA.

The government established TARURA on grounds that roads under Regional Administration and Local Government were the ones propelling the country's economy, hence such roads were supposed to be given a

priority. Tarura oversees all the roads under the local government ministry as the former was established and announced in the Government Gazette no. 211 of June in 2017 after a long time cry from Members of Parliament.

Rural roads had for long looked like ants as some people lack good ethics, including councillors and directors would now and then embezzle funds by naming one road more than four times.

Besides that, he said there were bureaucracies regarding the roads, explaining that most of them were reconstructed below standards.



A Babati District water department employee pictured earlier this week inspecting water infrastructure, including pipes, following customers' complaints about allegedly inflated bills. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Big relief for Loya villagers on getting national grid electricity

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

RESIDENTS of Loya village in Uyui District Tabora Region have a reason to smile after their houses were connected to the national electricity grid.

Villagers thanked the government through the Ministry of Energy for connecting their village to power, the step they earlier viewed as a dream.

They conveyed their thanks after the Minister for Energy Dr Medard Kalemuni flicked the switch to connect electricity to the village and inspected power distribution thereto.

The villagers said for many years they were being given promises that never materialized and had to despair due to their village being situated a very long distance from the nearest power infrastructure as well as the area's unfriendly geography.

"This minister has written history here at Loya village, it has never happened for a senior cabinet minister to come to the village since

its establishment as they only reach as far as urban areas, we thank President John Magufuli to let him come to inaugurate electric power in our village," said Jesephath Wamalulu, a Loya villager.

The Energy minister said after listening to many complaints on the need for power in the village that was still to be connected by Rural Energy Agency (REA), he instructed Tanzania Electric Supply Company Ltd (Tanesco) to provide it with power.

He said the village has many farmers growing rice and groundnuts and business people want power to run their economic activities.

In the circumstances, he said Tanesco set aside more than 3bn/- to ensure power reaches Loya village which is located long distances from the nearest power infrastructure.

He instructed Tanesco to continue connecting power to households that have already paid connection fees within seven days after such payment, and called upon the

residents to use the power for economic activities instead of using it only for lighting.

Igalula Member of Parliament Musa Ntimizi appealed to traders in the village to widen their business activities and to farmers to increase value to their crops.

He also urged the residents to grab the opportunity by establishing small businesses that use electricity such as hair salons, milling machines and welding.

"The power has come at an opportune time as we shall soon start selling quality refined rice instead of the rice with husks which outsiders have been coming to con farmers of this area, we shall soon have modern milling machines and farmers will be able to add value to their crops," said Ntimizi.

He told the villagers that they should not, under any circumstances, buy power poles, and they should use contractors approved by Tanesco to do wiring in their houses.

Covid-19: Federation seeking more support for persons with disabilities

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Federation of Disabled People's Organisations (SHIVYWATA) has appealed to various stakeholders especially during the Covid-19 pandemic period.

"I like to take this opportunity to appeal to various people to continue assisting us people with disabilities especially with hand washing facilities and masks for protection against the disease," she said.

Speaking yesterday at a press conference in Dar es Salaam SHIVYWATA chairperson Umy Nderinanga said nearly 10 groups of people with disabilities with about

three million people countrywide have various needs that require assistance from stakeholders especially during the Covid-19 pandemic period.

"I like to take this opportunity to appeal to various people to continue assisting us people with disabilities especially with hand washing facilities and masks for protection against the disease," she said.

Presenting 1,500 copies of braille books, the coordinator of Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) Onesmo Ole Ngurumwa said

people with disabilities should not be forgotten in the fight against the pandemic.

"These people need such items because they cannot read normal books if we need all groups to be reached, but if you gave them such books they are able to read just like normal people," he said.

According to SHIVYWATA chairperson a total number of blind people is about 25,000 and that the books are not sufficient hence they ask for more assistance from stakeholders.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) workers train residents of the city's Kipunguni B suburb on the reading of water meters after the agency handed over to them a water project in the area. Dawasa has officially taken over all water projects previously operated by municipal councils. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Observe ethics in project execution, Morogoro DC advises ward councillors

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO District Commissioner, Regina Chonjo has called on ward councillors in the municipality to observe ethical rules when implementing their duties and avoid entertaining conflicts of interest in development projects.

The DC said: "There were some ward councillors who have been reported having conflicts of interest in development projects something which raise disputes and thus derails implementation of the projects."

DC Chonjo made the remarks here when opening a five-day seminar to 20 ward councillors and heads of departments of the municipal which aimed to remind the officials on ethical conduct.

She wanted the councillors to live up to their oaths, adhere ethical rules as described in the leadership code of ethics Act no 13 of 1995 which requires officials to avoid conflicts of interest, corruption, sexuality and alcoholism.

"I believe after the end of this seminar, councillors will go out having something good in their minds, they

will all take an oath vowing to work hard and ethically and stern measures will be taken against whoever fails to implement," she added.

DC Chonjo wanted the councillors to go back to their areas of work and show people what they have done for the five years of the fifth phase government.

For his part, Zonal Ethics official from Ethics Secretariat (ES), Selemani Shabani said that councillors will have to declare their assets as it was for ministers and other public officials a move aimed to battle conflicts of interest and corruption especially in the implementation of development projects where most officials use it as an opportunity to pocket government's funds.

Amir Nondo, a ward councillor from Boma applauded the DC's decision for inviting ethics officials to grill and remind councillors on public leadership code.

"There were some ward councillors who have been reported having conflicts of interest in development projects something which raise disputes and thus derails implementation of the projects"

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

Over 80,000 Mwanza small traders to receive special entrepreneurs' IDs

OVER 80,000 petty traders in Mwanza Region are expected to receive special Identification Cards (IDs) that would stimulate engagement in income generating activities and thus improve economic growth this year.

Regional Commissioner John Mongella made the remarks here soon after receiving a total of 15,000 IDs from the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government.

According to him, this year Mwanza region will receive a total of 88000 IDs worth 1.76bn/- which will be distributed

to petty traders in the region.

"We have today received 15,000 IDs worth 300m/-, this is for the first phase, we expect to receive a total of 73,000 IDs by next month, so by December this year, some 88000 IDs would be on the hands of petty traders," he said.

Mongella commended the government's initiative calling on

petty traders to register to get the IDs as the move rescue them from multilevels and thus play a vital role in the country's development.

He wanted officials to conduct the registration and IDs distribution faithfully and with due diligence by learning from the challenges recorded in the past exercises.

"We should also strengthen efforts, work hard and make sure that we collect revenues to surpass our 100 percent target," he added.

For his part, Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Emmanuel Tutuba said that the 15000 IDs will be distributed in eight district councils of Mwanza city (3500 IDs), Ilemela (3000 IDs),

Sengerema (1500 IDs), Buchosa (1500), Ukerewe (1000), Kwimba (1500), Misungwi (1500) and Magu (1500).

Manager of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Mwanza, Joseph Mtandika said that in 2019 only they distributed a total of 80,000 IDs to petty traders but the number has gone up to 88,000 IDs this year something

which shows that the demand is still high.

Late 2018, President John Magufuli launched the programme to provide vendors and small-scale entrepreneurs with special taxpayer ID cards which he printed in efforts to expand the tax base in the country.

When handing over the cards to regional commissioners, he charged the leaders to ensure proper distribution of the cards.

The ID cards will be renewable annually and are available at a price of 20,000/-. Anyone running a business with a maximum profit turnaround of 4 million/- is eligible to have one.

ARDHI UNIVERSITY



Advertisement for the Position of Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic Affairs of Ardhi University

Ardhi University is a Public University established under the Universities Act No. 7 of 2005 and the Ardhi University Charter of 2007. The mission of the University is to provide innovative and integrated learning, research and public service that advance sustainable development at national level and beyond. The University is looking for qualified candidate to fill the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic Affairs. Applications from eligible candidates are invited. Women are highly encouraged to apply.

1.0 Duties and Responsibilities

The Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs shall be responsible to, being the Chief Advisor of, and Assistant to the Vice Chancellor in respect to such matters of the University as shall be assigned or delegated to him or his office and as may be prescribed.

2.0 Qualifications:

- The candidate must be a Professor or Associate Professor possessing outstanding scholarly and administration experience of at least five years at senior management level in a University.
- Must possess a minimum of a PhD degree from a recognized University.

3.0 Age Limit

Not above 60 years.

4.0 Mode of Application

All Applicants must submit signed application letters accompanied with the following:

- Copies of relevant academic and professional certificates
- Names and complete address of THREE referees and
- Current CV.

Applications in a sealed envelope, should reach the Chairman of the Search Committee by using the address below and not later than 28th May, 2020.

5.0 General Information

- Only shortlisted applicant will be contacted and
- Further information about the University can be obtained at www.aru.ac.tz

Interested applicants should submit application electronically and hard copies to:

The Chairman
Search Committee for Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Ardhi University
P.O.Box 35176,
Dar es Salaam
E-mail: aru@aru.ac.tz

157472



REQUEST FOR QUOTATION RFQ 2020 –05/02

Closing Date: Wednesday 10th June 2020, 11am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

Pact Inc. is an international non-profit organization with its headquarters in Washington, DC. Pact serves communities challenged by poverty and marginalization because we envision a world where everyone owns their future. To do this, we build systemic solutions in partnership with local organizations, businesses and government. Our goal is thriving, resilient communities where those we serve are heard, capable, and vibrant.

In 2019, PEPFAR's global OVC strategy introduced a Preventive Program Faith and Community Initiative (FCI) to complement USAID Kizazi Kipya efforts and fill in the gaps for involving faith and community leaders to reach men and children. Faith and Community Initiative (FCI) is an intervention that focuses on children aged nine to fourteen (9-14) in high HIV-burden geographic areas, particularly in areas where poverty and violence are endemic. For boys and girls, the developmental period of pre and young adolescence entails unique opportunities but also rising exposure to risks including sexual violence particularly for girls. The focus for this group is evidence-based programming that prevents sexual violence, delays sexual debut, and prevents HIV.

Pact Tanzania under the Faith and Community Initiative (FCI) will engage parents and community members, especially faith and traditional leaders, in protecting adolescents from violence, and supports healthy decision-making as children mature. Therefore, there will be an evidence-based curriculum on IMpower and Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) that will be used to train a group of adolescent girls and boys respectively to reduce their risk of violence and HIV. This evidence-based curriculum will require school and sports materials that will facilitate the trainings.

Pact Tanzania now invites quotes from eligible, registered companies to supply and print school and sports materials for both coaches/instructors, boys and girls aged 9-14 in six councils as specified in the below table.

SN	IMpower Requirement	Type of Purchase	Quantity
1	T-Shirt for Girls and Instructors	Supply and printing on the T-Shirts (also include this Printing logo attached)	480 T-shirts-girls size (9-14 years) 14 T-Shirts- Adult size
2	Instructors Foam Shield (Punching Bag)	Supply and print Foam Shields (Printing logo attached)	14 Foam Shields
3	Instructors Pair of Strike Shield Mitts	Supply and print Pair of Strike Shield Mitts (Printing logo attached)	14 Strike Shield Mitts (14 pairs that is two per person left and right shield 14")
4	Instructors Cones	Supply different colored cones	56 Different Colored Cones
5	Instructors Kit Bag	Supply and print Instructor's Kit Bags (Printing logo attached)	14 Kit Bags
6	Girls and Instructors Exercise shoes	Supply exercise shoes	480 Exercise Shoes-Girls size (9-14 years) 14 Exercise Shoes-Adult Size
7	Girls and Instructors Trackuits	Supply and print Trackuits (Printing logo attached)	480 Trackuits-Girls size (9-14 years) 14 Trackuits- Adult size
8	Exercise Floor mat	Supply exercise floor mat	14 pcs
9	Girls School Bags	Supply and printing School Bags only, exercise books, mathematical set and ball pens (Printing logo attached)	480 School Bags 5,760 exercise books (12 pcs per person) 5,760 Ball pens (12 pcs per person) 480 mathematical set (One each)

Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM)		
1	Instructors Cones and Linesman flags	Supply different colored cones and linesman flags
2	Coaches Kit Bag	Supply and printing coaches' Kit Bags (Printing logo attached)
3	Boys and Coaches Exercise shoes	Supply football Exercise shoes
4	Coaches trackuits	Supply and printing Coaches Trackuits (Printing logo attached)
5	Boy's School Bags	Supply and printing School Bags (Printing logo attached)
6	Trophies for Football Winners-First and Second winner	Supply winner's trophies-Big and Small trophy
7	Football balls	Supply footballs
8	Football jerseys	Supply and printing Football jerseys (Printing logo attached)
9	Coaches whistles	Supply Coaches whistles

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Interested, eligible vendor should deliver their quotation to:

The Tender Committee
Pact Tanzania
74 Uporoto Street, Victoria
P. O. Box 6348, Dar es salaam, Tanzania

All quotes must be in Tanzanian Shillings and enclosed in a plain sealed envelope. The deadline is 11am EAT Wednesday 10th June 2020.

Please note:

- Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
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The Guardian

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FRIDAY 22 MAY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Equal rights are fundamental for sustainable development

GENDER equality is a belief that both men and women should receive equal treatment. People should not be discriminated against because of their gender. Gender equality, also known as sexual equality or equality of the sexes, is the state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision-making; and the state of valuing different behaviors, aspirations and needs equally, regardless of gender.

Gender equality is the goal, while gender neutrality and gender equity are practices and ways of thinking that help in achieving the goal. Gender parity, which is used to measure gender balance in a given situation, can aid in achieving gender equality but is not the goal in and of itself. Gender equality is more than equal representation, it is strongly tied to women's rights, and often requires policy changes. As of 2017, the global movement for gender equality has not incorporated the proposition of genders besides women and men, or gender identities outside of the gender binary.

UNICEF says gender equality "means that women and men, and girls and boys, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. It does not require that girls and boys, or women and men, be the same, or that they be treated exactly alike." [1][a]

On a global scale, achieving gender equality also requires eliminating harmful practices against women and girls, including sex trafficking, femicide, wartime sexual violence, and other oppression tactics. UNFPA stated that, "despite many international agreements affirming their human rights, women are still much more likely than men to be poor and illiterate. They have less access to property ownership, credit, training and employment. They are far less likely than men to be politically active and far more likely to be victims of domestic violence."

As of 2017, gender equality is the fifth of seventeen sustainable development goals of the United Nations. Gender inequality is measured annually by the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development reports. The board of directors of the African Development Bank Group has approved a new Gender Equality Trust Fund (GETF) aimed at pushing forward gender equality and women's empowerment across the continent.

Funded by donors, the GETF will support the delivery and scale-up of the Bank's Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) programme and promote gender transformative lending and non-lending operations. It is the first thematic fund on gender in the Bank Group's history. The Fund will be established for an initial period of 10 years.

AFAWA is the Bank's flagship pan-African initiative which aims to bridge the \$42 billion financing gap facing women in Africa. Through AFAWA, the Bank is spearheading a major push to unlock women's entrepreneurial capacity and economic participation for maximum development impact.

Also on Tuesday 31 March, the Board of Directors of the Bank approved a Risk-Sharing Mechanism - an innovative financial instrument to de-risk women-empowered businesses, enhance their profile with banks and support them to grow and thrive as entrepreneurs. Anchor investors in the GETF are the governments of France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The Africa Guarantee Fund (AGF) has been chosen as the first implementing partner to facilitate access to finance for women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). AGF is a pan-African entity that provides financial institutions with guarantees and other financial products to support SMEs in Africa. AGF has a network spread over 42 African countries and 150-plus financial institutions.

Global battle against coronavirus could help us fight climate change

AN invisible virus has made our individual actions more visible than ever - and revealed our true power to face societal crises beyond COVID-19.

As people around the world work together to flatten the curve of COVID-19, the outside roles we play in Earth's natural system have become clear as never before. Billions of humans can now see how they are interconnected, working together to slow the spread of a lethal virus through their individual actions. Within this experience, if we are successful, lies the potential lesson we need not just to stop the worst projections for COVID-19, but to address other pressing societal challenges, including climate change.

A new strain of coronavirus, COVID 19, is spreading around the world, causing deaths and major disruption to the global economy.

Responding to this crisis requires global cooperation among governments, international organisations and the business community, which is at the centre of the World Economic Forum's mission as the international organization for public-private cooperation.

The Forum has created the COVID Action Platform, a global platform to convene the business community for collective action, protect people's livelihoods and facilitate business continuity, and mobilize support for the COVID-19 response. The platform is created with the support of the World Health Organisation and is open to all businesses and industry groups, as well as other stakeholders, aiming to integrate and inform joint action.

As an organisation, the Forum has a track record of supporting efforts to contain epidemics. In 2017, at the Annual Meeting, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) was launched - bringing together

experts from government, business, health, academia and civil society to accelerate the development of vaccines. CEPI is currently supporting the race to develop a vaccine against this strand of the coronavirus.

This dawning sense of individual impact in an interconnected world - what has been called, systems thinking - is in many ways the true story we've long avoided acknowledging. We've gotten by for hundreds, even thousands of years, obfuscating the cost of the destruction of nature as an externality of economic progress, hardly considering the debt accruing on the system that hosts the global economy itself: Earth. It's a line of thinking easy enough to believe.

While environmental pollution and massive inefficiencies like food waste have long been written off as externalities in our economic system, COVID-19 awakens us to an alternative, truer reality: each of us in our home ecosystems is part of an interconnected system that we have the power to change. It's a transformative narrative that accomplishes what no isolated and episodic story of environmental damage, from melting glaciers to fire storms, could ever do.

Instead, we're all attentively following a fast-moving virus, piecing together information on how we can best defend ourselves and protect our neighbors, fellow citizens and the world itself from the worst-case scenarios. In a story with no predetermined ending, we all have a role to play that is empowering as much as it is restraining.

The virus is raging, but we all can help stop it. When's the last time you felt you could freeze a glacier, or actually help extinguish a forest fire? What we do here - and what we learn - could save lives and help us all endure and thrive as individuals, as communities, as a species.

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COVID-19 funding for NGOs: If not now, when?

By Christina Bennett

WHEN Start Network launched its global COVID-19 fund on 2 April, we received a record number of alerts from our civil society members - 85 calls for rapid preparedness and response activities in 69 countries. Collectively, these alerts identified more than 60 million people in need of immediate assistance - people living on the Myanmar-Thailand border, where the regular flow of migrants is becoming a vector of the disease; people living in urban Haiti, where poor sanitation is driving up infection rates; or street children in Senegal who face starvation during lockdown, when they are unable to forage for food.

These alerts appealed for a total of £20 million (\$25 million) from our fund, to be used to distribute protective gear to community health workers, to install handwashing stations in health facilities and marketplaces, to shore up food supply chains by injecting cash into local economies. All activities were deemed urgent, to be implemented in the next 45 days.

Of those 85 alerts, we have been able to fund only 14.

What these alerts tell us is that even before infection rates begin their familiar, steep climb in low-income countries,

needs are immediate and overwhelming. And what we know from the frustration of having to turn down more than 70 requests for help is that funding is not going through the right channels, and assistance to these countries is not getting there fast enough.

The time to get money and action to those on the ground is now.

"What we know from the frustration of having to turn down more than 70 requests for help is that funding is not going through the right channels."

Public and private donors have pledged billions in international aid so far, but the bulk of those billions are being spent through the World Health Organisation, the United Nations system, and the development banks, which are not set up to act with the speed and flexibility coronavirus response requires.

Meanwhile, the NGOs - particularly local NGOs in the affected countries - which offer agility, reach, depth of experience, and frontline access, are left wanting, waiting for these funds to trickle down to them. That process will take weeks, if not months. Crucial community-level activities are being delayed at the very time they need to be a priority.

In 2015, I co-authored a study on the Ebola crisis in West Africa. We concluded that the humanitarian response in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea was "criminally late", in part because the

international aid system was trapped in its bureaucracies, hobbled by politics, and so failed to act quickly. Even after the Ebola outbreak was recognised as a public health emergency and a direct threat to international security, it was two to three months before the funding began to flow. Health workers we interviewed at the time admitted that they had watched thousands die because response was late, describing how people offloaded bodies onto the street while the world dithered.

Ebola also taught us that local responses rooted in and implemented by communities were the fastest, most trusted, and most effective means to stem the progression of the disease. Then, local organisations were able to take and enforce community actions, where international aid organisations and governments could not. Now, this will be particularly important to stopping the spread of coronavirus, which will require trusted voices to re-enforce public health messages and practices that run counter to normal patterns of behaviour.

Avoiding these past mistakes means meeting the virus - now - at ground level, where it clusters and festers, with:

- Significant, fast funding to local NGOs. This must be injected immediately, in-country at community level where frontline responders have the best chance of implementing life-saving initiatives and stemming COVID-19 infections and

fatalities.

- The tools to act. Acting quickly will also require exemptions to curfews or lockdowns, privileged access by local organisations to protective equipment as key workers, and sustained access to financial institutions and channels to swiftly transfer funds to local partners in COVID-19-affected countries.

- Non-discrimination. We are already seeing some governments using coronavirus to close their borders, deny healthcare and services, and stigmatise refugees and minority groups. Not only does this undermine human rights, foster mistrust, and fuel violence, it sabotages our public health objectives.

"Without quickly converting funding pledges into community-level actions, we will again spend billions of dollars playing catch-up."

We now understand that to overcome this virus anywhere we must overcome it everywhere, prioritising the most vulnerable populations with fast action, or we all remain at risk.

We also know from experience that without quickly converting funding pledges into community-level actions, we will again spend billions of dollars playing catch-up on ineffective, belated responses that could have been avoided had we acted quickly, nimbly, and through the channels that have the best chance of success.

How Nigeria can leverage on negative oil prices

By Jeoma Nwogwugwu

WITH the price of a barrel of West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the benchmark for US crude oil, sinking into negative territory on Monday for May deliveries, and the price of Brent Crude - the benchmark used by Europe and the rest of the world - down by 25 per cent to \$19 last month, it was not just oil producers and traders that were racing to rein in their losses. Governments of oil producers like Nigeria, whose economies were already reeling from the headwinds brought on by COVID-19 must have been wondering what they would have to do to shore up their revenues from alternative sources.

Since 2016, markets have had to deal with a supply imbalance, even as OPEC introduced a declaration of cooperation with the alliance partners but the scenario today is beyond what OPEC's market share can handle. In the US, traders stuck with oil future contracts were offering high discounts to offload the contracts as storage capacity filled up resulting in negative prices for future contracts.

The COVID-19 pandemic has not just caused a global economic crisis, but more importantly, has exposed the vulnerability of resource-rich economies like Nigeria with weak supply chain

capabilities - and low local value addition.

Just a month ago, the Nigerian government revised its 2020 budget by slashing the oil benchmark from \$57 per barrel to \$30 per barrel, effectively resulting in a downward revision of its expenditure framework on capital expenditure for the year. But as governments around the world locked down their countries in an attempt to contain the spread of COVID-19 and demand for crude oil fell in an already over-saturated market, the price of the commodity plunged concomitantly.

As it stands, there is no sign that oil prices will recover in the near future as countries around the world adjust to the "new normal". The new normal will be one where the race to discover a cure or vaccine for COVID-19 continues in earnest. But as the world waits expectantly for a medical breakthrough, there will be less domestic and international travel, lower productivity, billions will lose their jobs, many who manage to hold on to their jobs will be forced to work from home, which in turn will lower demand for rail and road transportation. The outlook for oil has never been so dire, even as the new normal unfolds where demand is significantly lower than what it has ever been.

The big losers in the new scenario are oil exporters such as Nigeria with no

refineries, which with generous discounts still struggle to sell their oil but have to import refined products to meet the needs of their large population. Nigeria has a population of over 200 million people - easily a captive market that should motivate the creation of refining capacity - but the situation is pathetic in that the country still produces raw crude solely for exports.

Yet, this stark reality presents Nigeria with a unique opportunity to adjust to the uncharted territory in which it finds itself. Without further ado, it will have to revise its budget for the second time and base all future budgets on \$20 a barrel. This must be backed by strong legislation to save and protect excess crude oil earnings to shield the economy from exogenous shocks.

Lower oil prices also present a window for a low cost energy scenario that can make businesses and industries more productive and competitive. The Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) is currently fixated with the pump price of petrol, forgetting that its mandate includes the prices at which diesel, kerosene, and aviation fuel are sold at fuel outlets and depots. Despite lower oil prices in the last two months, oil marketers have remained unresponsive and have kept the price of diesel, which is used by businesses and industries as

an alternative energy fuel to run their organisations, high. With lower prices of diesel and even gas that is piped to thermal power stations, businesses should be able to benefit from lower energy costs.

Furthermore, the government needs to urgently meet with current promoters of new refineries (with particular emphasis on the Dangote refinery) and introduce enhanced incentives/special foreign exchange window to super-accelerate the completion of all on-going refineries in the industry.

Other than the benefits of import substitution, the completion of the Dangote Refinery and modular plants will go a long way to making Nigeria a net exporter of refined petroleum products to other African countries.

The prompt passage and implementation of the Petroleum Industry Governance Bill (PIGB) and new privatised model for the national oil company and independent regulator - creating efficient, leaner models - will also go a long way to reduce the cost of production. Significantly winding down the federal government's equity in the joint ventures to raise capital to shore up infrastructure funding shortages/ and fund enhanced social protection structures is another area that should be explored.

How well prepared is the US for the war on Covid-19 towards reopening? - 3

BY ED YONG

FIRST, antibodies aren't always effective at neutralising viruses. If you picture the coronavirus as a car, an antibody might slash its tyres, or just gum up its wipers - and simple serology tests can't tell which.

Second, even if the antibodies are the right kind, no one knows what concentration you'd need to confer immunity. "Even for diseases which we've been studying for over 100 years, like whooping cough, we still don't know what level of antibody would indicate that you'd be protected if you got re-exposed," said Sam Scarpino of Northeastern University, who studies infectious-disease dynamics. The only way to find out is through long studies, he noted.

Third, serological tests for the new coronavirus could be deeply misleading for individuals. Consider the test produced by Cellex - the only one thus far with US Food and Drug Authority (FDA) approval.

The test has a 93.8 per cent chance of correctly identifying people with antibodies against the new coronavirus, and a 95.6 per cent chance of correctly identifying people who lack those antibodies. Those numbers sound great, but if only a minority of Americans have been infected, the test would return far more false positives than true ones.

Put it this way: if you have a positive result, the odds that you actually have any relevant antibodies are roughly one in two if 5 per cent of the US has been infected, and just one in six if only 1 per cent has been infected.

Scientists can correct for these errors if they use serological tests to assess immunity in a population, but it's much harder on a person-by-person basis.

Finally, any certificate that affords special status, like the ability to work while others are quarantined, will create incentives for people to deliberately infect themselves or game the system with counterfeits.

Immunity passports would unfairly "favour individuals who didn't comply with social distancing and got sick early on", said Alexandra Phelan of Georgetown University, who works on legal and policy is-

ssues related to infectious diseases.

"And the idea that there would be a midpoint where some people could resume the right to be citizens and others could not is effectively an apartheid system," said Sharon Abramowitz of Rutgers University, who studies community responses to pandemics.

"It might serve specific public-health ends, but in this society would be very problematic," he noted, adding that history affirms the concern: "When yellow fever hit the American South in the 19th century, 'immunoprivilege' worsened existing forms of discrimination while creating new ones."

Passports and antibody tests aside, it's reasonable to assume that someone who recovers from Covid-19 would be less likely to get infected again - for some duration that is still unclear.

"But we can't assume that you won't bring that virus to someone else," said Mina, the Harvard immunologist, adding: "I worry that a lot of employers are just assuming that having antibodies or having been infected means that you're good to get back to work."

According to Mina, a false sense of security could quicken the spread of the virus during future surges, especially if people ignore social distancing orders on the mistaken belief that they are immune.

These problems might be surmountable. The US is still a scientific and biomedical powerhouse. To marshal that power, it needs a massive, coordinated, government-led initiative of controlling Covid-19 - a modern-day Apollo programme.

No such program is afoot. Former Trump- and Obama-era officials have published detailed plans. Elizabeth Warren is on her third iteration. But the White House either has no strategy or has chosen not to disclose it.

Without a unifying vision, governors and mayors have been forced to handle the pandemic themselves. Ludicrously, states are bidding against one another - and the federal government - for precious supplies.

Six states still haven't issued any kind of stay-at-home order, while those that moved

late, such as Florida, may have seeded infections in the rest of the country.

"A patchwork approach to fighting a pandemic is very dangerous," said Jeremy Konyndyk of the Centre for Global Development, adding: "It's a recipe for a response that's less than the sum of its parts."

While several states have created their own coordinated groups, Konyndyk's worry, shared by others, is that there are limits to what even the most capable state leaders can do without federal coordination.

"We almost need to devise a public-health government in exile which can take on the responsibility of national coordination," said Osterholm, the University of Minnesota epidemiologist.

That responsibility would typically fall to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, but this has been strangely silent. For almost a month, the CDC's leaders have been absent from press briefings, and its supporters fear that its reputation has been tarnished.

Local leaders are making hundreds of public-health decisions - should we close this park, or open that beach? - without consulting the nation's top public-health agency.

Ashish Jha, the internist and public-health expert at Harvard, said he regularly fields calls from mayors and governors who would normally ring the CDC. "People don't know where to turn to for expertise," he noted.

Resilience

During the Vietnam War, Vice Admiral James Stockdale spent seven years being tortured in a Hanoi prison. When asked about his experience, he said that optimistic prisoners eventually broke, as they passed one imagined deadline for release after another.

Stockdale's strategy, instead, was to meld hope with realism - "the need for absolute, unwavering faith that you can prevail", as he put it, with "the discipline to begin by confronting the brutal facts, whatever they are".

The US needs to learn that lesson, but Trump is still behaving as if he's engaged in a brief skirmish rather than a protracted siege.

On April 8, before even the

Governor of New York Andrew Cuomo



first pandemic peak had subsided, the president tweeted: "Once we OPEN UP OUR GREAT COUNTRY, and it will be sooner rather than later, the horror of the Invisible Enemy, except for those that sadly lost a family member or friend, must be quickly forgotten."

The enemy isn't going anywhere. To forget it would be to beget further horror.

In 2018, when writing about whether the US was ready for the next pandemic, I noted that the country was trapped in a cycle of panic and neglect. It rises to meet each new disease, but then settles into complacency once the threat is over.

With Covid-19, I fear that the US might enter the neglect phase before the panic part is even finished. If the current shutdown succeeds in flattening the curve, sparing the healthcare system and minimising deaths, it will feel like an overreaction.

Contrarians will use the diminished body count to argue that the panic was needless and that the public was misled. Some are already saying that.

Others will divert responsibility from the country's leaders and its institutions. "There's a lot of victim blaming in the US, which comes from that neoliberal perspective where it's your fault if you have bad circumstances," said Emily Brunson, an anthropologist at Texas State University.

The virus is disproportionately killing people in low-income jobs who don't have the privilege of working from home but who will nonetheless be shamed for not distancing themselves.

The virus is disproportionately killing black people, whose health had already been impoverished through centuries of structural racism, but who will nonetheless be personally blamed for their fate.

The virus is disproportionately kill-

ing elderly people, who had already been shunted to the fringes of society, but who will nonetheless be told to endure further loneliness so that everyone else can be freer.

If that happens, the panic-neglect cycle will inevitably continue. The US will miss the chance to re-examine how systemic failures of its healthcare system left so many citizens vulnerable, or to put in place measures that might forestall another resurgence.

The country will get hammered by the same damn virus again, and be driven into more severe lockdowns. People will tire. Compliance will fall.

The nation would lose its single most effective weapon against the pandemic - the willingness by its citizens to make individual sacrifices for the sake of all.

It could forcibly quarantine uncooperative people or impose criminal penalties, "but we know from past outbreaks that criminalising public-health responses makes people go underground, perpetuates stigma, and fractures society," Georgetown University's Phelan said, adding: "For the marathon we're facing, we need solidarity."

Over the coming months, we need "to normalise Covid in the public psyche, and reinforce that this will be a part of our day-to-day lives," said Stephen Kissler, the infectious-disease modeller at Harvard.

He said: "Many people I've spoken with are aghast at the thought. We thirst for a swift and decisive 'victory'. But I'm reminded of images from World War II as people in London walked to work, briefcases in hand, against a backdrop of bombed-out buildings."

"I think we are in store for a similar period in history, as we learn to make greater peace with the world's chaos and our own mortality," he added.

This kind of psychological resilience already exists within large groups of people who have been marginalised during periods of normalcy and who are now the most at risk from the pandemic.

Elderly people, for example, have been most frequently cast as a vulnerable group in need of protection. But "older people have been through a lot - the civil-rights movement, the women's movement, the Cold War," said Monica Schoch-Spana, a medical anthropologist at the Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security.

"They are culture keepers, full of stories of how you get through major tragedies and upheavals," she noted.

The disability community has also noted that, at a time when their health is in jeopardy and their value is in question, able-bodied people are struggling with a new normal that is their old normal - spatial confinement, unpredictable futures, and social distance.

"We know how to do community work from afar, and how to organise from bed," said Ashley Shew of Virginia Tech, who studies the intersection between technology and disability, adding: "Instead of feeling this great vacuum, our social life hasn't radically changed."

Disability scholars have written about "crip time" - a flexible attitude towards timekeeping that comes from uncertainty. "Everything I enter in my calendar has an asterisk in my mind," Shew said, adding: "Maybe it'll happen, maybe it won't, depending on my next cancer scan or what's happening in my body. I already live in this world when I'm measuring in shorter increments, when my future has always been planned differently."

As the rest of the US comes to terms with the same restless impermanence, it must abandon the question: "When do we go back to normal?"

That outlook ignores the immense disparities in what different Americans experience as normal. It wastes the rare opportunity to re-imagine what a fairer and less vulnerable society might look like. It glosses over the ongoing nature of the coronavirus threat.

There is no going back. The only way out is through - past a turbulent spring, across an unusual summer, and into an unsettled year beyond.

Ed Yong is a syndicated science writer at The Atlantic and author of I Contain Multitudes, a New York Times bestseller on animal-microbe partnerships. This is the third and last piece of a three-part article. The Guardian ran the first part on Wednesday and the second yesterday.

A course in common sense to mitigate against the plague of dumb?

By Keith Bain

LAST Monday, Johns Hopkins University launched a free online course covering the basics - and not-so-basics - of Covid-19 Contact Tracing.

The course is available free-of-charge via Coursera and is worth dipping into, if only to momentarily escape from the vast ocean of dumb available in most other parts of the internet.

If the straightforward science of physical distancing makes any sense to you, there's a strangeness that comes with seeing people amass in huddles during lockdown Level 4's too-tight exercise window.

Whether it's observing cyclists jibber-jabbering mask-free as they whizz by in dozen-strong pelotons; or seeing couples strolling the Sea Point promenade sipping takeaway coffees while knowing full well that in poorer areas - in townships and slums, and in homeless shelters - people are living cheek by jowl oblivious to the luxury of being able to practise social distancing.

The flagrant flouting of common sense doesn't end at 9am. In brightly-lit supermarkets, I've felt strangers breathing down my neck in the check-out queue despite the distance markers on the floor. Because apparently grocery runs are really a chance for clandestine catch-ups with friends who can't legally come round for dinner.

And, upstairs, I can hear when my neighbour welcomes friends round for an afternoon of smoking on the balcony. Stuff physical distancing, his *zol soires* are real.

Amid my rising frustration, I came across something cathartic to do online. A short academic course focused on Covid-19 Contact Tracing that looked like an antidote to the baffling ignorance that's turned social media into a lunatic asylum.

And so, for a few hours, I sought refuge in pre-recorded lectures, information slides, training videos, and - God help me - assessment quizzes. The course is presented by Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is free HYPERLINK "https://www.coursera.org/learn/covid-19-contact-tracing" it "blank" and available to anyone with internet access. You don't even need a high school certificate - you could immediately ditch your Facebook fake news diploma, in fact, and instead start wrapping your head around something serious and worthwhile. It requires roughly five hours of your life and is designed to fast-track candidates for what's becoming one of the most vital jobs in public health.

In a world gone mad with opinions and conspiracy theories and



blame game rants, the course is a voice of calm reason - mostly it's the voice of Dr Emily Gurley, the infectious disease epidemiologist who presents the course. The virtual boot camp not only takes you through the theory and practice of contact tracing but deepens your knowledge of SARS-CoV-2, the disease it causes and its various symptoms, how transmission works, and how to identify environments and situations that are at higher risk of transmission.

You are also taught how to calculate the isolation period required for positive cases and the period for which close contacts

of cases need to quarantine.

What these countries have proven with their programmes of mass testing, contact tracing and the isolation of exposed and infected individuals is that it is possible to radically flatten the curve.

Unlike so much of the muck posted by your friends on Facebook, the course delivers practical, actionable information as well as less tangible thinking around the procedural ethics of contact tracing. It even provides training in effective communication and helps you figure out how to earn the trust and buy-in of people you need to have dif-

ficult conversations with.

Fundamentally, a contact tracer has the rather arduous job of reaching out to confirmed (positive, tested) Covid-19 cases and then gathering a list of all their close contacts during their infectious period. Those close contacts include everyone an infectious person had physical contact with - or spent 15 minutes within six feet (1.8m) of - from two days before they fell ill.

Before diving into the course, contact tracing sounded to me like herding cats. An utterly implausible exercise, I imagined, given the jumble of human interactions most of us have each day. To my mind, the level of sleuthing required to track down each strand in a vast web of human connections seemed unfathomable. But the fact is that, for decades, contact tracing has been a proven tool in stopping epidemiological spread. It was critical in stemming the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and in the current pandemic has been used to great advantage in countries like South Korea and Germany where swift, early intervention has had measurable results.

What these countries have proven with their programmes of mass testing, contact tracing and the isolation of exposed and infected individuals is that it is possible to radically flatten the curve.

However, what you learn in one of the course's early lectures is that the window of opportunity for tracing close contacts of Covid-19 cases is extremely narrow. Because cases become infectious two days before they fall ill,

it is entirely possible for them to have transmitted the virus before they show any sign of being sick. The course stresses this vital fact, reminding you over and over again that you do not need to be sick to be infectious.

That's the delusion that anyone treating physical distancing as a joke fails to comprehend.

While I learnt a ton from the course, scored diligently on the quizzes, and found the majority of the material easy to digest and comprehend, I also discovered that I'm probably poorly suited to the reality of being a contact tracer. Because it really does come down to temperament.

During one module - "Steps to Investigate Cases and Trace Their Contacts" - a key lecture consists of watching two videos. The first is a simulated contact tracing call with a confirmed Covid-19 case, while the second call shows a different contact tracer speaking with one of the close contacts traced in the first call.

Both conversations are polite, well-meaning, personable, and very clear; they're described in the introduction as "trouble-free" - no swearing, no rebellion, no outbursts, and no refusal to cooperate or pushback of any kind.

I also found myself wondering how such calm, rational, support-based interventions might play out in a country where the police and military have already been deployed into neighbourhoods and the use of force has already ruined people's lives.

These simulations are designed to demonstrate how to put sick people at ease and politely gain the cooperation of people who are asked to stay off work for as many as 14 days or more and discontinue all outside activity - not even trips to the grocery store are permitted for close contacts who are asked to quarantine.

They also demonstrate the ethical application of public health protocols and show how to build rapport - the theoretical frameworks for both are taught in the lectures, along with overcoming challenges presented by more onerous conversations. Which is all well and good for someone with the right disposition; unfortunately, the patience required for this kind of work goes well beyond my tolerance threshold.

Agencies

Bank donates food items, Covid-19 protective gear to orphans in four regions

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank Tanzania employees and management has donated a number of food items and protective gear to orphans and children with disabilities in four regions in the country.

The move aimed at enabling

the disadvantaged children to celebrate Eid-el-Fitr just like their counterparts at home.

Being part of the bank's Corporate Social Responsibility programme known as Exim Cares, the donation also aimed to safeguard the health and safety of the children living in the orphanage centres

amid Covid-19.

The Orphanage centres which benefited from the donation included Malaika Kids Orphanage Centre located in Dar es Salaam, while other centres are based in Zanzibar, Tanga and Mtwara

Items donated included, bags of rice, cooking oil, bags of sugar, beans, sanitizers and face masks

In Dar es Salaam, the team of employees from the bank was led by Stanley Kafu, the bank's head, marketing and communications who emphasised the importance for businesses and their staff to give back to their local communities.

While distributing the gifts amongst the children, Kafu

called upon the children at the centre to study hard so that they can occupy better positions and serve the society in the future.

"With Eid el-Fitr approaching, Exim Bank saw that one of the best ways to serve the needy and deserving orphaned children on Eid el Fitr was to

provide them with this kind of items so that they can also find happiness on the blessed day of Eid el Fitr. So little - but it means a lot to them. The happiness and joy are clearly evident from their faces," he said.

On the other hand, Charles Nyimbo, the manager of the Malaika Kids Orphanage Cen-

tre located in Kinondoni district, appreciated Exim Bank for the valuable gifts and protective gear during coronavirus pandemic, mentioning that the children were also pleased with the visit of the team. The children also thanked Exim Bank for the donation.

Scaling up rural sanitation in Tanzania: Evidence from water integration initiative

By Guardian Reporter

THE implementation of the National Sanitation Campaign and the Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) in various parts of the country has produced positive results as majority of people currently have access to improved sanitation facilities.

According to statistics presented by the National Sanitation Campaign Coordinator, Anyitike Mwakitalima, during the National Sanitation Week in Dodoma, showed that the number of households with improved latrines had increased from 35 per cent in 2015 to 62 per cent in 2019 and the number of households with no latrines decreased from 8 per cent to 2 per cent in the same period.

Implemented collaboratively by the government and the government in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID), the sanitation and hygiene project is implemented in fourteen district councils in the country focusing mostly in rural areas.

The major aim of the programme is to improve management of water resources to meet sanitation goals.

Mwakitalima said that WARIDI is a five-year activity that helps Tanzania improve the management of its water resources, meet sanitation goals, and promote resilient communities in the face of a changing climate.

He named the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) receiving support as Ulanga, Morogoro Rural, Gairo, Kilombero, Kilosa, Mvomero and Malinyi in Morogoro Region.

Others are Wangingombe in Njombe Region, Iringa Rural, Mufindi, and Kilolo in Iringa Region, Bagamoyo and Chalinze

in Coast Region as well as Mbarali district in Mbeya Region.

He noted that local government officials are responsible for carrying out sanitation promotion and monitoring activities in their LGAs but often have limited budgets to complete these activities.

"USAID's WARIDI activity supports LGAs to reach all wards and villages where support is requested unless another development partner is already working there."

She also said that construction of improved sanitation facilities is also taking place.

"Just recently, 25 latrine blocks have been built by USAID at public schools in 25 villages. This construction will provide over 14,000 children with access to a high-quality latrine. Teachers and school committees are using the National Guidelines for Water, for Tanzania Schools to implement best practices in hygiene and sanitation," he said.

Mwakitalima said each school has formed a School WASH club where students educate each other and their communities on sanitation and hygiene practices.

What is being learned at school is also expected to strengthen sanitation and hygiene practices at home, supporting community-wide behavioral change.

As of December 2019, WARIDI has supported the National Sanitation Campaign to verify that nearly 1.3 million people have access to improved sanitation facilities, and over 900,000 have access to a dedicated hand-washing station and soap in their household. Furthermore, WARIDI confirms that 615 villages now have universal sanitation coverage, which means every household has access to a latrine," he said



Exim Bank Tanzania staff (in white T-shirts) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting foodstuffs and personal protective equipment to the management of the city's Malaika Orphanage to facilitate the safe enjoyment of the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr by children cared for at the centre. The bank has already extended similar support in Zanzibar as well as in Mtwara and Tanga regions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

He noted that sanitation and hygiene messages like "Nyumba ni Choo", "Wash your hands at all critical times" and "Tumia Choo Bora" from the National Sanitation Campaign demonstrate the importance of hand-washing and are more important than ever at this time in Tanzania and worldwide. These messages are delivered by data collectors and Community Health Workers to support behavioral change in their villages.

Community Health Workers conduct house to house sanitation and hygiene verification using the National Guidelines for Verification and Certification of Open Defecation Free (ODF) Communities.

The tool is used by local government to verify if their village is

ODF, which means that all houses and public institutions have access to sanitation and there is no public defecation. To track and report progress, sanitation registers are printed, distributed and used by villages and sub-villages to regularly record sanitation status.

For his part, Titho Haule, the Environmental Health Officer at Kidabaga believes that messaging on sanitation and hygiene and monitoring have significantly improved sanitation in the area.

"The state of hygiene in general is good because all people are using standard toilets, and there is even a decrease of disease outbreaks brought on by a lack of hygiene. Now the situation

is good."

He was echoed by Omar Hamisi Lijola, Chairperson of Village Health Committee (VHC) at Mtimbira village in Malinyi who said that almost all households have improved latrines.

"Currently, all households have latrines. This shows that people have high responsiveness in values of good hygiene practice including latrine construction and usage regardless of their living standard," he said.

Traders: Covid-19 pandemic devastating Z'bar entrepreneurs' lives

By Guardian Reporter

SINAJAMBO Makame of Makunduchi in Unguja South region is one of women entrepreneurs in Zanzibar who are engaging in making and selling handmade crafts to visiting tourists in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

For the past two months, Sinajambo hasn't sold any handmade craft because there is no flights landing in Isles due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

Sinajambo, a mother of six says: "In those good days, I used to get between 300,000/- and 400,000 per month. But, now things are totally different, my life has changed completely. I'm not generating any income."

Sinajambo says: "My customers were tourists who bought handmade leather wallets and other related products on every Tuesday and Thursday. I used to sell those goods in US dollars."

Covid-19 pandemic has destroyed my business in all aspects of life, as she cannot run her family any longer.

Sinajambo recounts that the business sales started plummeting soon after the Isles' government announced a ban on international flights as part of the measures to curb the pandemic.

Apart from selling traditional goods to tourists, Sinajambo who is also a tailor says: During Ramadhan, I used to get a good number of tenders, but now I have nothing. This shows how coronavirus has badly affected our businesses. We've nothing to do now."

Sinajambo is not the only woman in Zanzibar who is putting up a brave fight despite the hard times she is facing.

Zana Aziz Machiano, a mother of three at Chwaka village in Central District of Unguja blames nobody, but Covid-19, saying her business has gone down because of the pandemic.

Zana's business involves selling handmade goods such as handbags, leather wallets and other related merchandises.

"We used to move and sell our products in open-air markets, but, due the pandemic,

such markets are nowhere to be seen because the government had banned such gatherings and encourages social distancing as one of the measures to curb the disease."

"I never experienced such difficult times we're in now. Times are hard, people are not buying as they used to before this coronavirus," she says, adding: "So, I am asking myself as when this pandemic is going to end? How am I going to feed my four children if this disease persists?"

In Zanzibar, large number of women work in the informal sector as entrepreneurs running small and medium enterprises. Zanzibar women often depend on public open spaces and social interactions, which are now restricted to fight the pandemic.

Zana however commends Tamwa-Zanzibar and Milele Zanzibar Foundation for giving them (women entrepreneurs) a tender of making face masks, saying it had relieved her lives, appealing to other organisations to emulate Twama-Zanzibar.

Halma Mohamed says: "To me I see Covid-19 as disastrous to people's livelihoods. There are no businesses going on here."

Halima who is a treasurer with the opposition ACT Wazalendo in Malindi. She says before the pandemic many women were engaging in selling fresh fish at Darajani Fish Market, but now they aren't allowed to do due to the virus.

"So, in a nutshell, this disease has shattered women's dreams. There are those who have failed to repay their loans from Village Community Bank (Vicoba)...I have no better words to explain this, but the situation is bad," she says, suggesting the need for Zanzibar government to come up with strategies that will assist women entrepreneurs to revive their businesses.

For Mwanamrsho Abama from Chumbuni Constituency the pandemic has destroyed almost everything from social, economic to political aspects.

She isn't sure on whether this year's general elections campaigns will be allowed as politicians will be able to visit their voters

and talk to them.

"I don't see the room for us organising public rallies and sell manifesto to voters because of this pandemic," she says, adding: "Right now we're waiting for the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to tell us on how we'll get into election campaigns because right now there are no political meetings."

"Taking into account that 99 per cent of Zanzibaris are Muslims, and during the good days it was common to see people supporting each other during Ramadhan, but this remain a story of the past due to Covid-19."

Mwanamrsho who is a chairperson of the opposition Chadema women wing in Unguja North Region says: "Women who are engaging in food vending businesses are no longer doing so." She encourages parents to take serious measures to educate their children on dangers of Covid-19 and protective measures against the virus.

Tamwa-Zanzibar, policy analyst and advocacy manager Salma Lusangi describes women as key in the country's socio-economic development, but the pandemic has destabilised their activities.

"We're encouraging women entrepreneurs to continue with their socio-economic activities, but, they (women) should adhere to the government directives on protective measures against the virus such as frequent hand washing, sanitizing, observing social distancing and wearing face masks," she says.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), the most common symptoms of Covid-19 are a fever, coughing, and breathing problems and if someone have severe symptoms should contact responsible authorities.

"Protecting yourself and others from the spread COVID-19, this is our main message to people," she says, adding that coronavirus is deadly but can be prevented and contained.

Zanzibar's Minister for Trade and Industries, Ambassador Amina Salum Ali admits that the pandemic has destabilised the country's economy.

So, the minister urges Isles' women entrepreneurs to venture into massive production



of Covid-19 protective gear such as liquid soap, sanitizers and face masks to generate incomes.

She says: "Coronavirus has opportunities in disguise. So, entrepreneurs should use it to get out of poverty trap."

UN Women Representative, Hodan Addou once quoted as saying her agency will partner with the government to conduct a gender rapid assessment to examine the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods.

The assessment will also look into how women and girls have been affected as well as coming up with recommendations on to improve their welfare.

"We will collaborate with the government and other partners to establish short and long-term gender-responsive recovery plans to address the economic recession on women-led businesses," Addou said.

Some of the recovery measures will include re-

moval of barriers that prevent full involvement of women in economic activities, promotion of equal pay and equal opportunities for women and men, engineering fiscal policy and social protection mechanisms, promoting access to finance for women entrepreneurs and application of various mechanisms that can boost women's self-employment.

Globally, 740 million women work in the informal sector while women aged 25 to 34 years are 25 per cent more likely than men to live in extreme poverty.

A United Nations Policy Brief on the Impact of the COVID-19 on women warns of different impacts on economic and productive lives of women and men.

This is attributed to the fact that across the globe, women earn less, save less, hold less secure jobs and are more likely to be employed in the informal sector.

The long-term health impacts of being infected with coronavirus

By Dana G Smith

IN the Covid-19 self-help group Survivor Corps on Facebook people share their symptoms of crippling fatigue, feeling groggy or fuzzy-headed, joint pain and deep bone aches, chest pain, heart palpitations, headaches, dizziness, and insomnia - and these are all after they've recovered from the cough and fever of the primary infection.

There is growing concern about the potential long-term consequences of Covid-19, with reports of symptoms lingering for weeks and even months. Survivors want to know how long these afflictions will last or if they'll ever completely go away, not to mention what might be waiting around the corner in the months and years to come.

While it might feel like we've been in collective quarantine forever, Covid-19 is still a very new disease that has only been present in humans for six months. That means that long-term studies of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and subsequent infection are in their infancy.

However, experts can take clues from other viral illnesses to try to predict how survivors might fare one, two, five, or ten years from now.

'Elemental' spoke with four physicians about what might be in store for survivors going forward. One of the primary concerns after a respiratory infection like Covid-19 is whether lung function will be permanently altered. The good news is that if your symptoms are relatively mild and you don't need to be hospitalised, there are good reasons to believe that you'll make a full recovery.

"Whether it's a typical pneumonia, an influenza pneumonia, or even a Covid pneumonia, if you're not sick enough to be hospitalised there's every likelihood that you're going to bounce back to a fairly normal pre-illness status," says Albert Rizzo, MD, chief medical officer of the American Lung Association.

"It may take four, five, six weeks even after the recovery has begun for the X-ray to get back to normal, but very often it will in those more mild and moderate cases," he notes.

However, Rizzo says there is a risk of scarring and more permanent lung damage in people who are hospitalised and ventilated: "A lot of times, the post-recovery chest X-ray and CAT scans of the chest will show areas of scarring that may never really completely improve."

He elaborates: "That's going to have to be taken as a potential sign that they won't be able to get



A multicoloured close-up photo of a woman wearing a face mask. Photo: Andrew Merry/Getty Images

back to the lung function they had prior to the illness. Again, I'm not saying that this is for the majority of people... but it certainly can leave a fair amount of impairment in those who are in the hospital for a number of weeks."

Evidence from the first SARS virus bears this out. In a 15-year follow-up study of previously hospitalised SARS survivors, most people's lungs substantially healed during the first year of recovery. However, after that, the physical improvements tapered off and some people were left with permanent damage.

At three years after infection, ten out of 46 people still had reduced lung capacity, but only one person did after 15 years. However, nearly 40 per cent of people experienced another type of lung dysfunction involving the transfer of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the lung and the blood, which never went away. This type of impairment is common with Covid-19, but doctors don't know yet whether the changes will be permanent.

Heart

Over the past two months, one of the deadliest effects of Covid-19 that has emerged is its impact on the heart. By some estimates, 20 per cent to 30 per cent of hospitalised patients experience heart problems, and cardiovascular complications contribute to 40 per cent of all deaths.

"I think what is clear is that there are a number of different cardiovascular manifestations of Covid-19," says Mariell Jessup, MD, chief science and medical officer of the American Heart Association.

She elaborates: "Some people are getting

this heart-attack-looking syndrome, some people are getting this myocarditis kind of syndrome, and some people are just getting garden-variety heart failure in response to an overwhelming pulmonary infection. So there's a whole group of cardiac presentations in relationship to this virus."

So far it's unclear what's behind these different cardiovascular symptoms, which also means that doctors haven't identified adequate treatments yet. In some cases, the people who are experiencing heart problems with Covid-19 already had high blood pressure or heart disease, but in other instances there were no known risk factors.

"If the patient has the normal reason for having a heart attack, meaning that they have atherosclerosis with a coronary artery occlusion, then I think if it's recognized and treated, they should have a good prognosis," Jessup says.

"What we don't know is what happens to people who come into the hospital and it looks like they have a heart attack, but they really have Covid-19 infections, and there is no blockage in the artery," notes Jessup, adding: "We don't know if those patients are less likely to survive, and we don't know really the best treatment to give them right now."

Cardiovascular complications are not unique to Covid-19. Many viral infections can cause myocarditis - the technical name for inflammation of the heart - which is typically thought to be a side-effect of the body's inflammatory immune response. Most people recover from myocarditis on their own, but some people do experience permanent damage to the heart muscle.

There is also a known link between heart

disease and respiratory infections, with a two- to six-fold increase in the risk for heart attack and stroke up to a month after having the flu, although the risk is highest in the first week.

Even blood clots are not unheard of with other viruses - doctors saw similar evidence of blood clotting during the 2003 SARS outbreak. If caught early, these complications can be treated with medication.

However, another follow-up study of recovered SARS patients showed that 44 per cent had various cardiovascular abnormalities 12 years after infection.

Brain

There is mounting evidence that SARS-CoV-2 also impacts the brain. In a study of 214 Covid-19 patients, one-third experienced neurological symptoms, including dizziness, headache and cognitive impairment. Scientists aren't clear, however, as to what's behind the symptoms - it could be that the virus is directly infecting neurons, it could be the inflammatory immune response, or it could be damage from oxygen deprivation.

Igor Koralnik, MD, chief of neuro-infectious disease and global neurology at Northwestern University, says that with so little known about the root cause of the neurological problems, experts can't predict whether these symptoms will be temporary or permanent.

"There is no long-term follow-up of those patients - long-term being at least a year. We don't know. It is possible that the changes will be permanent. Time will tell if this happens or not," he says.

Physicians do know that for many people, a stay in the ICU, regardless of the reason, is often associated with cognitive impairments - sometimes called ICU delirium. Most of these symptoms resolve over time, but some do not.

"Recovery depends on the age, the comorbidities, what was their cognitive level before that, if they are smokers," Koralnik says, adding: "The older, more frail, more sick you are, if you're intubated and you go to the ICU and you get a lot of medication, yes, you can have side-effects."

Koralnik says it's possible that the same variables - age and comorbidities - plus disease severity could influence Covid-19 patients' cognitive recovery.

Immune system

Another consideration is how SARS-CoV-2 could impact a person's risk for other infections. In a recent study, researchers found that 20 per cent of people with Covid-19 were also infected with other viruses, including influenza, rhinovirus and respiratory syncytial virus.

Typically, the presence of one virus decreases a person's risk of another infection because the immune system is already activated. At the root of the issue is a type of protein called interferon that's released with the first wave of the immune response and interferes with the virus's ability to replicate.

"This protein is produced by the cell that's attacked by the virus, and its job is to push back the virus," explains Harvard professor of medicine Mandeep Mehra, MD, adding: "And what happens is that when the infected cell has produced the interferon, what we understand is that some of that interferon then seeps into non-infected cells that are adjacent and sits there waiting to become a protector of that cell."

"So when a second virus, for instance, comes back in a certain period of time, there may actually be partial immunity to that second infection," notes the professor.

One reason the novel coronavirus is so deadly is that it appears to suppress these interferons, meaning that not only is the Covid-19 infection worse but there may also be a heightened risk for future infections.

"This virus teaches the cells somehow to stop making interferon, and so it actually reduces your immunity to either second infections of SARS-CoV-2 or potentially

to even other viruses," says Mehra. If this is the case, there is a real concern that people who have recovered from Covid-19 could have an increased risk for influenza in the winter.

While the research on the novel coronavirus's impact on interferons is preliminary, SARS and MERS had a similar effect on the immune system, and there are several cases of people infected with MERS also contracting influenza and tuberculosis.

Overall well-being

A final consideration is the consequence of hospitalisation or weeks of being bed-bound on the body's recovery. The consensus is that the worse someone's health was before they got infected and the more severe their coronavirus infection was, the longer it will take them to regain their strength.

"It can take months to a year for some of that recovery to occur," says Rizzo, adding: "But as you might suspect, it's going to vary from individual to individual - again based on what was their condition prior to that care and how severe was their case."

"There are big differences in how that affects your physical conditioning, your mental conditioning, and your emotional conditioning," Rizzo notes.

Post-intensive care syndrome and post-viral fatigue syndrome - general terms for the physical and cognitive impairment that can follow serious illnesses - are both concerns with Covid-19.

With post-intensive care syndrome, being sedated and bed-bound in the ICU can result in muscle weakening or wasting away, problems with memory and concentration, and even emotional issues similar to post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD).

"You've gone through a life-threatening illness, now you're facing a sometimes very slow recovery, and the physical, emotional, and cognitive abilities are slow to return," Rizzo says.

"After they come out of the intensive care unit or come off the ventilator, they need to start having that type of social and physical rehabilitation as part of their recovery," he adds.

Even in people who weren't hospitalised for Covid-19, recovery can be a long, slow journey, as indicated by the experiences of the members of the Survivor Corps group.

Post-viral fatigue syndrome is one potential explanation for the chronic fatigue, headaches, joint and muscle pain, and cognitive fuzziness that can linger after a viral illness.

Doctors aren't entirely sure what causes the syndrome, naming a lingering infection, inflammation in the brain, or an overreaction of the immune system as possible sources. There are also no real treatments for the condition, and while symptoms often resolve after a few months, some cases may be permanent.

Looking forward

Because so much is still unknown about the novel coronavirus, its symptoms and the potential for long-term consequences, AHA's Jessup says it's imperative that survivors volunteer to be part of scientific studies about the illness.

"There's going to be a huge need for us to learn about the long-term effects. Right now, a lot of the emphasis is about what's going on in the hospital, but what will be really key is to find out what happens outside the hospital," she says.

She elaborates: "To be a hero is to volunteer for a scientific study. We already have heroes that are volunteering for the early vaccines, but we need a whole lot of heroes to say 'I'll be part of a scientific study' or 'I'll be part of a registry' that will go on for years."

A report in *Elemental*, a new Medium publication about health and wellness, where Dana G Smith is a senior writer covering health and science.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 88 00--

WORD-FIT

SOLUTIONS

3 LETTERS: CCM, USE, ANT
 4 LETTERS: SIPE, LAOS, ISLE, PROA, ACME, AVOW, (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: FLOAT, SCORE, EMEND, MINES, WINDS (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: NUANCE, FRANCE, CAREEN, ADDICT TSE TSE (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: SALVAGE
 8 LETTERS: UGANDANS
 10 LETTERS: SALVATIONS

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across

1 made dirty or imperfect by being displayed in a shop
 5 among
 7 ulema
 8 people descended from a common ancestor
 10 live in a complex social colony
 11 a person who have access to the World of good and evil spirits
 13 a student's fraternity
 15 extending below
 17 assumed artificially
 19 not certain
 20 an Internet service consisting of thousands of newsgroups

Down:

1 can be seen in the sky at night
 2 an obituary
 3 avoiding work, lazy
 4 a stoat
 6 a cylindrical metal container
 7 an open source of software
 9 an elected officer in a county, responsible for keeping peace
 12 a son of a king or Queen
 14 a playing card with three spots
 16 a daughter of one's brother
 17 afflict in mind
 18 Feed Force Unit in Tanzania

TMRC SAYS NHC, WATUMISHI HOUSING INITIATIVES BOOSTING MORTGAGE MARKET

By Property Watch Reporter

MAJOR residential and commercial housing investments being undertaken by the National Housing Corporation and Watumishi Housing Company provide an impetus into the growth of the mortgage market.

In its mortgage market update for the year ending December 2019, Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company said NHC and WHC are undertaking major projects in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Geita regions among many other places in the country.

The report stated that with the country's housing demand standing at over three million units with an increase of over 200,000 annually, mortgage lending remains a reliable vehicle for ordinary people to get decent houses.

"Efforts to develop a number of housing projects by developers continue with a special focus on housing projects in Dodoma as the government continues with the relocation of its administrative functions to the capital city. National Housing Corporation has continued carrying out its various projects focusing on high, medium and low-income earners which continue to have a positive impact on the mortgage market," the TMRC report stated.

The report mentioned NHC's ongoing major projects in Dar-es-Salaam as Morocco Square whose construction started in 2015 and satellite city projects in Arusha and Dodoma. "Morocco Square consists of four blocks including a shopping mall with a total of 28,827 square metres for different commercial uses including banks, chain of stores, supermarkets and shops, movie theatres, kids' grounds and food courts, among others," the report noted.

TMRC's report added that NHC has a total of ten satellite city projects currently under execution at different stages while also encouraging potential inter-



A bird's eye view of WHC's Magomeni Apartments in Dar es Salaam.

ested developers under strategic partnership arrangements to carry out development of such cities.

"The corporation has the responsibility to monitor its satellite cities to make sure that developers comply with development standards and regulations as per the respective master plans," the report alerted while naming Iyumbu in Dodoma and Chato in Geita as some of the promising projects.

Regarding WHC's projects, the report said the public developer continues with the implementation of a Public Servants Housing Scheme with focus on medium and low-income earners hence exerting a

positive impact on the mortgage market.

"Watumishi Housing ongoing major projects in Dar-es-Salaam are Gezaulole Residence and Bunju B Housing Estate. Gezaulole Residence project was launched in 2015 and is one of the biggest projects in the country which is comprised of apartments, landed houses and shopping centre," the TMRC report noted saying on completion, the project will have 975 residential houses of which the first phase consists of 330 houses.

"In August 2017, Watumishi Housing embarked on a new project; Watumishi Njedengwa Housing Estate, a project aiming to build 500 housing units

65 landed houses of different sizes from two bedroom houses to three bedroom villas and shopping centre, kids' grounds, among others. The project is also 100% completed and occupied by tenants," the TMRC noted.

The report named other promising ongoing projects by WHC as Mkundi Residence located in Morogoro with 50 residential houses, Kisesa Residence in Mwanza and Ndejengwa Housing Estate in Dodoma.

"In August 2017, Watumishi Housing embarked on a new project; Watumishi Njedengwa Housing Estate, a project aiming to build 500 housing units

in the capital city following government's decision to relocate its administrative functions to Dodoma," the report said adding that construction of 39 stand-alone units being the first phase of the project, was completed in December 2018 while construction of 172 units under the second phase due for completion in September this year.

The TMRC explained that all WHC projects are on sale with 88 Magomeni Apartments and Dodoma's Njedengwa phase I being fully sold out while more than half of the second phase of the project's houses being booked.

Landlords snub rent relief as third of workers default

NAIROBI

Majority of landlords have snubbed State calls to reduce rent for workers hit by the effects of Coronavirus, which saw a third of households fail to pay their April rent, the Treasury revealed yesterday.

A national survey conducted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) on the impact of the disease on households has revealed that only 8.5 percent of landlords had offered rent reliefs in April. The survey, conducted between May 7 and 9, revealed that 30.5 percent of the tenants interviewed were unable to pay rent in April. About 21.5 percent of those who defaulted said they had always met their obligations on time, highlighting the impact of restrictions to curb the global Covid-19 pandemic on workers' incomes.

This is the first full month data on workers' earnings and consumption patterns after Kenya imposed a nationwide dusk-to-dawn curfew on March 27 and restricted movement in and out of four counties that had recorded the highest number of infections, including Nairobi.

"The main reason for households' inability to pay rent for the month of April was the reduced earnings," said Treasury Secretary Ukur Yatani during a media briefing on Tuesday. "From the survey, only eight percent of the respondents received rent waivers or relief in April, meaning that majority of landlords did not heed calls to reduce rent."

President Uhuru Kenyatta had last month called on property owners to share the coronavirus-driven economic burden by reducing rental charges or agreeing to deferred payments. More than half or 52.8 percent of those who defaulted on rent cited reduced incomes while 22.4 percent said they had been placed on unpaid leave.

MPs are currently debating the Pandemic Response and Management Bill, 2020, that provides for rent deferrals during the period of the coronavirus pandemic, which has infected 963 persons in Kenya and killed 50. Of those infected, 358 have recovered.

Under the Bill, tenants are allowed to write a notice seeking a freeze on rent payment for later settlement once the effects of the restrictions ease. The government closed bars and schools to slow down the spread of the virus after Kenya reported its first coronavirus case on March 12.

The impact of social distancing and closure of businesses like bars and restaurants has impacted on consumer spending, setting the stage for job cuts and unpaid leave for workers. The survey found that 41.7 percent of workers paid rent on time while 19.8 percent paid a share of the rental charge.

"We will, however, conduct six more surveys up to the end of July to help us understand more of the struggles we are facing," said Mr Yatani. The Treasury has passed a series of tax cuts aimed at cushioning individuals and companies from the impact of the coronavirus.

The rent defaults emerged in a period when office and homes lease costs eased in the first three months of the year with effects of the pandemic expected to further hurt the property market on reduced demand.

HassConsult, which conducts a quarterly property pricing index in Kenya, said that rents had dropped 0.7 percent in the three months to March, compared to a growth of 8.7 percent in a similar quarter last year.

Retail property sector hardest hit, says Dipula CEO

CAPE TOWN

Most major clothing retailers, mid-sized fashion groups and small independent stores have still not paid rent for either April or May due to trading restrictions related to the Covid-19 lockdown. Dipula Income Fund CEO Izak Petersen said on Tuesday.

Speaking during an interim results webcast presentation to analysts, Petersen raised concerns around the retail property sector, especially the non-payment of rent and worries that many SME retail tenants may go out of business.

"Retail property has been the hardest hit sector of the commercial property industry in relation to the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown.... Restrictions to retail were quite harsh at the beginning of the lockdown. For Dipula, around half (48%) of our retail space was operational, through essential service retailers operating," he said.

"The biggest issue for us is that many of the larger and medium retailers, not trading in essential goods [at the time], have not paid rentals," Petersen noted, adding that Dipula has received 69% of retail rentals due for April and so far around 66% of the rent for May.

This is compared with collecting around 94% of rentals in April for office sector tenants and 73% of rentals for its overall property portfolio (retail, office, industrial and residential). The non-payment of rent by major clothing- and other retailers during the initial lockdown period has been a major sticking point for the South African real estate investment trust (Reit) industry. Moneyweb first reported on the issue on March 30, just a few days into the lockdown.

Since then the Property Industry Group (representing listed Reits) and the Retailer Group (representing clothing retail giants Pepkor, TFG, Truworths, Mr Price and Woolworths) have been formed to come to some sort of resolution. The Retailer Group is offering to pay 20% of rent for the initial lockdown period, while the Property Industry Group has upped its proposed rental discount to 70% for major retailers.



NMB Bank Plc headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

NMB gives 412 clients loan repayment relief, touts alternative banking channels

By Property Watch Reporter

IN a bid to give its small business owners, individuals and corporate customers relief from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, NMB Bank Plc has offered relief to 412 clients.

The bank's acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna said in Dar es Salaam this week that the relief measures have involved personal, micro, small and medium enterprise clients plus corporations whose income and cash flows have been adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Dar es Salaam based lender said although the 412 customers have already received the much-needed relief package which includes repayment holidays and

extension of loan repayment periods, many others are still seeking relief.

"As a bank, we recognize that this is a difficult time for some of our customers and businesses whose financial means are being negatively affected. After careful consideration, the various measures we are implementing are proportionate to the economic impact of these entities and individuals," said Zaipuna.

She further explained that her management continue to remind clients of the need to continue engagements with the bank's officials in order to access and take appropriate interventions where justified.

"We intend to provide relief on a case by case basis, as we know, not all businesses and individuals are affected equally. The focus is on

those areas severely impacted by COVID-19," she added while commending the government for not imposing a complete lockdown which would have had severe impacts on the economy and people's lives.

"We would like to assure our customers that they are not alone on this journey. Our doors are open and we are ready to assist them during these uncertain times and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Our focus has always been to ensure that our country's economy grows," the NMB's acting MD assured.

Zaipuna counselled clients to make use of alternative digital channels to transact during this time to ensure safer, efficient and healthy banking services without physical visits to branches. "In particular, NMB Mkononi and

Internet Banking platforms now support increased thresholds on daily limits to support usage and convenience to customers. The measures are a testament to our commitment to finding real, customer-focused solutions, in a time of uncertainty," she pledged.

With 225 physical branches, over 6,000 NMB 'Wakalas' and more than 800 ATMs across the country, NMB remains the market's largest bank in several aspects. The bank has over three million customers and employs over 3,000 regular staff. It is listed at Dar Es Salaam Stock Exchange with Rabobank of Netherlands as largest shareholder with 34.9 percent, followed by Treasury which has 31.8 percent and the rest is to individuals and pension funds.

TONY ELUMELU WANTS MARSHALL PLAN TO BOOST ELECTRICITY IN AFRICA

By Property Watch Reporter

NIGERIAN tycoon who is also founder and Chairman of United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc, Tony Elumelu, has said there is need for a Marshall Plan to help boost electricity supply in Africa so that the continent can develop rapidly.

Speaking a roundtable discussion organised by New York Forum Institute earlier this week, Elumelu said that the coronavirus pandemic presents an opportunity for Africa to reset and mobilise its resources to help the people access basic services such as electricity.

"As the founder of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, we committed to endow \$100m to support young African entrepreneurs and we have been seeing the positive results this has yielded so far. It is evident that if we can fix access to electricity, ensure stability of the macro-economic environment, ensure prioritisation of the youth, empower our small and medium scale enterprises and fix youth migration, then we are in for a better and more resilient economy," he said.

The Nigerian philanthropist further noted that there is an urgent need to prioritise youths and empower small and medium size enterprises saying Africa needs to reward people who work hard and engage in innovation.

During the session titled 'Resilient world: An African call for a new world order,' Elumelu stated that the COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity to reset Africa whilst pointing out that the continent has all that it takes to emerge into



Nigerian tycoon and philanthropist, Tony Elumelu speaking at the event.

a strong digital economy hence advocating a Marshall Plan as model vehicle to be followed.

"I feel that as we engage the rest of the world in providing relief, we need to look for a more fundamental solution to Africa's challenges. I have often argued for a Marshall Plan

overtime. We need to mobilise everyone. If we have a martial plan that mobilises resources to address particular issues, then we can mitigate against this constant begging for assistance," Elumelu argued.

Other panellists who backed Elumelu's suggestion included Afri-

can Union's Special Envoy for Covid-19, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Tidjane Thiam who is also a Covid-19 Special Envoy responsible for mobilising international economic support for Africa.

Thiam said that rather than depending on international

assistance at every point, there is need for governments and institutions to invest in activities that will prioritise the youths and create a better enabling environment.

"I totally agree with Tony Elumelu. The major challenge is that we do not see enough entrepreneurs. Similar to what obtains in Asia and Europe, there is need to promote a class of entrepreneurs to drive the African economy," Thiam, the immediate former Credit Swiss CEO, noted.

He argued that Africa needs to groom more Tony Elumelus who will speed up development of the continent adding that, "We know what needs to be done. We need governments and multinational institutions to bring in capital so that there will be investment in health, infrastructure and the like."

In her remarks, Dr Okonjo-Iweala called for a system where youths and women will be empowered to create and produce more to boost the African economy. Whilst calling on private and public sectors to engage in meaningful partnerships that will help to galvanise job creation and entrepreneurship among youths.

"As Tony pointed out, we can see this pandemic as an opportunity for the continent. We have the African Free Trade Agreement, and we have to make it real. We have to specialise our countries to manufacture the things we need so we can trade with others," said the former Nigerian Finance Minister.

The roundtable was also attended by some African Heads of States including President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger; Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya; Alassane Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire; Macky Sall of Senegal and Julius Bio of Sierra Leone.

Egypt goes throttle with new capital in the desert amid virus outbreak

CAIRO

While Egypt's economy has stumbled due to the coronavirus outbreak, construction at a new capital taking shape east of Cairo is continuing at full throttle after a short pause to adjust working practices, officials say.

The level of activity at the desert site - where trucks rumble down newly built roads and cranes swing over unfinished apartment blocks - reflects the new city's political importance even as the government grapples with the pandemic.

Known as the New Administrative Capital, it is the biggest of a series of mega-projects championed by President Abdel Fattah El Sisi as a source of growth and jobs.

Soon after coronavirus began to spread, Sisi postponed moving the first civil servants to the new city and moved back the opening of a national museum adjoining the pyramids to next year.

Productivity dipped as companies adapted to health guidelines and some labourers stayed home. But officials have sought to keep the mega-projects going to protect jobs, and after 10 days of slowdown construction had fully resumed at the new capital with a shift system, said Amr Khattab, spokesman for the Housing Ministry, which along with the military owns the company building the city.

"The proportion of the labour force that is present on site doesn't exceed 70 per cent, so that the workers don't get too close," he said as he showed off the R5 neighbourhood, which includes about 24,000 housing units. "We work less intensively, but we do two shifts."

Mr Sisi, who publicly quizzes officials responsible for infrastructure projects about timetables and costs, launched the new capital in 2015. Designed as a high-tech smart city that will house 6.5 million people and relieve congestion in Cairo, it includes government and business districts, a giant park, and a diplomatic quarter as yet unbuilt.

One senior official said last year the cost of the whole project was about \$58 billion. While some Egyptians see the new capital as a source of pride, others see it as extravagant and built to benefit a cocooned elite. "We have clear instructions from his excellency the president that the postponement of the opening is not a delay to the project," said Mr Khattab. "The project is running on time."

Disinfection and other protective measures were visible at the construction site 45km (30 miles) east of the Nile, though some workers were only ordered to don masks when journalists started filming and others drove by crammed into a minibus. Egypt has confirmed more than 10,000 coronavirus cases, but none at the new capital.

Delays in payments to contractors and to imported supplies were additional risks, said Shams Eldin Youssef, a member of Egypt's union for construction contractors. Mr Khattab said the government had contractors' payments in hand.

Tuskys delays supplier, rent payments on cash flow hitch

NAIROBI

Tuskys Supermarkets is delaying and reducing payments to suppliers, banks and landlords, citing constrained cash flows due to the impact of coronavirus on its business.

The retailer has written to suppliers, informing them that even recently renegotiated payment terms may not be honoured on the agreed timeline. Tuskys has blamed measures taken to control the spread of the coronavirus such as social distancing and reduced operating hours for lower traffic in its stores. The retailer has shut some branches and merged others in a bid to stem losses at the individual store level.

The retail chain has also pushed for a cut on rent for its stores and deferred payment, highlighting the effects of the virus on businesses. "Despite these efforts, some supplier obligations may be deferred and therefore some of our members have been impacted," Tuskys chief executive Dan Githua wrote to Kimani Rugendo, chairman of Association of Kenya Suppliers, in an April 30, 2020 letter.

"We have communicated individually to these suppliers that their payments will be delayed." The company added that it is committed to protecting the interests of all suppliers who have been delivering sufficient stocks since the first case of the virus was reported in the country in mid-March.

The Competition Authority of Kenya is expected to wade into retailers' move to delay payments to suppliers by confirming their financial distress. The regulator in late 2018 established a special Buyer Power Department to curb potential abuses by retailers, including unnecessary delays in settling supplier claims.

The creation of the unit was informed by the collapse of former supermarket giants Nakumatt Holdings and Uchumi Supermarket that left billions of shillings of supplier debt unpaid. Nakumatt, for instance, owed suppliers Sh18 billion, which could not be recouped from the liquidation of the company's assets.

Is SA heading towards life without construction sector?

JOHANNESBURG

The decimation of South Africa's listed construction sector is continuing, with construction and engineering company Esor confirming that it will be delisting from the JSE.

The announcement by Esor's business rescue practitioners (BRPs) on Wednesday follows former construction heavyweight Group Five reporting last week that its listing on the JSE will be removed on June 15 and property and memorial park developer Calgro M3 confirming this week its decision to close its construction division, resulting in the retrenchment of about 150 employees.

Basil Read

The future of Basil Read, another former JSE construction sector heavyweight, is also uncertain. It went into business rescue in June 2018, shortly after reporting a net loss after tax of R1 billion for its 2017 financial year.

In an update to the business rescue proceedings issued in January this year, the BRPs said the effect of the implementation of the plan at group level remains uncertain until it's completed. "Therefore, the [JSE] suspension will remain in place until the implementation is complete and the effects on the group can be determined," they said.

However, the BRPs anticipate that more than 2 600 Basil Read employees will be retrenched but these employees will receive their full retrenchment packages.

Other players

Murray & Roberts (M&R) in March 2017 transferred its JSE listing to the general industrials sector from the construction & materials: heavy construction subsector. This followed M&R selling its southern African infrastructure and building business to the Southern Palace Group for R314 million in 2016.



A landmark ring-road built by a South African company in Johannesburg.

Of the remaining companies listed in the construction sector, Aveng sold its Southern African construction and engineering business Grinaker-LTA to Laula Consortium late in 2019 and Stefanutti Stocks has experienced financial and other difficulties.

This has arguably left WBHO and Raubex as the only remaining companies in the heavy construction sector with the ability to undertake major infrastructure projects. David Metelerkamp, senior economist at construction market intelligence firm Industry Insight, said on Wednesday there is not a lot left of the listed construction sector.

Listed contractors overall have lost more than 80% of their value over the past 10 to 12 years, adds Metelerkamp. Most of the remaining companies in the sector earn more than half of their earnings outside of South Africa.

'Future problems' have presented now

"The future of South African construction is so limited, especially because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has sped up, to now, the problems that we were going to be facing in two to three years' time," he said.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, in announcing a R500 billion social relief and economic package last month, said: "Central to the economic recovery strategy will be the measures we will embark upon to stimulate demand and supply through interventions such as a substantial infrastructure build programme, the speedy implementation of economic reforms, the transformation of our economy and embarking on all other steps that will ignite inclusive economic growth." "We will outline this in coming days," he said at the time (April 21).

However, Metelerkamp

said nothing further has been heard about this package since then. He says the trend globally is that it's a good thing for governments to invest in infrastructure, to play a countercyclical role and limit the damage of the Covid-19 pandemic "and the economic hiatus it has closed us into."

A different world

Metelerkamp believes there is still sufficient capacity in the construction sector to undertake and deliver the infrastructure build programme - but the quality of the infrastructure built will not be as good as in the past. He said the major companies that have expertise in building the highest quality infrastructure are much smaller than they were, and other Construction Industry Development Board Grade 9 contractors do not have the same experience and expertise in building mega projects.

CONSTRUCTION

HOME BUILDING IN THE US THIS APRIL DOWN TO LOWEST LEVEL IN FIVE YEARS

NEW YORK

US homebuilding dropped by the most on record in April and permits for future construction tumbled, underlining fears that the coronavirus crisis would lead to the deepest economic contraction in the second quarter since the Great Depression.

The report from the Commerce Department on Tuesday added to dismal data this month showing a staggering loss of 20.5 million jobs. In addition to a collapse in retail sales and manufacturing production, the data suggests that April was probably the worst month so far in the current economic downturn.

"This is an unprecedented recession in that it happened over just two months and this is making it harder for companies and consumers to get their bearings and figure out what to do next," said Chris Rupkey, chief economist at MUFJ in New York.

Housing starts tumbled 30.2 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 891,000 units last month, the lowest level since early 2015. The percentage decline was the biggest since the government started tracking the series in 1959. Starts dropped 18.6 per cent in March. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast housing starts would fall to a pace of 927,000 units in April.

Homebuilding fell in all four regions last month. Housing starts plunged 29.7 per cent on a year-on-year basis in April. Though many states considered homebuilding as essential when they



A worker with a face mask holds onto a fence at a housing site in New York.

enforced lockdown orders in mid-March to curb the spread of Covid-19, the respiratory illness caused by the coronavirus, disruptions to building material supply chains likely weighed on activity in the last couple of months.

As the country gradually reopens, there are indications the

worst of the homebuilding slump is likely to be over. A survey on Monday showed an increase in homebuilder confidence in May. With at least 21.4 million people having lost their jobs in March and April, however, the housing market could remain subdued for a while even with mortgage rates near record lows.

"Fewer people are going to be interested in buying a home and committing themselves to years of mortgage payments when they are concerned about their job and income prospects," said Mark Vitner, a senior economist at Wells Fargo Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The dollar was trading lower

against a basket of currencies, while US Treasury prices were mostly higher. Stocks on Wall Street were mixed after posting hefty gains on Monday amid hopes for a vaccine for Covid-19.

Permits for future home construction plunged 20.8 per cent to a rate of 1.074 million units in April, the lowest level since

January 2015. Despite the sharp drop, permits are outpacing starts, which bodes well for homebuilding in the coming months.

The housing market was back on a recovery path before the coronavirus pandemic struck, after hitting a soft patch that started in the first quarter of 2018 and lasted throughout the second quarter of 2019. The sector, which has a bigger footprint on the economy, was partly stymied by a chronic shortage of properties for sale. It has expanded for three straight quarters. However, as with every other segment of the economy, economists are expecting a steep housing market contraction in the second quarter.

Economists are estimating that gross domestic product will shrink at as much as a 43 per cent annualised rate in the second quarter, the deepest since the 1930s. The economy contracted at a pace of 4.8 per cent in the January-March quarter. Single-family homebuilding, which accounts for the largest share of the housing market, dropped 25.4 per cent to a rate of 650,000 units in April, the lowest level since March 2015.

In the volatile multi-family housing segment, starts dived 40.5 per cent to a rate of 241,000 units last month. Housing completions dropped 8.1 per cent to 1.176 million last month. Real estate experts estimate that housing starts and completion rates need to be in a range of 1.5 million to 1.6 million units per month to plug the inventory gap. The stock of houses under construction fell 1.7 per cent to 1.195 million units.

Chinese buyers still keen on UAE property market

DUBAI

The UAE was one of the top 10 destinations of interest for Chinese property buyers last year, according to a new report.

The study, by Juwai, a portal advertising global properties in China and Hong Kong, placed the UAE eighth on a list of the most in-demand markets. The number of indexed enquiries received by the site for UAE properties increased by 43 per cent last year, but have quadrupled over a two-year basis, the company said.

"This is in large part a function of big growth in the second half of 2018 that was mostly sustained throughout 2019," said George Chmiel, chairman of property brokerage IMI, which owns the website.

UAE developers have increasingly courted more buyers from China in recent years, with the Dubai Land Department establishing offices in Shanghai and Beijing. The depart-

ment also reported strong interest from Chinese buyers in the first nine months of 2018, with Dh1.7 billion of transactions recorded, putting them among the top four nationalities purchasing properties.

However, it did not break down transaction levels from Chinese buyers when publishing a report last month stating Dh135bn worth of real estate in the emirate in 2019. The coronavirus pandemic, which began in the Chinese city of Wuhan, has made it harder for overseas buyers to complete sales this year, Mr Chmiel says.

"While buyers can still make enquiries and do virtual tours, it's more difficult to get them to the point of signing on the dotted line. This is a practical problem that will ease when travel restrictions are reduced," he said.

Despite this, he argued there is still demand from investors looking for ways



The UAE was among the top 10 destinations of interest to Chinese property buyers.

to keep their money safe. "Right now, the best pitch that Dubai can make is not about growth or yields but about long-term safety and diversification of investment. Buyers from Asia who are investing overseas in this half year are looking for a way to protect their money from any economic turmoil in their home country.

"Chinese, in particular, are worried about a potential devaluation of the yuan. Dubai can play the role of the global safe deposit box real estate market. Dubai is well-positioned to protect investors in this way due to its long his-

tory as a safe and appealing investment market," he argued.

Thailand, Australia and Japan were the three most attractive markets for Chinese buyers in 2019, according to Juwai's report, with the US and Canada making up the top five. "Cross-border property buying by Chinese consumers is evolving rapidly as these buyers gain in wealth, motivation and sophistication. Destination markets are also competing more aggressively for the investment and economic boost that these buyers bring," the report said.

Property transactions in Dubai grew

9.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2020, according to Property Finder, despite a slowdown towards the end of the period as Covid-19 restrictions kicked in. Supply levels are still high, though, with 20,000 units handed over by April 29.

"During the current situation, we have obviously seen a slowdown in transactions, however due to the government's proactive, swift, extreme efforts and policies I believe we will get through this tough period quicker than most," Lynette Abad, director of data and research at Property Finder, said.

'Can't see beyond three months': Survey shows Covid impact on construction around the world

LONDON

A new survey of construction professionals around the world paints a picture of a global industry hit hard by coronavirus. Nearly 70% of respondents said a quarter or more of their organisation's projected revenue this year had been jeopardised.

Twenty percent said more than half of planned projects had been delayed or cancelled. Nearly 40% said staff were being asked to take pay cuts, while lay-offs were occurring among employers of nearly a quarter of respondents. More than 10% did not expect their company to survive.

On a personal level, more than 10% said they had serious short-

term money worries, and more than a third were not sure they could manage beyond the next three months.

Running 4-18 May, the online survey was conducted by the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) in partnership with GCR to gauge the financial, operational and personal impacts of Covid-19 on the global industry.

The data presented here excludes responses from the UK, where the impact of the pandemic was explored in a survey by GCR's sister title, Construction Manager. We heard from 210 construction professionals, with most responses coming from Ireland, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, South Africa, China, Australia, Saudi Ara-

bia, Singapore, Canada, Malaysia and the US.

Most respondents worked for larger companies. Nearly half (48.8%) worked for companies employing more than 500 people. Of those, 37.3% worked for companies employing more than 1,000 people.

In terms of employer organisation, most (37.4%) were main contractors. The main types of other employers were project manager/QS (14.2%), public-sector client (10.9%), consulting engineer (10.4%), private-sector client (9%), and specialist contractor (5.7%).

Most respondents expected their employers' finances to be hit by the pandemic, some significantly. Nearly 70% of respondents

(68.5%) said 25% or more of the coming year's projected revenue has been jeopardised. Of those, 42% said 20-50% of revenue would be jeopardised; just under 21% said 50-75% of revenue would be jeopardised; and 5.5% said 75-100% would be jeopardised.

The cancellation or delay of planned projects is a worry for most, and a severe concern for some. Asked what percentage of projects not yet begun had been cancelled or delayed, 22.8% said none, but 38.9% said up to a quarter of projects had been cancelled or delayed. Just over 18% said 25-50% of projects had been cancelled or delayed.

Significant numbers reported more profound disruptions: 10.7%

had been cancelled or delayed and 9% said 75-100% of projects had been thus affected. Most organisations are trying to keep employees on. Just under half of respondents (49.8%) said all staff were being paid as normal. However, 39.7% said staff were being asked to take pay cuts.

Lay-offs were occurring among employers of 23% of respondents. Voluntary unpaid leave (19%), furloughing (12.4%), and wage deferral (7.7%) were minority approaches. Despite clear challenges, nearly 90% of respondents (89.05%) said they thought their company would survive. Just under 11% (10.95%) expected that their company would not.

Beijing inaugurates first 5G construction site using smart glasses and heart monitors - engineer

BEIJING

China's first construction site to use 5G technology has been activated in Beijing, where some 40 contractors building a high-tech business district have upgraded their systems to make use of a network that transmits data at 10GB a second.

This exponential leap in transmission speed is prompting the trial of futuristic applications that could improve construction productivity. Among them are "AI glasses" that allow engineers to see what workers are seeing on site from their offices, and communicate with them.

Other applications that may be deployed include robotics, multi-dimensional, real-time monitoring, the use of blockchain to verify information, and the use of the internet of things to automate progress reporting.

The site has also implemented a system to monitor the health of each worker by measuring 10 indicators, including blood pressure and electrocardiography, and issue physical examination reports.

The project is in the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area, a zone of high-tech manufacturing plants in the city's southeast suburb of Yizhuang. It is being developed for Beijing city government's E-town agency by China Construction Eighth Engineering Division, a subsidiary of China State Construction Engineering (CSCEC).

Zhao Canzhen, chief project engineer of the Eighth Engineering, told the CGTN website that the 5G systems were being used to improve site monitoring. "By using 5G, we can monitor tower cranes, and we have a multidimensional security monitoring system. In combination with the AI function, we can also identify if people are wearing masks on site."

He added: "We will continuously explore other uses for 5G, such as blockchain, unmanned operations, robot construction and other applications in the field." The use of super-wide bandwidth made possible by 5G is being exploited by other companies to automate construction sites, with South Korea's Doosan demonstrating a remote-controlled excavator in April last year, and Japanese contractor Taisei testing a similar machine on a site in Mie Prefecture in the Kansai region in January 2019.

Sites that use 4G or other wireless systems typically run into bandwidth and latency issues when companies working on them use technology that requires high amounts of data to be transferred. This happens particularly when visual information is being transmitted in real time, or when many users try to send information simultaneously.

WORLD

China urges US to commit to defeating COVID-19, not issue 'ultimatum' to WHO

BEIJING

CHINA on Wednesday urged the United States to commit to defeating the COVID-19 pandemic at an early date, instead of issuing an "ultimatum" to the international organization that leads the fight against the pandemic.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian made the remarks at a press conference when asked to comment on the response of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy at the European Commission and Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva to the letter published on Twitter by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"It is clear to see that the international community generally disagrees with the U.S. actions of distorting the facts, contradicting itself, blaming others and undermining international co-

operation in fighting the pandemic," Zhao said. Zhao said China has clarified and refuted the fallacies listed in the letter many times.

The letter claimed "Taiwanese authorities had communicated information to the World Health Organization (WHO) indicating human-to-human transmission of a new virus." The fact is the e-mail sent by the Taiwanese side to WHO on Dec. 31 did not mention human-to-human transmission at all, mainly to get information from the WHO.

The so-called "Chinese leader on Jan. 21 reportedly pressured WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus not to declare the coronavirus outbreak an emergency" is totally fabricated. Both China and the WHO have issued solemn statements. Chinese leader never talked with Director-General Tedros over the phone on Jan. 21.

Regarding the accusations against



Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian

WHO Director-General Tedros for praising the Chinese government for its transparency with respect to the coronavirus, announcing that China had set a new standard for outbreak control, the U.S. side seems to have forgotten that the U.S. leader has publicly and positively evaluated China's anti-epidemic work on many occasions.

On Jan. 25, President Trump tweeted that China has been working very hard to contain the coronavirus, and the United States appreciates China's efforts and transparency. On March 13, President Trump told reporters that the data shared by China would help the United States fight the pandemic, according to Zhao.

"There are still more mistakes and loopholes on the U.S. side, as well as more lies and rumors. I will not list them one by one," Zhao said, adding facts are laid bare for all to see, and the international community has its own opinion on the credibility of this letter.

When Wuhan entered lockdown on Jan. 23, there was one confirmed case in the United States. On Feb. 2, the United States closed its border to all Chinese citizens and foreigners who had been to China in the past 14 days. There were 11 confirmed cases then according to official data from the United States.

On March 13, the United States declared a national state of emergency. At that point, the number rose to 1,264. On

March 19, confirmed cases passed 10,000. On March 27, the number surged to more than 100,000. On April 8, when the lockdown on Wuhan was lifted, the number of confirmed cases in the United States was 400,000. Today, it is more than 1.57 million, with more than 90,000 fatal cases.

"We are saddened by these lost lives and wish the American people an early victory over the pandemic," the spokesperson said, adding U.S. politicians might be good at political manipulation, but their attempt to shift blame will not work, because the consequences of their irresponsibility are too costly.

Noting China is not only responsible for the safety and health of its own people, but also for the global public health cause, Zhao said China has taken the most comprehensive, strict and thorough prevention and control measures.

Zhao said with an open, transparent and responsible attitude, China has timely updated the WHO and relevant countries including the United States on the pandemic, shared the genome sequence of the virus at the earliest time possible, continues to share experience in prevention and treatment with all parties without reservation, and help other countries in need to the best of its ability, Zhao said.

Stressing China's firm support to the leading role of the WHO in global anti-pandemic cooperation, the spokesperson said unilateralism, selfishness, evasion of responsibility and even coercion and intimidation of the WHO are acts of indifference to life, challenges to humanitarianism and undermining of international cooperation against the pandemic.

"We advise some U.S. politicians to reflect on themselves, stop political manipulation and use their energy to save more lives," Zhao said.

Xinhua

Xi says China to continue to support WHO playing leading role in COVID-19 fight

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said Wednesday that China stands ready to work with Myanmar and other countries to continue to support the World Health Organization (WHO) playing a leading role in the global battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a phone conversation with his Myanmar counterpart, U Win Myint, Xi (pictured) also called for concerted efforts to firmly uphold international fairness and justice as well as the basic norms in international relations, and jointly win the battle for global public health.

Recalling that after the coronavirus disease broke out in China, the Myanmar government and all sections of society extended a helping hand to the Chinese side, Xi said the outbreak in Myanmar is pulling at the heartstrings of the Chinese people.

The Chinese side has donated multiple batches of anti-epidemic supplies to Myanmar and sent two groups of medical experts to fight side by side with Myanmar medical workers, he added.

That, he pointed out, has fully demonstrated the "Paukphaw" (fraternal) friendship of standing together and helping each other between the people of the two countries, and vividly illustrated the spirit of a community with a shared future that features China and Myanmar sticking together through thick and thin.

China will continue to provide firm support and as much assistance as its capacity allows for the Asian neighbor in line with the latter's needs, Xi said, adding that he is confident that the Myanmar people will eventually overcome the epidemic.

Noting that this year marks the 70th anniversary of China-



Myanmar diplomatic relations, Xi recalled that he paid a successful visit to Myanmar in January, during which the two sides agreed to build a China-Myanmar community with a shared future and usher in a new era of bilateral relations. He expressed the hope that the two sides will closely cooperate to implement the results of the visit.

Xi suggested that on the basis

of putting in place COVID-19 prevention and control measures, the two sides should appropriately advance exchanges and cooperation in various fields and push for positive progress in China-Myanmar Economic Corridor projects.

The two sides, he added, should also make good use of their joint prevention and control mechanism for border areas, and make coordinated efforts to safeguard peace and tranquility along the border, prevent and control the epidemic, and resume work and production.

For his part, Win Myint said that under the strong leadership of Xi, the Chinese government and people have succeeded in putting the epidemic under control and the national economy and social life have been fully restored, which Myanmar is glad to see.

The Myanmar president thanked China for providing sup-

port and assistance to the WHO and other countries including Myanmar in their fight against the epidemic.

In the face of the epidemic, all countries should strengthen cooperation and uphold international justice as well as each country's right to development, he said.

The sound cooperation between Myanmar and China is a reflection of the two sides' efforts to build a community with a shared future, Win Myint said.

Myanmar will continue to firmly uphold the one-China policy and work with China to earnestly implement the outcomes of Xi's visit to Myanmar in January, continue to deepen "Paukphaw" friendship and cooperation in various fields and promote the continuous development of the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between Myanmar and China, he added.

Xinhua

Russian Black Sea Fleet frigates strike coastal targets in Crimea drills

SEVASTOPOL

THE crews of the Black Sea Fleet frigates Admiral Makarov and Admiral Essen held artillery firings against coastal targets in Crimea, the Fleet's press office reported yesterday.

"During the first stage of the firings, the crews of artillery combat units of both ships practiced the algorithm of measures in accomplishing a combat training exercise. At the second stage of the drills, the artillery personnel conducted preparatory firings from A-190 artillery

systems against coastal targets," the press office said in a statement.

The firings were conducted in the area of the Opuk combat training range in Crimea, the press office specified.

During qualification firings, the frigates' personnel successfully struck both visible and invisible coastal targets. In order to strike the latter, the artillery crews employed navigational data with the reliance on an additional aiming point, the statement says.

The crews earlier practiced the frigates' emergency response pre-



paredness for a battle and their deployment with the subsequent departure from the base for the designated areas in the Black Sea.

The warships like the Admiral Essen represent a new series of Project 11356R/M frigates (the Pro-

ject 11357 designation is also used). These frigates are designed to destroy enemy surface ships and vessels, submarines and ground installations, carry out patrols and defend sea lanes.

The frigates of this Project are

armed with eight launchers of Kalibr-NK cruise missiles that are capable of striking surface, coastal and underwater targets at a distance of up to 2,600 km.

The warships of this Project are also armed with Shtil-I, Palash and AK-630M air defense missile and artillery systems, A-190 100mm universal artillery guns, torpedo tubes and RBU-6000 rocket launchers. The frigates also have a take-off and landing strip and a hangar for an anti-submarine warfare helicopter (Ka-27 or Ka-31).

Agencies

'Living fossils of Cold War' never able to reverse trend of time

THE challenges posed by the globally spreading COVID-19 pandemic are unseen in a century. According to statistics released by the World Health Organization (WHO) on May 3, more than 3.35 million confirmed COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, with over 230,000 deaths, and the number is kept growing.

The virus respects no border, and the world is one in fighting it. To jointly defeat the virus with solidarity and carry out effective international cooperation remains the most important and urgent task for the time being.

However, there are always clowns who make inharmonious voices and stage political farces at crucial moments to validate their existence.

Stephen Bannon, known as a living

fossil of the Cold War, has been acting dynamically lately to spread rumors that China covered up the pandemic situation, the virus originated from a Chinese lab, China seeks profits from the pandemic and the WHO is very "China-centric." Besides, he instigated U.S. politicians to propose anti-China bills to the Congress, encouraged investigations on China, and even asked for compensation from China.

It's hardly imaginable that such practices were done when confirmed COVID-19 patients in the U.S. exceeded 1.1 million with 66,000 deaths, and the U.S. economy encountered the largest slump in Q1 since the global financial crisis. Ignoring facts and laws, Bannon and the like are trying to shift responsibilities for the U.S. by stigma-

tizing China, which revealed their vicious intentions.

China's anti-pandemic actions have always been open, transparent and responsible. The country, faced with the unknown virus, reported the disease to the WHO and shared the genetic sequence of the virus with the world at the first opportunity. Besides, it also immediately carried out epidemic control cooperation with international experts.

China is also doing its best to help countries with vulnerable health systems to better cope with the disease, as a way to fulfill its internationalism and humanitarian responsibilities. It dispatched medical experts to many countries, and offered them medical materials in dire need, such as masks

and testing reagents.

China's achievements in epidemic control have won wide applause from the international society. Since the outbreak of the virus, the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee with comrade Xi Jinping at the core made a general requirement based on thorough analysis of the situation, calling on the whole nation to be united, take science-based and targeted measures against the epidemic, and have confidence in conquering the virus. The CPC Central Committee also urged concrete efforts to race against time in combating the novel coronavirus and winning the battle of epidemic prevention and control. After strenuous efforts of the nation, decisive results have been achieved

in protecting the province of Hubei and the city of Wuhan, and the whole nation has also made huge progress in preventing and controlling the disease.

China has built a solid line of defense in the pandemic, making huge sacrifices and contribution to the global anti-pandemic campaign, which is undeniable to anyone. The smears on China's anti-pandemic efforts challenge international justice, as well as the 1.4 billion Chinese people. The stigmatization can never be tolerated by the international society or the Chinese people.

Facts speak louder than words, and truth will always be uncovered. Both the recent research results from international authorities and the pro-

fessional conclusions reached by international organizations gave a powerful strike back to the remarks stigmatizing China.

When China and the U.S. properly handle each other's core and major interests, their relations will grow smoothly. Otherwise, they will be in trouble.

This also applies to today's pandemic situation. Only by joint efforts and cooperation can they conquer the current challenges. Any remarks and practices sowing discord would disturb the general picture of global anti-pandemic efforts, and any tricks denying facts and passing the buck would damage international cooperation to fight the virus.

People's Daily

Lower-income, minority groups in NYC worst hit by COVID-19, testing results show

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY'S deep-rooted wealth and racial disparities are highlighted by the pattern of the COVID-19 spread, as people in lower-income neighborhoods and communities of color are suffering the most, according to city and state data.

As shown in preliminary results of antibody tests of 8,000 people in New York City, the Bronx Borough, where a majority of residents are African Americans and Latino Americans, has the highest COVID-19 positive rate of 34 percent, compared with a citywide average of 19.9 percent. Governor Andrew Cuomo said at Wednesday's briefing.

Ranking by zip codes, the top 10 highest-infected neighborhoods are located in the boroughs of the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens, home to most of the city's minority groups.

The highest rate was recorded in Morrisania, the Bronx, where 43 percent of residents tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies. All the other nine neighborhoods had a positive rate of over 33 percent.

Moreover, the coronavirus's spread is continuing in those communities, and "that's where the new cases are coming from," said Cuomo.

To combat the disparities, Cuomo said the state will partner with the state's largest healthcare provider Northwell Health to double church-based testing sites to 44 locations in those hardest-hit neighborhoods.

The state will also expand the testing capacity in 40 locations of New York City Public Housing facilities, where social distancing is hard to be maintained due to limited room space.

One more region of the state, the Capitol Region, stepped into phase one of reopening on Wednesday, leaving downstate regions - New York City, Long Island and Mid-Hudson, the only regions that are not qualified for reopening yet.

Meanwhile, statewide religious gatherings with up to 10 people will be allowed as of Thursday, said Cuomo, who added that participants should wear masks and practice social distancing.

It came one day after the governor announced that Memorial Day ceremonies with the same scale will be permitted to happen next week in the state.

"I understand their desire to get to religious ceremonies as soon as possible," said Cuomo. "But we need to find out how to do it and do it safely and do it smartly."

NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Wednesday that the city would offer free COVID-19 tests at nursing homes starting next week, due to the large number of infections there.

Some 250 people have been sent to work at nursing homes to fill the vacancies left by hundreds of staff members who have got infected with COVID-19. The remaining staffing requests would be fulfilled by the end of next week, said the mayor.

De Blasio said the city has procured enough personal protective equipment to get through May, including N95 masks, face shields, goggles, gloves, and surgical gowns.

"All of those items are now in sufficient supply to get us through the month of May to protect our first responders and our healthcare heroes," he said in a confident tone.

Though summer's almost here, the city's beaches will remain closed for a while because "we are unlike any place else," said the mayor.

"We are the epicenter of this crisis nationally, the most populous city in the United States of America ... To get to our beaches, a vast majority of people are going to take subways and buses, that creates crowding there and then crowding on the beaches. There's such an obvious set of reasons why we couldn't open our beaches," he explained.

Governor Cuomo has said that state beaches are allowed to open on Memorial Day weekend starting May 22, but decisions are left for local governments.

As to this year's celebration of Independence Day on July 4, the mayor said it would be different, but still involve the fireworks show as a tradition.

Every year, the celebrations attract tens of thousands of New Yorkers who would crowd on the riverside on the night to see the spectacular fireworks shot from a fleet of ships.

"Whatever we do is going to be about safety first. It may be bigger, it may be smaller, but we'll have a lot more to say when we get closer," said de Blasio. "Do not assume it will look like what we've done in the past."

By Wednesday night, the state of New York has reported over 354,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 28,000 deaths, remaining as the hardest-hit state in the country, according to Johns Hopkins University statistics.

Xinhua



Blame game not able to save lives

THE exacerbating COVID-19 pandemic is taking lives around the world. However, some U.S. politicians, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, are “cooperating” with right-wing media outlets such as the Fox News to cover their incapability of pandemic response and shift blames to others.

They spread the rumour that the virus was manmade and escaped the Wuhan Institute of Virology, saying China covered up pandemic information. They even accused the World Health Organization (WHO) of delaying virus response.

It is reported that according to a Republican strategy memo, the party now sees attacking China as an opportunity to buoy their chances in the 2020 election. However, such political manipulation exactly revealed their vicious intentions.

The origin of the novel coronavirus is a serious and scientific issue that calls for meticulous and professional investigation from scientists. The “patient zero” of the 1918 influenza pandemic that originated in the U.S. is still not found today despite over a hundred years of searching.

So how can the U.S. politicians and right-wing media be so certain about the source of COVID-19?

As a matter of fact, their theory that the virus was manmade and leaked has encountered immediate and unanimous opposition from the science world, including American medical experts.

Authoritative academic journals such as The Lancet and Nature Medicine published articles underlining the natural origin of the virus, and a medical expert remarked that focusing on the origin of the virus rather than saving the people, is nothing different from murder. Those who attempt to only gain political benefits from disasters will only live in infamy.

Conspiracies can't exist under sunshine. U.S. independent news site The Grayzone published an article revealing how conservative journalists cooperated with the U.S. government, as well as the making and spread of their conspiracy theories.

Vincent Racaniello, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Columbia University pointed out the lab leak theory is driven by politics and not science-based. Virologist Jason Kindrachuk from the Canadian University of Manitoba also said on Forbes that the escape theory lacks scientific supporting.

Shifting the blames to China isn't all that the American politicians have done, and now they are passing the buck to the WHO. Rather than having a look back on their disastrous response to the pandemic, they attributed the spread of the virus in the U.S. to the so-called delayed informing from China and the UN health body.

It's been recognized that China has always kept its information open and transparent, and the country has reported to the WHO and relevant U.S. organizations on Jan. 3.

Besides, the WHO also released infor-

mation to the world at the first opportunity, without any delay.

Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou all reported their first infection on Jan. 20, and that of the U.S. came only one day after. However, the virus developed in totally different ways in the two countries.

A joint letter was recently submitted to the White House by over 1,000 medical associations, charity organizations, pharmaceutical companies and experts around the world, saying the WHO and the Chinese government have always maintained close cooperation to make sure that they report public health data to the international society as early as possible.

China shared the genetic sequence of the novel coronavirus at the first opportunity, which laid a basic foundation for accelerating vaccine development.

Editor-in-chief of The Lancet Richard Horton told the truth. The inaction that followed the WHO's emergency declaration, he said, was down to member states and not to China, adding that the world should be grateful to the country for its warnings and containment efforts.

The U.S. is currently the most hit-hard region in the world where the response failures of the government have sparked strong dissatisfaction of the society. However, some U.S. politicians, attempting to divert the blames, resorted to “red herring” though the situation is clear enough for all. They bragged their so-called achievements to the U.S. citizens while spreading rumors to the world.

The 57-page strategy document distributed by the Senate Republican campaign arm focused on one thing - to pass the buck to China.

Global scientists are concerned, as the rampant virus is new to this world and it takes time before vaccines are developed and people can finally get rid of its impacts on lives and health. Only mutual assistance can help the world get through the hard time, and only cooperation and solidarity can enable the world to better cope with challenges.

“While American leaders play the blame game, more lives are being endangered,” said Singaporean newspaper The Straits Times. It is far more productive for the US and its allies to focus on saving lives and working together with China to find an effective vaccine, the newspaper added.

One of the most famous sayings attributed to Abraham Lincoln is about deception: You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time. But his words did not stop those American politicians from believing they can fool the world.

China deserves respect for its efforts and contribution, as it launched an all-out war against the virus, conducted unprecedented lockdown of cities, and tried to treat the patients at all cost. This is obvious to all and will never be changed by political manipulation.

People's Daily

US scientist fired for refusing to manipulate Florida's COVID-19 data - report

WASHINGTON

A U.S. scientist who created Florida's COVID-19 data website was fired earlier this week for refusing to manipulate data in the way the state officials need for reopening economy, according to a local newspaper report.

Florida Today reported Wednesday that Rebekah Jones, who was the chief architect of Florida's COVID-19 data and surveillance dashboard intended to provide a real-time picture of the local coronavirus situation, was fired on Monday by the state Department of Health after she was removed from her position as its Geographic Information Systems

manager on May 5.

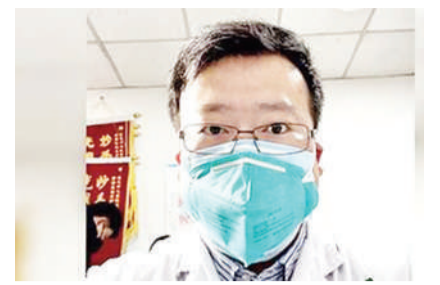
The report quoted Jones as telling the CBS-12 news television station in West Palm Beach that she was fired because she refused to “manually change data to drum up support for the plan to reopen” as ordered.

Jones didn't give further details, the report said.

The newspaper, which first reported Jones' removal from her position in charge of Florida COVID-19 data portal, said Jones confirmed her dismissal in an email, writing,

“I worked on it alone, sixteen hours a day for two months, most of which I was never paid for, and now that this has happened I'll probably never get paid for.”

Xinhua



US public needs to know truth of Chinese 'whistleblower'- Yale scholar

WASHINGTON

THE role of Li Wenliang, an ophthalmologist with the Central Hospital of Wuhan who warned of a potential outbreak, “has been distorted without regard for fact,” a faculty member at Yale University wrote in an article published by Project Syndicate on Monday.

Stephen Roach, also former chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, wrote “the first Chinese doctor to report the novel coronavirus was not Li (pictured) but Zhang Jixian,” a doctor in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

On Dec. 27, 2019, three cases of pneumonia of unknown cause were immediately reported by Zhang after she received the patients, the first reporting of suspected cases of a new disease by local authorities in China.

Three days later, Li posted in one of his WeChat chat groups text messages including “seven SARS cases were confirmed at Huanan fruits and seafood market”, a photo and a video clip.

“President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have fanned the flames by accusing China of covering up the outbreak and knowingly allowing the novel coronavirus to spread,” said Roach. “But their supposed smoking gun, the tragic fate of the heroic whistleblower, Li Wenliang, fires only blanks.”

“Contrary to the Western narrative, the initial response of (China's) local authorities was prompt, albeit not without error,” Roach added, mentioning that on Dec. 30, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission issued internal documents ordering efforts to treat patients with pneumonia of unknown cause.

On Dec. 31, China informed the World Health Organization (WHO) China Country Office of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan.

On Jan. 3, 2020, China began sending regular, timely updates about the novel coronavirus to the WHO, and other countries, including the United States.

Li, 34, died of the novel coronavirus on Feb. 7. He was later identified as a martyr, the highest honorary title awarded to citizens who bravely sacrifice their lives for the nation, society and the people.

“Li's death plays a central part in the conspiracy theories that drive the anti-China discourse of Trump's Republican Party,” said Roach, noting a leaked 57-page GOP campaign 2020 strategy document is “filled with distorted accounts of the so-called intimidation of Li.”

“The more the U.S. struggles with the ravages of COVID-19, the more desperate Trump and his loyalists are to blame China,” said Roach.

Xinhua

End of security cooperation between Israel and Palestine 'unlikely'

RAMALLAH

DESPITE Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' declaration to end all agreements with Israel, analysts believe that a total stop of security cooperation between the two sides is still ruled out, amid fears of a comprehensive confrontation.

Abbas made his declaration on Tuesday in response to an Israeli plan of annexing large areas in the West Bank, which is supported by the United States. Several months ago, Abbas had also rejected US President Donald Trump's peace plan, so-called “The Deal of the Century.”

Analysts believe that Abbas has not completely closed the door, where security cooperation with Israel still goes on in the current time.

The Israeli government didn't officially respond to the declaration of Abbas, but Israeli media outlets said that the Palestinian security forces may lower the volume of dealing with its Israeli counterparts.

Analysts also see that a comprehensive confrontation “will inevitably result from ending security coordination, which represents the most significant joints in the Israeli-Palestinian relationship.”

Ahmad Rafiq Awad, a political analyst from Ramallah, told Xinhua that Abbas “kept these doors partially open for serious negotiations with new guarantees and new basics.”

He clarified that ending all the agreements with Israel will put Israel in a dilemma of bearing the responsibility of governing the Palestinian territories.

“If security cooperation between the two sides stops, the coming period



may witness popular confrontations, even a new violent Palestinian uprising against Israel,” he said.

Security cooperation is the most significant understanding in the Oslo agreement, according to which the Palestinian National Authority was established.

George Jaqman, Director of the Ramallah-based Institute for Democratic Studies, told Xinhua that ending Oslo agreement and stopping security cooperation “remains the minimum scenarios the Palestinian Authority has besides its attempts to keep urging the international community against Israel.”

“Abbas may believe that the two sides can reach one day a peace agreement because he strongly believes that Israel is not interested in seeing the Palestinian Authority collapsing,” Jaqman said.

He thought Abbas can't stop security cooperation with Israel, “because that would mean ending the Palestinian Authority security and economic

presence in the West Bank.”

Moreover, those who are still in favor of security cooperation and keeping the Palestinian commitments towards the Oslo agreement believe that stopping it unilaterally will pave the way for Israel to hold the Palestinians responsible for the ongoing conflict and preventing the possibility of reaching a peace agreement.

Besides the exchange of security data between the two sides, the Palestinian Authority is still in need of being in touch with Israel to coordinate the daily affairs of the Palestinians as Israel controls all the West Bank crossing points.

Hani al-Masri, director of Masarat Center for Researches and Studies in Ramallah, told Xinhua that the Palestinian Authority will lose the justification for its presence in case Israel implements its annexation plan.

“The Palestinians are standing currently in front of hard choices and they require new strategies,” said al-Masri.

Xinhua

Iran dismisses new US sanctions as 'fruitless and repetitive'

DUBAI

IRAN dismissed yesterday new US sanctions on several Iranian officials, saying they were a sign of the complete inefficiency of Washington's previous sanctions on the Islamic Republic, state television reported.

“Washington's fruitless and repetitive sanctions against Iranian officials is a sign of

weakness, despair and confusion of the US administration,” state TV quoted Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi as saying.

The United States on Wednesday imposed sanctions on several Iranian authorities, including the interior minister, accusing them of engaging in serious cases of human rights abuse.

The US Treasury Department said Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli gave orders authorising the Law Enforcement Forces (LEF) of Iran to use lethal force in response to anti-government protests in November, leading to the killing of protesters, including at least 23 minors.

Hundreds of young and working-class Iranians took to the streets on Nov. 15 to

protest against the government's decision to increase fuel prices. The protests turned political, with demonstrators burning pictures of senior officials and calling on clerical rulers to step down.

Iran's top authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, denounced the unrest as a “very dangerous conspiracy” by Iran's enemies.

Agencies

Russia's state arms seller to offer hypersonic weapon tracking radar to foreign customers

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S state arms seller Rosoboronexport (part of the state hi-tech corporation Rostec) has started promoting on international arms markets the 59N6-TE mobile radar capable of detecting hypersonic targets, the company's press office reported yesterday.

“Today Rosoboronexport is bringing to the market the latest radar sta-

tion capable of effectively detecting a wide range of advanced and future air objects, including hypersonic targets,” the company's press office quoted Rosoboronexport CEO Alexander Mikheyev as saying.

“While developing the export version of the radar, the growing role of air defense systems for the provision of security of states was taken into account, as well as the needs of foreign customers in the expansion of the re-

connaisance capabilities of their air defense units,” he said.

Rosoboronexport expects high demand for the new station in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, the Middle East and North Africa.

The 59N6-TE mobile three-dimensional station is an exclusively Russian-made product, which implies present-day Russian hardware components with digital processing and signal generation.

It is fully solid-state and has high potential together with enhanced jamming resistance, according to the data posted on the company's website.

“The 59N6-TE is a radar of medium and high altitude, having a decimeter wavelength range. Apart from hypersonic targets, it also effectively detects aerodynamic and ballistic objects,” the statement says.

The 59N6-TE radar provides for the measurement of the range, azimuth

and altitude of aerial targets. It is capable of detecting objects flying at a speed of up to 8 000 km/h at a range of up to 450 kilometers and at an altitude of up to 200 kilometers.

After detection, it exchanges radar information with C4I systems. It operates in conditions of jamming and carries out direction finding of active noise jammers, Rosoboronexport said. “In a real time mode, it can simultaneously track no less than 1

000 objects and recognize 8 classes of targets, which includes selection of anti-radar missiles and warning its own combat crew of the danger of elimination, inter alia, by high precision munitions and homing missiles.

The 59N6-TE radar also includes equipment for the recognition of detected aerial targets in international radar recognition systems Mk-XA and ATC RBS,” the company said.

Agencies

Political goals hid under US speculations on China's COVID-19 statistics

CHINA has always taken people's lives as the top priority in the sudden outbreak of the novel coronavirus pneumonia, trying its best to improve the cure rate and lower mortality to save the life of every patient. Many Chinese lost their lives due to the major pandemic, which placed the nation into deep lament.

The numbers of infections and deaths are always transparent and open in China, and every case can be traced. However, some U.S. politicians, in an attempt to hide their own inability to control the pandemic, have repeatedly pointed fingers at China with political delusion, saying the country covered up infection and death numbers,

and “the most in the world has to be China.” What it shows is not wisdom, but vicious calculations to frame up China.

Saving lives is of paramount importance, and that's a conviction always held by the Chinese government and people in pandemic response. Giving play to its institutional advantages, China pulled concerted strength from across the country, with many places hitting the “brake pedal” for social and economic development.

To save lives, the populous Hubei province with nearly 60 million people locked its transportation

channels, and its capital Wuhan, where over 10 million people live, reacted with a city-wide lockdown.

To save lives, over 42,000 medical staff went to Hubei for assistance in hundreds of teams, while the best medical resources and top respiratory and infectious disease experts gathered in Wuhan. Besides, millions of Chinese also stood out to protect Wuhan and Hubei in various ways.

To save lives, Wuhan launched a “blanket search” for more than 4.2 million households, vowing to leave no one behind and admit and treat all confirmed and suspected

patients.

To save lives, China adopted individualized treatment plans for all COVID-19 patients in severe and critical conditions, and the treatment expenses, which averaged 150,000 yuan (\$21,239) per patient and even reached over a million yuan for some critical patients, are all shouldered by insurance companies and the government.

“I have never seen in my life this kind of mobilization,” said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Even Western media refuted the U.S. politicians who accused China

of hiding infection and death numbers. The whole process of China's pandemic response is open. Since January, the country has published the numbers of confirmed cases, deaths, suspected cases, close contacts and people under medical observation on a daily basis. A total of over 3,000 press conferences have been held at national and provincial levels where government officials, medical staff, experts and recovered patients directly answered questions.

After strenuous efforts of the nation, decisive results have been achieved in protecting the pro-

vince of Hubei and the city of Wuhan, and the whole nation has also made huge progress in preventing and controlling the disease.

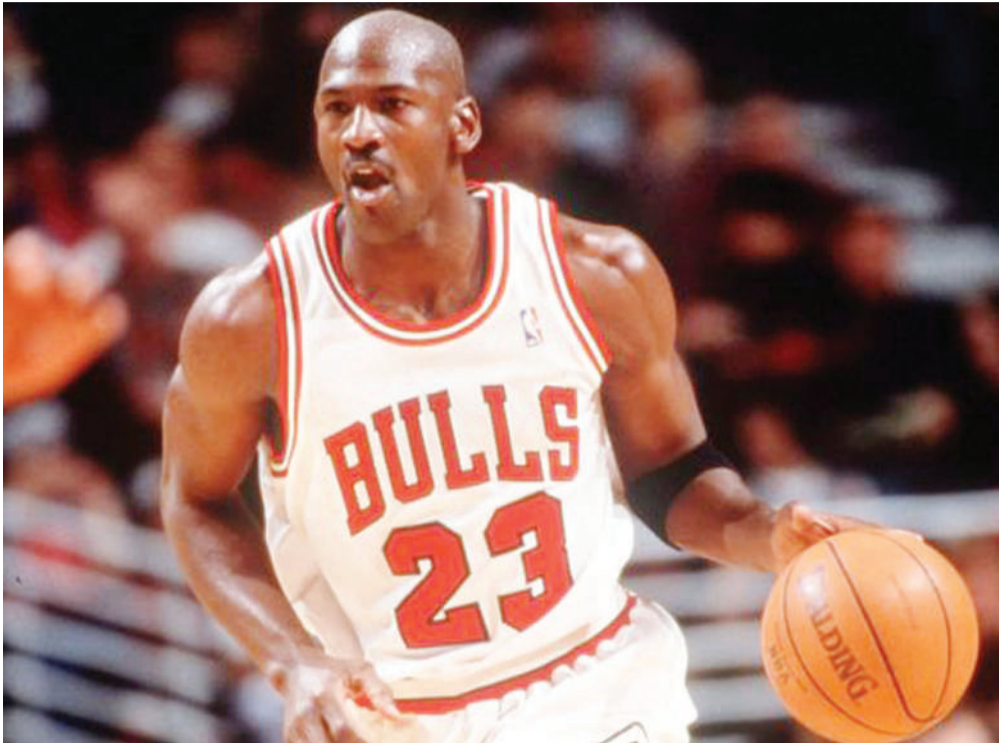
Senior advisor to WHO Director-General Bruce Aylward said China didn't hide its data, which can be proved by multiple investigations conducted by WHO missions to China.

During the initial phase of the COVID-19 epidemic, some statistics released by China were delayed, missed, misinformed, or overlapped because of the insufficient hospital capacity and the belated docking between a few medical

institutions and the disease control and prevention information system, as well as the overload of hospitals and medical workers. However, the statistical work has always been advanced, and Wuhan had timely revised its data and published the results. Such practices are responsible for the history, the people and the deceased.

However, after China revised Wuhan's statistics on April 17, some U.S. politicians became hysterical, ridiculously saying China's statistics are not believable and more revise would be made to other Chinese cities. It seems like they just hope more Chinese people to die, which revealed their ill and crude political mentality.

People's Daily



Michael Jordan was unstoppable and dominant at times, but basketball was more conducive to his style and mentality. (Agencies)

Why Michael Jordan's leadership style doesn't work for Messi and Ronaldo

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

"THE Last Dance" captivated the world, confirming Michael Jordan's status alongside Muhammad Ali as the greatest global cultural reference point the U.S. has ever produced. With teams and players locked down, the documentary introduced Jordan to a new generation of basketball fans who grew up thinking the Golden State way was the only way, as well as casual observers who can't tell an alley-oop from a loop-de-loop.

The documentary reaffirmed what we knew about Jordan's competitiveness, self-motivational techniques (like magnifying perceived wrongs against him and then righting them) and win-at-all costs mentality. It also offered insight into the dynamics of a successful club and Jordan's relationship with teammates, coaches and the front office.

It also raises a simple question: Does Jordan provide us with a road map to succeed in football, too?

The answer is "yes" when it applies to work ethic, hunger and determination. Any athlete, professional or otherwise, will tell you those qualities move the needle, almost as much as intelligence and athletic ability. Indeed, admiration for Jordan in those departments is pretty much universal.

But when it comes to team chemistry, it's a different story. At least today, at least in football. The sport's versions of Jordan -- Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo -- couldn't act the way he did. In fact, they don't.

The obvious difference is that we're talking two different sports. When you're one of 11 players on the pitch, your influence will be diminished compared to when you represent one-fifth of the team on the court. In basketball, you're involved in every play on both offense and defense. In football, you can be the best player in the world and go long stretches without being significantly involved. (If you've ever had the chance to watch Messi from the stands, you'll have noticed that, at times, he looks like he's taking a Sunday stroll in the park before -- eventually -- bursting into action.)

In high-scoring sports, the influence of luck and randomness is less than in games like football where the only score might be an individual error or a guy hitting a 30-yard screamer he couldn't repeat if he tried each day, every day, for the next decade.

So while it's true that, in terms of their standing in the game, Ronaldo and Messi are in the same GOAT conversation as Diego Maradona and Pele just as Jordan rides the same bus as LeBron James, Larry Bird and Wilt Chamberlain, the fact is that during games their influence is less.

But what about the influence Jordan exerted not just on his teammates, but also the entire organization? You'll note that, once again, stark differences between the sports make a Jordan situation in football a non-starter.

Between Jordan's rookie year of 1984-85 and his departure after the 1997-98 campaign, the Bulls reached the playoffs every single season (including the year he was playing baseball). Before that, they had reached the postseason once in seven years -- and remember, this was when three out of four teams advanced. After he left, the

Bulls had to wait another six years to reach the playoffs. In the Jordan Era, they became one of the most recognizable and admired sporting brands in the world. Before and after, they toiled in relative obscurity.

Football doesn't work that way. It didn't take Messi to put Barcelona on the map, just as it didn't take Ronaldo to make Real Madrid relevant. Barca won two league titles and a Champions League in the two seasons before a teenage Messi established himself as a starter. Meanwhile, Real Madrid won the league title in two of the three years before Ronaldo's arrival and two Champions League crowns in the previous decade.

Basketball, like most U.S. sports leagues, is geared toward parity. If you have a franchise player, you typically build a team around him, trading away future draft picks if necessary. Football, on the other hand, has super clubs who know they will remain, if not dominant, relevant (and economically powerful) even if they lose their superstars. It's a function of history, sure, but also the fact that, unlike the NBA, football generally markets club brands ahead of player brands.

Of course, football clubs want to keep their stars happy. Ronaldo and Messi vastly out-earned their teammates, and rightly so, though never to the degree Jordan did. Real Madrid catered to Ronaldo (or what they thought he wanted) over cosmetic things, like when they announced in 2013 that Gareth Bale's then-world record transfer fee was lower than it actually was, so they could still claim Ronaldo was the world's most expensive player. But when it came to coaching appointments -- from the firing of Carlo Ancelotti to the hiring of Rafa Benitez -- at best Ronaldo was an outside consultant.

Messi's influence at Barcelona arguably comes closer to Jordan. We are fed daily stories about how he could single-handedly determine the club's next presidential election in 2021 by backing one candidate over another, how Gerardo "Tata" Martino was appointed as manager in 2013 to appease him and how he desperately wants Neymar back at the Camp Nou. But amid all this, Messi has stayed out of early election campaigning (at least publicly). Martino lasted one season and Neymar remains at PSG.

In short, Messi and Ronaldo are not Michael Jordan.

For a better comparison, you have to go back to the 1980s and Maradona at Napoli. The club had never won a league title before his arrival, won two during his tenure and, after he left, slid into relegation and bankruptcy. That's as close as you're going to get.

When it gets to Jordan's abrasive leadership style, it quickly becomes obvious that such behavior in football would be difficult for even a Messi or a Ronaldo to pull off. You can't imagine Messi telling teammate Gerard Pique he can't eat dinner because he had a bad game. Or trash-talking Ansu Fati to tears. Or punching Frenkie de Jong. Sure, part of it is personality: Messi is low-key and, outwardly at least, the opposite of an Alpha Male. But Ronaldo, for all his evident confidence, self-assurance and prima donna exterior, has never used humiliation as a motivational tool, at least as far as we know.

Debate on foreign professionals a matter of evolving attitudes

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL EN-EZA

WHAT seemed to be a forgone topic, limiting the number of foreign professional players in Tanzania Premier League clubs, has been restored to centre stage lately when the responsible minister, Dr Harrison Mwakymbe, was presenting estimates of his ministry's income and expenditure projections for the next fiscal year, and this year's performance. Not only did he express strong reservations on having many foreign professionals in a club; he wants measures.

Fortunately he did not introduce measures right away and throw the soccer fraternity into turmoil as premier league clubs would be pushed to an imposed uniformity that is unhealthy for intense competition. At the same time, such a limitation would rule out for as long as it is retained, chances that a local club makes any progress whatsoever in the CAF Champions League and for that matter in the Confederation Cup. He only tasked top level sports organizations to discuss it.

While there are scores of pundits in the sports field who passionately support the minister's position, and even a number of those tasked with managing football, chances of the remarks being a proper guide to discussion and the fraternity agreeing on such measures are minimal, or nil. The reason is that the proposition is backed by sentimental considerations that top clubs ought to have many local players, and the fallback position is that this way they will perform and be picked for Taifa Stars. It's unclear if supporting pun-



Yanga midfielder, Haruna Niyonzima (L), negotiates his way past his KMC FC counterpart, Hassan Kabunda, in the Vodacom Premier League encounter, which was played in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

dits say Taifa Stars can improve this way.

There is at least one falsification datum that can be cited, which was given by a soccer analyst at a previous debate as the matter has been coming up from time to time in the past ten years or perhaps less. He focused on the period when Dar Young Africans (Yanga) were champions for several years, before the baton was picked by their next street rivals, Simba SC, that during that time Yanga had more foreign professionals than other clubs, and more players in the national side than others. It means that the logic of having foreign players is in inverse direction to this view.

What this datum implies is that the more there are foreign players in a premier league club, the more its other players are exposed to stiff competition, especially to obtain a regular place on the line up. The minister and those advising him

see this as unfair, since local players ought to have a more direct chance of being considered for first team appearance in top level premier league clubs, and believe that such a welfare consideration is good for the sport as a whole. That is where the debate shall be directed, how far back-strapping premier league local players helps.

The fact that Jangwani Street players had a higher chance of obtaining a position in Taifa Stars than even their next door rivals Simba shows that having fewer foreign players on the club first eleven did not make its players better because of having more playing time. The concern with playing time is a mere convenience, as it skips rigor in training, to check foreign professionals.

For instance when a Simba SC defender is in training, he knows that he has to show that he can confidently check or thwart the

techniques or tactics of a player like Medi Kegere, the same as other clubs when they have an encounter with the Msimbazi Street side on the cards. Learning to take care of good players from outside becomes the first task that local players have to learn, whether it is friendly tackling say of Kegere when Msimbazi Street boys are in training, or it is much less benevolent tackling from rival clubs. There, only the threat of a yellow or red card stops a defender from being visibly rough, as it could prove costly to his team's chances too.

When one looks at the issue from a strategic point of view, there is no dispute that foreign professionals help to uplift the standard of the game in the country, first by improving the level of training. The players enable the coaches of the various premier league sides to demand effective tackling of good players - as the most favored players from outside are strikers. The weaknesses of our premier league defences are better exposed with foreign professionals than if they were playing just between themselves as in the past, thus our playing level is pushed up.

Such matters don't merit discussion in advanced countries where inviting foreign players is not something that is frowned upon. On the contrary it is an industry here, one reason being that clubs spend a fortune on foreign players as they must be attracted to come here instead of better and more able clubs outside. Yanga for instance have never really settled since they lost their star striker Heritier Makambo, and club officials have repeatedly said they don't have the money to buy him back. The logic is we should be making efforts to have more such players, not fewer.

Cricket: Need practice to break saliva habit, says India's Ashwin

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S Ravichandran Ashwin says he will need practice to break the habit of applying saliva to shine the ball, an age-old ploy which faces a potential ban when cricket resumes after the coronavirus shutdown.

The International Cricket Council's cricket committee has said players can still use sweat to help shine the ball but recommended a ban on the use of spit fearing it could lead to the spread of COVID-19.

"For me as a bowler, putting saliva on the ball comes naturally, and it will take practice to avoid that," Ashwin said in an Instagram Live session for Delhi Capitals, his Indian Premier League franchise.

Cricketers have long used saliva and sweat to shine one side of the ball, altering the aerodynamics in an attempt to generate movement in the air as it flies towards the batsman.

Australia quick Josh Hazlewood said on Wednesday the proposed ban on using saliva to shine the ball will be difficult to police.

The health crisis has also changed the way players celebrate. Wary players had already begun to replace handshakes and high-fives with fist and elbow bumps when COVID-19 disrupted cricket in March.

Ashwin, India's preferred test spinner, said the new celebrations could be a throwback to the past.

"In the 1970s-80s, wicket celebrations meant fielders standing in their respective positions and clapping," said the 33-year-old.

"Things like high-fives and fist bumps are more recent. So when we all step out to play again, it may take time to get used to certain things, but we'll need to adapt."



Ravichandran Ashwin

Meanwhile, in Cape Town, South Africa are optimistic about hosting India for three lucrative Twenty20 Internationals in late August, but are trying to find new dates for their proposed tour to the West Indies.

Cricketers South Africa (CSA) has already had to postpone a limited overs series in Sri Lanka, but has earmarked the visit by India to raise much-needed revenue.

CSA director of cricket Graeme Smith says the body is in constant contact with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

"We have been talking to them

and the commitment is there to get the three T20s done," Smith said at a news conference on Thursday.

"There is an element of guesswork, no-one knows what things will be like at the end of August."

"But we believe we are a socially-distanced sport and that we can play behind closed doors."

The Proteas were due to tour the West Indies in late July for two test matches and five Twenty20 internationals, and Smith confirmed they are looking

at all options for those matches, including playing at neutral venues or in South Africa.

"We are exploring all options. Sport has to think like a business now and not just an events company. We need to get together and work out how to get cricket up and running," he said.

"We are trying to understand things like quarantine regulations. There are so many things up in the air, but the key is to be ready (for when play returns)."

REUTERS

Qatar faces recession making World Cup trips harder for fans

DOHA

ORGANIZERS of the World Cup in Qatar are concerned that many fans won't be able to afford traveling to the tournament in 2022 if the coronavirus pandemic causes a global recession.

Many countries around the world are expected to suffer historically deep recessions as a result of the virus and the associated lockdown restrictions.

"It's all right now unclear - we are entering into a recession," World Cup organizing committee secretary general Hassan Al Thawadi said Wednesday. "There's always the concern about the global economy and the ability of fans to be able to afford traveling and afford coming and participating and celebrating the World Cup."

Sporting events have also been postponed, including soccer's European Championship that was due to start next month but has been moved until 2021.

Qatar still hopes six of its eight stadiums will be completed by the end of this year despite the COVID-19 disruption. The World Cup is scheduled to be played in November-December 2022 - rather than its usual June-July slot - which provides more time for the resumption of international travel.

"By 2022 I'm optimistic that we

would overcome this pandemic as a human race collectively," Al Thawadi said on a Leaders in Sport live stream. "It will be one of the early opportunities for all of us to celebrate together, to engage together, to bring people together."

Qatar is promising the World Cup will be affordable for fans but the tiny gas-rich nation has been affected by economic activity shutting down in so many countries. State-owned Qatar Airways, a World Cup sponsor, has said it will cut jobs as the global aviation industry has been largely grounded.

"We are still committed to ensuring that we create a balance between an affordable World Cup," Al Thawadi said, "... and a price range that is affordable for fans and a price range that is workable, functional for the industry, for service providers, for the supply chain that is responsible for delivering the World Cup."

For three years, Qatar has had to adjust tournament preparations to cope with the economic and diplomatic boycott of the country by Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates over claims it supports extremist groups in the region. Qatar denies the allegations.

Ronaldo better than Cristiano, Messi, says Roberto Carlos

MADRID

ROBERTO Carlos has said former Real Madrid and Brazil teammate Ronaldo is the best player of all-time - ranking him above Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Neymar.

Cristiano and Messi have won 11 Ballon d'Or awards between them and are considered by many to be the greatest players ever, but not in Roberto Carlos' eyes.

"He [Ronaldo] was the best," the former left-back told Goal. "There will never be another Ronaldo 'Fenomeno'."

"Not Neymar, Cristiano or Messi, Ronaldo is unique. He's the best. I think in our generation it was harder to score goals. It was more physical back then and attackers were less protected. But Ronaldo could do everything."

The two Brazilians spent five years together at Real Madrid during the 'Galactico' era from 2002 to 2007.

Their coach in that final, title-winning 2006-07 season, Fabio Capello, agrees that Ronaldo was a unique, if problematic figure.

"The biggest talent I coached is Ronaldo," Capello told Sky Sport Italia. "And at the same time, it was

him who caused me most problems in the dressing room.

"He held parties, anything. Once, [Ruud] Van Nistelrooy said to me 'Boss, the dressing room smells of alcohol.' Then when Ronaldo left [in January 2007] we started winning. But if you're talking about talent, he was the best, without doubt."

Capello stressed that he and Ronaldo - who is now president and majority shareholder at La Liga club Real Valladolid - enjoy "a good relationship."

On Wednesday, Van Nistelrooy denied making those comments to Capello with a post on Twitter where he claimed, "from day one the dressing room displayed total professionalism."

La Liga clubs are back in group training sessions this week, with the league targeting a June 12 restart.

Roberto Carlos, who is Director of Institutional Relations at Real Madrid, believes Eden Hazard - who is training with his teammates after recovering from an ankle operation in March - will prove he's the best of the current generation.

(Agencies)

FC Seoul faces sanctions after putting sex dolls in seats

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

A SOUTH Korean soccer club is facing penalties, including expulsion from its own stadium, for putting sex dolls in empty seats during a match last weekend.

The K-League is one of the few soccer leagues operating during the coronavirus pandemic, with games being played in empty stadiums.

FC Seoul's attempts to increase the atmosphere at Seoul World Cup Stadium backfired despite its 1-0 win over Gwangju on Sunday. The club expressed its "sincere remorse" as public backlash intensified, but said it was assured by a supplier that it was using mannequins - not sex dolls - to mimic a home crowd.

About 25 mannequins were supplied by a local company and dressed in FC Seoul colors and wearing masks. The Yonhap news agency reported that fans posted suspicions about the life-size dolls on social media during the match and one banner showed the names of an adult toy manufacturer and of models who had inspired those

dolls. Such advertising is in breach of the competition's rules, and K-League officials have referred the matter to a disciplinary committee.

If found guilty, FC Seoul could be fined about \$4,000 or have points deducted. The club could also be punished for damaging the prestige of the league at a time when it had been basking in unprecedented international attention.

On May 8, the K-League became the first major soccer league to start playing after the coronavirus pandemic shuttered sports around the world. The opening game attracted 19 million viewers worldwide.

There could be worse to follow for FC Seoul, the 2016 league champion. According to reports, Seoul Facilities Corporation, which operates the stadium, is investigating a potential breach. As part of its lease agreement, the club is required to obtain permission in advance for advertising. By not doing so, it could be expelled from the stadium where it has been based since 2004.

AP

'Inhumane' - FIFPro chief warns against punishing players who refuse to train over virus fears

PARIS

THE head of global players' union FIFPro has given his backing to footballers who do not want to return to training because of coronavirus fears and cautioned that it would be "inhumane and unacceptable" if they were to be punished for taking such a stance.

Jonas Baer-Hoffmann's comments came after Troy Deeney of English Premier League side Watford refused to restart training ahead of a possible resumption of the season because he does not want to put his young child, who has breathing difficulties, at risk of catching the virus.

Deeney has also cited fears his family could be in danger because of figures that show black and ethnic minorities in the UK - which has the highest recorded death toll in Europe - are more likely to become seriously ill with COVID-19.

Deeney is "a player who has very legitimate concerns and wants to protect his family", Baer-Hoffmann said in a conference call with reporters on Wednesday.

"If these players are being pressured or potentially facing disciplinary actions, we feel that is very much unacceptable."

"The idea that somebody may be punished in a pandemic for trying to protect his family's health is inhumane and unacceptable."



Watford striker Troy Deeney has received the backing of global players' union FIFPro for refusing to return to training over coronavirus fears (AFP Photo)

However, there is no suggestion that Watford are planning to take disciplinary action against Deeney.

Several players in England have voiced concerns about returning to training, even in small groups.

Watford were among the Premier League clubs affected by six positive tests for the virus out of a total of 748 tests conducted on Sunday and Monday.

However, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp insisted none of his players were being forced to come back to training as the Premier League leaders started to work in small groups on Wednesday.

"It is the players' choice and that is

clear," Klopp told Sky Sports.

"I said before the session, 'You are here on free will. Usually you sign a contract and you have to be in when I tell you, but in this case if you don't feel safe, you don't have to be here.'"

"There are no restrictions, no punishment, nothing. It's their own decision and we respect that 100 per cent," he added.

- 'Minimise that risk' -

England defender Danny Rose, on loan at Newcastle United from Tottenham Hotspur, had earlier said players were being treated like "lab rats" as the league attempts to get going again.

Baer-Hoffmann backed Rose,

calling for discussions to take place involving players if they wanted "stricter rules".

"No system can actually exclude the risk of infection, so it is a question about the probability by which you minimise that risk and many of the systems that we are seeing and reading about - not particularly England - still leave many, many gaps and many risks," Baer-Hoffmann said.

Baer-Hoffmann admitted that plenty of players around the world were keen to get back playing despite the potential risks involved, but said FIFPro recommended that players undertake three to four weeks of training before beginning matches again due to the risk of injuries.

In England the Premier League has been suspended since March 13.

The financial consequences of not restarting would be potentially very serious for clubs, although players at the top level in England are in a better position than some of their counterparts around the globe.

Baer-Hoffmann highlighted the case of players in several Latin American countries, including Colombia and Uruguay, as well as in Botswana and Egypt, who are now relying on food packages from their local players' union "because they cannot even provide for their own basic needs and are being stranded in terms of income".

AFP

As Brazil's coronavirus crisis worsens, top clubs play political football

BY TIM VICKERY, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

BRAZIL's coronavirus death toll is rising alarmingly, with Tuesday the first day in which the 24-hour total topped 1,000, adding to a national total that is approaching 18,000 and increasing the strain on health systems, with some cities close to buckling. Only the United States and Russia have more confirmed COVID-19 cases than Brazil.

But even as the numbers grow amid the pandemic, there remains a desire in some quarters for football to return, with President Jair Bolsonaro having made no secret of his desire to see Brazil's national game up and running as soon as possible: "If it depended on my vote, I would approve," he said as far back as April 27.

Bolsonaro is a critic of social distancing protocols imposed by the governors in many of Brazil's 27 states, and his administration has parted company with two health ministers - one was sacked and the other resigned - in no small part because they were in favour of such measures and the temporary closure of non-essential commercial activity.

And so it was to Bolsonaro that a pair of Rio de Janeiro giants looked in their bid to restart training. Tuesday saw the presidents and leading directors of national and continental champions Flamengo and their historic rivals, Vasco da Gama, meet with Bolsonaro in Brasilia for what was described as an informal lunch.

The long-term agenda was to discuss how and when football might restart. This has a number of complications, such as Brazil's federal structure giving state governors power to determine whether games - or even proper training - can take place.

Moreover, there is the complexity of the country's footballing calendar. The first few months of the year are given over to state championships, after which the four-tier national championship kicks off. It is hard enough to fit in the matches, and a pandemic makes it all but impossible.

When the coronavirus pause began in mid-March, the state championships were moving toward a climax. Should they be completed? The national league was supposed to be underway by now, so much further delay would make it hard to see how everything could be crammed in. As a fan, Bolsonaro might have his own



Jair Bolsonaro

opinion, but he has no decision-making authority.

A more immediate aim of Tuesday's meeting was the quest for help in allowing the clubs to train in the capital city; Rio's football federation authorized the restart of practice some weeks ago, but was instantly overruled by local government.

Brasilia has offered its services: The Mane Garrincha stadium was built for the 2014 World Cup and was the most expensive of all venues, but has been underused since the tournament. After receiving an offer from local authorities, Flamengo and Vasco are considering taking players, coaches and their families some 600 miles northwest.

Following the meeting, Bolsonaro

said, "They want to return to playing football. I spoke with the health minister to have a protocol to reopen. Start without anyone in the stands," while Flamengo medical director Marcio Tannure stated via social media, "Today we took a small step, but it could signify a big step for our return! We continue working..."

On Wednesday, Globo TV helicopters spotted players training at Flamengo's facility, the Vulture's Nest, but while these two giants see things one way, fellow Rio powerhouses Fluminense and Botafogo have argued against the idea, with Botafogo particularly vociferous.

Carlos Augusto Montenegro is a former club president who remains on the Botafogo board of directors,

and he pulled no punches in an interview to Globo Esporte, describing the proposed project as "an act of cowardice."

"The clubs have to be big on and off the field," Montenegro said. "This is an attitude of a tiny team. People will come to training and could leave contaminated. It could be an act of homicide forcing the situation in this way. Who will be held responsible if an athlete or a club employee transmits the virus to a family member or someone at home? The position of Botafogo is that we are not going to play."

The recent death from coronavirus of Jorginho, Flamengo's massage specialist since 1980 and a member of Brazil's backroom team at the 2002 World Cup, was a potent reminder of the virus' threat, and it would be strange if there were not misgivings among players about the dangers of a premature return.

Earlier this month, in a video featuring players from a number of leading clubs who voiced their concern that moves to get the game restarted might be made too fast, Flamengo's Diego said, "This is a time for unity," while teammate Everton Ribeiro emphasized the need for "safe working conditions."

It was unclear how many Flamengo and Vasco players have reservations and if any agree with Montenegro - and whether they might think it prudent to keep such a view to themselves, given that going public with such an opinion might not please their clubs.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

As Brazil's coronavirus crisis worsens, top clubs play political football

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Nkwabi reflects on 'high expectations' at Simba SC, Yanga



Swedi Nkwabi

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FORMER Simba Sports Club chairman Swedi Nkwabi has revealed unrealistic high expectations is a recipe for chaos at Tanzanian top soccer clubs.

Nkwabi was interviewed on the on current wave of transformation agenda at Yanga and Simba.

He noted there are high

expectations that make fans dream of overnight success.

"Transformation is a slow process, it is not an overnight thing. It takes time to complete the transformation," he disclosed.

"It is an uncharted waters,

we create high expectations high in our members which in turn leads to chaos. A club should clearly set out its goals, spell out attainable targets that should be communicated to all members to avoid chaos."

"For instance, after reaching the CAF Champions League quarterfinals stage last season, there was unrealistic expectation at Simba. In reality the club is yet to do anything worth to be considered a title contender in CAF

Champions League," he said.

"Last season's achievement was a fluke. The club's target was to make it to the Group Stage, anything else was a bonus. Fans should be aware of that."

Nkwabi, who was elected as Simba Sports Club chairman in November 2018, found his position under severe pressure this season after what was reportedly his decision to question the direction of the club transformation process. He resigned in September last year.

The defending Premier League champions have since replaced Nkwabi with Mwina Kaduguda, who was appointed on an interim basis late last year.

After years of mismanagement, the topflight clubs in Tanzania have been hit by a transformation bug.

In 2017, Simba kick started the transformation from being a community club to become a limited company.

This week, 27-time Tanzania champions Yanga announced they have officially kicked off their transformation plan which will be done under the consultation of Spanish League organisers, La Liga.

Commenting on the issue, Yanga spokesman Antonio Nugaz said they want to get it right this time after past attempts failed.

"We want to have a proper linear transformation. Transformation that will impact the club positively and get rid of personnels that aim for personal gain instead of promoting the interests of the club," Nugaz said.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Premier League, FDL, SDL set to restart June 1

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has ultimately issued permission to the resumption of this season's Vodacom Premier League, First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL) fixture on June 1.

Speaking at Chamwino State House in Dodoma yesterday after swearing in several officials he has appointed, Magufuli said he has opted to permit the restart of the tournaments on the mentioned date, following the decrease in the Coronavirus cases in the country.

He requested Tanzanians to keep on featuring in sporting events as all statistics show there is no sportsman that has passed away after contracting the disease.

"I know everyone likes sports. Even Members of Parliament participate in sports. In this disease's statistics I'm not sure there is a sportsman that has passed away because of the disease. There are different types of sports and every person has his or her favourite sport," he stated.

"I have decided that sports should restart. There is the Premier League, First Division League and Second Division League and so forth, they should resume on June 1," he disclosed.

He pointed out sports help citizens contain the disease, therefore the domestic soccer tournaments will resume. He hinted military games should as well restart.

"Procedures for accessing stadiums will be put in place by Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children but sports must resume."

This means Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, and Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports have been directed to seek better ways the sporting activities should be hosted with adherence to all precautions.

The President had on two occasions said he was thinking of granting the restart of sporting activities in the country but he did not confirm the dates for the restart of the events.

The restart of the competitions is obviously huge relief to sports followers in the country, particularly the Vodacom Premier League followers.

The enthusiasts were looking forward to the resumption of the domestic top flight.

The tournament's participating sides will be free to start team training to prepare for the rest of the event's fixture.



Mbuni FC players pose for picture shortly before taking part in one of the Second Division League fixture.

Mbuni FC striving to enter top six in SDL

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Monduli

MBUNI Football Club of Monduli, Arusha is in final preparations to embark onto this season's Second Division League (SDL), after President John Magufuli allowed all sporting activities in the country to resume after eight weeks of hiatus.

Mbuni FC is now left with one match in group fixtures after which they can enter into top six category of the SDL.

The team is playing in Group A' fixture of Second Division League, they are currently occupying the second position with 26 points and 10 goals.

African Sports, who lead the rest of the pack in the group, have as well notched 26 points but they have drilled in 12 goals.

In the group's third position stands Eagle FC with 24 points, Rufiji United are holding the fourth position with 21 points.

Villa Squad are holding the fifth slot with 14 points, followed by Mwapwa United in the sixth slot with eight points and, tagging last, is Mkamba Rangers with six points.

In the coming match, Mbuni FC is scheduled to confront Mkamba Rangers at the latter's venue in Morogoro.

The clash will be a qualifying

stage for the Arusha outfit to move into the top six slotting of SDL.

Mbuni, which is an army football squad, is based at the Tanzania People's Defense Force base of Monduli.

They will soon converge players to start practicing at the camp.

"We also disbanded the team, but most of the members remained here practicing because many are residents of Arusha thus it was easy for them to turn up when needed," Leonard Budeba, Mbuni FC coach, stated.

Bearing the 'Ostrich' label, the army team has a total 30 members, among them 25 that have been in camp

throughout the sporting activities' break.

The team's other five members had travelled upcountry, but will be returning early next week to resume camp.

Playing in the SDL placement, Mbuni FC is focusing to win promotion to the next season's First Division League (FDL) in anticipated better performance which is to be showcased by the side in the soon to resume SDL.

"Coronavirus outbreak was major setback for the team because the preparatory budgets had to be used to pay for players' transport back to their homes, which means the coffers have dwindled," Budeba said.

Simba congratulate Yanga for seeking new administration approach

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

A few days after Tanzania football big guns, Yanga, had officially started a process for transforming their club's administration, the side's rivals, Simba, have congratulated the former for embracing changes.

Simba have nevertheless insisted Yanga should do away with regularly expressing misgivings over the club's failure to at times fail to live up to expectations on the pitch.

Simba's information officer Haji Manara stated it is good Yanga have done exactly what their rivals did in the transformation.

He asked the rest of clubs in the country to opt for the changes.

"I congratulate Yanga for opting for transformation. The changes, though, should go hand in hand with change in their thinking," he stated.

"They should not always complain when their squad fare poorly in matches, they should concentrate on serious issues."

He stated Simba normally express misgivings over serious matters and the club later focuses on getting good results.

"Domestic soccer will improve tremendously should all sides opt for transformation. If Yanga will successfully start implementing changes they will become serious opponents," he disclosed.

Yanga's spokesman Antonio Nugaz yesterday insisted the squad is looking forward to embracing the changes.

Nugaz stated the club will implement an administration system, which is used by Spain's La Liga outfits.

"We will implement the right transformation. Yanga fans should assess the approach La Liga teams, which include prominent clubs Barcelona as well as Real Madrid, that is the kind of changes we want to implement," he stated.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

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