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**TANZANIA** 

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH, 2020









# Chadema accused slapped with 350m/- fines or 60 years in jail

Mbowe must pay 70m/- or stay in jail for five months

#### By Guardian Reporter

HADEMA national chairman Freeman Mbowe and seven others were yesterday convicted by Dae es Salaam's Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court on 12 counts of incitement, slapping them with 350m/- total fines or serving a total of 60 years in jail.

Principal Resident Magistrate Thomas Simba said in his judgment that Mbowe alone has to pay 70m/- in fines for his freedom or stay behind bars. Dr Vincent Mashinji, who recently decamped to the ruling CCM, has to part with 30m/-

Others convicted apart from the chairman and former secretary general Dr Mashinji are current secretary general and

The punishment should serve as a warning to

Kibamba MP John Mnyika, Iringa Urban

MP Peter Msigwa, Kawe lawmaker Halima

Mdee, Esther Matiko (Tarime Urban), John

Heche (Tarime Rural), Deputy Secretary

General (Zanzibar) Salum Mwalimu and

The magistrate said that the

prosecution, led by State Attorney Faraja

Nchimbi, proved that on February 16,

2018 at Buibui grounds within Kinondoni

district in Dar es Salaam, the accused

persons organised and took part in an

illegal gathering in which inciting words were uttered. All of them were found

guilty in this count and fined 10m/- apart

"The punishment should serve as a

The words uttered in the gathering were in contravention of regulations of

the National Electoral Commission, the

warning to other leaders who do not mind their words in public," the magistrate

Bunda MP Esther Bulaya.

from other charges.

magistrate intoned.

said.

other leaders who do not mind their words in public, the magistrate



AWAITING ALL-IMPORTANT RULING: Hai legislator Freeman Aikaeli Mbowe (R), national chairman of the opposition Chadema, in tête-à-tête with opposition ACT-Wazalendo chief advisor Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad (C) at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly before the court delivered its judgment. Left is Chadema secretary general John Mnyika, one of the seven people convicted alongside Mbowe. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



### PM stunned seeing roads manager he transferred still at work

### By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa was yesterday stunned to find the Morogoro Regional Manager for Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) who he last week ordered be transferred immediately, still at work

Godwin Andalwisye was busy rebuilding Kiyegeya Bridge on the Morogoro-Dodoma

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### Irony as Chinese, Ugandans beat Tanzanians in Kiswahili job takes

### By Aisia Rweyemamu

INFORMATION, Culture, Arts and Sports minister Dr Harrison Mwakyembe yesterday said that Tanzanians were lagging behind the Chinese, Ugandans and Kenyans in Kiswahili teaching and interpretation jobs globally, blaming it on 'lethargy.'

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at a presentation of the draft country report on protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, the minister said Tanzanians are better at complaining than grabbing job opportunities.

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Kiswahili was recently approved as the official language of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

"My office opened a database for international job opportunities for Kiswahili professionals but we received more applications from Uganda and Kenya than Tanzania," he said.

The minister explained efforts he made to invite Tanzanian graduates in the Kiswahili language to share some interpretation job opportunities but the response was poor as those who turned up were less than 10.

"In international interpretation jobs there are currently more Chinese than Tanzanians," he pointed out.

Being the birthplace of standard Kiswahili, Tanzania is best placed to lead in the

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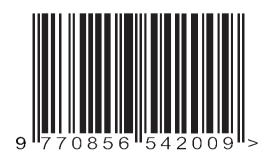
### **TUZO ZA TEHAMA ZA TCRA ZA MWAKA 2020**

Zimebaki
siku 5 tu
kuwasilisha
fomu za ushiriki
mtandaoni



# RC acts as mosquito-borne disease decimates livestock Mwisho wa uwasilisha Kila mwenye leseni ya T Tuma fomu vako ya u

### TURN TO PAGE 2



### By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

A STRANGE disease spreading from across the border whose has affected thousands of livestock in wards bordering Kenya in Ngorongoro District, Arusha

Region.

Ngorongoro District Veterinary
Officer Dr Chobi Chugwa
yesterday confirmed the
existence of the disease, saying
it is spread by mosquitoes, and

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This is a disaster that needs great efforts to fight, even though you are late as herders say the disease erupted in November, last year that the only way to combat it is through a vaccine which is currently available in Kenya at a high cost.

The disease attacks cattle, sheep as well as goats in a district whose economy is predominantly based on animal husbandry.

Chungwa said a bottle of the drug that can vaccinate 100

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### Mwisho wa uwasilishaji fomu ni Machi 15, 2020

Kila mwenye leseni ya TCRA analazimika kushiriki Tuma fomu yako ya ushiriki mtandaoni sasa

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"Boresha Maisha Kupitia Tehama kwa Uchumi wa Viwanda Kidijitali"

### PM aghast seeing manager he transferred still at work

trict, Morogoro Region, which was recently swept away by floods instead of a new face, a statement released by PMO said.

tour of the site last week, the premier ordered that the manager be transferred to the headquarters of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications for failing to undertake regular checks and maintenance of the road.

He also directed that another manager be appointed immediately to take over and supervise the reconstruction of the key infrastructure. So, the premier inquired why the man who was supposed to be at ministry headquarters was still on site.

"The decision made to transfer the Morogoro Regional Manager TAN-ROADS was right because he cannot supervise others. The money for inspection and maintenance of roads was there but he did nothing," the statement quoted Majaliwa as affirm-

In his response, TAN-**ROADS Chief Executive Of**ficer Patrick Mfugale said that Andalwisye is one of the few engineers with specialization in bridge construction hence his services were still needed in the ongoing work.

"You issued a directive that he be transferred; I am the one to do that. We goro.

highway in Kilosa Dis- are still using his exper-

During his inspection ing to an end the has-

The ministry said in a statement that traffic began to flow with priority mals followed, it said.

cross, there was a snarl-Dodoma were waiting as ing arranged.

swept away a bridge and cut off communication benearest regional centre, it was advised that motorists use the prohibitively long Morogoro-Iringa-Dodoma route.

tains in the region and neighbouring Iringa routinely cause strong floods that damage infrastructure in Morogoro each rainy season.

Last November, the government appealed to the African Development Bank (AfDB) for a soft loan for the construction of a 224-km four-lane highway from Dodoma to Moro-

tise," said Mfugale.

Traffic resumed on the busy highway on Sunday after authorities opened a temporary bridge, bringsle of having to use the Morogoro-Iringa-Dodoma

given to upcountry passenger vehicles. Private cars and lorries carrying perishable goods and ani-

an interim facility was be-After the downpour tween the capital and the

Heavy rains from moun-

By the time authorities allowed the vehicles to up on both sides as those heading to Morogoro and



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan listens to NMB Bank Plc Head of Government Business Vicky Bishubo (L) in Bariadi, Simiyu Region, when the VP visited the bank's pavilion during International Women's Day celebrations held at national level in the region. Second right is Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Ummy Mwalimu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### RC acts as mosquito-borne disease decimates livestock

is sold at 45,000/- and they have mobilized herders to contribute money for the purchase of the vaccine, and vaccinates each animal is charged at 600/-.

Speaking on the issue, Ngorongoro District Commissioner Rashid Taka said the government has formed a team of experts to fight the disease in the border areas, while concentrating efforts other wards.

Arusha Regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo visited some affected areas and directed the DC and experts from the district council to do all they can to ensure the disease is placed under control.

"This is a disaster that needs great efforts to fight, even though vou are late as herders say the disease erupted in November and

in ensuring it does not spread to has killed hundreds of animals. So double up your efforts," he

> On herders' complaints to be charged 600/- to vaccinate one animal, Gambo said there was the need to review the cost as it is high to many herders.

Ngorongoro District, whose population is largely pastoralist living near the Tanzania/Kenya border, has affinities with communities across the border including cattle markets, hence it has been easy for the disease to

Residents in affected areas say the disease weakens animals and eventually kills them,, with young animals the most affected. It has already killed a lot of livestock.

One resident from the area, Moses Taiko says the disease began are unable to buy it, he added. attacking livestock near the border

areas and when they inquired from their Kenya counterparts they were told the disease started in their country and is caused by some kind of mosquito that breeds in multitudes during the ongoing rainy season.

The neighbours have been using vaccines to fight the disease but due to its high cost, many herders

# Irony as Chinese, Ugandans beat Tanzanians in Kiswahili job takes

FROM PAGE 1

says Tanzanians are not interested in international job opportunities for experts in the language.

Kiswahili was recently approved as another official language of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). It is also among official languages of the African Union (AU). It is taught in various African countries including South Africa and Namibia, apart from East African countries.

"The report will be read around the world. I urge Tanzanians to be prepared to grab opportunities from this field," he emphasized.

The minister explained that opportunities in the Swahili language are everywhere, insisting that "you cannot be unemployed if you are a Swahili expert because it has become one of the world's most respected languages."

Among the 6000 substantial languages in the world, Swahili is one of the ten most widely spoken languages, he said.

"I realized that this is a great opportunity for Tanzanians. My office established a data base for registering tal system. It will be accessible and Swahili professionals, who have to pay only 10,000/- maintenance fee, but we received a lot of complaints than applications to register," he further stated.

Despite the fact that the registered names are distributed to various embassies around the world, not more than 1500 Tanzanians have registered,

"If you will continue to argue and complain without taking action, in the coming days China it will be the best producer of Swahili professionals because Chinese graduates are more numerous in the field than Tanzanians," he told the gathering.

President Dr. John Magufuli has struggled to enhance Kiswahili status by speaking Swahili everywhere to create opportunities but Tanzanians still slacken in picking up such offers.

lan - expressed gratitude to the Swedish (SIDA) for funding the exercise. UNESCO National Program Officer

Nancy Kaizilage said that for the first time Tanzania will this week table the report to UNESCO.

Looking at Kiswahili in terms of culture, she said that the role of culture cannot be underplayed, because it has a valuable contribution to the development process.

"The convention itself is guided by eight principles, namely the principle of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the principle of sovereignty, the principle of equal dignity and respect for all cultures and the principle of international solidarity and cooperation," he specified.

Others are the principle of complementarily of economic and cultural aspects of development, the principle of sustainable development, the principle of equitable access and the principle of openness and balance.

The drafting team chairman, Robert Mwampembwa said that the report will be published in the UNESCO digiused worldwide, he said.

In 2011 the government ratified the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 2005 Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expression in order to create opportunities and keep artists close to world market. There are more than 120 countries which have ratified the

The convention requires a member state to prepare an implementation report every four years for the purpose of protecting and promoting the diversity of cultural expression. This is pivotal for the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The program is organized by the ministry and the UNESCO Regional He applauded the team for the good Office for Eastern Africa supported by work of preparing the report, and he the SIDA II project.



REPOA (Research on Poverty Alleviation) executive director Dr Donald Mmari and Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, Elisabeth Jacobsen, exchange documents in Dar es Salaam on Monday shortly after signing an agreement for a 3.6bn/- Norwegian government grant in support of the research agency's programmes in Tanzania. Photo: Getrude Mbago

### Norway grants Repoa 3.6bn/- to boost research

By Getrude Mbago

THE country's top think-tank-REPOA has received 15 million NOK (over 3.6bn/-) from Norwegian government to boost the institution's research capacity in the areas of productive sectors, climate change, gender and human development.

Speaking soon after signing the grant agreement in Dar es Salaam yesterday REPOA executive director, Dr Donald Mmari said the funding will enable the institution to implant its strategic plan for the next

Dr Mmari said the four-year strategic plan also focuses on governance, accountability, citizen engagement as well as other crosscutting issues such as climate change, technology and innovation.

"We are focusing these essential elements to inform a comprehensive national agenda on socio-economic transformation for inclusive development and the commitments to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs)," he noted.

Dr Mmari said the think-tank form", which was implemented pendent think tanks."

credible research and analytical work, to provide information that is relevant for evidence-formed policy capacity development to diverse stakeholders.

He said the grant will provide the institution with autonomy and resources to carry out its strategic research along with related activities for promoting evidence-informed policy dialogue and development and targeted capacity building for researchers and research users.

"Today marks a significant milestone in our partnership with Norwegian embassy; the partnership has a long history since 2000 where it has been providing core funding along with other partners including the embassies of Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Ireland. We thank you for trusting us and we

vow to work," he stated. He said for nearly ten years from 2001 to 2011, the embassy had supported a "formative research pro-

will also continue to undertake jointly with the Norwegian thinktank Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI). The programme helped to build REPOA's competitive advanmaking and continue providing tage on local government and decentralization research in Tanzania.

In her remarks, Norwegian ambassador in Tanzania, Elisabeth Jacobsen said that despite various challenges, Repoa has remained dedicated in the pursuit of its mission by being innovative, patient and strategic in its engagement and partnership with the government

and other actors. "This is not our first time to provide core support to Repoa, our support is centred towards promoting institutional capacity, enabling independent research agenda setting and also strength the institution's ability to stay relevant," she noted

Jacobsen further said that "We have seen very limited funding for research by private sector and government in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa including Tanzania, and therefore it is important for us gramme on local government re- to contribute to strengthening inde-

### Eight Chadema accused handed 350m/- fines or 60 years in jail

During the said rally, a 22-year-old student of the National Institute of Transport (NIT), Akwilina Akwiline was mortally wounded after being hit by a stray bullet as the police sought to break up the rally.

None of the convicts was able to raise the fine monev so they were all taken to prison.

"We are not satisfied with the outcome but for now our preoccupation is to raise money for the fines," said defence lawyer Peter Kibatala.

Mbowe, leader of the official opposition in the National Assembly, and Matiko spent time in remand prison after the court revoked their bails on November 23, 2018 for violating its conditions.

Principal Resident Magistrate Wilbard Mashauri said at that time that the two were in contempt of court for failing to show up for the hearing of their case.

The NIT student's killing touched off anger across the country as she was not in the demonstrating crowds made up of Chadema supporters who had blocked a road and were engaged in clashes with the police.

She was in a commuter bus plying the Mabibo to Makumbusho route, where she intended to board another bus to Bagamoyo to submit a letter to an office for field practice, the court was told during the hearing.



Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania, Anders Sjoberg (C), holds one of six new Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) publications as he graced their launch in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is flanked by MCT Ethics Committee chairman Judge (rtd) Juxon Mlay (L) and executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga. The publications include Gender in Media Policy; Challenging the Glass Ceiling - a study of the place of women in newsrooms in Tanzania; and Compendium of Analyses of Media Related Laws in Tanzania. The others are Investigation Report on Increased Threats and Interference into Editorial Independence; Do We Get Information? Report of the Study on the Efficacy of the Access to Information Act, 2016; and Haki ya Taarifa, Uwazi na Uwajibikaji kwa Raia: Sheria ya Haki ya Kupata Taarifa, 2016. Photo courtesy of MCT 

### **NEMC commended for its efforts** to keep hazardous waste in check

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

MANAGEMENT of hazardous and everincreasing large quantities of other forms of waste are the most difficult environmental problems confronting the world but the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) is trying hard to free Tanzania from life-threatening impacts of generated wastes.

This was a unanimous position of participants who attended a meeting of traders in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The traders, who discussed among other things the impact of the ban on plastic carriers, praised NEMC for efforts in fighting hazardous waste, especially the banned plastic carriers and wastes from industries. The ban on carriers became effective June 1, last year.

It was argued that hazardous wastes are generally produced by industries in the course of production of goods, or are a result of worn-out electronic tools of production or products such as medicines, preservatives or fertilisers that have expired. NEMC controls generation and disposal of waste by issuing environment impact assessment (EIA) certificates to investors and inspection of production centres and warehouses to ascertain proper disposal waste generated.

Jonathan Nathanael, a producer of poultry feed in Dar es Salaam said late issuance of EIA certificates had in the past been a problem threatening the pace of investment in Tan-

zania. "But NEMC has overcome this problem in a creative way. As an applicant awaits the EIA certificate, NEMC gives the applicant provisional clearance licence and monitors applicant's operations. Further, they have reduced days for issuing the EIA certificate from 140 to 75 days," he said.

According to Nathanael, NEMC officials were emphasising on educating owners of industries and members of the public on best ways of managing wastes. "Public awareness matters in things of this nature," he said.

Nathanael said plastic carriers were highly hazardous although this fact was not very obvious to many people.

But some traders complained about lack of cheaper carrier bags. However, there was no unanimous agreement on the issue. One participant said bags generally cost 500/-, "and this is no small money." But he was opposed by others who said there were small carriers costing as small as 200/-.

Commenting on recent observation of NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka that the war on plastic carriers was not yet over, Juma Mohamed encouraged NEMC to continue with the struggle.

"People no longer like the banned carriers. On their part, NEMC should tighten loose ends; they should prosecute producers of unwanted carriers and encourage mass production of allowed carriers by small entrepreneurs.

### ADC suspends face-to-face meetings over coronavirus

#### By Henry Mwangonde

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) yesterday suspended all faceto-face meetings, adopting video conference instead, as deadly coronavirus hits one of its member states-South Africa.

The bloc's council's of ministers meeting which kicks off in Dar es Salaam today is the first to be held via video conference as strategies are being drawn up to contain the disease that

has now spread all over the over the world. The permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Colonel Wilbert Ibuge told a press conference yesterday that the decision to use video conferencing was reached after a recommendation from the SADC Ministers of Health who advised that faceto-face meeting be temporally suspended as a measure to contain the disease.

"With this development, citizens to take precautions as

the SADC council of ministers well monitor and follow direc- had devastating global impacts impact mitigation and other innwhich was supposed to be superseded by a meeting of senior officers from for one week beginning tomorrow will be shortened to two days via video conferencing," said Colonel Ibuge.

The PS said the decision has been approved by SADC secretariat as well as the economic bloc's chairing State -Tanzania where the meetings were supposed to take place.

He further called upon SADC

tives issued by health authorities in their respective countries.

Colonel Ibuge also noted that the change in schedule for the meetings will have an impact to the economy of Tanzania because most of its citizens were prepared to receive the guests.

SADC Ministers of Health met in an extra-ordinary meeting in Dar es Salaam on Monday this week to share existing knowledge and information on the Covid-19 outbreak, which has

since its outbreak in December 2019, and agree on how to harmonize and coordinate the preparedness and response to Covid-19 in the SADC region.

The meeting also noted the status on the level of preparedness of the Member States in addressing COVID-19, and urged Member States to put in place National Preparedness and Response Plans as well as contingency and emergency funds to address gaps in prevention,

terventions. The meeting also urged Member States to institute Peer Review Mechanisms to validate self-assessment reports on readiness, and requested international cooperating partners, through the WHO and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), to support Member States in the development and implementation of country plans, as well as in resource mobilization for health-related infrastructure

The meeting agreed that

Member States will establish coherent mechanisms of sharing information on issues of trans- boundary public health concern, and that the Technical Committee for Coordinating and Monitoring the Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Health comprising of Directors of Public Health and Directors of Medical Services be re-established, and its terms of reference be expanded.

### ZMA suspends passenger sailing boats to Dar due to bad weather

### By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

HEAVY rains accompanied by strong winds that started early morning yesterday forced Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMA) to suspend all boat sailing until the wind eased.

Speaking with this paper ZMA Director Abdallah Kombo said yesterday there weren't any passenger sailing boats at 7.00 am destined to Dar es Salaam - those operated Azam and Zanzibar ferry firms.

He explained that due to strong winds they suspended the sailing boats to save wananchis' lives and their property.

He said after the winds eased they allowed the boats to sail at around 8.00 am to Dar es Salaam.

He appealed to the wananchi, especially fishermen to take great precautions during this period of rains and strong winds and should develop the habit of listening reports of weather forecasts provided by Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA).

KATIKA MAHAKAMA KUU YA TANZANIA DAR ES SALAAM UTHIBITISHO WA USIMAMIZI WA MIRATHI MIRATHI Na. 66 YA MWAKA 2019 MAOMBI YA BARUA ZA USIMAMIZI WA MIRATHI YA MAREHEMU YOHANA DAUDI MAJOLA BALELE MWOMBAII/WAOMBAI EDDA YOHANA BALELE

> TAARIFA YA KAWAIDA (Kanuni ya 75)

Watu wote wanaodai kuwa na haki ya Marehe aliyetajwa hapo juu wanafahamishwa kufika n iangalia mashauri haya katika jalada kama wanaon: inafaa kabla ya kutolewa kwa uthibitisho wa baruza za namizi wa Mirathi kwa Waombaji/Mwombaji hapo uu. Mapingamizi yoyote kuhusu haya amo au kabla ya tarehe 21 Mwez , wa Apri**l**, 2020.



On his part the Directr of Zanzibar Disasters Department Makame Khatib Makame said they yet to receive full reports on disasters following rains and strong winds that started on Monday night.

"There were small disaster incidents that occurred like falling of trees but we have not received reports of any deaths or floods," he

He said the authority has convened an urgent meeting to deliberate on the issue for further steps, and called on the wananchi, especially those in low lying areas to move out to avoid any catastrophes that may arise.



#### **INVITATION TO BID (ITB) ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR SUPPLY** AND DELIVERY OF ASSORTED NON-FOOD ITEMS

### 1. Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Dar es Salaam invites reputable and qualified suppliers and manufacturers to submit firm offers for Establishment of multiple Frame Agreements for the supply and delivery of any or all of the below listed Non-Food Items.

### 2. Requirement:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	TENDER ITEM DESCRIPTION
ITB/2020/SUP/006	Plastic Jerry Cans
ITB/2020/SUP/008	Sanitary Napkins (Re-Usable Pads)
ITB/2020/SUP/009	Sleeping Mats
ITB/2020/SUP/010	Kitchen Sets
ITB/2020/SUP/011	Solar Lamps
ITB/2020/SUP/012	Mosquito Nets

### 3. Eligibility:

Manufacturers, authorized resellers, wholesalers, or traders duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's needs are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be collected from the following UNHCR Offices:

**UNHCR Representation Office Tanzania** Plot 1658 Masaki, Rufiji Street P.O Box 2666 - Dar es Salaam

UNHCR Sub- Office Kibondo Kabigwa (Near TANESCO)

UNHCR Field Office Kasulu Kimobwa (Mlimani Area) P.O. Box 332 - Kasulu, Kigoma

UNHCR Field Unit Mwanza Mwanza Airport P.O. Box 49, **Kibondo** P.O. Box 2273 - Mwanza

### CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Deadline for receiving requests for clarification		Monday 23rd March 2020 at 16.00 hours EAT				
ľ	Deadline for submission of offers		Wednesday 08th April 2020 16.00 hours EAT			

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.

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Kinondoni district commissioner Daniel Chongolo addresses participants of training on the link between the observance of ethics and the enhancement of productivity. It is being held at Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy in Dar es Salaam. Left is the academy's principal, Prof Shadrack Mwakalila. Photo: Correspondent

### **Gender equality remains priority** for SADC region, says executive

**By Guardian Reporter** 

THE executive secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Stergomena Tax has called upon member states to fully capacitate their respective structures to enhance implementation of gender equality commitments agreed at regional, continental and global levels.

Tax said countries should challenge gender norms, break gender stereotypes, address gender based violence to achieve a world where all people have equal rights and opportunities.

In her message on the International Women's Day (IWD), she said gender equality remains a priority in the SADC region, and significant progress has been made in addressing factors that hinder attainment of equality between men and women, boys and girls, since the adoption of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development

She noted that in the area of women's representation and participation in politics and decision-making processes, selected member states such as Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe have significantly increased women's representation in their respective parliaments as a result of a raft of measures that they have put in place at national level.

"SADC member states continue to make good progress in ensuring access to education by women and girls through effective policy measures, such as the globally-acclaimed Education For All (EFA) movement, and using affirmative action in the education sector, which has effectively improved enrolment of girls in schools",

She however said challenges continue to hamper efforts to attain gender parity particularly in the political sector, and women continue to experience inequalities in different spheres of life.

The executive secretary said that women representation in politics and decision making processes has remained below the regional targets as agreed by member states when the Gender Protocol was adopted.

The regional average remained below the aspired parity, standing at 23.2 percent in 2018.

This year's IWD commemoration coincides with the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

SADC member states are bound by the UNSCR 1325, and subsequent resolutions that were adopted by the UN Security Council since 2000, in order to reduce sexual and gender-based violence including in conflict and postconflict situations.

This year's commemoration is under the theme "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights".

This theme is concerned about advancing gender equality and promoting women's rights in line with the commitments of the Beijing Declara-

It is a conglomeration of the next generations of women's rights activists with the gender equality advocates and visionaries who were instrumental in creating the Beijing Platform for Action more than two decades ago.

### Govt: Innovation is pivotal in the country's industrial agenda

### By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is finalising review of the 'Science and Technology Policy' to incorporate innovation to cope with rapid technological changes likely to take place in the country

The deputy minister for Science, Education and Technology, William Ole Nasha said on Monday when officially opening the 6th Innovation Week that is being held in Dar es Salaam.

He said that without innovation, it will not be easy to cope with

changes and in technology that has huge impact in the country's

Ole Nasha said once the reviews are done, it will have big impact in the industrial development agenda currently implemented by the fifth-phase government.

"Innovation is very crucial for our country development because it is aligned with the government industrial agenda. Once it is incorporated in the policy, we can easily achieve our agenda," he

He however challenged the

development partners and other stakeholders in the innovation industrial agenda. ecosystem to ensure that innovation works reaches up to the rural

> He said there were number of challenges in rural that need innovation can provide solutions such as water shortage and health services but not taken into consid-

that, stakeholders Besides must ensure sustainably of works around innovators and be ready

to open for other innovators. For his part, the Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH) director general, Dr Amos Nungu said his institution was participating in the 6th innovation week, with increased outreach and event outside of Dar e

He said with 'innovate for impact', as the main theme, it has brought over 6000 participants

countrywide. Dr Nungu said this year it is held in six regions namely- Arusha, Iringa, Zanzibar,Dodoma, Mbeya

and Dar es Salaam. He added that during the week, there will be discussions, hackathons, panel discussions and similar events will take place her in Dar es Salaam and other selected

A hackathon is a design sprintlike event; often, in which computer programmers and others involved in software development, including graphic designers, interface designers, project managers, domain experts, and others collaborate intensively on software projects

The director said since 2011, the government through COSTECH

set out to build an innovation ecosystem in the country. "We have had over 11-start ups

that have been created through

DTBi,Buni and innovation funds amounting to 1.9 bn/-,"he said. "Innovation has changed the landscape of various sectors and even public services. Our ecosys-

tem has created over 700 direct employment and 14,000 employments directly," he added.

For his part, the Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) country director Joseph Manirakiza said "This is the 6th innovation

TANZANIA FREIGHT FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION

have put together with support of the UKAid, and we could not be prouder to see the strides that the innovation ecosystem has taken in Tanzania"

week that HDIF and COSTECH

He further added "in collaboration with our partners we use various ways and technologies to bring solutions and accelerate progress in communities, especially the hard to reach areas.

Over 100 events and partners will host over 6000 innovation stakeholders nationwide this year.

### **UNHCR constructs modern** toilets and changing rooms

### **By Guardian Reporter**

THE newly established One Stop Centre for survivors of violence at Mwananyamala regional referral hospital has received a new boost after the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) constructed modern toilets and changing rooms to facilitate easy provision of services to the population.

Worth 40,000/- the new facilities will ensure dignity and wellbeing of the sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)

Speaking during the hand-over event in Dar es Salaam on Monday, chief medical officer at the hospital, Dr Daniel Nkungu commended UNHCR and all the supporting partners for making the centre complete.

"Lack of toilets/bathroom in the centre was one of the challenges which was affecting service provision, as the survivors and the staff had to walk some meters away to access the service, but with this support, our centre is now complete and it will simplify activities

and bring more relief," he said. He further said that centre has confidential rooms for counseling and trains existing health care staff on SGBV guidelines to deliver quality, respectful, and comprehensive services. This holistic approach allows SGBV survivors to access medical, psychosocial, legal, and social reintegration services at a single place and time.

Dr Nkungu said that discrimination and violence was not only confined to women but children as well thus needed intensive efforts to fight it as it had harmful impacts to the community and the country as whole.



medical equipment worth 22m/- donated by the foundation to help for babies born at Handeni government hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

"In the past one year, the centre has supported over 1000 SGBV survivors who most of them came here being in a very devastating situation but with the efforts from our team here, they got treated and healed from their pains and they are now leaving a comfortable life while engaging in their daily income generating activities," he noted.

According to him, as per reports, 44 percent of women in the county have faced violence actions, a number which high and adversely affects their development.

For her part, Dr Anna Maembe, the hospital's board chair urged families to protect their children and girls from violence.

She said that the National Action Plan to end GBV recognizes that addressing violence against women and children as a centre development goal which is key to achieving other development outcomes and investing in violence prevention ini-

"We have also to continue investing in training for our staff to remain updated on new ways to fight the vices, police, social workers, doctors, nurses and psychologists are vital in the fight against GBV," she said.

UNHCR deputy resident representative George Kuchio said that the support is part of the agency's agendas to compliment the government's efforts towards creating so-

ciety which is free from all kinds of violence.

"The government's commitment to build systems that prevents violence against women and children and to respond to the needs of the survivors aligns with the UNHCR Protection and Solutions Strategy (2017-2021) which aims to prevent, mitigate risks of sexual and GBV and provides mult-sectoral response to the survivors of SGBV," he noted.

He said that UNHCR and the government of Tanzania have had a long history of collaboration in supporting refugees and asylum seekers who might also be survivors of SGBV who would need access to the services in the country's hospitals.





We Thank God it is now a Year since You left us.

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We Keep Praying You continue Resting In External Peace Until We Meet Again.

EDWARD JOHN URIO. PRESIDENT - TAFFA.





Female employees of Jubilee Insurance Company join their Mwananyamala Hospital counterparts in Dar es Salaam yesterday in displaying the International Women's Day 2020 slogan symbol: "An Equal World is an Enabled World". The JIC employees were at the hospital to mark IWD by presenting various gifts, including soap, bed sheets and sanitary pads for use by women admitted to the facility's maternity ward. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### Over 600 elders benefit from diabetes, NCDs free screening

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

#### Kilimanjaro region

OVER 600 elders in Kilimanjaro region have benefited with diabetes and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) free screening programme provided to them by the Jaffery Charitable Medical Services (JCMS) in a move aimed to promote early medical checkups to reduce mortality

The World Health Organisation estimates that deaths from NCDs in the African region will increase by 27 percent by the year 2030, which is 28 million additional deaths. In Tanzania, at least 31 percent of all deaths have been associated to NCDs, with the main killers identified as cardiovascular diseases at nine percent and cancers at five percent.

Speaking during the screening event here, In charge of the diabetes clinic at Jaffery Charitable Medical Services (JCMS) Baraka John explained that most of the causes of diabetes include lifestyle in many aspects. He stressed that more investment should be put in early diagnosis so as to fight mortality rates.

lifestyle factors that are associated with diabetes, here we round up some of the recent research which suggests life style changes we can make to centres in Moshi Municipality have lower our risk of the diseases including nutrition style, getting the optimal clinics for such patients.

amount of sleep, getting some body exercises, quitting smoking and giving your social life a boost,"

Dr John said that researches have shown that half of the health problems especially NDCs can be solved

by early diagnosis of diseases. "Apart from screening programmes, we also provide free checkups and medication to the NCDs patients particularly elders from various areas of Kilimanjaro region, and I am happy that most of them have early started their medication," he explained.

Dr John further said that JCMS is also collaborating with the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to provide quality services to the NCDs patients including the ones with diabetes where patients can receive medical services wherever they are.

Dr Agness Mwaifuge from Moshi Municipal Council (MMC) explained that, they experienced that most of diabetes patients go for traditional cure something which worsen their conditions.

"It is very wrong for the diabetes patients to seek for traditional medicines and later come back to the hospital," she said.

Dr Mwaifuge further advised dia-"With many studies focusing on the betes patients to continue attending their clinics in various hospitals and health centres in Kilimanjaro region saying that Pasua and Majengo health already established special diabetes

### Stop using children to make money, minister tells orphanages

#### By Guardian Reporter, Kilimanajaro

MINISTER of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angela Kairuki has advised institutions and centres that care for orphans and children living in dangerous environment in Kilimanjaro region to stop using 'children' as a means to make money. She said here yesterday when she visited some orphanage centers in Same district Kilimanjaro Region that she is irked by the situation.

She said if the society will invest in the children and stop hunting for money the children's upkeep will be of great benefit in the fu-

She appealed to the society to take the responsibility of the children's care especially those living in hazardous environment so as to realise the requirements of the 2009 law of the child.

She said after witnessing the situation at the orphanage centers, especially the Rafiki Centre for orphans and children living in hazardous environment she donated 150kgs of soap detergent, 1,176 diapers and 100kgs rice.

While at Mama Kevin Centre for children with disabilities, the minister donated 150kgs soap detergent, 1,300 diapers and 500,000/- cash as assistance to the centre.

"It dismays to see some parents don't want to see their children even though the centers take the children temporarily, the situation that depresses the children

as they don't get acquainted with their parents," she said and called upon the staff at those centers to ensure the children get birth cer-

Ali Shehoza, Same District Community Development officer, dealing with children's upkeep said the issue of children abandonment by parents is huge in the district and added that in 2019 they received over 1,000 cases.

He said this is because of poverty where wananchi abandon the children deliberately after failing to take care of them.

The director of Rafiki Centre Ritha Mbaga said the challenge posed from the ignorance of the law of the child is big in the district causing many children being abandoned by parents and guard-

"We have been receiving children living in hazardous environment, some of whom have serious health problems due to under nourishment. Even though some of them are progressing well their parents refuse to come and take them home when they reach the age of rejoining their parents," said Mbaga.



### World Glaucoma Day: Here is what you need to know

In this article, we are going to talk about one of a visual threatening disease called Glaucoma which affects the eyes. Our today's focus will be on the effect of Glaucoma among adults particularly for those who are 40 years of age and

### General Overview of the Glaucoma Disease:

Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness worldwide. It affects mainly people who are 40 years and above and is said to be the silent killer of the eye due to its nature of damaging slowly the nerve which is responsible for vision in a human eye. Having higher eye pressure doesn't mean that you have succumbed to glaucoma disease, but rather this is an indicator that the deadly blinding condition might come in especially when it causes a typical optic nerve damage.

Glaucoma disease is known to show some degree of genetic preponderance where certain clans or families are affected with this disease more than the general populations.

#### Causes and Types of Glaucoma Disease Most glaucoma patients fall in the group where the cause is not known, but typically patients present with classical

The other known causes are not common which involves those associated with abnormality of eye structures especially at the area known as trabecular meshwork where there might be a blockage of free fluid flow for aqueous humor secreted by ciliary processes. This fluid passes through this meshwork before exiting the eye.

Other causes are related to physical trauma or mechanical blockage from different causes at the same exit point for the aqueous humour.

Use of some medication for a longer period of time especially steroidal eye drops has shown to carry an increased risk for elevating eye pressure which then may lead into secondary glaucoma.

### Features of Glaucoma:

As we mentioned earlier that the cause of glaucoma is not known for many glaucoma patients, likewise the symptoms for most patients are relatively cool, meaning they do not affect much individual's activities especially at the initial

### **Common presentations are:**

Eve Pressure to an Individual?

- · Heaviness of the eyes Excessive tearing
- Red eyes especially closer the central darker area known as the cornea
- · Blur of vision sometimes accompanied with colour Nausea, vomiting, intractable eye pain and headache usually

indicates very high eye pressure which is potentially risky for causing abrupt nerve damage and permanent blindness if this pressure will not be controlled on time.

What are the Consequences of Persistent High

Prolonged higher pressure in the eye has a fatal effect on the

visual systems in the human. Higher pressure in the eye will cause a significant

optic nerve, this nerve is an essential component for the

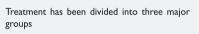
compressing effect on optic nerve. Since structure wise, the blood supply to the eye comes straight from the brain through the central part of the optic nerve, therefore compressive effect on the nerve will automatically shut down the blood supply to the eye. This effect will cause poor nutrients supply to the eye structures which eventually will cease to work and finally may end up with permanent

#### What are the Measures to be Taken by an Individual Who has Symptoms and Signs of **Having Higher Eye Pressure?**

Due to fatal effects of untreated glaucoma disease, it is recommended that an individual who has such symptoms for glaucoma should rush to the nearest health facility which offers eye services for review and then given appropriate treatment once the disease has been diagnosed.

### What are the Glaucoma Treatments Options

Treatment offered for the management of glaucoma usually targets controlling the pressure to prevent further damage of the optic nerve. Regaining the sight might be just an outcome from the treatment. Therefore, if the sight remains the same on the course of glaucoma treatment, is not a



#### i) Medical treatment This is specific for controlling the eye pressure.

Eye drops sometimes combined with short term tablets are used in this group. This type of treatment is essential and lifelong. Instructions given to the patient has to be adhered strongly as any shortfall in treatment might cause the eye pressure to rise and can cause permanent blindness.

Alteration for this treatment will depend on response for the eye pressure versus treatment

### ii) Surgical management

This involves creation of newer tracks for the free flow of eye fluid (aqueous humour) creating a balance for the amount of aqueous humor produced to the one exiting the eye.

### iii) Radiological treatment

This involves use of special radiation for the eye use (LASER) which may target either reducing the production of the aqueous humour or enhance their exit flow.

In most cases, this type of treatment is used in the most complicated glaucoma scenarios whereby most are on an advanced stage.

permanent damage of the optic nerve. This nerve is responsible for our visual function. Nobody will be assured for real that will never contract this disease. And any person suffering from glaucoma will not know for sure the course of his or her illness. Thus, it is important to do the

- Do regular eye check up, at least once in a calendar year. Follow all instructions given on management of
- glaucoma disease. Remind and encourage other glaucoma patients to attend their clinic for evaluations and use of treatment
- as instructed To support the glaucoma patients especially those with significant visual impairment on the course of their
- treatment. Assisting them to put eye drops and escort them to the hospital are the most important for visually impaired patients bearing in mind that the glaucoma disease is non transmissible.

Device is a device for presentation of information in visual form. When the input information that is supplied has an electrical signal, the display is called an electronic visual display. These devices include laptop and desktop computers, tablets, smartphones, e-reader etc.

Since the advent of personal computers, these devices have become an integral part of modern-day life and they have become more portable, versatile and indispensable.

Furthermore, these ubiquitous devices have taken over the lives of younger and younger people to the point where children and toddlers are now using them to greater degrees.

The increased use of digital devices in the society at large has brought about the development of a number of health concerns. According to experts, computers do not emit any harmful rays to cause damage or 'burn' the eyes. However, many individuals who use these devices report a high level of complaints and symptoms. These include ocular discomfort, muscular strain and stress. The level of discomfort appears to increase with the amount of computer use.

This is known as digital eye strain or computer vision syndrome which is defined as the physical discomfort felt after two or more hours within close or mid-range distance of a digital device. Unlike typewritten or printed pages, the images on a computer screen are not precise or sharply defined, Moreover, the level of contrast is reduced and the presence of glare and flicker the screen may make viewing

Viewing distances and angles used for computer work are also often different from those commonly used for other reading or writing tasks. As a result, the eye focusing and eye movement requirements for computer work can place additional demands on the visual system. Children who stare at tablets or use computers during the day at school can have issues too, especially if the lighting and their posture are

People who tend to focus on a computer or other digital devices for protracted, uninterrupted periods of time may

- Blurring of vision
- · Eye irritation and discomfort Dry or watering eyes
- · Burning sensations
- · Changes in colour perception Headaches
- · Neck or back pain

Currently, there is no evidence that Computer Vision Syndrome causes any long-term damage. However, if these symptoms are not properly treated the symptoms will continue and possibly worsen. Activities that are visually and physically taxing may result in impeded productivity, reduced accuracy and decreased job satisfaction.

This article has been prepared by

Dr. Emeritus B. Chibuga Vitreo - Retinal Surgeon Consultant Ophthalmologist at Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital - Dar es Salaam

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Majority of people suffering from glaucoma fall in the group where the cause is not known. Likewise, no known preventive measure has been established. Therefore, there are no known preventive measures from contracting glaucoma disease.

#### What are the Measures to be Taken in Case You Have a **Close Relative Suffering From** Glaucoma?

Since glaucoma disease has shown some evidence that it has a tendency to propagate in certain families from one generation to another. The Genetic component has been implicated as one of potential risk factors. Therefore, it is important such member of glaucoma family to have a regular eye check up especially for glaucoma at least once in a year.

#### **Critical Information** Regarding Glaucoma Disease:

Glaucoma is the disease that causes



Patient receiving instructions on how to use glaucoma medicines at the pharmacy.



Past Rotary Club district governor Sharmila Bhatt (2nd-R) in a souvenir photo with influential women in Tanzania - from 3rd-R: Zohraida Karim (speaker and facilitator), Aneth Yesaya (African Deaf Forum secretary), Jennifer Shigoli (entrepreneur) and Catherine Shindika (educator). This was International Women's Day anniversary celebrations organised by Rotary Club of Pugu in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Others are Rotary Club president Satyam Gupta (R) and club secretary Hemaly Jethwa (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Agro-bank to revive cotton ginneries across Lake Zone

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

TANZANIA Agricultural Bank (TADB) has expressed its determination to revive cotton processing factories, particularly those owned by co-operative unions across Lake Zone regions.

TADB's Director of Credit and Business Augustino Matutu Chacha aired the bank's commitments yesterday here when speaking to top officials of the Nyanza Cooperative Union (NCU). Among other things, the meeting was meant to discuss challenges facing the sub-sector and thereafter come up with recommendations on how to improve the industry.

Chacha said: "Our aim is to see all cotton processing factories operate and we'll start with reviving Manawa ginneries in Misungwi District, whereby after one week our experts are expected in the area to do the assessment before issuing the loan to NCU for the job.

"Our interest is to see all the ginneries start operating as soon as possible because in the past the government spent billions of shillings in installing the grounded ginneries so that farmers get reliable market of cotton," he added.

Close cooperation with NCU leaders is highly needed for this dream to become a reality, he said, noting: "It is important to understand challenges that made the ginneries stop operating before giving you (NCU) loan for reviving and capital for buying cotton from farmers.'

NCU ginneries manager, Benedict Mucosa said that the move to revive the defunct ginneries will be productive and it will encourage more farmers to venture into cotton farming.

NCU board chairman, Benjamin Mikomangwa commended the agro-bank for making a closer-follow up on cotton processing plants as the idea of improving the sector and make farmers step out of poverty.

Reports have it that ginneries in the popular cotton growing regions stopped production due to various challenges including lack of funds and mismanage-

### 640 students drop out of school in Morogoro in 2018/2019

#### By Guardian Reporter

A total of 640 students from primary and secondary schools in Morogoro Region dropped out of schools in the 2018/19 academic year due to early pregnancies.

Speaking yesterday in Mvomero district, the District Commissioner Mohammed Utaly said that despite various initiatives taken by the government and stakeholders to protect girls, the challenge has home.

continued to rise fearlessly.

The protection laws include 30 years in prison if you marry schoolgirls or get them pregnant, as the government takes tougher measures to tackle child marriages and teenage pregnancies.

Mercy Omary, a resident of Mvomero said, pupils who live far from a school are in risk of getting pregnant because they face a lot of temptations when they go to school or back

Prisca Geale, a primary school teacher at Vikange primary school urged parents to educate their children about the effects of early pregnan-

Parents in the region have called upon the authorities to build more dormitories in order to help girl students from getting pregnant adding that most of students are lured when they are walking long distances to school.

public rally in Chalinze town, President John Magufuli announced that secondary school students who get pregnant will not be allowed back to school after giving birth. ... Data shows that 69,067 primary and secondary school girls dropped from school for reasons like pregnancy, absenteeism, deaths and other chal-

would be too distracted to concentrate on their studies if they had a child, and their from one of public schools in presence would be a bad influence on other girls.

"After calculating some little mathematics, she'd be asking the teacher in the classroom 'Let me go out and breastfeed my crying baby," he said.

In 2018, it was reported that, In Tanzania, at least 8,000 girls drop out of school every vear due to pregnancy, according to a Human Rights Watch report.

Tanzania, Bunzari Manyanya defended the adolescent girls saying: "In Tanzania school girls are facing many obstacles to access quality education especially those from vulnerable families, getting pregnant to most of them is due to life hardships.'

He added: "We have vivid examples, among major issues which force our girls to become pregnant such as accepting offers from men in exchange for sex, others are victims of rape by their close relatives under threats, such brutal acts lead them to conceive and eventually drop out of school."

Manyanya called on the government to think of poor girls and help them, knowing that there are some women including top leaders in different sectors who are victims of early pregnancies but they had been taken back to school and pursued their education.

### TCRA cautions female students on irresponsible internet usage

### By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Moshi

WITH massive deployment of smartphone, most young people can now access digital online contents and due to this, female employees at the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority, have cautioned school girls of imminent danger of the world-wide-web.

The Northern Zone Manager, for TCRA Engineer, Emelda Salum who led the delegation from the Authority which visited the Weruweru Girls Secondary School in Kilimanjaro region, pointed out that while 40 percent of the world's population of 7 billion access the internet, the figure is projected to hit the 65 percent mark by the year 2025.

"That is why we chose to spent the International Women Day here at Weruweru School, to raise awareness among senior girl students on the importance of responsible usage of online content, even as they leave school to join the modern world outside there," explained Engineer Emelda

A Form Five Student, Anzirani Ibrahim, admitted that there are a number of youth, many being pupils and students badly affected by irresponsible usage of online platforms, therefore there is the need to pass the knowledge gained to others.

School Head-girl, Irene Siami, attending Form Six Class, said what the students have learned from TCRA officials will certainly be used to teach others in lower classes and neighbouring schools so as to help avert future problems likely to be faced from improper usage of the internet.

"Right now most young people are spending most of their time online, which means anything they come across on the internet is bound to affect them, either positively or negatively, thus they need to be taught on how to discern between the two," said president Siami.

The Weruweru Girls Secondary School Principal, Mwalimu Rosalia Frimin thanked the TCRA for taking time to educate the more than 750 senior Advanced Level students in Forms 5 and 6, adding that the institution is currently fully connected to the internet and many of the books used for lessons are directly downloaded online.

Meanwhile Tanzania ranks 86th out of the 100 countries listed in the 2020 global 'Inclusive Internet Index,' which benchmarks countries on the Internet's availability, affordability, relevance and the readiness of their people to

The Inclusive Internet Index ('Tripple I') or '3i' report reveals that Tanzania with 49.5 percent digital penetration was in the 86th position out of the 100 ranked countries, despite the internet usage speeding towards the 50 per-

However, the country was ranked in the second spot after Uganda when listed among low income countries, with Rwanda taking the third position and Burundi tagging last on the 10th slot. If it is of any consolation, Tanzania's internet usage is also way ahead of Ethiopia, Mozambique, Burkina-Faso, Malawi, Madagascar and Liberia when classified within the ten low income states' bracket. Kenya is on the other hand being ranked among lower-middle income countries, where is takes the 8th position

This (2020 report) is the fourth installment of the Inclusive Internet Index (3i), which is produced annually since 2017 by The Economist Intelligence Unit and commissioned by the popular social online platform, Facebook, which also owns 'WhatsApp' smartphone-based communication platform.

In 2017 while speaking at a

lenges in 2017. Magufuli said that girls

Retired primary teacher



Nguvu Kamando (L), Vodacom Tanzania Plc's Director of Digital Services, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the ongoing Innovation Week celebrations. The firm has provided opportunities through which creative graduates and students can attain their goals in partnership with SmartLab. He is with SmartLab Tanzania director general Edwin Bruno. **Photo: Guardian Correspondent** 

### Government finalises review of 'Science and Technology Policy'

### By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is finalising review of the 'Science and Technology Policy' to incorporate innovation to cope with rapid technological changes likely to take place in the country.

The Deputy Minister for Science, Education and Technology William Ole Nasha said on Monday when officially opening the 6th Innovation Week that was held in Dar es Salaam.

He said that without innovation, it will not be easy to cope with changes in technology that has huge impact in the industrial agenda.

Ole Nasha said once the reviews

are done, it will have big impact in health services but not taken into the industrial development agenda currently implemented by the fifth-phase government.

"Innovation is very crucial for our country development because it is aligned with the government industrial agenda. Once it is incorporated in the policy, we can easily achieve our agenda," he

He however challenged the development partners and other stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem to ensure that innovation works reaches up to the rural areas. He said there were a number of challenges in rural that need innovation to provide solutions such as water shortage and Mbeya and Dar es Salaam.

consideration. Besides that, stakeholders must ensure sustainability of works around innovators and be ready to open for other innovators.

For his part, the Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH) Director General, Dr Amos Nungu said his office was participating in the 6th innovation week, with increased outreach and event outside of Dar es S alaam.

He said with 'innovate for impact', as the main theme, it has brought over 6000 participants countrywide.

Dr Nungu said this year's event will be held in six regions namely-Arusha, Iringa, Zanzibar, Dodoma,

He added that during the week, there will be discussions, hackathons, panel discussions and similar events will take place here in Dar es Salaam and in other selected venues.

The director said since 2011, the government through COSTECH set out to build an innovation ecosystem in the country.

"We have had over 11-start ups that have been created through DTBi, Buni and innovation funds amounting to 1.9 bn/-," he said.

"Innovation has changed the landscape of various sectors and even public services. Our ecosystem has created over 700 direct employment and 14,000 employments directly," he added.

opment Innovation Fund (HDIF) Country Director Joseph Manirakiza said; "This is the 6th innovation week that HDIF and COSTECH have put together with support from the UKAid, and we could not be prouder to see the strides that the innovation ecosystem has taken in Tanzania".

For his part, the Human Devel-

He further added; "in collaboration with our partners we use various ways and technologies to bring solutions and accelerate progress in communities, especially the hard to reach areas.

Over 100 events and partners will host over 6000 innovation stakeholders nationwide this

### **Expert urges young women to aim** for future in air traffic controlling

#### By Beatrice Philemon

YOUNG women have been advised to study air traffic control courses to increase the number of qualified experts in the aviation industry.

Mwanajumaa Kombo, who works for Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) as Civil Aviation Manager, gave the advice recently during a conference to recognize notable women and role models in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in Tanzania.

The event was organised by the Women and Electronics in Tanzania (WOET)

"I encourage more women to study the course because we have a shortage of qualified air traffic controllers in Tanzania. We need at least 230 of them to guide planes both, in the sky and at airports," she said adding that Tanzania need to have a good number of women controllers similarly to UK, USA, South Africa, Singapore, Kenya

Tanzania has a total of 23 women 

air traffic controllers (17 percent), the number that is small compared to other countries in the world. There are 137 air traffic controllers in the country.

"As we celebrate the International Women's Day (IWD) we should have new programme to inspire, empower our own goals and make sure we achieve whatever we planned. It is important that we have more women studying science subjects to qualify the air traffic controllers course, it is the right career for girls and women", said Kombo.

Explaining, she said air traffic controllers coordinate plane traffic to ensure each flight takes off, lands, or passes safely through communication with pilots.

"We are the ones telling pilots to take off or land, we also alert them on issues related to weather on the ground at the airport", she noted.

Kombo was awarded the Air Traffic Controller License in 1988 by TCAA's Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Lot Mollel after she completed a fouryear air traffic control course.

Chairperson and founder, Women and Electronics in Tanzania (WOET), Emma Kabali, added that there are still a few women taking science, technology and engineering subjects.

She said WOET has come up with a and motivate young girls and women to study science subjects locally and internationally.

The organisation, she said, is supporting three girls from St. Joseph College of Engineering and Technology (SJUCET) and Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) with school fees. She said the girls will later on be linked with employers.

"We have girls who have successfully completed their studies and one is employed at Dangote Cement Factory in Mtwara and the second one at Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) as air navigation engineer.

Highlighting on coming elections, she called on women in all areas where they are across the country to contest in different leadership positions in the coming elections.



NBC finance services and hrand manager Jonathan Wilson has an audience in Lindi municipality at the weekend with members of the bank's recently launched Lindi Region business club chapter. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma.

### Kilimanjaro RC tasks local governments to set aside budget for development of youth, women and PwD

### By Correspondent James Lanka,

KILIMANJARO Regional Commissioner Dr Anna Mghwira (pictured) has challenged local government authorities in the country to set aside 10-percent budget from own revenue meant for development of youth, women and people with disabilities as required by the law.

She aired the challenge over the weekend during a special event to mark International Women's day at Uhuru Park grounds in Moshi Municipality after handing over loans worth 348.8m/- to 37 socio-economic groups located in different wards of Moshi municipality.

"Women, youth and disabled empowering policies are in the CCM election manifesto, every district council should set aside 10 percent of its internal revenues to empower the special groups.

"As you all know, youth makes up 60-percent of the total population in our country, and the fifth phase government under president John Pombe Magufuli through CCM manifesto insists on the allocation of funds for empowerment of youth, women and the disabled through loans," said

the regional commissioner. The RC was concerned that most of the youth en-



gage themselves in criminal activities due to unemployment challenges, noting the only solution for the problem is to provide loans with small interest rates and teach them how to utilise the resources that are available within their environments as well as providing them with entrepreneurship skills.

"My appeal to all women, youth and people with disabilities in Kilimanjaro region is to make use of the funds to establish income generating activities," she insisted.

Moshi Municipal Community Development Officer, Rose Minja said the council has issued 348.8m/- to the women, youth and the disabled in support of their businesses.

The event was attended by the government officials and dignitaries including the chairperson of the Women's Council of Moshi Municipality, Joyce Ndossi, Moshi Municipal Director, Michael Mwandezi, Moshi Municipal Lord Mayor, Raymond Mboya, Moshi District Commissioner, Kippi Warioba, and representatives from different non-governmental organi-

### Equipment stuck at Dar port delays water works

### By Guardian Reporter, Mwanga

DELAYS IN of equipment clearance at Dar es Salaam port have been cited as the main reason hampering completion of construction of big water projects at Mwanga and Same districts in Kilimanjaro region and Korogwe district in Tanga Region.

This was confirmed at the weekend by the Minister for Water, Prof Makame Mbarawa following his second inspection visit of the water project in Mwanga dis-

He said: "There are reasons contributing to the delay in finalising these major water projects, one of them is the delay of the imported equipment at the Dar es

"As the responsible minister, I believe it will not be long before the wananchi in the three districts get ample safe water from the big projects. The project will serve two districts in Kilimanjaro region - Mwanga and Same - and Korogwe in Tanga region," he said.

He said the giant project will cost 241bn/- and is expected to benefit more than 434,000 residents in the three districts.

Consequent to the situation, Prof Mbarawa promised project managers that he will make a follow up on the equipment stuck at the port so that the work is completed quickly.

He further said all the villages along the project route will get water and that at present experts have been tasked by the government to prepare a document on the villages that had not earlier been incorporated in the project.

In order to ensure the project's work goes fast Prof Mbarawa has directed the project's two contractors to make sure they employ other contractors.

According to Prof Mbarawa, the contractor's work pace is not satisfactory and hence from now on the government will not remain idle seeing the continuation of that state of affairs.

The project is being implemented by two contractors - Kharafi & Sons and Badr East Africa Enterprises.



#### **CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

#### TO SUPPLY MOBILE EQUIPMENTS AND LIGHT VEHICLE SPARE PARTS, BATTERIES, AND TIRES

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (MCCL) is a subsidiary of the LafargeHolcim Group with its industrial operations based in Songwe, Plot No. I Industrial Area, Mbeya. MCCL now invites proposal from eligible vendor to supply light vehicle spare parts, Batteries, and tires. Companies based in Mbeya region are highly encouraged to submit their expression of interest.

Eligible vendors are required to submit one proposal document filled in the envelope marked o the top EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO SUPPLY MOBILE EQUIPMENTS AND LIGHT VEHICLE SPARE PARTS, BATTERIES, AND TIRES, and physically delivered to:

> SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE, MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED. PLOT NO I, SONGWE INDUSTRIAL AREA P.O. BOX 529, MBEYA,

The deadline for proposal submission is 30th March 2020, at 4h30. PM

#### LIST OF HEAVY EQUIPMENTS & LIGHT VEHICLE AVAILABLE

S/N	TYPE/ MODEL	TIRES SIZE	NUMBER OF EQUIPMENT /VEHICLE	BATTERY SIZE	Type of battery (Wet or Maintenance free)	Comments
1	Wheel Loaders (980G, WA500)	29.5R25 L5	2	N120 Ah x 2	Any	980G Batteries Part no; 3T5760 (95Ah)X4
2	Wheel Loaders (Liugong, BELL)	23.5R25 E3	3	N100 Ah x 2	Any	
3	Wheel Loaders (Liugong)	23.5R25 TUBES	1			
4	Dump Trucks (B40Ds) No 1&2	29.5R25 E3	2	N95 Ah x 2	Any	Also Fit Batteries Part no; 3T5760 (95Ah)
5	Dump Trucks (B25Cs/ Bowser)	20.5R25 E3	3	N70 Ah x 2	Any	
6	Truck TATA - LPK2523	11R22.5	1	N120 Ah x 2	Any	
7	Backhoe Loader - Front	18.4-26, 12PR R- 4;TD:	1	N70 Ah x 1	Any	
8	Backhoe Loader - Rear	12.5/80-18 14PRTLIMP600;TD	1			
9	Fuel Bowser	7.00R16	1	N70 Ah x 2	Any	
10	Mobile Crane - Front	285/95R25 OR 14.00R25 E2	1	N140 Ah x 2		Also Fit Batteries Part no; 9x9720 (140Ah)
11	Mobile Crane - Rear	12.00R24 20PR	1			
12	Forklift FD50 (Solid Tyres)	7.50X16 SOLIDEAL	1	N70 Ah x 2	Any	
13	Forklift DP30/ Helli - Front	28 x 9-15 XZM TL	2	N95Ah x 1		Battery Part no; 3T5760 (95Ah)
14	Forklift DP30/ Helli - Front	28 x 9-15 TUBES	2			
15	Forklift DP30/ Helli - Rear	6.50R10 XZM TL	2			
16	Forklift DP30/ Helli - Rear	6.50R10 TUBES	2			
17	Lighting Plant	185/65R15	2	N70 Ah x 1	Any	
18	Dumper Thwaites - Front	SZ:7.50- 16;TD:T6591	1	N50 Ah	Any	
19	Dumper Thwaites - Front	7.50-16 TUBES	1			
20	Dumper Thwaites - Rear	SZ:6.00- 9;TD:T19122	1			
21	Dumper Thwaites - Rear	6.00 <b>-</b> 9 TUBES	1			
22	MANITOU - 180ATJ ManiLift	12.5 - 18 10 PLY SOLIDEAL	1	N70 Ah x 1	Any	
23	MANITOU - MT-X1030 Telehandler	400/80-24 (15,5/80- 24) Tubeless Rough Terrain	1	N70 Ah x 1	Any	
24	Compressor XRS396	7.00R16/225/75R16	1	N120 Ah x 2	Any	
25	Compressor XAS1100	6.50R16 10PLY	1	N120 Ah x 2	Any	
26	Drill Rig T35	N/A	1	N100 Ah x 2		Part no: 2651 1553 49 Epiroc
27	Horse HOWO - Front Axle	315/80R22.5	3	N140 Ah x 2	Any	
28	Horse & Trailer- Rear Axles	315/80R22.5	3			
29	Concrete Mixers& Flat Bed	12.00R20	3	N120 Ah x 2	Any	
30	Flat Bed Tubes	12.00R20 TUBES	1			
31	Dozer - D155A	N/A	1	N140 Ah x 2	Any	
32	Dozer - D8L	N/A	1	N120 Ah x 2	Any	
33	Excavator PC450	N/A	1	N140 Ah x 2	Any	
34	Excavator PC345B	N/A	1	N100 Ah x 2	Any	
35	Generator - Kiln Barring	N/A	1	N100 Ah x 2	Any	
36	Generator - Camp	N/A	1	N100 Ah x 1	Any	
37	Generator - Water Reservoirs Generator - Main	N/A N/A	1	N70 Ah x 1 N140 Ah x 4	Any	Batteries Part
						no; 9x9720 (140Ah)
39	Generator - Quarry	N/A	1	N70 Ab x 1	Anv	1

39	Generator - Quarry	N/A	1	N70 Ah x 1	Any	(140Ah)
		LIST OF	LIGHT VEHIC	CLES		
Sr.No	VEHICLE REG NUMBER	MAKE / MODEL	CHASIS NUMBER	TIRE SIZE	Battery size	Type of batte (Wet or Maintenance free)
1	T 994 AUW	NISSAN J86 / ZD30	ADNJ860000 E002511	245/70R16	N70Ah	Any
2	T 919 BXT	FORD/RANGER 77V9H	AFATXXMJ2 TBE12096	245/70R16	N70Ah	Any
3	T 191 BXL	NISSAN X38/ YD25	ADNCPUD22 Z0013844	245/70R16	N70Ah	Any
4	T 923 BXT	FORD/RANGER 77V9H	AFATXXMJ2 TBE12095	245/70R16	N70Ah	Any
5	T 207 DBW	MITSUBISHI L200/KB7TNJNMR	MMBJNKB70 FD032897	205/R16	N70Ah (+ve Post RHS)	Any
6	T 682 BNB	NISSAN X86/ZD30	ADNCNUD2 2Z0003570	245/70R16	N70Ah	Any
7	T 978 CDD	HYUNDAI/TUCSON/ lx35	KMHJU81BS CU573001	235/55R18	N50Ah	Maintenance F
8	T 646 DBZ	NISSAN/NAVARA YD25	MNTVCUD4 0Z0607263	255/70R16	N70Ah	Any
9	T 224 AQW	NISSAN URVAN/ ZD30	JNILG4E25Z 0705112	205/75R15	N70Ah	Any
10	T 462 DBX	HYUNDAI TUCSON/ix35		225/55R18	N50Ah	Maintenance F
11	T 471 CXQ	MITSUBISHI L200/KB7TNJNMR	MMBJNKB70 FD021186	205/R16	N70Ah (+ve Post RHS)	Any
12	T 458 CXQ	MITSUBISHI L200/KB7TNJNMR	MMBJNKB70 FD032897	205/R16	N70Ah (+ve Post RHS)	Any
13	T 731 BWY	FORD/RANGER 77V9H	AFA TXXMJ2TBD 00532	235/75R15	N70Ah	Any
14	T 910 ATB	NISSAN J86 / ZD30		245/70R16	N70Ah	Any
15	T 306 DCG	HYUNDAI MINI BUS/ H1	KMJWA37KL EU661585	215/70R16	N95Ah	Any
16	T 929 BXT	FORD/RANGER 77V9H	AFA TXXMJ2TBD 00860	245/70R16	N70Ah	Any
17	T 401 CEE	LANDROVER FREELANDER/ SD4	SALFA2AD9 CH313521	235/55R19	N70Ah	Maintenance F
18	T 592 CGE	HYUNDAI SANTA FE/KMHSC81	KMHSU81C SDU044346	235/60R18	N50Ah	Maintenance F
19	T 465 DBX	HYUNDAI/TUCSON/ Ix35	KMHJU81ES EU952566	225/55R18	N50Ah	Maintenance F
20	T 118 BEX	TOYOTA FORTUNA	PN111NV51 07005316	265/65R17	N70Ah	Any
21	T 873 AHL	NPR66L BRS	37101079	7.50 R 16	N50Ah X2	Any
22	T 303 DCA	MITSUBISHI PAJERO/CBA- V93W	JMYLRV93W EJ000491	265/70R16	N70Ah	Any
23	T110 BXZ	JEEP CHEROKEE 2.8 LTD	1J4P45G54A W173417	235/65R17	N95Ah	Any
24	T 153 BWV	RANGER/ FORD/ 77V9H	AFA TXXMJ2TBY 16128	235/75R15	N70Ah	Any
25	T 724 BWY	RANGER/ FORD/ 77V9H	AFA TXXMJ2TBD 00535	235/75R15	N70Ah	Any
26	T726 BEX	J83 / QD32	ADNJ830000 E002602	215R 15	N70Ah	Any
27	T 950 AUY	J86 / ZD30	ANDJ860000 E002423	245/70R16	N70Ah	Any
28	T 982 CPB	FORD EVEREST/UF5R901	MNBUS4E90 DW406024	245/70R16	N70Ah	Any
29	T 460 DJB	HYUNDAI/TUCSON/ Ix35		225/ 60R17	N70Ah	Any

#### **EDITORIALS.OPINION**

# Guardia.com

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2020

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

### Increase in cases of glaucoma should serve as an eye-opener

UHIMBILI National Hospital (MNH) has raised alarm as glaucoma cases soar. Administrators are raising alarm following a sharp increase in cases of glaucoma, an eye disease caused by excessive alcohol use and self-medication, at the top referral facility. Public awareness and knowledge plays a paramount role for early detection and timely treatment of glaucoma. This delays early blindness from glaucoma. It is also equally important to design most effective awareness raising strategies based on identified factors affecting the awareness and knowledge about glaucoma.

Generally glaucoma is a group of eve diseases which result in damage to the optic nerve and cause vision loss. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glaucoma - cite\_note-NIH2016Fact-1 The most common type is open-angle glaucoma, in which the drainage angle for fluid within the eye remains open, with less common types including closed-angle glaucoma and normal-tension glaucoma.https:// en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glaucoma - cite\_ note-NIH2016Fact-1 Open-angle glaucoma develops slowly over time and there is no pain.

Peripheral vision may begin to decrease, followed by central vision, resulting in blindness if not treated.https:// en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glaucoma - cite note-NIH2016Fact-1 Closed-angle glaucoma can present gradually or suddenly. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glaucoma - cite\_note-Man2015-2 The sudden presentation may involve severe eye pain, blurred vision, mid-dilated pupil, redness of the eye, and nausea. Vision loss from glaucoma, once it has occurred, is permanent.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glaucoma - cite\_note-NIH2016Fact-1

Risk factors for glaucoma include in-

creased pressure in the eye, a family history of the condition, and high blood pressure.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Glaucoma - cite note-NIH2016Fact-1 However, some may have high eye pressure for years and never develop damage.

The MNH has received more than 1,000 patients annually in the past few years who sought help as the disease was in its late stages, meaning that most people do not consult regularly for eye checkups. Speaking in Dar es Salaam at a free eye screening exercise recently the World Glaucoma Day, MNH ophthalmologist Dr Catherine Makunda said that smoking and diabetes can also ignite glaucoma symptoms. Dr Makunda said MNH receives 20 to 25 patients each week, a sign that the prevalence of the disease was increasing.

The specialist asserted that another challenge was that glaucoma patients face discrimination, pushing many of them out of treatment at an early stage. While the MNH consultant talked of stigma and patients opting to wear glasses rather than open up, other sources affirmed that costs have to do with the problem as such people fail to obtain resources from relatives owing to the drunkenness stigma, etc.

Glaucoma damages the optic nerve, the health of which is vital for good vision. This damage has to do with abnormally high pressure in the eye, said to be the leading causes of blindness for people over the age of 60.

Experts say that to eliminate glaucoma blindness there are several issues that need to be addressed. Glaucoma usually gives no warning until it is advanced, while the damage it causes to vision is ongoing and could become irreversible. Fortunately, for many patients treatment can halt the damage, implying that the earlier the diagnosis the better the chances of reversal.

### **SADC** countries need to work towards producing clean fuels

FUEL is any material that can be made to react with other substances so that it releases energy as heat energy or to be used for work. The concept was originally applied solely to those materials capable of releasing chemical energy but has since also been applied to other sources of heat energy such as nuclear energy (via nuclear fission and nuclear fusion).

The heat energy released by reactions of fuels is converted into mechanical energy via a heat engine. Other times the heat itself is valued for warmth, cooking, or industrial processes, as well as the illumination that comes with combustion.

Fuels are contrasted with other substances or devices storing potential energy, such as those that directly release electrical energy (such as batteries and capacitors) or mechanical energy (such as flywheels, springs, compressed air, or water in a reservoir).

Throughout most of human history only fuels derived from plants or animal fat were used by humans. In the same vein, Southern African Development Community

(SADC) countries have been called upon to harmonise fuel standards to enhance intra-regional trade and avoid economic loss among other negative environmental effects and

Speaking at the recent regional energy regulators association of southern Africa (RERA) annual conference and general meeting recently, director of liquid fuels and gas in the Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority, Alinafe Mkavea, said vehicular emissions have been a key source of urban air pollution in most African cities and Sadc countries need to work towards producing clean fuels and efficient vehicles to reduce air pollution and its atten-

dant negative effects.

According to reports vehicular emissions produce a lot of air pollution in urban areas. The Sadc region therefore needs to produce clean fuel to avoid deaths caused by air pollution and environmental effects, which lead to global climate change and economic loss.

She said for the Sadc region to reduce particulate matter (PM) emissions from vehicles, they should introduce low-sulphur fuels as these are needed for effective operation of cleaner vehicles.

Sadc region needs to introduce low-sulphur fuels – fuels with no more than 50 parts per million sulphur, and ideally 10 or 15 ppm. Lowsulphur fuels are necessary for the introduction and effective operation of cleaner vehicles and emission control technology. This combination of clean fuels and vehicles will have major health benefits and deliver substantial climate benefits from reduction of black carbon.

Indeed countries in Sadc have an obligation towards use of clean fuels. This has been shown by seven countries in the region that have adopted 50ppm (parts per million) sulphur fuels.

The countries in the region that have adopted 50ppm sulphur fuels include, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Eswatini, Lesotho, South Africa and Bot-

Zambia's diesel standards are at 5 000ppm but also imports some 500ppm fuels, mainly for their min-

Advances in fuel quality mean cars can be made cleaner and more efficient thereby lowering emissions of carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO2). This in turn leads to better air quality and will lower the risk of dangerous climate change.

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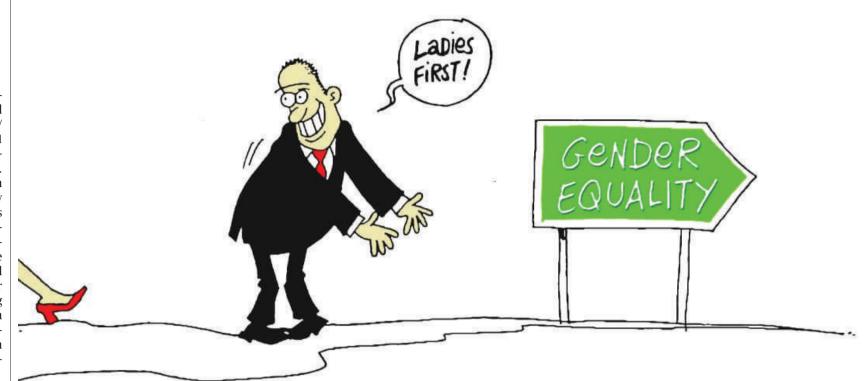
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### The history of liberalism is entwined with racism

By Imraan Buccus

DOLF Hitler wanted to do in Europe what the liberals had done in the colonies. This is a very important point as it shows that the deep roots of fascism, including Afrikaner nationalism here at home, lie in liberalism, and its dehumanisation of colonised and enslaved peoples.

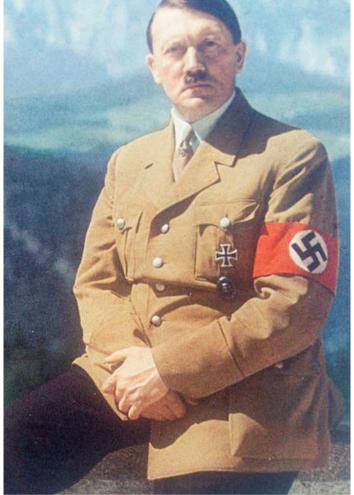
Adolf Hitler (pictured) was a German politician and leader of the Nazi Party. He rose to power as the chancellor of Germany in 1933 and then as Führer in 1934. During his dictatorship from 1933 to 1945, he initiated World War II in Europe by invading Poland on 1 September 1939.

Recently, FW de Klerk and his foundation permanently sullied their reputations by trying to deny that apartheid was a crime against humanity. The attempt by both De Klerk and his foundation to downplay the moral crimes of apartheid did not come out of nowhere.

Many white South Africans misunderstood the collapse into a kleptocratic state under Jacob Zuma in terms of their deeply held prejudices about African people. Of course, this is a ridiculous explanation for Zuma's flaws. Zuma was an appalling president, but he is hardly a worse politician than white politicians such as Silvia Berlusconi, Donald Trump or Jair Bolsonaro. Closer to home, rogues like Carl Niehaus, the Gupta brothers and the Watson brothers are all as appalling as Zuma. Malfeasance is a question of personal character, not race.

But Zuma's inexcusable conduct in and out of office certainly emboldened many white South Africans to be more forthright with their racism. We have seen this very clearly with the Afrikaner nationalist tradition, that has been following the model of the new forms of right-wing politics in the United States and Europe, and has been repackaged in terms of "civil rights" by Afriforum. This tradition has been emboldened and now speaks as if Afrikaners are "victims" while downplaying or trying to erase the history of apartheid oppres-

It is a matter of historical record that Afrikaner nationalism as a political project carried by the National Party had its roots in German fascism and that it produced a state that subjected black South Africans to gross forms of oppression. But, unlike in Germany after World War II, most Afrikaners have not been



forced to confront the extent to which their mainstream culture and institutions became entangled with a fascist political project. This has left the space for right-wing forms of politics to be transmitted across generations and for young Afrikaners to grow up with no proper understanding of the past or the present.

Nonetheless, the general response to De Klerk and his foundation made it clear that ordinary South Africans, including many Afrikaner intellectuals, will not stand for the apartheid denialism that has now become common in right-wing Afrikaner circles. Notice has been served.

However, denialism about the basic facts of his history does not just come from Afrikaner circles. There is now also a liberal and often English-speaking version of white denialism that is becoming increasingly strident, and which is wildly unhinged from any connection to historical reality. The new push to present "classical liberalism" as a "non-racial" philosophy morally superior to both the left and African nationalism is being vigorously and self-righteously taken up by organisations like the Institute for Race Relations, and a group of commenslave trade. tators whose self-serving denialism about basic historical facts is

breathtaking. For some time now, this group of liberal zealots have been pushing the idea that "classical liberalism" is the true "non-racial" philosophy and that this means we should talk less about race. They cynically misuse "non-racialism", a radical anti-racist idea, to try and suppress talk and action about race.

Michael Cardo, a DA MP, is one of these denialists. For Cardo, liberalism in general, and the DA in particular, carry a "historical non-racial mission". For figures like Cardo, political debate is not required. Instead of argument, all that is necessary is to assert oneself as a liberal. This posture is assumed to guarantee moral superiority.

However, a quick look at global history shows, without a doubt, that for hundreds of years, liberalism and racism were entwined as a single phenomenon. "Classical liberalism", to put it clearly, was racism. This is not a hidden history. Every major "classical liberal" philosopher from John Locke to Immanuel Kant and John Stuart Mill were explicitly racist, and they all made this crystal clear in their writings. Locke, often referred to as the father of liberalism, invested his personal wealth in the African

But the inherent racism of the liberal tradition does not just sit in the racist texts left by its philosophers such as Locke, Mill, Kant and others. The classical liberal tradition as a political history is a history of rights being awarded to white elites in Europe and its colonies while at the same time, indigenous people were subject to genocide, and Africans to enslavement. To put it clearly, classical liberalism, as a historical reality, meant rights for whites and genocide, slavery and colonisation for everyone else.

When there were liberal revolutions against monarchical power in America in 1783, and in France in 1789, these revolutions granted more rights to whites and extended the enslavement of Africans. The liberal zealots that blithely ignore this history and present liberalism as an unsullied historical project can only do so because they see the lives of indigenous people and Africans as disposable. Anyone who thinks that the lives of indigenous people and Africans are of no historical value is simply a racist. Therefore, any uncritical defence of the entire liberal project is rooted in deep and systemic rac-

Of course, it is true that there have been small groups of liberal dissidents here and there who did oppose slavery. In some cases, their actions were heroic and some black activists rallied to these groups. But these were tiny minorities, and there can be no doubt that the bulk of liberal thought and practice was deeply complicit with both genocide and slavery.

By way of analogy, the fact that small Trotskyist groups operating in the broader communist tradition opposed Stalin does not mean that communist thinkers do not still have to reckon with the historical crimes of Stalin. In exactly the same manner, anyone who wishes to defend liberalism today must start by acknowledging the historical crimes of slavery and genocide under liberal rule.

It's also important for the new liberal zealots to understand the historical roots of European fascism. Every serious study of Hitler has shown that he was inspired by liberal ideas and figures, including Winston Churchill.

Hitler wanted to do in Europe what the liberals had done in the colonies. This is a very important point as it shows that the deep roots of fascism, including Afrikaner nationalism here at home, lie in liberalism and its dehumanisation of colonised and enslaved peoples.

If we want to get to the heart of racism we must turn our attention to liberalism, to its ideas and its historical record.

At home, an important point to make about non-racialism is that it is true that the ANC organised on a multi-racial basis for most of its history, with whites, coloureds, Indians and Africans often in separate organisations. However, non-racial forms of organising were developed in the Black Consciousness tradition (where no distinctions were drawn between people classified as Indian, coloured or African by the state), in the trade union movement, in the United Democratic Front, in umKhonto we Sizwe and in the SACP.

In all these political contexts, non-racialism was a radical political concept used to commit to anti-racist actions and programmes. Neville Alexander, one of our greatest intellectuals, made this point very clearly: "Non-racialism, meaning the denial of the existence of races, leads on to anti-racism." The new liberal zealots are trying to appropriate non-racialism from its radical roots in order to misuse the concept to oppose attempts at anti-racism.

This is an incredibly cynical manoeuvre in which a bunch of mostly white people take a radical idea developed in black struggles and try to change its meaning to turn it from a weapon against racism, to support for silencing discussions about racism. We have seen a similar moral cynicism among white liberals in the US who have turned Martin Luther King into

a figure used to suppress rather than encourage anti-racism. Although many of the new liberal zealots have the strong whiff of crankery about them, they do hold positions of power in our society. It is time that we confronted the new race denialism among English-speaking whites with the same directness that we confronted the apartheid denialism among Afrikaner nationalists.

As a starting point, it must be recognised that the history of liberalism, as theory and as practice, is deeply enmeshed with racism, including genocide and slavery. To speak as a liberal means to speak from this history. This is a simple historical fact, a fact which we cannot continue to deny.

### India rolls out international students fair in Dar, offers scholarships

By Beatrice Philemon

HIGHER Education Fair that was organized by the High Commission of India in collaboration with the International Student Fairs Africa (ISFA) has brought positive results. More students from different higher learning institutions including high schools across the city participated in the fair, to see what India offers in terms of higher education and the scholarship scheme they have for international stu-

The Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sanjiv Kohli says as envoy to Tanzania, he was happy to see a lot of students visiting the ISFA education fair. They got a chance to meet with different lecturers from 15 leading Indian universities and have face-to face discussion on scholarships offered in their universities, while others managed to apply for different courses offered in India.

"We still invite Tanzanian students to study in India because we have the best education and India is a hub of innovation, creativity and leadership," he says.

Also the education system that offered in India can help Tanzania to solve challenges they have as it strives to become semi-industrialized and transform it to an industrial economy.

Currently India is the fastest growing major economy. the world's 3rd largest higher education system and most higher education courses are delivered in English which offers ease of communication to be enjoyed by an overseas student.

"Tanzanian students keen to study in India can get world-class education that is affordable. We encourage universities in Tanzania to tell students about to study in India on education offered in India because we have a scholarship programme for their education," he says.

Tanzania has a huge population; to offer scholarships for students to study in India is part of Indian government efforts to support the education sector in Tanza-

"As result, we encourage students from higher learning institutions including high schools who did not manage to visit the ISFA fair to register right now at www.studyinindia.gov.in in accordance with the universities they want to study so that they can avail scholarships offered in India," he elaborated.

"As I speak to you right now Tanzania is the largest beneficiary of Indian education among African countries benefiting from different scholarships."

The Indian government will continue to support Tanzania in education and other sectors to help the country attain enough skilled labour force needed by different companies.

India provides scholarships in various fields such as engineering, IT, accounting, manpower training, computer studies, rural development, diplomacy and many more and the number of beneficiaries has been increased to more than 500 people from different sectors.

He said assistance in the educational field has produced tangible outcomes in Tanzania's socio-economic development and further strengthened the bonds of trust and cooperation between the two countries.

For his part, Study to India Programme Officer Nikhil



**Gandhi Institute** of Technology and Management (GITAM), Director-International , Kishan Kaza explain how

Tanzanian students can get scholarships at sity in India at the just ended International Students Fairs Africa (ISFA) **Education Fair** that was organized by High Commission of India in collaboration with International Students Fairs (ISFA) at Serena

Mahajan underlined that 15 representatives of leading Indian universities and institutes were in Tanzania for the Study in India Programme to help students explore courses and scholarships offered in those universities.

The main goal was to help Tanzania have enough qualified experts in the health sector, industrial areas, petroleum management, the IT sector and helping students to access quality higher education.

"We invite students to register now at www.studyinindia.gov.in, as through this website it will be easy for students to select universities they wish to study and benefit from scholarships," he stated.

On May 14th or 15th there will be an online examination for Tanzanian students wishing to study in India and will be conducted for 90 min-

All passing students will get full scholarships to study in India while students who will score 50 percent in the exams will get a discount of 50 per cent to study in India.

He urged students in all areas to use this opportunity as the quality of education that is offered in India is world standard.

"As a delegation from India, we are very glad to be in Tanzania as the response from Tanzanian students was fantastic. We have got so many students who are ready to study in India as they were impressed to see what we offer in higher education and the scholarships offered," he af-

Indian institutes are featured in the Top 100 Asian universities as per quality standards and the world university rankings of 2018.

500 companies hire directly from Indian campuses and the government of India 'Study in India' campaign enables one to reach out to the 100+top ranked and accredited Indian institutions on a single portal.

Cities such as Bangalore and Hyderabad are known for their entrepreneurial and technology ecosystem and ranked amongst the most dynamic cities in the world.

For his part, Kishan Kaza, international director for the Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM), says he was glad to receive students from different higher learning institutions including high schools who visited GITAM's table to see what they offer- in courses offered and scholarships.

"During the event we provided fees structures and admission information to student to attract them to apply to our universities," he said.

"The B.Sc. - Renal Dialysis Technology course, BSc-Radiology and Imaging Technology, B.Sc. - Optometry, Pharmacy and B.Sc. - Nursing are the main courses that students were applying for in our univer-

"We still encourage more students who didn't manage to attend this fair to register now at www. studyinindia.gov.in so that they can benefit from scholarships offered in our university, " he elaborated.

GITAM offers scholarships for all African countries for undergraduate and post-graduate studies, as so far GITAM University has three campuses located in South India.

The university was established in 1980 and is among Top 10 universities

So far GITAM has students from around 24 countries spread over three campuses. Students who will apply for the nursing course will get a chance to put into practice what have learned in our universities at GIMSR Hospital, a full-fledged hospital catering to the healthcare needs of students, teaching and non-teaching staff.

The hospital is well equipped with 362 beds and operation theatres providing for wide ranging out-patient needs. The university has set up a Fortune 500 companies hire reguyouth club,Kalakriti to promote stularly from Indian campuses. 

Also more than 200 of the Fortune dents' interests in art and music. Yoga classes are regularly organized in university campuses to promote students' health.

"We encourage Tanzanians to apply, and eligible international students can submit online applications at www. international.gitam.edu for any of the three campuses of GITAM," he stated.

India's system of higher education is the third largest in the world. While its engineering schools have been flag bearers of the India's higher education reputation, in keeping with the times and skill needs of the global workforce Indian universities are offering a host of other courses such as Masters in Business Administration, Sciences, Liberal Arts, Artificial Intelligence, Photonics and Design Thinking.

As a result, many of its higher education institutions figure in the top 100 Asian universities.

The Indian Education system is the world's third largest higher education system with more than 800 universities, 39,000 colleges and a capacity of enrolling a whopping 20 million stu-

Higher education institutions in India offer courses/degrees that are competitive in the world market in terms of quality but are delivered at one fourth of the cost, hence guaranteeing value-for-money education. The Indian education system is vast in size, as well as in its academic offerings.

A vibrant and diverse education system means that a wide variety of courses are available -- from the modern and cutting edge to the traditional.

Indian education ranges from exposure to the latest advancements of science and technology like Virtual and Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Computing to Yoga, Ayurveda, Sanskrit and classical dances.

This vastness of the Indian education system directly translates to enhanced opportunities for its students and global learning for an all-round academic and personal development.

A burgeoning IT and services sector has led to a robust placement oriented education as about 200 of the

### Cameroon refugees struggle to cope with life of need in Nigeria

Cross River, Nigeria

children return to the classroom again. A deadly conflict between Cameroonian government forces and separatist fighters seeking independence for the mainly English-speaking Southwest and Northwest regions has left many schools closed for more than three years.

NNA Nga longed to see her

In late January, with the threat of further violence looming larger ahead of the February 9 parliamentary and municipal elections, Nga travelled across the border to Nigeria.

"We had to move to save our heads," said the 35-year-old.

Nga now lives with her six children and four other minors related to her in the border village of Ajassor in southeast Nigeria's Cross River state. Nga did not move alone.

Nearly 8,000 new arrivals - some of whom struggled through dense forests and grasslands bleeding from gunshot wounds - crossed into Nigeria's Cross River and Taraba states before the elections, according to the UN refugee agency, UNHCR.

Anglophone crisis

What is commonly known as Cameroon's Anglophone crisis was triggered by demonstrations by lawyers and teachers in 2016 over the rising influence of French in their education and legal systems.

With frustration over alleged political and economic marginalisation high, the protesters' action soon morphed into wider demands and resulted in several strikes. Although talk of marginalisation is not new, the action by barristers and teachers became a rallying point for Anglophone Cameroonians who had voted to join the majority French Cameroon to form the United Republic of Cameroon in



The government's military response failed to reduce tensions, as government forces were accused of carrying out arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings, among other

In response, a slew of separatist groups rose to fight back and demand independence.

Inside Cameroon, the UN estimates that the conflict has killed about 3,000 people and displaced more than 679,000 others in the Anglophone regions, which comprise 20 percent of the country's estimated 25 million population.

UNICEF, the UN's children's fund, estimates that more than 855,000 children remain out of school in the Anglophone regions where 80 percent of schools remain closed.

Meanwhile, some 60,000 people have fled to neighbouring Nigeria, **Anna Nga and** her family in **Aiassor border** village in Cross

spread across the states of Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba.

In Ajassor, in a windowless room packed with nearly a dozen children, Nga happily looks on as her children put on bright school uniforms and get ready to head to school.

She pays between 2,000 (\$5.4) and 5,500 (\$15) naira per child for the local school, which has accepted refugee children alongside their regular students.

But Nga, who is not registered as a refugee because the UNHCR registration process has not started for new arrivals, is worried about her family's future in

"I am paying rent and then school fees for five children,"

she says, her face contorting. "It is very difficult for me without any work." About 47.5 percent of refugees seeking asylum in Nigeria live in four settlements built by the UNHCR, while the rest live in about 87 host communities across Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba.

Many Cameroonians who live in host communities have limited access to education, healthcare, relief items and livelihoods.

In Cross River state, which hosts 69.5 percent of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria, there are three settlements for refugees in the town of Ogoja.

Permanent shelters made of red bricks and topped with corrugated zinc roofing appear evervwhere.

Most of the people here used

to receive cash-based interventions (CBI) of 7,200 naira (\$20) per month from the UNHCR to cover food and basic needs. But refugees who spoke to Al Jazeera said there have been occasional delays in receiving the payments, which have also been re-

duced to 4,600 naira (\$12) since January.

"Before the CBI comes, I have already borrowed money to feed and take care of my baby," said 18-year-old Glory Tiku, adding that her monthly payment is not enough to feed her and her fourmonth-old baby.

"We usually start paying debts with some of the money whenever it comes."

Some refugees living in host communities in Cross River told Al Jazeera they are unable to receive their CBIs because they cannot afford to spend up to 3,000 naira (\$8) to travel to Ogoja where the money is disbursed.

The UNHCR says it will invest more funds into livelihood interventions to help refugees become self-reliant.

The agency is hoping to raise an additional \$27.3m for refugees in Nigeria, but funding for this supplementary appeal stood at 56 percent in early December.

At Adagom-3, a new settlement for more than 500 refugees created late last year in Ogoja, asylum-seekers said they did not receive essential items such as mosquito nets, mats, mattresses and cooking utensils when moving into their new houses.

"They think refugees are inferior beings, [but] one day we will rise and protest," a refugee in his 50s said.

To survive, refugees in the settlements work as farm labourers in exchange for 500 naira (\$1.4) or a tuber of yam or cassava af-

ter a day's work.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR has teamed up with its partners to provide agricultural supplies to some refugees to help them operate micro-gardens to feed their families.

But some refugees felt the initiatives did not go far enough.

"You can't call these projects empowerment because nothing has changed, really," a refugee in Ajassor said.

"The wheelbarrows given to people here started having bad tyres and other issues, and there is barely water to even bathe much less to water the garden."

### **Worsening situation**

Back in Cameroon, the simmering conflict continues to deteriorate, with human rights groups accusing both sides of committing human rights abuses. In December, Parliament passed a law giving the two English-speaking regions "special status" in the wake of a national dialogue where participants made several recommendations, including electing local governors and integrating ex-fighters into society.

Ilaria Allegrozzi, senior Central Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch, told Al Jazeera the separatists had not participated in the process.

"The National Dialogue did not prevent the worsening of the crisis in the English-speaking regions and the escalation of violence. The separatists, most of whose leaders are based outside Cameroon or are in prison in Cameroon, did not take part in the dialogue," Allegrozzi said. Meanwhile, violence contin-

ues to affect civilians. On February 14, at least 21 peo-

ple, including 14 children, were killed by armed men in Ngarbuh village in the Northwest region.

**Guardian** 

**FEATURES** 

### China's anti-virus efforts boost foreign investors' confidence

**SHENYANG** 

Foreign-funded enterprises maintain strong confidence in the resilience of Chinese economy, as the country has maken unprecedented efforts in containing the novel coronavirus epidemic.

S China goes all out to contain the novel coronavirus outbreak, authorities have stressed efforts to help foreign-funded companies resume production and operation in an orderly manner.

Thanks to unremitting anti-virus efforts, multinational companies and joint ventures across the nation are demonstrating their confidence in the Chinese market as their business activities have gradually recovered in the world's second-largest economy.

LyondellBasell, one of the largest plastics, chemicals and refining companies in the world, signed an agreement with the Liaoning Bora Enterprise Group through the Internet on Friday.

The two companies will invest 12 billion U.S. dollars over the next 10 years to build a petrochemical industry base in the city of Panjin, northeast China's Liaoning Province. The partnership will make the city a world-class production base of chemicals and drive the development of industrial chains including plastic packaging and building materials.

Executives from both companies witnessed the online signing ceremony in six cities worldwide including Shenyang, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Houston in the United States and Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

"I was worried that the signing ceremony would be postponed due to the epidemic, but LyondellBasell proposed to sign the contract online as scheduled," said Qu Baoxue, the controlling shareholder of Bora. "Both sides are very pleased to complete the investment on schedule."

"The signing of the agreement today is very timely. In terms of the coronavirus, we see that as a temporary situation. We know that will be solved in China and around the world," said Bob Patel, director of LyondellBasell. "And therefore, our work is very supportive because we see the strategic importance of the market in China."

In recent years, the global chemical giant has seen rapid growth in the Asian market, represented by China, at a rate of 7 to 8 percent per year.

The two companies first signed a memorandum of understanding and announced their investment plan in September 2019. Since the coronavirus outbreak, the two companies did not suspend their cooperation but sped up consultations and preparations to complete the investment project.

"I have been impressed with China's determination and tremendous efforts to combat the crisis," said Patel. "The outbreak will not affect the company's assessment of the



People work at the workshop in Faurecia (Chongqing)
Automotive Parts Co., Ltd., a Sino-French joint venture, in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, Feb. 12, 2020. (Xinhua)

Chinese market. China's economic prospects are very bright in the long term."

The partnership between Lyon-dellBasell and Bora epitomizes how foreign-funded enterprises are maintaining their investment strategies in China and upholding their confidence in the Chinese market.

As the world's second-largest economy, China's solid and stringent measures to curb the epidemic have helped cultivate a good business environment for foreign investors and offset the negative impact caused by the deadly pathogen.

Among those measures, local governments arrange chartered buses, trains and flights to bring employees of foreign-funded enterprises back to work, and implemented preferential taxation policies to reduce firms' production costs.

Zhang Yansheng, chief researcher

of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, said China's effective control of the epidemic is undoubtedly becoming a new "bonus" for the country to attract global foreign investment.

On March 4, the construction of Japanese electric motor manufacturer Nidec Corp's new plant began in Jinpu New Area of Dalian, Liaoning Province.

In 2019, the company said it would invest 50 billion yen (about 488 million U.S. dollars) in the new plant, but in February, amid the coronavirus outbreak, it announced it would double the figure.

According to Igarashi Kazutsugu, general manager of Nidec (Dalian) Ltd., China attaches great importance to the development of the new-energy vehicle industry, and the company is confident about the industry's future development in China.

"Since the outbreak, we have seen the excellent governance capability of the Chinese government," said Igarashi Kazutsugu. "The country has struck a balance between epidemic prevention and production resumption to minimize the impact of the epidemic on foreign companies."

"We have faith in the local government and are very confident in our investment," added Igarashi Kazutsugu.

In Jinpu New Area, as of February, over 92 percent of foreign-funded enterprises above designated size had resumed production, helping stabilize global supply chains.

Meanwhile, in east China's Shandong Province, agreements were signed on Feb. 25 through video conferences for 66 foreign investment projects with a total investment of nearly 14.4 billion U.S. dollars.

In north China's Shaanxi Province,

according to Samsung China Semiconductor Co., Ltd., the first phase of its chip plant, with a total investment of 10 billion U.S. dollars, achieved full capacity of 130,000 memory chips per month in January and February.

According to Hyunki Ji, vice president of Samsung China Semiconductor, in order to ensure normal production and supply chain security, local governments helped Samsung contact upstream and downstream enterprises to ensure the transportation and supply of key raw materials.

They also set up a special team to offer 24-hour service for the company to help solve transportation, logistics and manpower problems.

"Thanks to the efforts of local governments, we didn't even suspend production during the Spring Festival holiday," said Ji.

Foxconn, the world's leading contract electronics maker, is also gradually resuming production capacity at its major manufacturing base in Zhengzhou, central China's Henan Province.

Its production in the Zhengzhou Airport Economy Zone had been slowed due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in January, affecting the international supply chain.

With help from the local authorities, Foxconn's Zhengzhou production base, which had only 1,800 employees left behind during the Spring Festival at the end of January, now has around 80,000 people hard at work, approaching the level at the same period in previous years.

"The epidemic will affect our production in the first quarter, but the impact on annual production will be limited," said Peng Jinhai, with the Zhengzhou branch of Lianchuang Electronic Component (Group) Co., Ltd.

In January, China's foreign investment law went into effect. Approved by the national legislature in March 2019, the landmark legislation will provide stronger protection and a better business environment for overseas investors.

While carrying out effective epi-

### Is Africa equal and enabled enough to empower women?

BY LIEZELLE KUMALO AND TSION TADESSE ABEBE

HE 2019 Global Gender Gap Report, developed by the World Economic Forum, says sub-Saharan Africa has achieved significant improvements towards closing the gender gap. The report measures four areas - health, education, work and politics.

Ethiopia and Mali are among the countries that have shown the greatest improvement in women's political representation. In Mali, 52% of ministers are women, and in Ethiopia this figure is at 48%. This matters because strong representation of women in political leadership can lead to policies that benefit women.

In terms of women's participation in the labour market, Burundi, Guinea, Rwanda and Sierra Leone have also recorded significant progress. In these countries, there are at least as many women as men in the labour market

Cape Verde, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone are also among countries that recorded significant improvement in women's economic participation. This was mostly achieved through facilitating entrepreneurship and the creation of more job opportunities. These are important advances since economic empowerment is a key pillar for all aspects of equality - political and social.

Despite positive developments, an equal and enabled Africa is a distant prospect for millions of women

Despite these positive developments, an equal and enabled Africa remains a distant prospect for millions of women. The World Economic Forum report estimates that it will take sub-Saharan Africa 95 years to close gender gaps, due to multiple layers of gender challenges. So the 8 March International Women's Day theme - 'Each for Equal: An equal

world is an enabled world' - is timely. The first and chief challenge in clos-



ing the gender gaps is protracted conflict across the continent. The Global Peace Index 2019 indicates that peace has deteriorated in 27 sub-Saharan African countries. Africa is home to half of active conflicts worldwide, and hosts seven of the 14 United Nations peacely an ingrapiesisms.

tions peacekeeping missions.

Conflict affects women disproportionally, being the major driver of forced displacement, which includes refugees and internally displaced people. Globally the highest number of women to be forcibly displaced is

recorded in sub-Saharan Africa (52%). The second problem is structural The African
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gender inequalities on the continent, driven largely by the prevailing patriarchal ideology. The impact is far-reaching, as structural challenges are also pervasive in political mechanisms tasked with facilitating gender equality. While it is desirable to have women in positions of power, merely having women in these positions doesn't guarantee that gender equality will be achieved.

The chief challenge in closing the gender gaps is protracted conflict across Africa

'Quotas to increase the employment of women have not served to redress gender inequality in any meaningful way, because power lies with those who make decisions,' says Dr Chandré Gould, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Security Studies. Women 'still face bullying, sexual harassment and even sexual violence in the workplace.'

A third obstacle is the escalation of violence against women and girls in Africa, a threat that hinders all efforts to

create an 'enabled' environment. East and Southern Africa have recorded the highest rates of violence against women and girls on the continent, with 20% of 15- to 24-year-old females reporting having experienced intimate partner violence.

Sexual violence is also rampant in Africa. Rape continues to be used as a weapon of war; even at times of relative peace. In February 2019, Sierra Leone declared a national emergency over widespread incidents of rape

African governments and businesses should contribute to the AU's new African Women Leadership Fund

Despite these problems, 2020 provides significant opportunities for Africans to further enable the empowerment of women. South Africa, as the 2020 chair of the African Union (AU), included advancing gender equality and woman empowerment as one of its key focus areas for the year. Pursued effectively, this could encourage African states to improve their policies in this area.

Recognising that empowerment is linked to equality, the AU declared 2020 to 2030 the Decade of African Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion. To make this a reality, the recent AU summit established the African Women Leadership Fund, which aims to mobilise resources from the global private sector to fund initiatives that advance gender equality.

The fund could be a game changer if it helps women gain economic independence. Governments and the private sector in Africa should also contribute to the fund. This will ensure that empowering women is firmly on Africa's political agenda, and help overcome the perennial problem of a lack of political will.

Inclusion of women in all sectors is at the centre of the muchneeded change. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres puts it, 'Only through the equal participation of women can we benefit from the intelligence, experience and insights of all of humanity.'

And only in an equal and enabled Africa will African women be empowered to take their rightful place in society. This needs to be driven by a bold vision where all citizens contribute to and benefit from Africa's development.

Agencies

### **Bent on going for** inclusive climate action? Then start with integrating gender equality into climate funds

By Verania Chao and Koh Miyaoi

GENDER equality and women's rights have progressed immensely since the adoption of the most visionary agenda on women's empowerment, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 25 years ago.

However, gender equality experts across the world are signaling that we need to identify additional paths for a sustainable world, including in our response to climate change.

This year, we have the opportunity to make a real difference in our climate response and to recognize its critical links to gender equality.

In addition to the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration this year, 2020 is also the year when countries are requested to deliver stronger climate action plans to adapt and cut their emissions further and faster under the global Paris Climate Ac-

As UNDP plays a central role in strengthening countries' capacity to plan and implement their climate targets, the organization has worked with countries on gender-responsive climate action and climate finance.

UNDP's Strengthening Governance of Climate Change Finance Programme (GCCF), supported by the Government of Sweden, has worked with countries to include gender in climate change policies and budgets in Asia and the Pacific since 2012.

Germany, Spain and the European Union have joined forces to support a pilot on integrating gender equality and women's empowerment in 17 countries through UNDP's NDC Support Programme.

With a focus on national climate plans as an entry point, the pilot is elevating the integration of gender aspects from the project or programme-level to a more systemic, sectoral level.

As countries are approaching the deadline to deliver more ambitious, gender-responsive climate plans later this year, UNDP has also stepped up its efforts by offering additional support to 100 countries through the Climate Promise, a global initiative aimed to enhance NDCs and raise ambition.

This also offers an opportunity to improve and embed the integration of gender into the next generation of national climate plans.

To make this a reality, however, we must better integrate gender into the various areas of climate financing public, private and multilateral.

Climate action is attracting a large volume of funding through increasingly diverse funding streams, but often ignores its impacts on gender equality and misses to benefit from women's leadership and expertise on climate-related issues.

If countries' climate actions are



mean to integrate gender into climate finance?

Many countries trying to implement genderresponsive climate action have found that even if capacities are in place, data has been collected and analyzed, and policies have been formulated, implementation bottlenecks remain.

One such bottleneck is the lack of an effective system to ensure planned actions are budgeted for and implemented on the ground.

Therefore, a robust and compelling framework for the integration of gender into climate finance streams is needed. In particular, there is a need to better understand how these different funding to involve the whole population, streams complement and reinforce each other, climate finance needs to become and how the experiences of gender integration in Meanwhile, the Governments of gender-responsive. So, what does it one funding stream can be leveraged for scaling

up gender equality outcomes in the others so that broader development priorities can be more effectively addressed.

Budgeting can be a powerful tool to advance the implementation of gender-responsive climate actions. While ministries of finance can directly advance this goal through by preparing the budget and proposing financial policy, they alone cannot ensure the embedding of gender-responsive climate actions in the policy and budget cycle.

Key ministries, such as Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment, Energy, Transport, Planning, and Environment, have a vital collective role to play through integration processes in their respective sectors.

supported 100 countries on preparing more ambitious climate plans, but also with the embedding of gender-responsive climate measures.

To make a transformative change in a world that is being increasingly marked by deepening inequalities, climate change and natural disasters, it is also time to recognize the vital link between gender equality and financing for climate change to accelerate progress on our climate response.

In 2020, we have a real opportunity to make this

Verania Chao is Programme Specialist, Climate Change and Gender Equality/Inclusion, UNDP and Koh Mivaoi is UNDP Asia-Pacific By the end of 2020, UNDP will not only have Gender Team Leader/Regional Gender Advisor

### y women succeed in social entrepreneurship

By Sophie Hobson

ANY views expressed in this opinion piece are those of the author and not of Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Social entrepreneurship is a nascent sector, free from beliefs about what its leaders should look like or where they should come from

Divya Shah was 14 years old when she was inappropriately touched by a stranger on a bus while travelling back from school in Maharashtra, India. She could not explain the incident to her parents - she just didn't have the vocabulary. But today she has all the right words for adolescents in challenging situations.

She has educated 12,000 Inpositions in global businesses. dian teenagers about sexual and mental health through ThatMate, a start-up she co-founded with Madhavi Jadhav. The women are part of a global surge in female social entrepreneurs: people who start up enterprises that tackle social and environmental problems.

An estimated 45 pc of the world's social entrepreneurs are female, according to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, a research project.

This is strikingly more genderbalanced than other types of leadership. In worldwide politics, one in four national parliamentarians are women. Women hold only 29 pc of senior management

Sure, the Fortune 500, comtionally speaking? prised of the largest companies in the United States, has more female chief executives than ever before. But do not get too excited because these women still represent less than 7 pc of the total.

The not-for-profit sector is not much better. In Britain almost 70 pc of the chief executives of the largest charities are - you guessed

The reverse is true among the leaders we support at the School for Social Entrepreneurs: twothirds are female in Britain and Northern Ireland and we help many more in Canada and India.

So why are there more women leaders in social entrepreneurship than in other fields, proporby a partner within the past year. asset. It legitimises your role as a of a master of business degree or

You might speculate that it is because social enterprise is driven by compassion rather than bald capitalism. Social entrepreneurs want to make profit but they reinvest it to tackle a social issue. Women are the more caring and nurturing gender - or so

the stereotype goes. Frankly, I have always found it reductionist and ridiculous to suggest half the world's population share a personality.

But it is probably fair to say that women are vulnerable to a broader spectrum of social injustices than men.One in five women and girls has experienced physical and/or sexual violence

reckons global gender parity is

still a century away. So if you are a woman determined to fight injustice, how do you go about creating change? It can be difficult to reach positions of influence in politics, business and large charities. Entrepreneurship offers a pathway with low barriers to entry.

You do not need to be elected or selected by other people. You do not need to win the approval of men. You can simply start up a project, right here and now.

Being a social entrepreneur requires a deep understanding of the issue you are tackling. Firsthand experience of injustice is an to devise solutions that might not fly in other sectors.

Take Canine Perspective, a social enterprise that brings survivors of sexual violence together with rescue dogs, founded by Marie Yates. Exploring the dogs' stories enables discussions about how to approach surviving and recovery.

A survivor herself, Marie had found solace in her rescue dog Reggie, so she knew the approach would work. The social enterprise subsidises the programme with profits from dogtraining lessons and products.

It is hard to imagine an idea like this being cooked up as part

The World Economic Forum change-maker. It can prompt you being funded by venture capitalists. But Marie did not need affirmation from any establishment to proceed.

Social entrepreneurship is a nascent sector. It is free from beliefs about what its leaders should look like or where they should come from. It does not have behavioural codes. It is not suffering with the hangover of institutional sexism, from a recent past drunk on masculinity.

It is not so much that social enterprise is especially fertile ground for women to succeed. It is that other sectors, having largely been engineered by men, are often exclusory to people of other genders.



### Women around the world should join forces in making International Women's Day more than 'Hallmark holiday'

By Regan Ralph

IF ever there were a year to remember and reclaim the roots of International Women's Day, 2020 is it. Around the world, authoritarian strongmen are rejecting years of progress to trample on women's rights.

In the United States, the vaunted "pink wave" of women in government still makes up less than a quarter of Congress and abortion rights are on the chopping block–again.

Yet few Americans observe International Women's Day and even fewer remember why it began. International Women's Day was born out of protests by working-class women in the United States in the early twentieth century. Then, as now, women everywhere understood the meaning of mistreatment and inequality. Tired of poor working conditions, sexual harassment, and unequal pay–sound familiar? –the protests spread across Europe.

But in the United States, the galvanizing nature of women's day ebbed as quickly as it spread. The outbreak of two world wars diminished the spirit of international solidarity and the Cold War drove a wedge between women on either side of the ideological divide. When Representative Maxine Waters introduced legislation to make March 8 a national holiday in 1994, the bill never

Instead, commercial culture has subsumed International Women's Day. Corporations cash in on social media kudos-touting dubious feminist credentials- while brands hawk deals on chocolate, makeup, and flowers. Like Valentine's Day or Mother's Day, March 8 is booming business for marketing managers, and social media feeds overflow with emojis, sponsored content, and empty platitudes.

Elsewhere, however, the revolutionary spirit lives on. As a lifelong advocate for women, I am inspired, every year, by the radical ways women mark International Women's Day across the

In Mexico, where ten women are killed every day, activists clad in symbolic green bandanas are taking to the streets to demand change. They have called for women to strike on March 9, making International Women's Day the prelude to a Day Without Women-a powerful display of protest with tremendous economic consequences.

In India, although International Women's Day is widely celebrated, the country's female labor force participation rate is among the lowest in the world. Activists mark March 8 with demonstrations of solidarity with women workers. In Jaipur, for example, members of the Rajasthan Mahila Kamgaar Union will gather to celebrate women's rights as workers.

### University sees partnership and research as keys to Africa's future

**BLOEMFONTEIN** 

ROFESSOR Francis Petersen, Vice Chancellor of South Africa's University of The Free State (UFS), has called for stronger relations between the higher education sector and industry in order to create South African entrepreneurial success stories during the fourth industrial revolution.

In a recent interview with AfricaLive.net, Prof Petersen highlighted the need for South Africa to adapt to new technologies, improve its entrepreneurial success rate, and foster innovation in the agribusiness sector.

The fourth industrial revolution can be defined as the impact of advances in computing, workplace automation, artificial intelligence, robotics, genetic engineering and other emerging technologies.

The impact on emerging markets will be significant, and the professor sees the role of universities as preparing economies for the future while assisting and safeguarding the current workforce.

"It is not merely about the new jobs that will be created, but also about considering those who are currently working," Petersen says.

He elaborates: "There is a need to look at the effect the fourth industrial revolution will have on them as well. Whenever I am faced with the question of what we are doing to ensure readiness, I highlight two key things that we are currently focused on. One is the future world of work, and the second is the digital environment.

"Most of our research projects are driven by these two areas. Agriculture is also a key topic that is related to these two areas, whereby we centre our research on how the current digital environment can help improve our agriculture. This research can be used to inform the future world of work."

#### Relationship between research and commerce

In order to inform the future world of work effectively, Prof Petersen and his university see strengthening the relationship between higher education and industry as vital.

He says: "The relationship between industry, private sector and commerce is emphasized in whatever we do. We work to ensure that the research does not end up gathering dust on library shelves, but is used to better society. As a higher education institution, we are prepared to sit at the table with other stakeholders such as the private sector and the public sector.

"All this is embedded in our vision which is translated into a strategic plan, as well as our integrated transformation plan. In a nutshell, we want to be seen as an institution that



is a thought leader producing quality graduates and paying its dues to the cause of social justice.

"We want to make sure that the next generation of graduates that leave our institution are not self-centred and feel the need to uplift others.

"We have created what is known as the industrialisation group within our institution. The group is designed to focus on three areas - the first is an industry focus on our academic programmes which entails our students and some staff members meeting with industry officials regularly.

"This fosters an ecosystem where the relationship between academia and industry becomes easy. The establishment of fifty-five advisory boards across various schools in the university helps us cement our relationship with industry."

Building synergies the key to the future

Economic indicators show that the South African economic climate will remain challenging for the foreseeable future. The numbers are particularly damning in relation to entrepreneurship, with a small business failure rate of over 80 per cent within the first three years.

UFS prepares all students for the realities of running a small business, as Prof Petersen explains: "Our approach to tackling this is systematic. We feel that there is a need to understand what entrepreneurship and innovation is.

"All our first-year students are, therefore, exposed to a module on entrepreneurship to sensitise them. We then have programmes that absorb students that remain interested in entrepreneurship after their first

"These programmes see people in the industry, who have set up start-

University of the Free State **Rector Prof Francis Petersen** and UNUEHS **Director Prof Jakob Rhyner at** 

a past event. File

ups, mentor our students. We also have a financial student incubator where students are exposed to modules on financial planning and business.

The incubator provides a platform for entrepreneurs that had some failed ventures, to speak to our students on where they went wrong in their businesses.

"The support we lend to startups is therefore mostly related to business knowledge, with our focus mainly on sharing information on the requirements and what it takes personally to start and run a business.

"One of the biggest challenges facing start-ups, especially those that deal with government, is cash flow problems. Government projects face payment delays that affect their ability to execute new projects.

"If the payment delays persist, cash flow is affected which ultimately compromises the business. We therefore, have a role to play in creating awareness of the need for capital inflow sustenance."

For South Africa and the African continent to fulfil its poten- formation Programme, the unitial, however, Prof Petersen re-versity has joined forces with sity has a unique approach in peats his call for a collaborative the public and private sectors, approach and for further efforts to drive collaboration between stakeholders.

"The message I would like to send out to all stakeholders is that Africa has a bright future. This future will only be realised if stakeholders come together in a bid to build synergy," he says, adding: "The keys to our development are partnerships, collaboration, and framing our key foci for our continent. We may not get a full consensus on what

all find common ground."

#### Partnership and research opportunities available

As UFS continues to prepare South Africa for the challenges of the future, there are opportunities for both the private and public sector to form partnerships around the following critical areas of development.

Agriculture dominates the landscape of the university's home province, with the majority of its residents living in rural and farming areas. The Free State is often called the 'breadbasket' of South Africa, as it is there that more than 70 per cent of the country's grain is produced.

Over the past six decades, the university has made a crucial contribution towards establishing and maintaining this status, and it continues to explore and develop innovative farming techniques to work towards food security and the sustainable use of natural resources.

With its Agribusiness Transleveraging existing expertise, skills and infrastructure to develop black commercial farmers and sustainable black-owned agribusinesses in the province.

Not only are these farmers given practical exposure to the very latest developments in farming methods and technology transfer, but they are also instructed in entrepreneurial skills.

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences is widely acclaimed for its ongoing efforts

Indigenous knowledge and health products

and protein deficiencies.

amino acids.

The university subscribes to the conviction that indigenous knowledge systems represent an important component of global knowledge when it comes to development issues. For instance, the Department of Pharmacology focuses specifically on integrating indigenous knowledge systems with the pharmacology of medicinal plants.

in Africa through the genetic im-

In its Department of Plant

Sciences, seeds are developed

with an inherent resistance to

disease as well as genetically

'built-in' higher levels of iron, zinc, provitamin A and essential

This is all done through con-

ventional techniques with no

genetic engineering, leading to

better nutritional value and the

alleviation of mineral, vitamin

provement of staple crops.

UFS is meanwhile the first and only university in South Africa to be issued and granted a research permit for cannabis and is seen as the leader in pharmacological research and product development of cannabis in Southern Africa. Research work on the use of cannabis in treating drug-resistant cancers has been widely recognised and awarded.

Researchers in Plant Sciences on the UFS Qwaqwa Campus in the Eastern Free State also contribute to the expansion of indigenous knowledge systems with their work on the antibiotic, antioxidant and antidiabetic working of local indigenous plant

#### Fostering entrepreneurship

South Africa's economy strains under an unemployment rate of around 30 per cent. UFS supports the notion that entrepreneurship has a vital role to play in combating unemployment and preparing young job seekers for the ever-evolving world of work. Equipping students with an entrepreneurial mindset is therefore a high priority, with 'entrepreneurial thinking' one of the university's key graduate attributes

Towards this end, the univerusing a compulsory module to expose all its students to aspects of entrepreneurship. Students from all faculties and study fields learn about the nuts and bolts of starting a business in their respective industries, marketing their skills through online platforms, and showcasing their work by creating their own web-

The UFS Business School has developed diverse initiatives and training programmes specifically aimed at entrepreneurwe should focus on, but we can towards improved food security ial enterprises. The Centre for

Business Dynamics reaches out to the business sector, helping companies to stay competitive by bridging the gap between existing skills and those required by each industry.

The UFS Student Business Incubator provides practical impetus to students with business ideas, while initiatives such as Young Entrepreneurs and a UFS chapter of Google's Startup Grind U further stimulates entrepreneurial thinking.

#### Climate change research

In the light of growing global concern about climate change, the UFS Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences plays an increasingly critical role in the African research endeavour in this field - through teaching and learning, academic research, and the provision of community services in the soilplant-atmosphere continuum.

The focus is on investigating the effect of weather and climate on crops, trees, grasslands, and livestock production systems. With climate change increasingly becoming the key driver shaping agricultural systems - air, water, and heat transfers as related to biomass development - are studied in agricultural environments, including the socio-economic consequences for farmers and other decision-makers.

Agrometeorological services, such as early warnings, irrigation scheduling, microclimate manipulation, and weather forecasts, are developed to cope with a changing and increasingly variable climate.

#### Technology-driven healthcare training

The Faculty of Health Sciences uses the latest technology in clinical simulation and virtual reality to train specialists in various fields. Students can be exposed to a whole range of simulated medical emergencies, with the huge advantage of improving patient safety and reducing complications and mortality

This technology enables training surgeons to practise complicated medical procedures as often as needed and offers far greater precision in assessing students' practical work.

The Cardiac Simulation laboratory, which situated in the Faculty of Health Sciences on the Bloemfontein Campus, is the only one of its kind in Africa. It forms part of the university's cardiothoracic programme, which is designed to become a training hub for the whole of Southern Africa, combining distance learning with an on-site high-fidelity simulation and assessment centre.

 Agencies 

### Poor in the midst of plenty: Natural resource dilemma in West Africa

**SIERRA LEONE** 

■HERE is little doubt the West African sub-region is endowed with abundant natural resources. The region is home to some of the best and largest deposit of gold, bauxite, rutile, diamond, timber, oil and gas, iron ore, uranium, coal and rivers. It hosts the Upper Guinea Forest [the Lungs of West and North Africa], with a massive green fortress protecting the region from being overtaken by the Sahara Desert. Then factor in the rich marine resources including, eye-popping lobsters, shrimps, crabs, fish in its oceans and the quixotic and scenic beaches, a tourist paradise of sort. These are the many alluring resources to behold in the milieu in fo-

This rich and sprawling natural endowment has always been an attraction and destination of some of the biggest corporations from around the world. There is paradox in the fact that the people and countries in the region are among some of the poorest and least developed in the world. How unfortunate that 'resource curse' ascription remains an ignominious tag on the

Bad governance and corruption eas-

ily come to mind when lamenting the woes of the people, but one should consider for a moment how multinational corporations, from countries that profess to champion rights, accountability, anti-corruption and justice, have been running to the region exploiting natural resources with no human face in the name of foreign direct investment.

There is a maxim that 'one who aids and abets a theft is equally a thief.' No wonder trillions are siphoned off the region in illicit flows from poor destitute communities to rich capitals in the West, joined recently by China, India

"Being that it is the government that is inviting them (the multinational companies), they are sure of receiving protection. But we want these multinational companies to be accountable while tapping out our natural resources...," said the Board Chairman of the Sierra Leone Network on the Right to Food (SiLNoRF), Raymond Senesie.

Yes, governments in the region need investments to boost their economies and create jobs for their struggling people, so it goes without saying that the people had to survive at the mercy of their governments' pursuit of foreign investments regardless of the consequences for human rights and the en-

Various accounts show how foreign companies, with the backing of their host and home governments, violate local community rights with impunity. Poor people suffer forceful displacement, denial of their livelihoods and destruction of their properties.

Saa Pascal Tenguiano, Guinean lawyer and Executive Director for the Center for Commerce and International Development (CE-CIDE) said "The scale and impact of the environmental degradation and abuses perpetrated by these companies, coupled with their failure to honor social corporate responsibilities to affected communities, make it hard to resist the feeling that, like their host and home governments, these concessionaires must be made to account."

Attorney Alfred Lahai Brownell, Sr. is the Founder and Lead Campaigner for Green Advocates International, the 2019 Goldman Prize [sometime referred to as the Green Nobel] Winner. He's all too aware that "communities in concession areas experience a range of negative impacts from the de-

struction of farmlands, to pollution of water sources, desecration of sacred sites and burial grounds and inadequate compensation for uprooting them from their livelihoods." He thinks by bringing vulnerable communities together in the Mano River Union Civil Society Natural Resources Rights and Governance Platform (MRU-CSO Platform), "there would be collective actions in brining much needed justice, accountability and relief to the suffering masses across the region who are most affected by multinational corporations - grabbing their land and destroying their habitats with impunity." Adding, "Governments in West Africa cannot and must not outsource their responsibilities to protect the rights of their citizens and the environment. It is time to ACT". Alfred Brownell is one of four ac-

tivists behind the formation of the MRU CSO Platform. The others are Abu Brima, Executive Director of the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD), Sierra Leone; Michel Yoboue, Executive Director, Group for Research and Advocacy on Extractive Industries (GRPIE), Côte d'Ivoire and Kabinet

Center for Commerce and International Development (CECIDE),

The idea was conceived in September 2012 at a meeting of civil society activists in Monrovia, organized by Green Advocates International (Liberia), to research and publish natural resource rights and governance profiles of countries in the Mano River Union (MRU) basin. The parties agreed in a communique to use the findings to design advocacy campaigns to ensure that land and natural resource laws and regulations are people friendly and that governments and corporations in the region will be held accountable to their obligations to protect, respect and fulfill rights.

Michel Yoboue, Executive Director, Group for Research and Advocacy on Extractive Industries (GRPIE), of Côte d'Ivoire could not hold back his enthusiasm about the achievement of forming a body that would fight to amplify the plight of the neglected and abused people in the region. He believes nothing works better in a democracy than the rule of law.

Sesay, then Executive Director, That is why they resolved to use existing judicial and non-judicial mechanisms at the local, national and regional levels to promote corporate and government accountability. "This is simply victory for human rights," said Michel.

The network has since grown beyond the (four countries) MRU (i.e. Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire) to include five other countries across West Africa, (comprising of Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Niger). The potential of the remainder of the other West Africa countries joining is evident.

Among other things, the MRU CSO Platform is committed to strengthening collaboration around corporate and governmental accountability, undertaking solidarity actions and sharing experiences on how community dwellers and their livelihoods are being affected by government's infrastructure development and foreign direct investment involving (large-scale mining, oil and gas, forestry and agricultural) companies and their host and home governments.

Agencies

### **Guardian**

# BUSINESS

**CENSURE** 

### Industries association wants MultiChoice prosecuted over DTV

**JOHANNESBURG** 

Industry body, the National Association for Manufacturers in Electronic Components (NAMEC), has launched a scathing attack on MultiChoice over accusations levelled against the company by former communications minister Yunus Carrim at the state capture in-

Last month, Carrim dropped a bombshell at the Zondo Commission State Capture Inquiry, accusing the giant pay-TV operator of leading a sustained campaign in ensuring the digital terrestrial television (DTT) policy in relation to set-top boxes collapsed.

The former minister alleged the continental pay-TV operator bullied state broadcaster SABC into adopting a policy position which strengthened Multi-Choice's monopoly on broadcasting in SA. Carrim told the Zondo Commission that the bone of contention was the government's insistence on removing encryption on MultiChoice as part of digital migration to open up competition. He alleged this was something Naspers group chairman Koos Bekker did not agree with, leading to a standoff between Carrim and MultiChoice.

Baseless accusations

However, MultiChoice strongly rejected the allegations, saying an unencrypted set-top box option has multiple benefits for South African television viewers. Joe Heshu, MultiChoice group executive for corporate affairs, told ITWeb: "MultiChoice has noted that Yunus Carrim confirmed under oath in his submission to the Zondo Commission of Inquiry today that he cannot attest to having personal knowledge of any fraud or corruption in respect of the SABC/MultiChoice agreement.

"Carrim's allegations concerning MultiChoice and some of its officials are baseless. MultiChoice and its officials deny these allegations. We have informed the Zondo Commission that we will respond to the allegations made against us in due course and reserve all of our rights."

In a statement, NAMEC says it is neither shocked nor surprised by the revelations that MultiChoice was involved

in the capture of the state. The industry body says when giving testimony at the Zondo Commission, Carrim stated that MultiChoice executives and its parent company (Naspers) chairman bullied SABC to violate government policy of encryption of set top-boxes in favour of non-encryption.

"NAMEC finds the revelations extremely disturbing as it confirms our long-held suspicion that sinister forces were at play to stall the digital migration process to benefit themselves by further entrenching their monopoly in the digital television market and anyone including NAMEC that stood in their way will be corrupted, at best or decimated, at worst," says Aubrey Tsaoane, NAMEC's acting secretary general.

"We find MultiChoice (illegal) actions unpardonable and call on the law enforcement agencies and Zondo Commission to thoroughly investigate and bring to book all those implicate[d]. It cannot be that people conspire to subvert the state and bring harm to emerging companies particularly and our country's economy and they go scot-free as this will cement a culture of impunity."

Tsaoane adds: "As a country, we have missed not only the International Telecommunication Union deadline for digital migration of 2015 but also our self-imposed deadline of June 2019. "We are also running a risk of missing the July 2020 deadline if urgent steps are not taken to accelerate digital migration. It is common cause that the stalling of the migration process has led to our country not benefiting from the developments in the information and communications technologies space."

Financial ramifications

Tsaoane points out that opportunities abounding due to the advent of the fourth industrial revolution have also not being adequately seized as the country is lagging far behind, all thanks to the shenanigans of MultiChoice and those who assisted them. "There has to be accountability for the destruction to our economy and subversion of our state by Naspers, MultiChoice and their co-conspirators," Tsaoane continues.

**SUPPORT** 

### France backs Tanzania's efforts in organic farming with 4.2bn/- grant



Organic farmers undergoing field training in Morogoro.

By Francis Kajubi

N support of local farmers efforts to adopt organic farming, France ■ has given a grant of euro 1.666 million (over 4.239bn/-) to organic agriculture projects to reach commercial

Speaking at the launch of the project in Zanzibar earlier this week, French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frederic Clavier said that Tanzanian farmers have responded positively in adapting organic agriculture hence his government's decision to finance such projects.

"In the region, Tanzania and Uganda are making a good progress in adaptation of organic agriculture and we the French people are proud of such progress and eager to continue financing the agriculture sector in the two countries" said Clavier.

He said France has a lot of confidence in the country's farmers in the East African region because they have shown interest in the uptake of ecological organic agriculture hence convinced its development agency AFD to finance Tanzania and Uganda in East Africa and Morocco in North Africa under Institutional Innovations for Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa (IIABA) project.

The IIABA project is coordinated by the African Organic Network (AfrONet) and will benefit a total of 300,000 organic and non-organic farmers from the three countries. The project will last three years and six months.

"But for further support of organic agriculture in Zanzibar, the AFD has set aside another U\$1.5 million (over 3.6bn/-) to empower smallholder spice farmers," Clavier added. He called on upon farmers to use the opportunity effectively especially by forming groups to access funding easily which is separate from IIABA project.

AfrONet Program's acting Executive Director, Moses Aisu said that AFD has already disbursed euro 1.498 million (3.810bn/-) which will benefit an estimated 100,000 farmers, businessmen and processors engaged in organic agriculture.

Aisu said organic and non-organic farmers from Pemba, Unguja, Dodoma, Ruvuma and Coast regions will get exposed to new networks of production and sourcing of organic inputs through participatory and farmer-led research on farms.

"Both organic and non-organic farmers are a target. For non-organic ones the project will focus at convincing them on why they should venture into organic agriculture," he noted.

"We expect to increase the farmers' engaging in organic agriculture by 5 percent as of the end of the project period. Farmers who will benefit are those cultivating spices, avocado, vegetable and sunflower cultivation," Aisu added while noting that Dar has been allocated 775.2m/-.

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) in its 2019 survey states that global organic market peaked 92.1 billion euros by February 2019 with 69.8 million hectares worldwide of which Africa has only 2.1 million hectares.

According to the survey, Tanzania and Uganda are the only countries from the EAC region with the largest number of organic producers in the world. Uganda which is on second position of the global list has 210,352 farmers behind India with 835,000 farmers. Tanzania is the sixth with 148,610 producers.

**SANCTIONS** 

### Two firms contracted to supply iron to SGR, Julius Nyerere HEP liquidated for defaulting

**By Guardian Reporter** 

TWO local firms which were given contracts to supply galvanised iron to Standard Gauge Railways and Julius Nyerere Hydro Electric Power Project in Rufiji have been liquidated by TIB Bank for defaulting on a 7bn/- loan.

The two companies, Automech Tanzania Limited and Reliance Industries Limited had their property auctioned earlier this year hence causing disruption of the materials but Tanzania Railways Limited CEO, Masanja Kadogosa said the collapsed firms have not affected the SGR project.

"We had contingency plans in place to offset such incidences of failure because we expected something like this," Kadogosa told Minister for Communication Works and Transport, Engineer Isack Kamwelwe.

Kadogosa said the local companies were deliberately picked to participate in the two mega projects as part of state efforts to build local capacity. On his part, Minister Kamwelwe said as part of efforts to build local capacity, Turkish contractor, Yapi Merkezi was directed to use local suppliers and subcontractors for some works.

Engineer Kamwelwe commended Kadogosa for seeking an alternative solution to ensure that construction works are not interrupted. "I am making a close follow up on the project although we as government understand that the project's main contractor is Yapi Merkezi who should it is completed timely," he said.

The Comworks Minister stressed that some works were locally outsourced to ensure that local contractors and suppliers also have a slice of the mega projects funding which is mostly taxpayers' money.

Updating Eng Kamwelwe on the project's progress, Yapi Merkezi's Site Engineer, Alper Cam said that they outsourced the galvanised iron products suppliers locally but the collapse of the two companies meant that part



Part of SGR project currently under construction by Turkish contractor, Yapi Merkezi.

of the construction work be stopped for cause local sourcing would need at least the past three weeks.

"As a result we had to import some of the galvanised iron products to ensure important part of the project's materithat the project goes on as planned be-

two months to get," Engineer Cam said while stressing that galvanised iron is an

"Our supplier for the product was Automech which had its assets auctioned by the bank. We hope that the government will intervene to find a solution to this problem," he added.

**JOHANNESBURG** 

The country's largest banking group by market capitalisation says it has experienced "a material slowdown" in its South African operations since the beginning of 2020.

As FNB is hit by a big increase in bad debts, FirstRand warns against slowdown in S.Africa

FirstRand [JSE:FSR], which is the parent company of First National Bank, Wesbank and Rand Merchant Bank, released its interim financial results showing that its businesses collectively grew normalised earnings by 5% in the six months to December.

FNB South Africa, which is the biggest contributor to the group's profits grew its earnings by 5%. The bank gained more customers who deposited more money with the bank and increased its transactional volumes. However, this growth came with a R910 million increase in the bank's credit impairment charge. The group said FNB card impairments increased by 77% to R270 million as advances grew by 21%.

Non-performing loans (NPLs) in card business increased by a 84%. FirstRand said it expects ongoing elevated NPLs in the card business during the rest of the 2020 financial year. FNB's personal loans business

also recorded a 47% increase in impairment charges to R300 million. The bank's residential mortgage book saw its credit loss ratio increase to 22 basis points as NPLs increased by of 12%. FNB commercial NPLs increased by 47% while the group's UK business,

Aldermore saw NPLs increase 51%. "Looking forward to the second half of the year, the group is of the view that the South African macroeconomic environment will continue to deteriorate, probably at a faster rate than in the first half," said the group in a statement published on the Stock Exchange News Service (Sens).

The group said as the coronavirus outbreak is expected to result in supply chain disruptions, while the weak economy will leave consumers will less disposable income and job losses, companies will be under pressure.

"FirstRand has already experienced a material slowdown in its domestic business since the beginning of 2020. Given the expected pressures on top line the group appreciates the need for ongoing cost efficiencies, balanced with continued investment in sustainable growth strategies," read FirstRand's statement.

**Guardian** 

**BUSINESS NEWS/NEWS FEATURE** 

**FAREWELL** 

# ROAM chief showers praise on outgoing BrighterMonday CEO

**By Guardian Reporter** 

UTGOING Brighter-Monday Tanzania Na Zoom Tanzania CEO, Mili Rughani who leaves the company next week has been described as outstanding manager who built the company's solid foundation for the future.

ROAM Africa CEO, Clemens Weitz said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week that Rughani who has been CEO forBrighterMonday and Zoom Tanzania since 2016, leaves behind a legacy of hard work and competence.

"The company is humbled by Mili's 3.5 years of service and leadership," said Weitz adding that, "She has built a strong foundation for the future growth of the organization, including strengthening our team, evolving our products and our marketing, improving our operations and growing our brand into a powerhouse for human resources consulting for the period."

BrighterMonday is an online recruitment space in Tanzania and East Africa and has since 2006 belonged to the ROAM Africa group.

ROAM Africa's chief further noted that during her tenure Rughani created a path that will enable the new CEO, Reshma Bharmal-Shariff to continue moving the business and iconic brand forward. "With Reshma we have an accomplished and proven leader at the helm. We wish her best of success in taking the businesses to the next level," Weitz added.

In her farewell remarks, Rughani said she is overwhelmed by the cooperation given to her by colleagues but felt comfortable to leave Zoom and Brighter-Monday Tanzania in even better hands of Shariff.

"It is such an incredible feeling and honour to experience brands that you nurtured establish themselves as industry giants. I will remain close to the company and have full confidence in the team to continue to spearhead Tanzania's market needs," she promised.

BrighterMonday is an online recruitment space in Tanzania since 2006 with more than 2 million registered professionals and over 50,000 employers. The new CEO has joined the ROAM group and will take over as Zoom and BrighterMonday Tanzania chief.

"I thank Mili for the extraordinary work she has done in building remarkable brands and I must say I have great shoes to fill," she said. Zoom Tanzania is one of the country's largest online classified platform that conveniently connects buyers and sellers since 2009.



ROAM Africa CEO Clemens Weitz (C) in a souvenir photo with outgoing BrighterMonday and Zoom Tanzania CEO Mili Rughani (R) and her successor, Reshma Bharmal-Shariff, in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Photographer

**ADJUSTMENTS** 

### Emirates introduces waiver policy to accommodate COVID-19 impact

By Guardian Reporter

Emirates is providing customers more flexibility, choice and value through its newly introduced waiver policy for all booked tickets issued since last Saturday until end of this month.

In a statement, the Dubai based career said the move will allow customers across its network the choice of changing their travel dates without change and reissuance fees. The move provides Emirates' customers with peace of mind should they decide to change their travel plans due to the evolving COV-ID-19 situation, the airline stated.

Customers can change their booking to any date for travel within an 11 month date range in the same booking class without change penalties. Difference in fare, if applicable applies. The policy covers all existing destinations across the Emirates network.

"We want our customers to feel fully supported, comfortable and confident when making travel plans, while offering them the best fares, without incurring change fees should they decide



Emirates' Chief Commercial Officer, Adnan Kazim.

to delay or adjust dates," said Emirates' Chief Commercial Officer, Adnan Kazim.

"The situation remains dynamic and we will continue to look at ways to provide flexibility, convenience and peace of mind for our customers," Kazim added while noting that Emirates Skywards will also be providing more flexibility to its members who have been impacted by the outbreak of the coronavirus through imposed travel restrictions and flight reductions.

Skywards Platinum, Gold and Silver members can maintain their current status by fulfilling 80 percent of their tier travel requirements between 31 March and 30 June 2020. In addition, Skywards members booked to travel between 1 March and 30 June 2020 will be able to benefit from an additional 20 percent bonus Tier Miles, the statement said.

For additional peace of mind, Emirates is also taking its aircraft cleaning process to the next level through additional precautionary measures of implementing enhanced disinfecting procedures after flights from destinations most affected by COVID-19, the airline noted.

CONFRONTATION

### Telkom Kenya fights EACC in court over assets sale freeze

NAIROBI

Telkom Kenya is seeking court orders to stop the anti-graft agency from interfering with any of its properties ahead of the firm's merger with Airtel. In a suit filed at the High Court, the telco has sued the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) on claims that the agency is demanding a list of its properties.

Telkom Kenya reckons that it is a private entity with no public assets, which fall within the category of properties that the EACC is mandated to investigate in line with Chapter six of the Constitution. The anti-graft agency wants Telkom Kenya to recall any recent sale of its properties and suspend further sales pending the inquiry, which has been ongoing for more than five years.

The EACC wants to investigate whether there was the misappropriation of public funds and properties during Telkom Kenya's privatisation and when the firm restructured its balance sheet. Telkom was privatised in 2007 when French telecoms operator Orange bought a majority stake, which was subsequently sold to Helios in 2015.

Through lawyer George Oraro, Telkom says the February 26 directive by the EACC to freeze any sale of assets is "draconian and unreasonable." Telkom now wants the EACC barred from restricting, limiting or otherwise interfering with its property as well as accessing a list of its properties and recalling or suspending any of them pending the conclusion of ongoing investigations

It argues that allowing the EACC wishes to stand will adversely affect its ability to fund recurrent expenses and operate its businesses, putting it at risk of running into irreparable losses. "The said directive contravenes Telkom's right to property, fair administrative action, access to justice and fair trial," said Mr Oraro.

The telco claims it had received clearance from Parliament's Public Investment Committee through an April 2014 report, which did not recommend any scrutiny with regards to misappropriation of assets before and after its privatisation. It adds that the EACC wrote to them on October 7, 2015, requesting various documents without indicating the nature of their investigations.

The agency had earlier suspended a planned merger of Telkom Kenya and Airtel Kenya pending an inquiry into the use of funds and properties at Telkom. But Telkom has already received regulatory approval to merge with Airtel Kenya, even though the two entities are protesting the merger conditions.

RESTRICTIONS

### Government to announce new rules for Uber and Bolt

CAPE TOWN

Government plans new rules to regulate regulations to hailing services such as Uber and Bolt, Minister of Transport Fikile Mbalula confirmed on Monday morning.

With the rise of Uber, government has, on occasion, expressed a need for intervention and more clarity regulating the business' operations. However, the regulations first touted in 2017 have not been forthcoming until now.

According to a tweet posted by the transport minister on Monday, South Africa will

follow the lead of other countries that have started regulating Uber and other players in the sector. Mentioning existing National Land Transport Act of 2009, which was in the process of being amended, Mbalula said the new regulations would soon fill the gap that existed when controlling ride hailing services and their operations in South Africa.

Mbalula was also foreshadowing a briefing on the amendments, set to take place in Cape Town on Tuesday morning. Late last year, Uber lost its licence to operate in London, England, after concerns of substandard safety standards.

Last month, the Competition Commission released a report about the metered taxi industry, proposing an overhaul of the taxi licencing and fare regime in South Africa, which it thinks will increase competition.

The commission found that metered taxis are subject to area restrictions, while the e-hailing services operate anywhere. For instance, taxi operators may be limited to one municipality, while e-hailing drivers in Gauteng can operate between the Tshwane, Johannesburg, and Ekurhuleni regions.

The commission wanted all area restrictions to be lifted, so that once a taxi service is licensed, it can operate anywhere in the country. Metered taxis argue that Uber's prices are too low and threaten their survival. The commission found that Uber is much cheaper than metered taxis - which on shorter routes can cost up to 250% more in Gauteng.

It detailed criticisms of Uber's operations in South Africa, including allegations that some of its drivers may now be earning less than the minimum wage, as their incomes continue to fall. The



SA Transport Minister, Fikile Mbalula.

RESTRICTION

### Wave of panic buying sees British supermarkets impose shopping limits on basic items

LONDON

ritish superstores and retail centres facing restrictions after a surge in demand for home necessities amid fears of disruption to supply chains as consumers begin stockpiling over coronavirus fears.

The nation's largest supermarket chain, Tesco, has introduced rationing on a number of products including dry pasta, UHT milk and some tinned vegetables, as a rush on hand sanitiser gels and other nonperishable products has left shelves empty.

Other chains followed suit on Monday, with some placing limits on online purchases while highstreet retailers Boots and Superdrug limited hand gel sales in their shops to two per customer. The British Retail Consortium (BRC) said it was working with the government to protect consumers and ease strains on supply chains.

The BRC's chief executive, Helen Dickinson OBE, told The National the association had given the government "a list of regulations where relaxation would ease pressure in the supply chain, including extending drivers' hours and giving flexibility on delivery times to stores."

Online retailers marketplaces operating in the UK have also moved protect consumers from profiteers after the



the spread of the virus. Ms

Dickinson said retailers are

facing "a rise in demand

certain

MONDAY 09 March

Kumekucha

Uwanja wa Mazoezi

Kumekucha Michezo

Kumekucha Kishindo

Soap: Isidingo the need

Habari za saa

Habari za saa

Habari za saa

Jungu kuu rpt

Habari za saa

Jagina rpt Igizo rpt: Mtego

Al jazeera

12:30

13:00

13:45

13:55

14:00

14:10

15:00

16:30

A shopper picking items from shelves at a supermarket in London.

Authority warned suppliers to act responsibly and said it was monitoring prices. Facebook is temporarily banning adverts and listings for medical masks. The social media giant had already announced a ban on adverts for hygiene products claimed to be in short supply.

"We're monitoring Covid-19 closely and will make necessary updates to our policies if we see people trying to exploit this public health emergency," Facebook's director of product management, Rob Leathern, said. Stockpiling

Competition and Markets been fuelled in part by recommendations last week by health authorities for Britons to "plan ahead" in case they are forced to selfisolate for several weeks.

> But the country's chief scientific adviser Patrick Vallance said he believed there was "absolutely no reason" for the public to panic buy. An emergency meeting of the UK's Cobra committee was held on Monday as experts predicted Wednesday's budget will be influenced by the impact of the virus.

The decision means the UK remains in the first "containment" phase of the and panic buying have government's plan to tackle members are working hard to ensure consumers have access to the products they need. "Even where there are challenges, retailers are wellversed in providing effective measures to keep retail sites running smoothly, and they are working with suppliers to increase the supply of goods," she said. The BRC said it was too

surrounding shortages: "Our

early to predict what the impact of coronavirus will be on sales but has warned "if disruption to supply chains continues and spreads, then retailers and consumers may eventually see knock on effects on cost or availability of goods."

The group said it could foresee an impact to sales in the luxury sector due to the decline in Chinese tourists: "Restrictions on travel to and from China may well have an impact in the short to medium term for fashion and luxury goods retailers, be a short-term increase in as will the slowing of China's levels of illness," it said.

economy a result of imposed quarantine zones."

The UK's Chancellor Rishi Sunak's first budget is expected to announce extra funding for efforts to combat the virus including help for the NHS and temporary support for small businesses, such as retailers hit by a drop-off in demand. On Sunday he told the BBC the government was looking at "a range of scenarios" and making sure it was well prepared for all of them.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies said concerns over coronavirus will be at the centre of this week's budget and has warned there will be negative impacts on the economy as a result of the outbreak. "The key focus of an economic policy response should be to ensure continued delivery of public services and to minimise the long-term effects of what will hopefully

Igizo: Mizengwe rpt

Tamasha la Michezo

Kipindi cha kikristo

Matukio ya wiki

Igizo: Mtego

21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko

Mjue Zaidi

23:45 ITV Top 10

Tues 10 March

06:00 Al Jazeera

Radio)

Bongo Movie:

CAPITAL

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

Morning Jam (Via Capital

Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)

Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está

Club 101 (via Capital Radio

Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Series rpt: The Secret

Series: The Secret

Telenovela: (Dónde está

Flisa?) Where is Elisa?

Turning the spotlight rpt

Morning Jam (Via Capital

Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)

Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está

Club 101 (via Capital Radio

Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Series rpt: The Secret

Culinary delight rpt

Innovation rpt

Sports Gazette

Chetu ni chetu

Series: The Secret

Meza Huru

Capchat rpt

Meza huru

Innovation

Jagina rpt

Capital Prime

Eco@Africa

Al Jazeera

Al iazeera

Radio)

The Great queen Seonduk

Bongo Movie rpt:

Mwangaza

ITV Top 10

Jiji Letu

Mapishi

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"There are likely to be negative effects on both the demand side and the supply side of the economy. This could be substantial but hopefully short-lived." But the sight of empty shelves in supermarkets across the country has raised lingering fears of continued shortages, as cases of the virus continue to grow. The UK's Food and Drink Federation (FDF) said it was working with the government to counter the disruption.

The FDF's chief executive, Ian Wright CBE, told The National: "The FDF is in regular dialogue with the government and its agencies on how the food and drink industry should react to the spread of Covid-19." "At this stage supply chains have experienced disruption but there is no evidence of significant disruption to food supplies. UK food and drink manufacturers have robust procedures in place."

Series: The Secret

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Sat 14 March

Telenovela: (Dónde está

Morning Jam (Via Capital

Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

Local Pgm: Business Edition

Telenovela: (Dónde está

Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Malumbano ya hoja rpt

Turning the Spotlight rpt

Culinary delight rpt

Sports Gazette rpt

Business edition rpt

Korean Drama rpt: Iljimae

Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Korean Drama: Iljimae

Series rpt: The Secret

Tanzania Yetu rpt

Bundesliga kick off

Capchat rpt

Mizengwe

The Decor

Out n' About

Al Jazeera

08:00 CNN International

In good shape

Sports Gazette rpt

Capchat rpt

Movie: Fangs

Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está

Innovation rpt

Out n'about rpt

Usafiri wako rpt

Eco@Africa rpt

Capital Prime News

09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)

Series rpt: The Secret

Meza Huru

Eco@Africa

Aibu Yako

Al Jazeera

08:00 CNN International

Drive It rpt

Drive it

The Monday Agenda rpt

Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Capital Prime News

Capchat rpt

Al Jazeera

Frid 13 March

06:00 Al Jazeera

### **MONDAY - FRIDAY** 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja Watoto Wetu Turning the spotlight 23:00 Habari 10:00 Isidingo Tanzania yetu

**CENSURE** 

## Congressional panel points out Boeing has a culture of concealment, weak control

### **WASHINGTON**

A congressional committee investigating Boeing said on Friday that a "culture of concealment" at the company and poor oversight by federal regulators contributed to two deadly crashes involving the grounded 737 Max.

The committee's Democrats said multiple factors led to the crashes, but it homed in on a new flight-control system that pushed the nose of each plane down based on faulty sensor readings. Boeing failed to classify the system as critical to safety, part of a strategy designed to avoid closer scrutiny by regulators as the company developed the plane, the House Transportation Committee said.

The report said Boeing had undue influence over the Federal Aviation Administration, and managers at the regulator rejected safety concerns raised by their own technical experts. Staffers for the committee's Democratic majority made the comments in a preliminary summary of the panel's nearly year-long investigation of Boeing's development of the Max and the FAA's decision to approve the plane.

The committee has held five hearings and disclosed troves of internal Boeing documents that highlighted company employees' safety concerns about the Max. The panel's summary did not break new ground, but it illustrated the breadth and depth of one of several investigations under way into Boeing.

Boeing spokesman Bryan Watt said the Chicago company has "co-operated extensively for the past year with the committee's investigation" and will review the preliminary report. The FAA said its certification procedures "are wellestablished and have consistently produced safe aircraft designs," but it welcomed the scrutiny. "We are confident that our openness to observations and recommendations will further bolster aviation safety worldwide," said FAA spokesman Lynn Lunsford.

Republicans on the Transportation Committee suggested the report by the Democratic staff had gone too far in

faulting how FAA approves new planes. Other investigations into the Max accidents and FAA's oversight of Boeing have found problems with Boeing's assumptions about pilot reaction in emergencies and the FAA's expertise in understanding complex automation in the Max.

However, "none of these expert reviews or investigations have come to the conclusion that our safety certification system is broken or in need of wholesale dismantlement", said the two top Republicans on the committee, Sam Graves of Missouri and Garret Graves of Louisiana.

The committee Democrats' report said Boeing jeopardised safety by pressuring employees to speed up production of the plane and by making incorrect assumptions about important technology, especially the flight-control system, which is called MCAS. The company concealed key information from the FAA and didn't tell pilots about MCAS until after the first crash.

The House committee, led Representative Peter DeFazio, said it is still conducting interviews and reviewing records as part of its investigation. The committee said it is considering legislation to improve FAA oversight of new aircraft.

That legislation is expected to focus on the FAA's policy of deputising some employees at Boeing and other manufacturers to conduct safety-related analysis and testing. FAA officials have defended that decadeslong policy, saying it has produced safe aircraft. They point out that there have been no fatal crashes involving US airline planes since 2009, an unprecedented safety streak.

The FAA certified the Max in 2017, and airlines began using it later that year. A Max jet operated by Indonesia's Lion Air crashed in October 2018, and another flown by Ethiopian Airlines crashed five months later, in March 2019. Regulators around the world grounded the plane days after the second crash. Boeing hopes to win approval of changes it is making to the plane around mid-year. Families of passengers who died in the second crash will gather Tuesday in Ethiopia at a memorial service to mark the anniversary.

23:30

**WEDNESDAY 11 March** Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo Habari za saa Kumekucha Kishindo

Mjue Zaidi 11:55 Art and Lifestyle rpt 12:00 Habari za saa 12:30 Art and Lifestyle rpt 12:55 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 13:00 Habari za saa Meza huru

17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo

Watoto Wetu

19:00 Afya ya Jami 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45

Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera DWTV

**TUESDAY 10 March** Uwanja wa Mazoezi

Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamsham za pwani

11:00 Shamsham za pwani 11:20 Kesho leo rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt Habari za saa

Shamba lulu rpt

Habari za saa

Habari za saa

Meza Huru

The Base

Jiji Letu

Yu wapi

Isidingo

Habari

Mapishi rpt

Tanzania yetu

Chetu ni chetu

Uchumi na biashara

Telenovela: Elena's Ghost

Jarida la wanawake

Watoto wetu

Kipindi maalum: KTMDA

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

13:00

13:30

13:55

Habari za saa

14:00 14:55 15:00 16:30 17:00 18:00 18:10 18:15 18:30 19:00 19:30 20:00 21:05 21:35 The Base

DWTV

unprecedented outside of

But the BRC chief sought

the Christmas period."

products to allay consumer fears

Habari za saa Watoto wetu Queen Seondok 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok Uchumi na biashara rpt

Habari za saa Al jazeera Jarida la wanawake rpt Habari za saa Dakika 45 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru Watoto Wetu 16:30 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:15 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 19:00

19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:00 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera DWTV 2:00

**THURSDAY 12 March** Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI

Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habariz a saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto 10:30 Igizo: Mkaguzi 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Mkaguzi Kipindi Maalum rpt: Watumishi housing rpt

Habari za saa 12:00 Al jazeera 12:55 Habari za saa Arts & lifestyle rpt 13:30 Tanzania yetu Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

Meza huru Watoto Wetu 16:30 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Usafiri wako

Isidingo

19:30

**FRIDAY 13 March** Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI

DWTV

00:30

Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55

Habari za saa 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako

11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt

13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu

17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Shamba lulu Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:00 19:30 Isidingo

20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV

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Jiji Letu

Mapishi

Igizo: Dhoruba

Art and lifestyle

Hawavumi lakini wamo

Uwanja wa Mazoezi

Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja

Jungu Kuu

Kesho leo rpt

Isidingo rpt

DWTV

**SUNDAY 15 March** 

HABARI

Habari

Kumekucha

**SATURDAY 14 March** Uwanja wa Mazoezi

Wed 11 March 06:00 6:00 HABARI 07:00 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt 16:00 Shamba lulu rpt 11:15 11:45 Mapishi rpt 17:00 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 17:30 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 19:00 14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 19:30 15:15 Igizo: Kibafute 20.00 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego

20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45:

22:45 The Décor 23:15 Al Jazeera Thurs 12 March 07:00

17:00

17:30

06:00 Al Jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)

Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 16:00 Series rpt: The Secret 16:30 Business edition rpt

In good shape

Meza huru

Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

Korean Drama rpt: Iljimae 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesligga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: The Secret 15:15 Aibu yako 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt Turning the Spotlight rpt Cookery pgm: Culinary

Delights Korean Drama: Iljimae 20:00 Shift

21:00 21:15 Capchat live

Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 00:00 Al Jazeera

### Guardian www.jopnedic.com

# WORLD

### WHO chief says threat of COVID-19 pandemic very real as all EU members report cases

**BRUSSELS** 

THE chief of the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday that the novel coronavirus has got a foothold in so many countries and the threat of a pandemic has become very real.

His words came as Cyprus confirmed its first two COVID-19 cases, which means all EU members have reported infection cases.

European countries have begun to upgrade their containment measures. In Italy, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced on Monday evening that measures to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus will be extended to the entire country in the next hours.

### "THREAT OF PANDEMIC VERY

COVID-19 is an uneven epidemic at

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a daily briefing, reminding that different countries are in different scenarios, requiring a tailored response.

It would be the first pandemic in history that could be controlled, the WHO head also noted. He called on all countries to take a comprehensive blended strategy for controlling their epidemics and pushing this virus back.

Tedros also said of the around 80,000 reported cases of COVID-19 in China, more than 70 percent have recovered and been discharged. Among the countries with the most cases, China is bringing its epidemic under

He stressed that the transmission of coronavirus can be slowed down and infections can be prevented through decisive and early actions.

"Countries that continue finding and



**WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom** Ghebreyesus

not only protect their own people, they can also affect what happens in other countries and globally," said Tedros.

#### INFECTIONS KEEP RISING IN EUROPE

The Italian authorities said Monday the number of people who tested positive for the new coronavirus reached 7,985, an increase of 1,598 new infections compared to the previous day, and did not include recoveries or fatalities.

Considering all data (including deaths and recoveries), the number of assessed coronavirus cases in the country was 9,172.

Also on Monday, Germany confirmed the first two deaths from COVID-19, both in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), German local media Focus reported.

According to official data, the number of confirmed cases in Germany rose to 1,112 by Monday morning, 484 of which are in NRW.

In France, 1,412 cases of coronavirus infection

Director-General of Health Jerome Salomon announced on Monday evening.

Both Spain and Denmark eyewitnessed rapid growth in confirmed cases on Monday. The number of confirmed cases in Spain rose from just under 600 on Sunday to over 1,000, with the death toll increasing from 10 to 26.

Denmark saw its total number of COVID-19 infections rise to 90 by Monday afternoon, a sharp increase from Sunday's 35, according to an update on the website of the National Board of Health on Monday evening.

The virus has affected some international organizations. The Brussels-based North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) confirmed a case of coronavirus infection in its headquarters on Monday morning. The staff member is currently at home in self-isolation.

#### NEW MEASURES TO STEM SPREAD

European countries have stepped up efforts and put in place new containment measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.

In France, all gatherings of more than 1,000 people are now prohibited across French cities. Only events considered "useful to the life of the nation" will be maintained.

The new measures also included a decree making telemedicine more flexible and available to the public. In addition, hospitals would trigger the "white plan" of extra mobilization systems to cope with the additional influx of patients linked to the coronavirus. It allows to reinforce additional nursing and administrative staff, offer more beds and limit patient visits.

In Spain's autonomous community of Madrid, schools and universities will be closed for 14 days starting from Wednesday, the region's president Isabel Diaz Ayuso confirmed.

Romania also unveiled similar plans. The country's interim Prime Minister Ludovic Orban announced that all primary and secondary schools, as well as kindergartens across the country, will be closed on March 11-22.

Xinhua

### **Potential treatments to** defeat novel coronavirus

**BEIJING** 

CHINA has released the seventh version of the diagnosis and treatment guideline on the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Here are some drugs and therapies that have been recommended by the guideline, and some drugs that have been found to have the potential to defeat the virus and have entered clinical trials.

#### -- CHLOROQUINE PHOSPHATE

Chloroquine Phosphate, a widely used anti-malaria and autoimmune disease drug, has been used for more than 70 years. The drug has been used in treating 285 critically ill COVID-19 patients in a hospital in Wuhan, and no obvious adverse reactions have been found so far. In the latest version of the treatment guideline, Chloroquine Phosphate is recommended for COVID-19 patients from 18 to 65. The amount for patients over 50 kg is 500 mg per dose twice a day for seven days. The guideline also noted that patients should take less than three antiviral drugs.

#### -- TOCILIZUMAB

Tocilizumab, with the common brand name Actemra, is an injectable synthetic protein that blocks the effects of IL-6 in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. IL-6 is a protein that the body produces when there is inflammation.

The latest version of the guideline suggests the use of Tocilizumab in patients with an increasing level of IL-6 and with extensive lesions in both lungs or severe symptoms. Chinese researchers have found that a cause of death for severe and critically ill patients infected with the novel coronavirus is cytokine storm, an overreaction of the immune system. These patients are found with a higher level of IL-6 in their blood. Last month, the increasing level of IL-6 was recommended as a warning sign that the patient's situation could possibly deteriorate. Currently, the drug is under clinical trials in 14 hospitals in Wuhan and a total of 272 severe patients had been treated with Tocilizumab as of March 5.

#### -- CONVALESCENT PLASMA

Convalescent plasma, processed from the plasma collected from recovered COVID-19 patients, contains a large number of protective antibodies. As of Feb. 28, 245 COVID-19 patients have received the therapy and 91 cases have shown improvement in clinical indicators and symptoms. According to health authorities, plasma therapy has proved safe and effective.

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has been proven effective in treating COVID-19 patients. With TCM treatment, patients with mild symptoms have seen their fever or cough alleviated, according to medical experts. For severely ill patients, TCM helped relieve symptoms and restore blood oxygen saturation, preventing the patients' conditions from developing into critically ill cases.TCM decoction Qingfei Paidu Soup has been recommended to medical institutions nationwide on Feb. 6 after data analysis on 214 cases. As of Feb. 29, the decoction is used in 66 designated hospitals in 10 provincial-level regions in China.

### -- ANTIVIRAL DRUGS UNDER TRIAL

Favipiravir, an influenza drug available on overseas markets, has been put in a parallel controlled study in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, with 80 patients enlisted. The initial outcome of the trial shows the drug has relatively obvious efficacy and low adverse reactions. Experts have suggested expanding the trial to further observe and study its effect. Remdesivir, developed against Ebola infections by American pharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences, has shown fairly good antiviral activity against the novel coronavirus at the cellular level. Cao Bin, a respiratory expert who is leading the Remdesivir program, said on Wednesday that two trials for Remdesivir are going on smoothly and China will share the data with the international community after the program is

### -- STEM CELL TRIAL

completed.

Clinical studies on stem cell therapy, which can inhibit the overreaction of the body's immune system, have also been carried out to treat severe patients.

As of Feb. 21, four patients who have received the therapy have been discharged from hospital, and the trial is expected to be further expanded. Currently, three kinds of stem cells - mesenchymal, lung and embryonic stem cells - are used in treatments. Researchers usually inject stem cell products into the lungs. Meanwhile, the Chinese Academy of Sciences has developed a new stem cell drug, CAStem, which has shown promising results in animal experiments. The research team has applied for urgent assessment by the National Medical Products Administration. Approvals by the ethics committee, and clinical observation and evaluation are in progress. Several research and trials on applying stem cells to treat COVID-19 patients have been carried out in the country.



A medical staff distributes traditional Chinese medicine to residents in Weinan City, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, Feb. 20, 2020. Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has been widely applied in treating the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) patients in China as it has proved effective in improving the cure rate. (Xinhua)

#### the global level, WHO Director-General testing cases and tracing their contacts have been confirmed and 25 patients have died,

What Chinese researchers discovered about COVID-19 **BEIJING** 

CHINESE researchers have been racing against time to formulate a detailed profile of the virus since the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. Here is a summary of the developments:

-- A research team said COVID-19 may have originated from bats. The genome sequencing of the novel coronavirus is as high as 96 percent identical with a type of coronavirus from bats, the team said, adding that the new coronavirus enters the receptor using the same cells with SARS virus.

people, indicating pangolins may be an intermediate host of the virus, a study led by South China Agricultural University has found.

-- The new virus is transmitted mainly through air droplets, but touching can spread the virus too, according to Chinese health au-

-- Renowned Chinese respiratory specialist Zhong Nanshan warned the public to keep their waste pipes unobstructed as the novel coronavirus may spread through drainage systems.

rated from pangolins was 99 per- vironment for a long time, while cent identical to that from infected the probability of aerosol trans-



Xie Wen from Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University conducts tests -- The novel coronavirus can be at the clinical laboratory of the Leishenshan (Thunder God Mountain) transmitted when someone was Hospital in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, March 4, 2020. The -- The metagenome sequence of exposed to high concentrations laboratory brought together medical personnel from different hospitals the novel coronavirus strain sepa- of aerosol in a relatively closed enfrom COVID-19 patients and provide diagnostic information for doctors.

mission in a normal working and living environment is extremely low, according to Chinese health authorities.

Chinese researchers have found that COVID-19 patients may have no fever or CT abnormality, according to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine Saturday.

Only 43.8 percent of the studied patients had fever when they were admitted to hospital, a contrast to 88.7 percent during hospitalization, it revealed.

The study also showed that the virus could be detected in some patients' gastrointestinal tract, saliva and urine, thus it advised that more hygiene protection be taken.

revenue model.

Xinhua

### Chinese farmers' livestream harvests to generate sales amid COVID-19 outbreak

FOR farmers, whose businesses are traditionally highly dependent on venues such as wholesale markets and shops with the hustling flow of customers, the ongoing closure of such gathering venues to reduce the risk of human-to-human transmission means their work resumption is not easy, thus affecting their income, which will further dampen the local poverty alleviation goals.

Farmers across the nation have spared no effort to overcome these unavoidable challenges, and livestreaming sales have emerged as one of their unique business models.

### Broken sales chain amid epi-

Traditionally, most agricultural products in China were sold through wholesalers. The products harvested by farmers and rural cooperatives would be collected by the wholesalers, before entering peddlers' and wholesale markets.

Thereafter, it will be channeled to the wet markets and supermarkets, and finally, land on consumers' baskets. However, following the transportation and road blockades, such a long sales chain stands snapped.

The family of Wang Linfen from Chengmai county in South China's Hainan Province has been growing sweet potatoes for generations. Most of the farmers in her town make a living by growing the vegetable.

In the past, the typical vegetable with good taste and rich in nutrition always generated sufficient sales.



Hua Zhilong, a farmer from Xuwen county in Zhanjiang, South China's Guangdong Province, sells pineapples via live streaming.

Speaking to the Global Times Wang said, the offline sales volume of the vegetables harvested in December could reach 200 tons per day during the past Spring Festivals.

However, only a bit more than 300 kilograms were the best sales on a single day this year due to the closure of the wholesale market, the most important part of the traditional circula-

According to Wang, her family owns a piece of land with an area of over 40 mu (2.67 hectares). Each mu can usually harvest about 2,000 kilograms of sweet

potatoes. About 75 percent of sweet potatoes grown by her family in the past were collected by wholesalers from across the country, and the rest 25 percent were sold on-

"Wholesalers have various sales channels that can help sale in big batches, so most of our sales rely on the wholesale markets, as the sales generated online targeting individual customers cannot match," Wang said.

But so far this year, almost all her income came from online sales.

Wang opened her online shops at e-commerce platforms such as Pinduoduo and Taobao three years ago.

Since the offline sales channels faced obstacles, she put more effort into online sales and started live streaming relentlessly.

At present, she spends at least two or three hours daily to promote her sweet potatoes through tunities through this alternative

sion held between February 10 and 12, she sold about 8.6 tons of sweet potatoes.

"Compared with simply selling products through online shops, the effect of livestreaming is better, since the customers can see the products with their eyes," said Wang noting as online sales and live streaming is the current trend, she wants to put greater focus on this aspect even after

#### Brand awareness promoted through livestreaming

While some farmers are striving to recover their economic losses through livestreaming, others discovered new oppor-

livestream every afternoon.

During a livestreaming ses-

the epidemic ends.

markets, promoting the sales of fruits through livestreaming allows the customers to see the real condition of the place of production, the quality of the products, and interact with the farmers directly, which further expand influence and promote brand awareness of the local pineapples," Weng Zhiquan, an e-commerce practitioner involved in the trade, bid data and industry of pineapples from Xuwen county in Zhanjiang, South China's Guangdong Province, told the Global Times.

"Compared with wholesale

Xuwen is one of the nation's largest pineapple production zones. According to Weng, around 48,000 farmers in his county cultivate about 350,000 mu areas for pineapples with annual production reaching 600,000 tons.

"Hit by the epidemic, the pricing of pineapples was negatively affected a while ago, even though the quality of the pineapples harvested this year is pretty good because of the good weather," Weng said. "But following the use of e-commerce platforms, the pricing of the pineapples is picking up.'

According to Weng, although local farmers have been selling their products through ecommerce platforms for years, online sales have been growing particularly fast this year due to the epidemic.

At present, the online sales volume exceeded the revenue garnered offline.

**Global Times** 

### Biden, Sanders seen to change campaign plans amid epidemic

**WASHINGTON** 

DEMOCRATIC presidential candidates Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders said on Monday they were consulting with public health experts about coronavirus risks in planning their next campaign moves, as election officials in upcoming primary states urged people to consider voting early.

Neither Sanders, a senator from Vermont, nor Biden, the former vice president, has called off a major rally because of the outbreak that has sickened more than 110,000 people and killed almost 4,000 globally, although public health officials have urged people at risk for contracting the disease to avoid large gatherings.

There have been 605 confirmed cases in the United States, with 22 deaths.

The winner of the Democratic nomination will take on Republican President Donald Trump in the Nov 3 general election. Trump has said he would not stop holding campaign ral-

"Every organization in America is taking a hard look at what the coronavirus means for their operations, and yes, that's true of our campaign, as well," Sanders told a coronavirus roundtable in Michigan, one of six states that vote on Tuesday in the next round of the state-by-state nominating competition.

"We do not hold a rally without first conferring with local public health of-

Biden told NBC on Monday he would consider calling off rallies if health authorities warned they were too risky

"I'm looking to the CDC for advice on that," Biden said, referring to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We're going to follow the recommendations of the experts ... and if they conclude that there shouldn't be big indoor rallies, then we'll stop big indoor rallies.'

At a rally in Detroit on Monday, Biden's campaign provided hand sanitizer to attendees and press.

A "Women for Trump" bus tour set to be led by the president's daughterin-law, Lara Trump, was canceled on Monday, because of scheduling issues, his campaign said. The New York Times reported that sources close to the campaign said the cancellation was spurred by concerns over the coronavirus.

Several of the states holding nominating contests in coming days have adopted measures aimed at protecting voters from contracting or spreading the virus.

Florida's government urged voters to consider voting early for its March 17 Democratic presidential nominating contest, and Arizona braced for the possibility of poll workers staying



In this Feb 25, 2020 file photo, Democratic presidential candidates Sen. Bernie Sanders (left), and former Vice President Joe Biden participate in a Democratic presidential primary debate at the Gaillard Center, in Charleston, S.C., co-hosted by CBS News and the Congressional Black Caucus Institute. (AP)

home that day.

In Michigan, which votes on Tuesday, officials told poll workers to step up plans to sanitize voting booths and other equipment. Washington state - the hardest-hit state in the country - caught a break because its Tuesday contest is vote-by-mail.

**CANCELLATIONS** 

have led officials to cancel events and conferences across the country, including a planned Saturday event by Democrats in Washington state.

Arizona officials are bracing for the possibility that poll workers will not show up on March 17 because of illness or fear. They are combing through a statewide volunteer database to identify potential replace-Fears of the spread of the virus ments if needed, according to the Arizona Department of State.

In Cook County, Illinois, which includes Chicago, officials are seeking the power to extend voting hours on March 17, reassign early voting locations and even change voting days, said Frank Herrera, a spokesman for the county clerk's office.

Florida, the nation's third mostpopulous state and home to a large population of elderly people, has 19 confirmed cases of the virus and has declared a state of emergency.

State voters who have symptoms can designate someone to pick up their absentee ballots up until Election Day, Laurel Lee, Florida's secretary of state, wrote on Twitter on Monday.

Florida authorities have emailed local election officials recommendations from the CDC on how to prepare polling places amid the spread of the virus. The recommendations include advising poll workers to stay home if they feel ill and steady cleaning of voting locations throughout the day.

READ MORE: Biden sets up 1-on-1 battle with Sanders after Super Tuesday wins

In Orlando, Florida, a forum for the presidential candidates that had been scheduled for Thursday was canceled because of coronavirus concerns, said Carolyn Bobb, a spokeswoman for the AFL-CIO.

Agencies

### Russia alters schedule of diplomatic contacts over coronavirus

**MOSCOW** 

RUSSIA has altered its schedule of diplomatic contacts over the novel coronavirus spread, Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in an interview with Rossiya-24 television channel

Countries are cancelling bilater-

al visits and changing their schedules of diplomatic contacts due to the virus spread, she noted.

"We are now working with this map of international events, adjusting, in particular, the Russian side's schedule of diplomatic contacts," the spokeswoman said.

The coronavirus situation has also affected the work of Rus-



sian diplomatic missions in some

sures, carrying out work with the economic and industrial megastaff, analyzing the local side's recommendations and correspondingly organizing the embassy activity," the diplomat pointed out.

On December 31, 2019, the Chinese authorities reported to the World Health Organization about an outbreak of pneumonia of unknown etiology in Wuhan, an lopolis with a population of 11 million.

The virus was identified on January 7 as 2019-nCoV. As of today, 103 countries and territories, including Russia, have reported confirmed coronavirus cases.

The World Health Organization declared the new coronavirus

outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, characterizing it as an epidemic with multiple locations. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated on February 11 that the organization gave the novel coronavirus an official name of COVID-19.

**Agencies** 



### Turkish top diplomat provides details of joint patrol mission with Russia in Idlib

**ANKARA** 

TURKISH Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has held a meeting with the Anadolu news agency's editors, providing them with information concerning the joint Turkish-Russian patrol mission in Syria's Idlib province.

"We would like a ceasefire to be declared in Syria and we continue efforts to ensure a permanent ceasefire. We will patrol areas north of the M4 highway and the Russians will carry out a patrol mission south of it.

A Russian delegation has arrived in Ankara to discuss what needs to be done to safely open the M4 highway for traffic," Cavusoglu (pictured)point-

Yesterday, Russia and Turkey are expected to begin consultations on the joint patrol mission set to kick off on March 15.

Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey agreed at their Moscow talks on March 5 y that a ceasefire would be declared in Idlib and a number of other measures would be taken to improve the situation in the Syrian province.

In addition, Russian and Turkish troops will launch joint patrols along the M4 highway, where a security corridor will be created.

Besides, Moscow and Ankara reaffirmed their commitment to preserving Syria's sovereignty and agreed to continue a determined fight against terrorism. Agencies

### Royal farewell: UK's Harry and Meghan bow out from official roles

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Top royals came ogether on Monday at Westminster Abbey in their last public family gathering before Prince Harry and his wife Meghan set off on a new career path devoid of official duties.

The annual Commonwealth Service was also the first time Harry and Meghan had been seen with Queen Elizabeth, his elder brother William and wife Kate, and father Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, since the couple thrashed out an exit deal from their royal roles in January.

Harry and Meghan smiled and she waved at William and Kate as they arrived at the abbey. The couple chatted and laughed with his uncle, Prince Edward, who was sitting next to them.

"I imagine everybody will be on absolutely best behavior," royal biographer Penny Junor told Reuters. "But goodness knows what they will all be thinking privately.'

The January agreement, which comes into force at the end of the month, will see the couple - the Duke and Duchess of Sussex - seek to carve out "a progressive new role", mainly in North America, that they aim to finance themselves.

Harry, 35, and Meghan, 38, will stop using their HRH titles - His or Her Royal Highness, will not



Britain's Harry and Meghan the Duke and Duchess of Sussex arrive to attend the annual Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey in London, on Monday. (AP)

use "royal" in their branding and Harry, who remains a prince, will relinquish his military titles.

Their announcement that they wished to step back from some royal duties sent shockwaves through the monarchy. It led to a crisis meeting involving the 93-year-old queen, her heir Charles, William and Harry that concluded he and Meghan would have to give up all their royal duties.

The couple have since spent most of their time in Canada, but returned this month for a farewell round of engagements. Their baby son Archie has remained in Canada.

Monday's event was their last

official royal appearance and came less than two years after they married in a dazzling ceremony watched by millions.

"Our hope was to continue serving the queen, the Commonwealth and my military associations without public funding. Sadly that wasn't possible," the prince, sixth-in-line to the throne, said in January.

### 'GIVING UP EVERYTHING'

Polls show Harry, whose mother was the late Princess Diana, is one of the most popular royals and the couple were greeted with a standing ovation at an event on Saturday.

Junor said his leaving would

be a huge loss for the family and the monarchy.

"I thought that he had absolutely embraced his destiny as a member of the royal family," she said. "He recognized what he could do with his position, the power he had to change things for good. I think he will miss that ability to make people's lives better."

However, Harry, who served in the army for 10 years, has never hidden his discomfort with his royal role and the attention of the media. He has spoken candidly about his mental health struggles following his mother's

He has also been angered by the treatment his American wife, a former actress, has received from some British tabloids. She has also said how difficult she found it.

Junor said Harry might find it difficult living in the United States and Canada away from his family, friends and former life.

"He is giving up everything he's known, a huge family that he's very close to, and his work, to go and live in Canada where he actually knows nobody and he has no job,"

Last weekend, Harry met the queen at Windsor Castle to discuss his future. A royal source confirmed a report in the Sun newspaper that the queen told Harry he would always be welcome to rejoin the royal fold. **Agencies** 

### Ghani sworn in as Afghan president for second term

**KABUL** 

INCUMBENT Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani was sworn in for a second five-year term on Monday, while his main election rival and government Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah also held a parallel presidential swearing-in ceremony.

Afghanistan's Chief Justice Sayed Yousuf Haleem administered Ghani's swearing-in ceremony at the fortified Presidential Palace.

"The election process has ended... today I call on every Afghan, men, women, child and vouth, particularly on political band that this government is yours," Ghani said in his speech after taking the

"The division time has passed, today is the day of juncture, and today is the day of unity," Ghani said.

The ceremony was attended by hundreds of Afghan and foreign guests including U.S. Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad, Commander of NATO's Resolute Support Mission and U.S. forces Gen. Austin Scott Miller and ambassadors from China, Saudi Arabia, India, France, Germany, Canada, Italy among peace process and resume dience.



At the same ceremony, Amrullah Saleh and Mohammad Sarwar Danish also took the oath of office as first and second vice president respectively.

Ghani issued the first presidential decree shortly after taking the oath, appointing Mohammad Yousuf Ghazanfar as the president's special envoy on development, economic, commercial and alleviation of poverty affairs.

The 71-year-old Ghani called on his political rivals to assist him in building a united and strong Afghanistan.

During his speech, Ghani also promised to continue the national reconciliation policy for achieving durable peace in the country and called on their normal life.

"There is a need for profound negotiations and talks with Taliban," he said.

"We will form a coalition for peace and unity that would be 10 times more powerful than the coalition of war against us. Our strength has always been in our unity," he said.

Ghani noted that he would

unveil the lineup of his government within two weeks that will be submitted to the parliament for approval. At the same time, govern-

ment Chief Executive Abdullah held a parallel oath taking ceremony in the nearby Sapedar Palace.

"Today I am the president, and the servant of all of you. Without any discrimination, I will be in the service of all Taliban militants to join the people," Abdullah told the au-**Agencies** 

### Venues for 2022 Winter Olympics resume construction amid epidemic

BEIJING is now making efforts to push ahead with venue construction for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in an orderly manner amid novel coronavirus pneumonia epidemic prevention and control.

Currently, 15 projects, including the National Speed Skating Oval, the National Aquatics Center, the National Alpine Skiing Center, the Yanqing Winter Olympic Village, and the Yanqing Mountain News Center have resumed construction to ensure timely completion.

Strong epidemic prevention and control measures are what come before the construction. Therefore, the three competition

zones for the Winter Olympics in Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou made a quick response after the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, requiring projects to implement close-off management at sites and ensure regular disinfection and close monitoring of workers' temperatures.

These sites are also requested to report information on a daily basis, enhance dormitory management, and offer meals in shifts.

At the construction site of the National Alpine Skiing Center, a 600-meter-long track has been completed. Alpine skiing events have a high requirement for tracks' surface hardness, so it



The landmark venue for the 2022 Winter Olympics - the National Speed Skating Oval, also known as the "Ice Ribbon", is capped, Dec. 31, 2019. Photo by People's Daily

calls for high precision in both making and compacting the

To make the snow track meet

standards, the project team had only two days off during the 7-day Chinese New Year holiday. They went back to the project

site in Xiaohaituo Mountain in Yanging, a district in northwest Beijing on the second day of the Chinese New Year.

The team had full concentration on and commitment to the project, and the data of temperature, solar illuminance and air velocity they collected will also serve future events to be held there.

At the Shougang Industrial Park in Beijing, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (BOCOG) has resumed work, and its staff are all wearing masks at the workplace.

Before entering the industrial park and the office buildings,

the staff have to have their body temperatures checked. In addition, the offices are disinfected and ventilated on a regular basis, and meals are delivered by the canteen to the staff to avoid cross-infection.

At present, the organizing committee's external liaison and work deployment rely on telephone and video conferences.

On Feb. 17, the BOCOG held a video conference with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on the preparations for 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

Zhang Jiandong, vice mayor of Beijing and executive vice president of the BOCOG, said

that this video conference reflected the understanding and support from the IOC when the Chinese people are fighting against the novel coronavirus epidemic.

At the conference, IOC vice president Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr. praised the decisive and efficient measures China has taken to combat the epidemic. He said the IOC will stand firmly with the BOCOG in the epidemic.

"We are very, very proud of (China's) proficiency and dedication," said Samaranch Jr., extending his confidence in China's victory over the epi-People's Daily demic.

### **Guardian**



Zanzibar resident, Feruzi Khatib Omar(R), who emerged as last week's SportPesa Jackpot Bonus winner, is presented with 21,167,335/- dummy cheque by SportPesa's Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, at the betting firm's office recently. Feruzi placed right bets on 10, 11 and 12 matches to lay his hands on the cash prize. PHOTO; CORRESPONDENT

### **Tentacles of Olympic** cancellation would reach around globe

THE tentacles of canceling the Tokyo Olympics – or postponing or staging it in empty venues - would reach into every corner of the globe, much like the spreading virus that now imperils the opening ceremony on July 24.

The International Olympic Committee and local organizers say the games are on, but the clock is ticking.

The fate of the Tokyo Games touches 11,000 Olympic and 4,400 Paralympic athletes, coaches and sports officials, local organizers, the Japanese government and national morale, international broadcasters, fans, and world sponsors. Add to this hotels, airlines, and taxi drivers – and even 80,000 unpaid volunteers who will miss a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Olympics being canceled, and I think that in perpetuity." would stink," J'den Cox, a two-time world champion wrestler and an Olympic bronze medalist in Rio de Janeiro, told Associated Press. "It would probably break everybody's heart if that were to happen."

The Olympic brand could be damaged, although the Switzerland-based International Olympic Committee may be among the least affected parties financially if the games are called off. The IOC has been resolute in its message, although it has a several-month window to decide.

"Hard to imagine this will be defined by the end of May, but it could be," Dr. Ali Khan. an epidemiologist and dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska, told Associated Press in an email. "Regardless, numerous sick athletes could not lead to a very interesting games."

"From what we know from numerous other mass-gathering events including sporting events, it is very easy to spread diseases worldwide from such events from meningitis to Zika," Khan added. "Besides welcoming athletes and spectators with their tiny microbes, there is and may be ongoing disease in Japan."

Kazuhiro Tateda, an expert on infectious diseases and a member of a Japanese government panel, said the virus may not die out quickly.

"Unlike the flu that disappears with warmer weather, the response to the new coronavirus, I think, will have to continue for half a year or a year," Tateda told Japanese broadcaster NHK on Tuesday.

The IOC has ample financial safeguards against cancellation, which has happened only in wartime since the modern Olympics began in 1896. Its latest annual report shows it has almost \$2 billion in reserve that could cover running costs until the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.

The IOC's annual reports show it paid almost \$14.4 million in an insurance premium to protect against canceling the 2016 Rio Olympics and \$12.8 million for a policy to cover the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

IOC President Thomas Bach was asked last week after an executive board meeting if the insurance premium has risen to as much as \$20 million for a Tokyo policy.

"I don't know," he replied. "It wasn't dis-

cussed at this EB.'

Wolfgang Maennig an Olympic rowing gold medalist who teaches sports economics at Hamburg University, suggested the losses will be shared.

"Insurance companies will have to pay a large amount of the losses of the IOC, Maennig said in an email to AP. "The rest will have to be borne by the IOC."

The IOC controls the Olympics and has wide latitude to act. Its protection is spelled out in the 81-page Host City Contract, signed in 2013 with the city of Tokyo, and the Japanese Olympic Committee.

The preamble to the contact states: "the Olympic Games are the exclusive property of the IOC which owns all rights ... to their organization, staging, exploitation, broadcasting, recording, representation, reproduction ... whether now existing or devel-"I've heard things about possibly the oped in the future, throughout the world

> The contract also specifies that the IOC can terminate and withdraw from the city because of a "state of war, civil disorder, or boycott ... of if the IOC has reasonable grounds to believe, in its sole discretion, that the safety of participants in the games would be seriously threatened or jeopardized for any reason whatsoever.'

Victor Matheson, a sports economist at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, said athletes are the most vulnerable. The Olympics feature 33 sports, and many of the smaller ones have a limited following until games time.

"For athletes, their career length isn't long and in many sports success in the Olympics is your one shot at a financial returns," Matheson told AP.

Matheson said that losses by hotels and other service businesses are unlikely to be insured, The billions on government spending on venues looks like a risky investment. The loss of the Olympics would negate the difficult-to-calculate goodwill that Japan and Tokyo might have won.

An Irish bookmaker is showing odds leaning slightly toward the Olympics not going forward. Odds are 4-6 it will not open on July 24 in Tokyo, and even that it will.

Tokyo is officially spending \$12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, although a national government audit office says it's at least twice that much. The local organizing committee budget of \$5.6 billion is private money, with the rest coming from Japanese taxpayers. About \$1 billion in the local operating budget is to come from ticket sales, which would be lost if the games go ahead without fans in empty stadiums.

"Some combination of the IOC, the broadcasters, and the insurers will lose big," Matheson said. "That loss is coming out of someone's pocket depending on how all of the contracts are written."

Andrew Zimbalist, who teaches economics at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, said some of the venues, such as the \$1.43 billion national stadium, would have "enduring value."

"But virtually none of it would have made the list of the priority public investments," he said in an email to AP, adding that if the games were canceled, much of the investment would be "wasted." **AP** 

## The Magic of Inspiration

sports, the inimitable magic of inspiration has through the years proven to be a spectacularly trans-formative power that enables feats out of the ordinary to be achieved. For instance, the Locus Classicus of inspiration's unfailingly uplifting power can be seen in the ex- football icon now-turnedpresident George Weah and the laudable as well as lasting impact that the Liberian had on continen-

tal football. Indeed, prior to 1995, the notion of any African football star being deemed good enough to win coveted accolades like the European player of the year and world player of the year would be considered laughable at best.

However, in 1995 A.D, the world of football was to receive such a tremendous shock whose impact was so far-reaching to the extent that it immeasurably upped the stock of African football exports who were plying their trade over-

For in 1995, the unthinkable, the hitherto impossible and the dream that all African football mirabilis in the lore of continenplayers dared not dream actually came true.

Against all the odds, George Weah's star shone so brightly that it not only put his rivals in the shade but come the end of the season, the Liberian was the deserving recipient of a cherished trio of awards, which were namely the World player of the Year, European player of the Year and befittingly the African player of the Year as well.

Needless to say, it was an indescribably stupendous achievement.

In the wake of Weah's retirement from the sport, it is highly doubtful whether the likes of Samuel Eto'o and Didier Drogba among others would have been magic of inspiration in the sportable to perform so self-assuredly



Tanzania's amateur boxers trade punches in a past national championship, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

and quintessentially on the grand European stage had they not drawn inspiration and hope from the bedazzling exploits of George Weah in that memorable year of 1995, which will forever be recalled as a bona fide annus tal football.

It seems then that the aforesaid example is a crystal clear case which vividly illuminates the transcendent magic of inspiration.

The good news though is that there are seemingly countless examples where African sportsmen have acquired a 'can-do' mentality and gleaned encouragement from the illustrious showings of heroic sportsmen and sportswomen who practically ruled the roost in their respective sporting disciplines in years gone by.

In fact, we have an excellent example which clearly illustrates the near-unstoppable ing realm right here in our own Simbu has rarely spoken of how

neck of the woods.

Indeed, in the mid-1970s, a then distinctly unheralded Tanzanian athlete Filbert Bayi was most likely steeling himself mentally for the herculean challenge ahead as he stood in his lane awaiting the start of the 1, 500 meters final at the Commonwealth Games.

Of course, virtually every Tanzanian knows exactly what happened next once the starting gun for the final to begin had been fired.

In a sterling display that would assure him of immortality in Tanzanian sports history, Filbert Bayi would not only go on to impressively win the gold medal but he would set a new Commonwealth Games record for the 1, 500 meters to boot.

Bayi's extraordinary display would come to be regarded as one of our distinctly exemplary moments in sports for us as a country on the world stage.

And even though Alphonce

the likes of Suleiman Nyambui and Filbert Bayi have inspired him, few would dispute the contention that both sporting greats were uppermost in his mind as he sped down the home stretch to eventually cross the finish line and win the bronze medal in the men's marathon at the 2017 World Athletics Championship in London.

Indeed, Simbu's bronze medal holds such immense significance for our domestic sporting patch as it marks only the second time that Tanzania has won a medal in the history of the elite athletics championships.

Thus, having established the centrality of inspiration to the achievement of wondrous sporting feats, let us hope then that the Taifa Stars and their fellow sportsmen can find some inspiration of their own as they go bidding for glory in the upcoming CHAN finals and other sporting championships of note such as the Olympic Games for example.



Dar es Salaam's Ilala Municipal Mayor, Omary Kumbilamoto (in blue tracksuit), leads Vingunguti Ward's youth jogging clubs in fitness training session, which took place in the city on Sunday. Kumbilamoto congratulated the youths for their willingness to cooperate with authorities to solve the ward's problems. PHOTO; JOSEPH

### Murray scores 21 as Nuggets beat short-handed Bucks 109-95

JAMAL Murray led the Nuggets with 21 points but it was a basket of his that didn't count that really ignited Denver's 109-95 win over the short-handed Milwaukee Bucks.

Murray soared for a thunderous slam dunk over D.J. Wilson with 9.8 seconds left in the third quarter and Denver clinging to a 74-71 lead Monday night. Wilson jumped in an attempt to prevent the jam and was pulverized on the play, staggering out of bounds.

"It was crazy," Nuggets teammate Jerami Grant said. "I didn't think he had it in him. Obviously, he does. We've seen it."

Tweet! came the whistle. But instead of and-one, it was no way!

waved off and a charge called on Murray instead of a foul on Wil-

The crowd was incredulous, the Nuggets furious, but coach Michael Malone didn't challenge the call. (He mistakenly said after the game he had already used his challenge).

"It definitely wasn't a foul," Murray said. "But yeah, I wanted to just drive, and I felt like I had a step, so I just took off."

Although the whistle went the other way, the play sparked Denver to a season sweep of the NBAleading Bucks (53-12), who were without their top six scorers – including reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo (knee).

"The crowd was phenomenal. After that, the crowd was into it steal, rebound, block, bucket," Murray said. "Once we got them going, they got us going.'

The third quarter ended with Mason Plumlee's fast-break layup for a 76-71 Denver lead after Monte Morris blocked Frank Mason III's pull-up 3 from behind.

Then, the Nuggets pulled away with a 33-24 fourth quarter as Nikola Jokic, who took just two shots in the first half, finally found his rhythm and scored eight of his 10 points, including a 3-pointer that snapped an 0-for-

13 skid from beyond the arc. Paul Millsap added 20 points and Grant scored 19 as the Nuggets sent the Bucks to their third straight loss and fourth in five

Kyle Korver had 23 points to

The biggest of baskets was every single play, every single lead a big effort by the Bucks' backups, but Milwaukee sorely missed all that firepower during a fourth consecutive road defeat.

"At the warmup and certain guys weren't warming up, I was like, 'You playing tonight?' 'Nope, I don't think so.' Different guys are banged up - we're at that time of year," Korver said. "We've got a good home stretch coming up here and we want to get right. Guys have nicks and knacks and you take care of it. We've got some important games coming up so it was definitely the right call."

And the Nuggets thought Murray's waved-off basket was definitely the wrong call, albeit one that sparked them even more than any of his 21 points that did

AP

### Star Ronaldinho 'in good spirits', say prison warden

FORMER Brazil and Barcelona player Ronaldinho is adapting quickly to life in a Paraguayan jail, the head of the facility told Reuters on Monday, but his lawyers are hopeful he may soon be released into house arrest while the investigation continues.

"In broad terms he is doing very well," prison warden Blas Vera told Reuters in a telephone interview. "I see he is in good spirits, just like you see him on television, always smiling."

Vera said that Ronaldinho and his brother Roberto Assis, who were arrested on Friday for using a false Paraguayan passport, would present their case to a judge on Tuesday.

Their lawyer Sergio Queiroz told Reuters they had asked a court to release them into house arrest and offered guarantees they were not a flight risk

Vera said the 39-year old former AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain forward and his brother had beds, a television and a fan in their cell at the prison on the outskirts of the capital Asuncion.

The brothers use a communal bathroom and have the right to use the outdoor patio on a regular basis.

The pair's lawyers have provided them with meals and they have not eaten the food offered by the jail.

The maximum security facility has around 195 detainees, including

politicians and police officers accused of corruption as well as major drug traffickers.

The more dangerous prisoners are housed in a different wing to Ronaldinho, Vera said, adding that he was working to ensure the pair's stay is "as comfortable as possible."

Carlos Gamarra, the former captain of Paraguay's national team who also played for several Brazilian clubs, visited Ronaldinho with a group of ex-players in jail on Sunday.

Vera said others who were at the regular Sunday visiting time befriended the Brazilian.

"There was also a group of boys and girls and he welcomed them, gave them hugs and chatted with them," he said.

Ronaldinho, who was last year named a tourist ambassador by Brazil's far-right government, arrived in Paraguay on Wednesday, invited to the landlocked South American nation by a local casino

Although he last played professionally in 2015, Ronaldinho, who also represented Brazilian clubs Atletico Mineiro, Flamengo and Fluminense, is still hugely popular with global football fans and advertisers.

He won the World Cup with Brazil in 2002 and the Champions League with Barcelona in 2006. He was also named FIFA world player of the year in 2004 and 2005.

### Imperfect Liverpool offer Atletico hope

LIVERPOOL

IVERPOOL's 2-1 victory over Bournemouth on Saturday was met with an unusual sense relief around Anfield for a side that had just clinched a 22nd consecutive home league win and moved 25 points clear at the top of the Premier League.

Such has been the Reds' relentless run towards a first league title in 30 years that three defeats in three different competitions in four games was considered a slump in form.

A 3-0 reverse at Watford deprived Jurgen Klopp's men the chance to match Arsenal's "invincible" unbeaten league season and a FA Cup exit at the hands of Chelsea means they cannot replicate Manchester United's treble of 1998/99.

However, the most damaging of the trio of defeats could still prove to be the 1-0 deficit they must overturn when Atletico Madrid travel to Anfield for the second leg of their Champions League last 16 tie on Wednesday.

"It's a long season and you see how many games we've played. In any sport you play it's impossible to be at your highest level all year, year in and year out," said James Milner, who produced a stunning goal-line clearance to secure victory against Bournemouth.

"You try your best and it just doesn't happen, and that's when you need to find a way to win.'

When at their best, Liverpool have shown they are more than capable of second leg fightbacks at home. Most

Georginio Wijnaldum scored twice when Liverpool beat Barcelona 4-0 last season in one of many famous European nights at Anfield (AFP Photo)

spectacularly when Barcelona were humbled 4-0 in last season's semi-final despite holding a 3-0 first leg lead.

However, there are cracks in the English champions-elect's armoury that Atletico can expose.

After keeping 10 clean sheets in 11 league games between early December mid-February, and Liverpool have conceded in each of their last five games.

The loss of goalkeeper Alisson Becker to a hip injury is a massive blow Firmino is also a worry for European game at home

with his erratic understudy Adrian at fault for the opening goal

Jordan Henderson's presence in midfield has also been badly missed after he limped off with a hamstring injury in the first leg against Atletico and could be rushed back to face the Spaniards.

Chelsea last week.

Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane again carried the goalscoring burden to turn the game around against Bournemouth, but the form of Roberto

The Brazilian's all-round game makes him the perfect foil for the Salah and Mane to come off the wings and get the goals, but Firmino has been out of sorts in recent weeks and still has not scored at Anfield all season.

No closed disruption -

Liverpool can at least rely on a vociferous home support that makes Anfield such a fortress on European nights.

Klopp has never lost a

since taking charge of Liverpool in 2015 and has reached three finals in that

"Our people will be ready. Welcome to Anfield! It's not over yet," warned the German after the first

Unlike matches in Italy, France and Spain there has been no order for games to be played behind closed doors in the United Kingdom to halt the spread of coronavirus.

Paris Saint-Germain will host Borussia Dortmund in front of an empty stadium on Wednesday as will Juventus if the second leg of their tie against Lyon next week even goes ahead.

With PSG, Juve and Real Madrid trailing from their first legs and Barcelona a shadow of their former selves, the competition could open up again for Liverpool if they can break Atletico's resistence.

"It's down to us to turn around a tough result," added Milner.

"We know how good they are, we know how well organised they are but hopefully we can push them all the way and overturn that and have another special night at

### Oldest footballer in the world scores goal in debut match

'Military training' as China's footballers

ordered to stay trim, beat virus

A 74-year-old grandfather became the oldest footballer in the world to score a goal in an official match when he netted on his debut for an Egyptian third tier side on Saturday.

Ezzeldin Bahader is seeking recognition as the world's oldest professional footballer, and he can meet the Guinness World Records criteria of playing two official fulllength matches when his club take Group Five fixture.

The record is currently held by Israeli goalkeeper Isaak Hayik, who represented FC Ironi Or Yehuda in April 2019 at 73, although this achievement would be eclipsed by Bahader, who was born on Nov. 3,

The attacking midfielder, who first played football on the streets of Cairo as a six-year-old, scored a penalty for his team this weekend

CHINESE football clubs and

national teams must undertake

"spring military training" to defeat

the coronavirus and help fulfil

President Xi Jinping's dream of

making the country a force in the

Matches in China are indefinitely

suspended over the outbreak but

the football association has issued

detailed orders, telling clubs how

long players must train each week,

what exercises they must do and

The strict instructions, the

latest in a series handed down by

the Chinese Football Association

(CFA) in recent years, are likely to

be met with surprise by coaches

such as Rafael Benitez and Fabio

Cannavaro with a background in

But Cannavaro, at Chinese

Super League (CSL) champions

Guangzhou Evergrande, and

Benitez at Dalian Pro are among the

coaches who will be held directly

responsible for incorporating the

training regime into their pre-

The order was made on Friday,

and clubs had until Tuesday to tell

the CFA how they would adhere

to it. They will also face random

inspections to make sure they're

following the instructions.

even how slim they must be.

sport, officials said.

European football.

season programmes.

as he captained his new club to a 1-1 draw, having worked with a personal trainer to achieve match fitness.

In January, grandfather of six Bahader was registered as a professional player with the Egyptian Football Association, having spent his working career as a civil engineering consultant and then a land cultivation expert before retiring.

"I became the oldest professional to the field on Match 21 in their next footballer scoring a goal in an official game," the veteran told BBC Sport following his debut.

"This is something that was achieved in the last minute of the game that I thought I wouldn't achieve.

"I was injured and all what I hoped for was to continue for the full 90 minutes and play the next

The CFA said the training was

designed to help realise Xi's grand

plans, launched in 2016, to make

At the same time, players must also do their bit to fight the deadly

coronavirus, which emerged in

central China in December and has

"Achieve epidemic prevention

and control on one hand, and focus

on training and battle preparations

"Both hands must be strong and

"Men's and women's national

The results of the surprise checks

will be made public and clubs will

be ranked to shame underachievers

is the direct responsible person,"

said the CFA, in a nod to the likes

of Italian World Cup winner

Cannavaro and Benitez, who led

Liverpool to the 2005 Champions

The order goes into extraordinary

detail, saying teams must train for

at least 16 hours a week and meet

targets in tests that include squats,

bench presses and vertical jumps.

"The head coach of each team

teams and professional football

clubs are requested to strictly

follow the notice," the CFA added.

since spread across the world.

'Battle preparations'

on the other," the CFA said.

both battles must be won.'

into action.

League title.

China a major footballing nation.

(Agencies)

#### Mourinho's greatest takedowns, from Luke Shaw to Sergio Ramos happened," Mourinho pion. At this moment, I am

BY CHRIS WRIGHT, ESPN TOE POKE WRITER

JOSE Mourinho isn't shy of digging into his players, so it seemed the right time to run down some of his greatest

With Tottenham once again faltering at the weekend in a 1-1 draw with Burnley, Mourinho decided to delve into his big bag of scapegoats and find a new name on which to pin the blame. This time, €62m record signing Tan-

guy Ndombele was the fall guy locked in Mourinho's scathing cross-hairs, with the Spurs boss openly lambasting the midfielder's lack of commitment during his postmatch interview. Ndombele was hauled off at half-time

with Mourinho questioning how many more chances Spurs' record signing would be given to impress after seeing his form bottom out in recent weeks.

"He's a player with a great talent, and he has to know he has to do much better," Mourinho grumbled after the match. "Many times our midfield players were hiding. I cannot keep giving him opportunities to play because the team is more important than the players."

Of course, this isn't the first time Mourinho has openly pinned personal blame on his own players (and/or staff members) in front of a large global au-

**Luke Shaw** Luke Shaw bore the brunt of

Mourinho's ire for the majority of his tenure at Manchester United, with the Portuguese regularly tearing strips off his left-back.

Things famously came to a bit of a head when Mourinho took it upon himself to run up and down the touchline with Shaw -- who had just recently returned from injury -- during a game against Everton in 2017, yelling basic positional instructions at his defender and then taking credit for his performance after the game.

"He [Shaw] was in front of me and I was making every decision for him. He has to change his football brain," Mourinho said. "We need his fantastic physical and technical qualities, but he cannot continue to play with my brain.'

Marcus Rashford and Anthony

After United suffered an embarrassing 1-0 defeat against Brighton at the tail end of the 2017-18 season, Mourinho decided the fault lay at the feet of the two strikers he selected to lead the line.

With Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez unavailable, Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial stepped into the breach -- though they probably wished



Jose Mourinho dared to cross Sergio Ramos at the

they hadn't come the end of the game, after struggling to make any impact between them.

"It was not good enough," Mourinho scowled. "The players who replaced others did not perform at a good level and, when individuals do that, it is difficult for the team to play well."

"Maybe now you will not ask me why A, B and C do not play so much. People always ask: 'Why always Lukaku?' Well, now they know why always Lukaku."

Henrikh Mkhitaryan

Despite his obvious talent, Henrikh Mkhitaryan was a fairly peripheral figure at United under Mourinho, with the latter accusing the former of going missing during games.

After dropping the Armenian forward from the matchday squad for two consecutive games in late 2017, Mourinho gave his explanation in a news con-

"Mkhi started the season very well and after that step by step he was disappearing," he said. "His performance levels in terms of goal scoring and assists, high pressing, recovering the ball high up the pitch, bringing the team with him as a No. 10, were all decreasing step by step. That was enough [to drop him] because the others worked to have a chance."

Sergio Ramos

Even the erstwhile Real Madrid captain, Sergio Ramos, wasn't immune from Mourinho's wrath during his rocky stint in charge at the Bernabeu.

In the wake of a 1-1 draw against Manchester United in the Champions League round of 16, Mourinho directly singled out Ramos as the man at fault for Danny Welbeck's opening goal after letting his man slip free from a corner. "If you see it on the tele-

vision, you can see what

complained. "We train, we organise ourselves, we give each player a job, we watch videos of the opponent to know their strong points at dead balls.

"But when you lose your individual battle, organisation does not matter. They scored in their first attack, and the game changed."

Eden Hazard and Cesc two days later.

In one of the most acidic beratings of his career, Mourinho mercilessly gouged out most of his big-named Chelsea players after overseeing a truly wretched start to the 2015-16 season.

Having lifted the Premier League title as champions only months beforehand, the Blues were down, flailing from defeat to defeat and mired at the foot of the table.

Indeed, another "shock" defeat against Leicester City saw Mourinho launch into an angry rebuke of his so-called "superstars."

The Portuguese began by claiming he was being "betrayed" by his players before aiming a barrage of thinly veiled slights in their direction.

"They have to look to Sunderland and Watford and say, 'hey, we are at the same level now," Mourinho barked. "I am not the superstar, I am not the player of the season, I am not the world champion, I am not the Premier League chamat your level." Names were not explic-

itly used, but it's fairly simple to ascertain exactly who was in the firing line, given Eden Hazard was Chelsea's player of the season and that Cesc Fabregas and Pedro were the only two world champions in

Mourinho was sacked **Ball boys** 

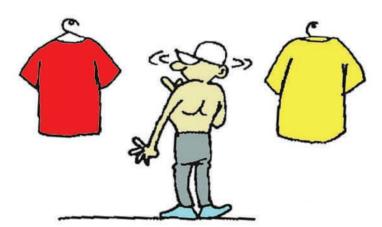
It's not just his players who run the risk of a Mourinho tongue-lashing, with the poor ball boys at Old Trafford finding out the hard way that they too were not immune.

With Manchester United's home form stuttering in early 2018, Mourinho reportedly decided it was the speed at which his ball boys were returning balls that was the key reason for his side's malaise.

Mourinho axed ball boys who were too slow at returning the ball to the pitch after a 2-0 win over Hull in the EFL Cup semifinals in January 2017. He drafted in youngsters from United's under-16s for a 1-1 draw with Liverpool after that.

This wasn't the first time that Mourinho has taken umbrage with ball boys either, with the Portuguese marching down the touchline to reprimand a kid while his Chelsea side trailed against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park in 2014.

### by David Chikoko



## Guardian www.ippmedia.com

### **Imperfect Liverpool offer Atletico hope**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



### By Correspondent Michael **Mwebe** IMBA SC will look

to bounce back to winning form in the Vodacom Premier League when they host Singida United at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam today, with kick-off slated for 1600.

The league's defending champions suffered a derby defeat against Young Africans SC (Yanga) at the same venue on Sunday.

Simba had consequently ended a run, which had seen them claim five straight wins to move 17 points clear at the top of the table.

Vandenbroeck charges will be confident of getting a result against a Singida United side that

has yet to claim victory in 11 In head-to-head stats, Simba matches and are rooted to the and Singida United have met in five league matches since the Having suffered his second 2016/17 season.

Simba SC looks to bounce back

against Singida United

Simba, nicknamed 'Msimbazi Reds', have claimed five wins and scored 11 goals in the games.

When the teams met earlier this season, in Arusha in October 2019, Simba registered a 1-0

Meanwhile, Alliance FC who lost 1-0 on the road against Azam FC last week take on Polisi Tanzania.

Simba striker, John Bocco (R), dribbles past Singida United defenders, Rajab Zahir (C) and Salum Kipaga, in a recent Mainland Premier League clash, which took

Alliance FC will be out to avoid a fourth successive loss that will increase their relegation fears.

With 10 matches to the end of the campaign, Alliance FC find themselves in the relegation play off spot.

They will need to be at their best to beat Polisi Tanzania who are coached by Malale Hamsini.

goals and two assists, has been high flying Namungo FC. the one consistent star for

Alliance FC this season.

They will need the 21-year old striker to continue at that level for them to avoid relegation.

Hamsini's side are sitting comfortably in sixth position on the table, only seven points away from a top-four place.

They have not won their last two league outings, having lost to Mwadui FC and most recently David Richard, who has seven settled for a barren draw with

### Simba will not underrate Singida United, says coach

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League leaders, Simba SC, have said they will treat this afternoon's game against Singinda United, to be played at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam, with care.

Simba's head coach Sven Vandernbroeck said his players will play their hearts out in this afternoon encounter knowing that at this stage of the league any team is playing to win points.

He said although Singida United are anchoring the league table, he has told his charges not to underrate the visitors and approach the game like a

"We are well prepared for the game against Singida United, after our 1-0 defeat to Yanga our focus shifted to this game," he disclosed.

"I know our opponents are anchoring the league table, but that does not mean they are pushovers,"

Today's game promises to be more entertaining as both Simba and Singida United had experienced disappointment in their respective last weekend

Simba lost 1-0 to Yanga, while Singida United conceded 2-1 loss to JKT Tanzania.

Singida United are anchoring the 20-team league table with 12 points from 27 games.

They know that their chances of remaining in the league will be very slim should they lose today's en-

Mathematically, the team still have a chance to remain on the league, but practically it looks impossible as Singida's performance on the pitch has not been not that good.

However, the squad's head coach, Ramadhan Nsanzurwimo, said they will play today's game with the aim of collecting maximum points.

He said his players know the importance of winning today against league leaders Simba.

The Burundian tactician said he is confident his team will get good results today as his charges have been playing well.

"My team is always playing well, the only problem is that we are not winning games," he pointed out. "The boys know the importance of winning this game, we are working very hard so as to remain in

the league," he said. He said his team is made up of experienced players who can raise at any occasion and today, he is banking on them.



place in Dar es Salaam.

bottom of the table.

the title.

loss in the league, the 40-year-

old Belgian tactician wants

victory over the visitors to

restore confidence in his camp

and take another step towards

focus to ensure we do well in

our next games to fulfil our title

ambitions," he disclosed.

"We need to regroup and

### Stars provisional squad for AFCON Qualifiers unveiled

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

team 'Taifa Stars' head coach Etienne Ndayiragije has unveiled a provisional 35-member squad for camp ahead of the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) Qualifiers' clash with Tunisia, slated for March 30.

Information released by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) yesterday said the team will go into camp on Thursday at a place to be announced

The released squad is mostly made up of regular senior national team players with a few new players.

South-Africa based defender Abdi Banda has been recalled to the team after having been excluded from the side for many months.

Notable missing player is veteran keeper Juma Kaseja who has of late not been enjoying much time at his outfit,

The federation did not indicate if the team will play any international friendly match before facing Tunisia.

Taifa Stars are in Group J of the qualifiers for the 2021 AFCON finals, to be hosted by Cameroon, with the group also consisting of Tunisia, Equatorial

Taifa Stars are placed third in the TANZANIA's senior national soccer group, having collected three points from two games.

> They kicked off their campaign impressively, cruising to 2-1 victory over Equatorial Guinea in Dar es Salaam in November last year.

> They later on conceded 2-1 loss to Libya in the second match of the qualifiers in Tunisia the same month.

Players making Taifa Stars' provisional squad include keepers David Kissu, Metacha Mnata, Aishi Manula, and Salum Salula.

Defenders are Shomari Kapombe, Juma Abdul, Kelvin Kijiri, Mohamed Hussein, Nickson Kibabage, David Bryson and Bakari Nondo.

Others are defenders Aggrey Morris, Kelvin Yondani, Dickson Job, Erasto Nvoni and Said Makapu.

Midfielders include Abdi Banda, Jonas Mkude, Himid Mao, Bryson Raphael, Mapinduzi Balama, Salum Abubakar, Hassan Dilunga, and Faisal Salum.

Also in the squad are forwards Reliant Lusajo, Ayoub Lyanga, Ditram Nchimbi, John Bocco, Lucas Kikoti, Shabaan Chilunda, Farid Mussa, Simon Msuva, Sixtus Sabilo, Idd Selemani and skipper Mbwana Samatta.

### Flexibles by David Chikoko

