



National Pg 4 MPs for faster building of health facilities



National Pg 5 National ports master plan revision



National Pg 6 Voter education set to start in August



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured yesterday consoling Hai legislator Freeman Mbowe, national chairman of the opposition Chadema, who is admitted to Dodoma city's Ntyuka Hospital after being attacked by assailants yet to be identified. Photo: PMO

Police out for Mbowe assailants, states RPC

● Dodoma is safe, Speaker Ndugai tells opposition MPs

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

POLICE in Dodoma have launched a hunt for people who attacked Freeman Mbowe the leader of the opposition in Parliament and Chadema national chairman.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, Regional Police Commander Gilles Muroto said no arrests have been made so far in connection

with the attack.

However, he cautioned the public from linking the attack with political issues, saying the police treat it as any other crime. The police will not rest until the attackers are brought to book, he stated.

He said politicizing the attack can lead to chaos, he said, highlighting the fact that the incident occurred just after midnight on Monday, at

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Global output to shrink by 5.2pc

WASHINGTON, DC

THE global economy will shrink by 5.2 percent this year, the deepest recession since the Second World War, according to the World Bank June 2020 global economic forecasts.

The shutdown measures to contain the Covid-19 pandemic will also lead into

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EACJ delivers Media Act ruling, govt fails

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzanian government was yesterday left with no option but to implement the judgment of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) handed out against the enactment of the Media Services Act of 2016.

Advocate Fulgence Massawe for the applicants said yesterday that the case filed by the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) and Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) is now sealed after the EACJ Appellate Division struck out a notice of appeal by the government against the judgment

of the First Division of EACJ delivered on March 28, 2019.

The three organisations successfully challenged the media law as contravening protocols of East African Cooperation and stymied freedom of expression.

Reading the ruling of the Appellate Division of the EACJ yesterday on behalf four other justices on the panel, Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire said the government's notice of appeal had been thrown out with costs.

The court concurred with the arguments raised by the applicants that the respondent, the government had not formerly appealed within the specified

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Internet access fund grants TTCL 150bn/-

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) and the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL) yesterday signed a 150bn/- project agreement for the improvement of communication services in rural areas.

The project which is in its fifth-phase will run for nine months and is in line with the National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policy of 2016 which recognizes the sector as central to competitive social and

economic transformation.

The policy was formulated within the context of national vision statements guided by the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, UCSAF Director General Justina Mashiba said the 5th phase of the project will benefit 35 wards in various rural regions.

"About 302 projects to improve communication in rural areas are being carried out countrywide, and we believe that by late 2021 all villages in the

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

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

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)

STOP PRESS

Burundi's outgoing President Pierre Nkurunziza dies of heart attack

BUJUMBURA

Burundi's outgoing President Pierre Nkurunziza has died of a heart attack in a hospital in east-central Burundi, said a government statement issued here yesterday.

Nkurunziza felt discomfort since the night of June 6 and was taken to a hospital in Karusi Province, the statement said, adding that his health condition improved on Sunday but surprisingly changed later and died at the age of 55.

Nkurunziza was elected the president of Burundi by the parliament in 2005, and was re-elected in 2010 and in 2015.

AGENCIES



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Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein hosts a visiting Tanzania Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance delegation led by commission chairman Judge (retired) Mathew Paua Mhina (2nd-R) in 'familiarisation' talks at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Advertise tourism sites, TTB tells Asia envoys

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN envoys in Asia and Australian zones have been tasked to effectively advertise tourism sites as the country's tourism sector recovers from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a virtual meeting with the diplomats yesterday, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) chairman Judge (rt) Thomas Mihayo assigned the ambassadors to make sure Tanzania remains well-known globally including in the two specific regions.

Judge Mihayo affirmed that the government has reopened tourism activities and will continue offering such services while taking precautionary measures against spreading the novel coronavirus.

Following reopening of tourism activities, the government lifted the ban on international passenger flights,

allowing foreign tourists to come into the country.

However, the visitors will require medical proof on their Covid-19 status, as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for air travel and hotels as part of precautions against the virus spreading.

SOPs require players in the sector like tour guides, service providers and airport attendants to undergo regular Covid-19 tests to ensure that visitors are attended by non-infected staff and agents.

"May I congratulate all of you for the job well done in attracting tourists and for working together with TTB towards strengthening, developing and advertising Tanzania's tourism business," he said.

Global tourism was halted for about six months from the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. Countries

opted for measures of stemming its spread, introducing lockdown, curfew and limitation of international travel.

The meeting was intended to discuss tourism sector revival plans and ensuring robust implementation of marketing strategies aligned to the Covid-19 outbreak as the world changes, following slowdown of infections.

"We understand that the whole world was thrown into panic and air travel was suspended after the outbreak of the pandemic. But we believe that as the state of panic wanes, business must continue so that when the world opens up, Tanzania should be the first in receiving large groups of tourists," Judge Mihayo stressed.

He also urged the envoys to hasten the pace in advertising tourism via various technologies and online platforms, as such advertisements are

conducted in languages spoken by those targeted.

Advertising tourism sites and rebranding 'Tanzania Unforgettable' slogan in those languages will enable them to get the message more pointedly, he asserted.

The envoys were also tasked to find new markets and make regular assessments on the quality of tourist services offered to visitors coming into Tanzania.

TTB says earnings in the tourism sector slumped during the pandemic lockdown and closure of the skies. In 2018 around 1.5m tourists visited the country, while less than a half of that number is projected to travel here this year.

Tanzania's tourism sector in past year contributed 25 percent of foreign currency earnings and 17 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

Police out for Mbowe assailants, states RPC

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Mbowe's residence in Area D in the capital.

The police were informed of the attack by Mbowe's Willhard Urasa, that he was attacked at his home just after alighting from his car to enter the house, with three men closing on him.

The trio, who were dressed in large coats descended on him with blows and stepping hard on his legs, thus he sustained serious injury on the legs.

"After the attack, the opposition leader was rushed to DCMC hospital for treatment where he was admitted," said Muroto.

The regional police chief reiterated that the police will not tolerate anybody who treats the attack as political. "This is like any other criminal act and the public should let the police conduct investigations. No stone will be left unturned," he declared.

He warned social media operators to refrain from urging vigilance grouping at Chadema offices, as doing will be in breach of the law.

Reports have it that Mbowe was airlifted to Dar es Salaam for further treatment, though the hospital where

he was taken wasn't established.

Top government officials including Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai, Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson and Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr Benelith Mahenge visited Mbowe at his hospital bed.

Speaking in the House yesterday evening, Ndugai said that when he visited Mbowe was in a good condition contrary to rumors going viral on social media. A detailed report on what happened to Mbowe was to be availed to MPs today evening.

The Speaker allayed fears among parliamentarians on the safety of the capital, insisting that Dodoma is safe.

He urged the police to come out immediately with a statement on the incident to avoid speculation, as Mbowe is the second opposition leader attacked during a session of the legislature.

On September 7, 2017 Singida East MP Tundu Lissu's vehicle was rained with gunshots as he sought to step out of his car to enter his house early afternoon. Lissu has since been recovering and living in exile but it being touted as the party's leading presidential aspirant.

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country will be covered," she said.

UCSAF has been providing grants to telecom operators to improve access to communication services especially in rural areas, she elaborated.

The whole project from phase one will upon completion see 987 wards in remote areas access communication services.

Isack Kamwelwe, the minister for Works, Transport and Communications said the government wants to ensure that all villages with no internet access are connected with networks for the

development of the country as a whole.

The number of internet users in the country rose by 16 percent at the end of 2017 to 23 million, with the majority of them using handsets to go online.

Around 19 million internet users accessed the worldwide web last year through mobile phones, up from 18 million in 2016, on the basis of data from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA). Internet penetration in the nation of over 50 million people reached 45 percent in 2017 from 40 percent a year before, the regulator noted.

Global output to shrink by 5.2pc

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per capita incomes declining by 3.6 percent, tipping millions of people into extreme poverty this year.

World Bank Group Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions, Ceyla Pazarbasioglu said: "This is a deeply sobering outlook, with the crisis likely to leave long-lasting scars and pose major global challenges."

Pazarbasioglu said the global community must unite to find ways to rebuild a robust recovery as possible to prevent more people from falling into poverty and unemployment.

World Bank Prospects Group Director Ayhan Kose said the Covid-19 recession is singular in many respects and is likely to be the deepest one in advanced economies since the Second World War.

It will also be the first output contraction in emerging and developing economies in at least the past six decades. "The current episode has already seen by far the fastest and steepest downgrades in global growth forecasts on record. If the past is any guide, there may be further growth downgrades in store, implying that policymakers may need to be ready to employ additional measures to support activity," said Kose.

The World Bank forecast that economic activities among advanced economies are likely to shrink by 7 percent in 2020 as domestic demand and supply, trade and finance have been severely disrupted.

Emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) are expected to shrink by 2.5 percent this year, their first contraction as a group in at least 60 years.

The blow is hitting hardest in countries where the pandemic has been the most severe and where there is heavy reliance on global trade, tourism, commodity exports and external financing.

While the magnitude of disruption will vary from region to region, all EMDEs have vulnerabilities that are magnified by external shocks.

It said interruptions in schooling and primary healthcare access are likely to

have lasting impacts on human capital development.

The bank projects that global growth is forecast to rebound to 4.2 percent in 2021 as advanced economies grow 3.9 percent and EMDEs bounce back by 4.6 percent.

However, the outlook is highly uncertain and downside risks are predominant, including the possibility of a more protracted pandemic, financial upheaval and retreat from global trade and supply linkages.

A downside scenario could lead the global economy to shrink by as much as eight percent this year, followed by a sluggish recovery in 2021 of just over one percent with output in EMDEs contracting by almost five percent this year.

The pandemic highlights the urgent need for health and economic policy action, including global cooperation to cushion its consequences, protect vulnerable populations and strengthen countries' capacities to prevent and deal with similar events in the future.

It is critically important for emerging market and developing economies, which are particularly vulnerable, to strengthen public health systems, address challenges posed by informality and limited safety nets. They also must enact reforms to generate strong and sustainable growth once the crisis passes.

Emerging market and developing economies with available fiscal space and affordable financing conditions could consider additional stimulus if the effects of the pandemic persist.

This should be accompanied by measures to help credibly restore medium-term fiscal sustainability, including those that strengthen fiscal frameworks, increase domestic revenue mobilization and spending efficiency, and also raise fiscal and debt transparency.

The transparency of government financial commitments, debt-like instruments and investments is a key step in creating an attractive investment climate and could make substantial progress this year, the report added.



Advocate Fulgence Massawe (R) speaks after yesterday's ruling by the Appellate Division of the East African Court of Justice. He is with advocate Joachim Stoki.

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period of 30 days after issuing the notice for appeal.

Others justices on the panel were Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja (President) Liboire Nkurunziza (Vice President), Aaron Ringera and Sauda Mjasiri.

In its judgment the on March 2019 First Division of EACJ cited clauses 7 (3) (a) (b) (c) (f) (g) (h) (i) and (j), 13, 19, 20, 21, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 50, 54, 52, 53, 58, and 59 of the MSA as contravening good governance, democracy, the rule of law and infringing on human rights.

The regional court also ruled that the media law contravenes clauses 6(d), 7(2) and 8 (1) (c) of the East Africa Cooperation pact and the Constitution of United Republic of Tanzania.

The government was ordered to make amendments to the contested clauses in line with the spirit of the EAC agreement.

Speaking to reporters after the ruling by the EACJ Appellate Division,

EACJ delivers Media Act ruling, govt fails

advocate Massawe, accompanied by advocate Joachim Stoki, said there was no other avenue through which the government could appeal again.

It is now left to the government to implement the decision by the court, he said, pointing out that the ruling by the court is binding and did not constitute or amount to a legal advisory.

On the part of media stakeholders, advocate Massawe said there was no other action they can take but to press for the changes on the Media Services Act as required by the judgment and also to enlighten the public on the law.

In case public authorities fail to take requisite action on the MSA after that interpretation by the court, still the law will not be enforceable by courts as it is null and void, he said.

Last Tuesday the Appellate Division of EACJ also struck a notice of appeal raised by the government to challenge

a ruling by the East African Court of Justice in favour of 'Mseto' newspaper.

Apart from the notice the government had also requested to be given more time to appeal after the expiry of the set period, but the court declined.

The First Instance Division in its decision declared an order issued by the former Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports dated August 10, 2016 that banned publication of 'Mseto' newspaper a restriction of press freedom and thereby constitutes a violation of the respondent's state obligations under Articles 6 (d) and 7 (2) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. The newspaper was banned for allegedly publishing incitements and false news.

The government was dissatisfied with the judgment and issued notice of appeal. However it failed to file an appeal affidavit within the specified

period.

Both rulings by the Appellate Division of the regional court were delivered through video conference.

Reacting to the court's ruling, Media Council of Tanzania Executive Secretary Kajubi Mukajanga said: "We are all elated."

He said all along they were sure that the government had no argument to defend the contested clauses of the law as ruled by the court but since to appeal is a right, "we simply waited for the outcome."

They had exhibited serious weaknesses in failing to appeal for nine months, he asserted. "What is left for us now is to enlighten editors, media stakeholders and the public on what the ruling means so that people can no longer be subjected to clauses in the law that are null and void," he added.



Morogoro Regional Police Commander Wilbroad Mutafungwa (2nd-L) pictured at Misengere village in Mvomero District earlier this week supervising the clearing of a 100-hectare farm planted with hashish. Photo: Correspondent Frank Kaundula

Dr Shein: We'll continue to respect human rights

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said that the government will continue to respect human rights, one of the key pillars of democracy.

Dr Shein made the remarks yesterday when speaking to a delegation of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), led by its chairperson retired Judge Mathew Mwaimu.

President Shein said that January 12, 1964 revolution was meant to ensure that Zanzibaris get access to basic necessities such as free education, health and land, which in the past were given in biased manner. "As government, we've been

fighting for all these as well as ensuring that there is good governance, which is part and parcel of democracy," he said, noting that Zanzibar is far when it comes towards adhering human rights issues to its people.

"We'll continue to respect human rights issues as enshrined in the country's constitution for the benefit of all people," he told the delegation.

According to Dr Shein under his leadership, the government had provided free education and health to its people as part of fulfilling the desired dream of the 1964 revolution.

However, he lauded CHRAGG for performing outstanding job, vowing that Isles' government will continue to work with the commission in different areas so that its missions were realised.

On the fight against Covid-19, Dr Shein said: "The success we achieved in the war against the pandemic is a result of collective efforts between Zanzibar and the United Republic of Tanzania. This is a result of mass education on the virus and we never copied somewhere strategies to contain the spread of virus."

Judge Mwaimu commended the Isles' government for practical implementation of human rights and good governance issues as articulated in the mother law.

He also lauded Dr Shein for the achievements he recorded within the shortest period of time, saying number schools, health centres have been built and there is an ongoing construction of those facilities.

'Offer better cattle prices to promote production'

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Minister Luhaga Mpina has directed the management of TanChoice, a meat processing firm to make sure it offers better cattle prices to promote production as well as encourage livestock keepers to supply to the factory.

Mpina said completion of the meat processing factory is clear indication of the fifth phase government's commitment to improve business and investment environment in the country.

He said the 35bn/- worth investment will transform the livestock sub-sector and boost revenue collections.

Speaking shortly after inspecting the factory located in Kibaha, Coast region, the minister urged the firm's management to immediately commence production of meat products, insisting the government will provide all the needed support.

According to him, the factory will assure Tanzanian livestock keepers of a ready market as they have been struggling to sell their cattle. He called upon farmers to increase production of domestic animals including goats, sheep and cow to meet the factory demand for meat.

Minister Mpina said the government was aware of challenges facing the factory, saying responsible authorities had already worked on issues of electricity and water services.

"The factory has already water services and the investor has also been assured of reliable power services," said the minister adding the government is working to improve road infrastructures to facilitate transportation of the products and the animals.

"It is my expectations that you will offer better cattle prices, this will encourage farmers to continue producing more. Buying cattle at cheaper prices may discourage livestock keepers from selling the animals to the factory," he noted.

He however directed the firm's management to make the factory a research and training centre by accepting students from the various universities and colleges including the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Nelson Mandela University and the Livestock Training Agency (LITA).

Mpina urged the Tanzania Meat Board (TMB) together with the factory to establish cattle fattening courses that will be offered to groups of livestock keepers.

TanChoice Director, Rashid Abilah commended the government for putting in place better business and investment environment.

Abilah said 80 per cent of the produced products will be sold to international markets in different countries such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia,

DRC, Angola, Malawi and Mozambique.

He said to start with, the factory will slaughter and process 320,000 cows and 1,440,000 goats annually, whereas a total of 62,400 tonnes of processed meat will be produced.

Kibaha District Commissioner, Asumpa Mshama said: "We are grateful for completion of the factory; we will make sure all the raised challenges including poor state of the roads are resolved."

The factory is set to create over 500 jobs both directly and indirectly. It will create a new middle-class Cluster of business dealing with fattening of cattle, goats and sheep for supplying to the factory.

The by-products during the slaughter process namely livers, brains, hearts, sweetbreads (thymus and pancreas), fries (testicles), kidneys, oxtails, tripe and tongue will be sold in the local market and other products exported to the Chinese market.



USAID | TANZANIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI)

Request for Quotation

For supply of Pipes and fittings in Kilosa, Gairo and Morogoro Districts – Morogoro Region.

Winrock International is a sub-contractor to Tetra Tech, the prime implementing partner of USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI) pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with USAID Contract No AID-OAA-I-14-00068/AID-621-TO-16-00003. WARIDI is a USAID funded five-year activity which seeks to achieve improvements in health, water resources management, agriculture, climate change adaptation and the environment in Tanzania. WARIDI promotes state-of-the-art approaches in cross-sectoral, integrated management of water-related resources and services

Through this Request for Quotation (RFQ), USAID/WARIDI requests quotations from qualified locally registered Vendors to supply pipes and fittings as summarized in the table below and detailed in bidding documents. The supply is organized in batches as follows;

RFQ WARIDI-0005-2020 –

1. Kitete, Mfulu (Kilosa District, Morogoro Region)
2. Chakwale Madege (Gairo District, Morogoro Region)
3. Duthumi (Morogoro District, Morogoro Region)

Type of pipes	Size	Class
GS Pipes	3/4 inch - 6 inch	Medium to Heavy Duty
HDPE Pipes	25mm - 110mm	PN10 – PN16
uPVC Pipes	75mm - 160mm	PN10 – PN16
IPS Pipes	25mm	PN10

A complete set of the bidding documents may be obtained via email from **Winrock International, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania**, email: wardi.procurement@winrock.org no later than Monday June 15, 2020. Any questions should be sent by Monday June 15, 2020 at 5:00pm East Africa Time; and will be responded to in one all-inclusive written document provided to all bidders via email on Wednesday June 17, 2020.

Quotations must be received no later than 12:00 Noon East African Time on Wednesday, June 24, 2020. Late submissions will not be accepted. All quotations are to be submitted following the guidelines listed in the bidding documents. Telephone requests will not be honored.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, bid opening will be recorded on video and sent to vendors. Bid opening will take place at **Winrock International offices, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania**, at 2.00 pm, on Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

Winrock International

REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES

NAME OF PROJECT: South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Program (SWIOFish)- Credit No. 5589-TZ

Invitation for Quotation

National Competitive Bidding (NCB)

Supply of Igloos Marine Ultra Cool Box for Tumbe Ice Plant Machine

Reference No. MANRLF – 160410 – GO - RFB

1. The United Republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the **South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Governance and Shared Growth Program (SWIOFish)**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the bid for Supply of Igloos Marine Ultra Cool Box for Tumbe Ice Plant Machine.
2. The Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources Livestock and Fisheries Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Supply of Igloos Marine Ultra Cool Box for Tumbe Ice Plant Machine**. The procurement of goods under this bidding is only one (1) lot as detailed below.

No.	Description of Goods	Units	Quantity	Place of Delivery
1	Supply of Igloos Marine Ultra Cool Box For Tumbe Ice Plant Machine	No's	20	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, Maruhubi Area Nyangumi House Unguja

3. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** and bidder will be selected through procedure stipulated in Zanzibar Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Asset Act No. 11 of 2016 and World Bank Guidelines: **Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers** Jan 2011 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the **Secretary Tender Board, Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources Livestock and Fisheries, Maruhubi, Nyangumi House, Ground Floor, PDMU Office and e-mail hasheemoumin@gmail.com/omjombo@gmail.com** and inspect the bidding documents during office hours. **07:30 to 15:30 hours** at the address given above
5. A complete set of bidding documents in **English** can be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Tanzanian Shilling 50,000/= or in a convertible currency**. The method of payment will be **Cash**.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address above 4 on or before **02:00 pm 23th June, 2020**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the conference room No. 1'Fist floor, Zanzibar at **02:15 pm 23th June, 2020**.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration.

MS. MARYAM J. ABDALLA
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY.

Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries
Maruhubi Area, Nyangumi House
P.O.Box 159
Tel:+255242230986
Fax:+255242234650
City: Zanzibar Town,
Tanzania.

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Continue taking precautions against Covid-19 - Mwalimu

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Minister, Ummu Mwalimu, has called upon Tanzanians to continue taking precautions against Covid-19 infections by adhering to all guidelines from health experts.

The minister was speaking at Ngamiani Health Centre in Tanga City during her brief visit in which she talked with health workers and received various items for protection against the disease including handwashing facilities.

She said even though infections have gone down, there is still need for people to continue taking precautions.

She said the government, working together with its citizens and various efforts taken, has succeeded to put the

pandemic under control while working against its total eradication.

"To a large extent we have succeeded to control Covid-19 infections and we are continuing to eradicate it and we should stop listening to reports from various media who are bent on instilling fear about the pandemic," she added.

"You reporters have seen the situation for yourselves here... there isn't even a single Covid-19 patient, we have put the disease under control and we don't have any health centre that has a Covid-19 patient in our region," Mwalimu said.

She said all people going for other treatment should continue taking precautions against the disease's infections by following guidelines from health experts.

Earlier, when she arrived at the health

centre the minister found a congestion of people at the patients' reception area waiting to consult doctors.

Mwalimu said due to the congestion there was a big likelihood for Covid-19 infections among them despite wearing masks, as they were sitting too close to each other, the situation which she said was worrying.

"These people have come here for treatment but it is so worrying that some of them can be infected, you should continue taking precautions, I have seen people outside washing their hands with soap and running water, you have put on masks but the congestion is still worrisome," she said.

She instructed the Regional Medical Officer Angelina Mashaka and the city director Saudi Mayeje to acquire an additional area to expand the waiting room for patients to reduce congestion.



Tanzania Telecommunications Company Ltd (TTCL) managing director Waziri Kindamba (2nd-L) and Universal Communications Service Access Fund CEO Justina Mashimba exchange documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday on a just-signed agreement under which the firm will provide communication towers to 32 wards in the country. Looking on (C) is Works, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe. Photo: Selemani Mpochi



Plot 891 - 893, Isale House, Mwai Kibaki Road, Mikocheni B, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Tel: +255 22 2700717/2700725 Fax: +255 22 2702035

Request for quote RFQ 2020-06/01

Introduction:

Mailman School of Public Health Tanzania LLC (hereinafter referred to as "MSPH Tanzania LLC" or "the organization") is a not-for-profit organization registered and operated by the Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York, in the United States of America. MSPH Tanzania LLC is also known locally as ICAP, has been operating in Tanzania since 2004, with funding from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In line with the countrywide scale up of HIV services in Tanzania, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC), ICAP has been successfully implementing an HIV prevention project to provide comprehensive community-based HIV prevention services in multiple regions, and conducting various research and evaluation projects across the country.

Scope of Service

In anticipation of prospective funding to address project needs for the year 2020, MSPH Tanzania LLC will be looking to purchase various supplies, as part of the preparation we invites quotes from eligible, registered local and international suppliers to supply items with the following specifications;

Lot No 1: Brand new Motorcycles 400 units – 125cc to 150cc engine capacity, 4 stroke, Electric and Kick start, fuel capacity 10L - 12L (Each Motorcycles should have the following Tool kits & Service and manual, 2 helmet, warranty) for more Tender information will be sent upon request through the email below.

Lot 2: Medical and Laboratory Supplies (Full Tender Document with specifications for this LOT will be sent upon a request through the email below).

Lot 3: Brand new Bicycles 355 units - with Posterior seat and front carrier/basket to be used in the field operation (suitable for rough road and mountains). Capacity 100KG for more information will be sent upon request through the email below.

Lot 4: IT equipment (laptops and laptops bags, Tablets and Tables covers, External drive and LCD Projector) (Full Tender Document with specifications for this LOT will be sent upon a request through the email below)

Other criteria

- Quote should be valid for at least 90days and delivery period should clearly indicated.
- Current and updated company profile must be submitted
- Attach Audited financial statement
- Copies of registration certificate and address of their registered office, valid business license, VAT, TFDA, TIN Number, and other relevant documents
- Evidence of similar work/assignment with at least three reference from clients served must be submitted
- Payment terms must be indicated
- Manufacture authorization should be attached for all distributors and dealers
- Technical Capability of the motorcycles to operate in field areas
- Recommendation letter from the clients

Please Note

- Late or incomplete will not be accepted
- Bid documents will be sent to all the applicant via email address below upon request
- Selection criteria will be lowest price technically evaluated/ acceptable based on technical specifications and other criteria described above
- MSPH may cancel solicitation and may not award
- Issuance of request for quote does not constitute award/contract commitment by MSPH
- MSPH Tanzania reserve the rights to disqualify any offer based on failure to follow solicitation instruction
- MSPH may choose to award only part of the quantity in the solicitation or issue multiple award based on the solicitation documents
- MSPH reserves the rights to waive minor proposal deficiencies that cannot be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition
- MSPH will be contacting all those that have submitted quotes to confirm contact person, address and that bid was submitted for this solicitation
- Potential suppliers/bidders should indicate clearly the lot number and item applied for
- The tender award will be subjected to availability of funding.
- All bidders will be invited for the tender opening meeting.

How to Apply:

Interested, eligible bidders should email their electronic quote via email to procurement department at TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu

The Tender Committee,
MSPH Tanzania LLC – ICAP,
Jangid Plaza 7th Floor – Chaburuma Road
P.O Box 80214, Dar es salaam, Tanzania
All quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings

The deadline for the submission is 10:00am East Africa Time on 23th June 2020.
All tenders should be electronically submitted to TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu
No tender fee charged for this invitation

215767801

Govt sets aside 7.5bn/- for building bypass in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has allocated 7.5bn/- for the construction of a 16km bypass from Inyala to Mbalizi in Mbeya region as a measure to reduce congestion and curb accidents in Mbeya city

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila announced at the site of accident that occurred at Mbembela area on the Tanzania-Zambia highway following brake failure of a truck and latter rammed into several vehicles including a Toyota Hiace pick-up

whose driver died on the spot.

The RC said many people have lost their lives from accidents hence the government has allocated the funds to construct the bypass, and added that in the second phase it will be extended to further 40 kms.

He said the bypass will be used by big trucks aimed at reducing congestion along the Tanzania-Zambia highway.

He advised Mbeya residents to stop doing exercises along the road saying it is dangerous to their lives as vehicles can develop brake failure

and hit them.

Speaking about the accident that claimed the life of the driver of the Toyota Hiace pick-up (identified only as Peter) and injured four others, Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei said the mishap involved four vehicles including an oil tanker and two Bajaj tricycles that were extensively damaged.

RPC Matei called upon drivers to abide by road traffic laws and regulations thereof and make inspections from time to time on trucks that travel long distances.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro addresses students of the Dar es Salaam-based Centre for Foreign Relations yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TIRA to start providing electronic insurance services by end of 2020

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIA Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) is expecting to start providing electronic insurance services by end of this year.

TIRA commissioner, Dr Mussa Jumaa announced yesterday, when responding to concerns raised by Members of Parliament who are members of the Parliamentary Budget Committee.

Dr Jumaa said the authority expects to contribute more than 2bn/- to the state coffers following several achievements associated

with the growth of insurance industry.

He said TIRA has been contributing to the government coffers whereas it expects to provide 15 per cent of its annual incomes.

The authority made a contribution of 1.86bn/- in the 2016/2017 and 1.79bn/- in the 2017/2018 financial year.

In the 2018/19 fiscal year, TIRA gave 1.1bn/- to the government.

"We are expecting to provide over 2bn/- in 2019/2020 financial year," said the TIRA boss.

TIRA central region manager, Stella Rutaguza, said although the

law does not compel the trader to cover imported cargo, such services are provided by local insurance companies.

Busega MP (CCM), Dr Raphael Chegeni urged local insurers to consider revising insurance rates.

He said current rates are too high as a result many Tanzanians fail to enroll for insurance covers.

Acting chairman of the Parliamentary Budget Committee, Joseph Kakunda called on TIRA to provide public insurance education as well as making sure Tanzanians are aware of the benefits.



Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Ltd managing director Oscar Mgaya (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday symbolically presenting to Dr Amani Malima (L), medical officer at the city's Amana referral hospital, 250 litres of hand sanitizer in support of the war on Covid-19. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TPA strategises ports renovations to allow docking of larger ships

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has signed an agreement with Anova Consult Company Ltd to revise the National Ports Master Plan that will enable more renovations of various ports to allow sailing of larger ships in the country, the House heard yesterday.

Works, Transport and Communication Minister Isack Kamwelwe said this yesterday when responding to a question raised by Oliver Semuguruka (Special Seats, CCM) who sought to know the government's plan to expand the dock at Kyamkwikwi port so as to accommodate large water vessels.

The legislator also wanted to know when the government would commence construction of a modern dock in Goziba Island.

Responding, minister Kamwelwe said the plan provides strategic direction for developing and improving ports in the country including those along Indian Ocean, Lake Victoria, Tanganyika and Nyasa.

According to him, the implementation of the plan however started in November, 2019 and is

expected to be completed by October this year.

"In addition to the above-mentioned project, the government through TPA has entered into an agreement with NIRA Consulting Company S.P.A in partnership with Intercontinental Company to undertake Feasibility Study and Detailed Architecture in ports of Lake Victoria. The initiative started in February, 2020 and expects to be completed by January, 2021," he said.

He further said that the completion of these projects will provide direction to identify areas that need to be constructed and will also identify existing docks that need to be improved to allow larger ships to anchor.

"I would like to assure you (legislators) and the general public that the completion of the mentioned projects will increase efficiency of our ports and stimulate economic growth," he added.

Kamwelwe added that the government through the Tanzania Port Authority will continue building modern docks in different ports so as to attract more traders from various countries.

Govt highlights need to preserve Kolo ancient rock paintings in Kondoa

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has stressed need for the preservation of ancient rock paintings located at Kolo, in Malikalale area in Kondoa District, Dodoma Region saying it is among the country's great tourist attractions.

Speaking during his visit at the site early this week the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Natural resources and Tourism Prof Adolf

Mkenda said the area is part of domestic tourism but will also attract foreign tourists visiting the country.

"The site is good for domestic tourism due to its proximity to Dodoma capital city, and when we finalise the construction of the reception centre for visitors, Tanzanians with their children can visit the area to learn what our ancestors were doing," said Prof Mkenda.

He said when appropriate infrastructures are put in place the site can attract many more tourists and called upon Tanzanians to be proud of their own tourist attractions.

"Foreign visitors hires planes from Arusha to visit the site to see the ancient rock paintings," he added.

Meanwhile Prof Mkenda said the government aim is not to see tourism remain limited to one field - viewing wildlife and climbing Mt Kilimanjaro,

but should also include viewing ancient civilisation as the Malikalale site has not been fully exploited tourism wise.

"We have Kondoa, Kilwa... our inheritance is vast, there are Musoma ancient paintings which need to be preserved, there is also Iringa and people from all over the world like to see these ancient paintings that reflect our ancestors' settlements and their civilisation," he said.

He also called upon universities including the University of Dar es Salaam which has a good archeological department to collaborate with the Ministry for natural Resources and Tourism to take students to conduct research at these areas.

The Head of Kolo Ancient Rock Paintings Site Zuberi Mabie said; "the site is home to ancient rock paintings drawn by our ancestors, as before the advent of writing the humans recorded

their activities through painting in areas with rocks."

He said as it is for other areas in the world, Kondoa rock paintings for the East Africa region are believed to be the oldest.

He said as far as Tanzania is concerned, Kolo ancient rock paintings have more paintings as they were drawn by communities engaged in hunting, fruits gathering, farming and livestock keeping.



USAID | TANZANIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

U.S. MISSION DAR ES SALAAM SOLICITATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Mission in Dar es Salaam is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position identified below at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Position Title: Chief Accountant

Solicitation Number: 72062120R10011

A copy of the complete solicitation, listing all duties, responsibilities and qualifications required, is available at:

<https://tz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

HOW TO APPLY:
Effective immediately only online applications will be accepted via usaidthzlesapps@usaid.gov

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the solicitation on the website:
Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: June 24, 2020

215766801



USAID | TANZANIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

U.S. MISSION DAR ES SALAAM SOLICITATION ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Mission in Dar es Salaam is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position identified below at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Position Title: Project Management Specialist - Health Systems Strengthening (HSS)

Solicitation Number: 72062120R10012

A copy of the complete solicitation, listing all duties, responsibilities and qualifications required, is available at:

<https://tz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

HOW TO APPLY:
Effective immediately only online applications will be accepted via usaidthzlesapps@usaid.gov

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the solicitation on the website:
Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application.

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: June 24, 2020

215766901

Lawmakers 'bless' resolution to make Dodoma the govt's major working hub

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament have passed the resolution to make Dodoma the central government's working centre.

The lawmakers also agreed not to amend the passed resolutions in the future.

Presenting the resolutions on Monday, Nyamagana MP, Stanslaus Mabula asked the lawmakers to agree on decisions that no person will in future override the citizens' decision to make Dodoma the capital city and centre of the government activities.

"The parliament requires the government and its institutions not to transfer government activities from Dodoma to any other part of the country, the government should continue allocating sufficient funds to improve and maintain infrastructures of the Dodoma capital," said Mabula.

The process of transferring the central government activities to the capital Dodoma has been concluded with the Dodoma region being promoted to city status, with the enactment of the Dodoma Capital City (Declaration) Act, 2018.

In the early 1970s the government initiated the process by involving citizens to propose a region that would become the country's capital. As a result of that involvement, many citizens supported the idea of Dodoma being the capital of the country.

In 1973 the First President and founder of the nation, Julius Kambarage Nyerere, declared the city of Dodoma to be centre of the government's activities. Meanwhile, Misungwi MP, Charles Kitwanga (CCM) asked the parliament

to discuss and pass a resolution to congratulate Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Yustino Ndugai on enabling the eleventh assembly to achieve operational goals.

Giving their view to the resolution, MPs praised the House Speaker for transforming operations of the parliament from analogue to e-parliament alongside initiating an idea of using tablets for parliamentary activities to save operational costs.

According to Kitwanga it is estimated that over 100bn/- is expected to be saved from the use of various government ministries and institutions from the use of e-parliament in a period of every five years.

Ministries and public institutions have reduced the expenditure by more than 90 per cent of the production of documents to be submitted to parliamentarians.

According to Kitwanga, the last budget of the tenth parliament for the fiscal year 2015/2016 was approximately 173.77bn/- while the final budget of the eleventh parliament was 121.79bn/-.

"The eleventh parliament has saved 51.98bn/- which was to be used for printing of various documents," he said.

The expansion of parliamentary meeting venues within the parliamentary structures helped to completely eliminate the costs that were used to rent meeting venues during committee meetings.

Peter Msigwa, Iringa Urban MP (Chadema) was against the second declaration that aimed to praise Speaker Ndugai saying the eleventh parliament has undermined the authorities of the National Assembly.



Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro (L) pictured yesterday inaugurating a classroom that Ruk Zwaan Company has built at Mlangarini Primary School in implementation of the firm's social corporate social responsibility policy. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Prison wardens' houses in bad shape, Masauni admits

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE ministry of Home Affairs has admitted that the majority of prison wardens live in dilapidated houses due to shortage of funds to build decent homes.

Hamad Masauni, the deputy minister for Home Affairs revealed this yesterday when responding to questions by Nachingwea legislator,

Hassan Masala, who had wanted to know government's plans to improve residential houses for the wardens of Nachingwea Prison.

In his response, Masauni admitted that houses for prison wardens at Nachingwea Prison were in bad shape, pledging that the government will continue renovating those houses on regular basis.

"So the ministry will continue to

renovate and construct new houses for the prison officers depending on the budget allocation," he said.

He said that in order to ensure that officers and the general staff have decent and standardised housing, the government through the Prison Force continues to implement an innovative housing programme at various prisons in the country, including Nachingwea

district prison whereby each Head of Station is directed to make at least 30,000 bricks a season and they shall be provided with maps of the houses for construction.

"By April, 2020 a total of 393 houses have been built across the country through such initiative of which 129 houses are complete and 264 houses are in various stages of construction," said Masauni.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Dr Angelina Mabula pictured in Musoma on Monday inspecting construction at what is meant as Mara regional referral hospital, a project being implemented by the National Housing Corporation. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

LEGISLATORS have advised the government to speed up construction of health facilities to successful achieve its objectives of improving provision of health services.

They said that despite the many efforts to improve the health sector, there is a shortage of dispensaries and health centres almost in all the regions countrywide.

Tunduru South MP, Daimu Mpakate, (CCM) and Tabora Urban MP Emmanuel Mwakasaka (CCM) wanted to know the government's plans on construction of new health centres and

Legislators call for faster construction of health centres

renovation of existing ones.

The Tunduru South legislator claimed that there are only 15 health centres at all the wards in the constituency. He said the shortage has resulted into the facilities flooding with patients. He said the government is yet to construct health facilities in Nafasi, Malumba, Mbatu, Lumbule, Mchesi, Namasakata, Ligoma, Mischel, Touwemacho and Mchuruka wards in Tunduru District.

Mpakate wanted the government

to state as to when it will embark on renovation of health centres at Mtina, Nkasale and Moteka wards. He said the government had earlier promised to construct the Nalasi centre, but the project has stalled.

In his written response, Deputy Minister, Ministry of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Mwita Waitara said the government has been constructing health facilities at different districts whereas in the

2017/2018 and 2018/2019 financial years it allocated 1.3bn/- for Tunduru District.

He said the funds were meant for renovation and expansion of Mkasale health centres (400m/-), Mchoteka (400m/-) and Mkasale (500m/-).

The Deputy Minister informed that construction of the health centres has been completed.

He said in the 2020/2021 financial year, the government has allocated 200m/- for Tunduru District. The

monies which he said will be used to complete construction of four health centres at Chikomo, Angalia, Namiungo and Legeza Mwendu wards.

Tabora Urban MP, Mwakasaka said that Tabora region has 29 wards and only one health centre, questioning the government on what are the plans to establish new centres.

Responding, Waitara said that Tabora municipality has two hospitals, one health centre and 22 dispensaries. "We have allocated 100m/- in the

coming financial year which will be directed for completion of the Ituru and Igombe dispensaries," said the deputy minister adding another 1bn/- has been set aside for expansion and renovation of the Tabora municipal hospital. He assured the MPs that the government will continue to build, renovate and expand available health facilities in Tabora Region. He said improvement of the health facilities will depend on availability of funds from the central government.

NEC to link voters' education with Covid-19 awareness ahead of polls

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) is scheduled to commence issuance of voter's education to the public parallel with awareness on the precautions for coronavirus pandemic.

The exercise is set to kick-off in two months to come after completion of the ongoing preparations carried out by the commission.

Director for election Dr Wilson Charles explained about the plan in an interview over the weekend in Dar es Salaam that the commission is currently finalising the preparations for that exercise.

Tanzania like other East Africa countries is scheduled to hold its General Elections in October this year, for presidential, members of the Parliament and councillors posts.

"We are in the final stages of winding-up the preparations for the exercise, we are now working on selecting the institutions that will be given the responsibility to render voter's education to the public across the country," he explained.

He said the institutions will be required to create the understanding to the public as to why they need to vote during election, to show why voting is important to them and not otherwise.

"We will soon announce the list of institutions mandated to render the exercise to the public in the coming month," Dr Charles added.

He said section 4 (c) of the National

Election Act Cap 343, gives mandate to the commission to provide voter's education, to coordinate and supervise institutions or individuals contracted to provide that education. "It is specifically designed to provide the understanding of legal matters, regulations and procedures pertaining to General Elections," the director explained.

According to him, voter's education will be provided parallel with the awareness on Coronavirus pandemic in an effort to help voter's to take all precautions needed against Covid-19.

"We understand that the pandemic still exists in our society, therefore, we take the responsibility to alert the society in order to consider all precautions before and during the election," he said. The director said that the commission will use various means to provide education including media, advertisement and other means.

According to him, the commission is set to open again the voter's registration book to the public for final verification of voter's information before concluding the process.

"The exercise will take place once in this month from 17 to 20, 2020 in all registration stations, registered voters will be welcomed to verify their particulars before closing the book for General Elections," Dr Charles said.

According to him, the commission is currently reviewing voter's registration book to establish how many people have registered to participate in the election.

Environmentalists stress the importance the public ought to attach to efforts to reduce the impact of climate change

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE consortium of local civil society organisations on climate change (Forum CC) has urged the public to continue conserving the existing ecosystem so as to strengthen the country's resilience against the impacts brought by climate change.

Rebecca Muna, the executive director for Forum CC said in a statement over the weekend that it was important for the public to reduce dangerous activities that may harm the environment.

She said that environment conservation is not an individual responsibility, but rather collective efforts are needed to ensure that resources and ecosystems are protected including restoring the lost flora and fauna.

Muna noted that Forum CC under the support of Hivos, PanAfrican Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and other stakeholders including SEMA Singida, Singida district council, Ilala Municipal and Care are joining forces to sensitise accountability to every individual and responsible organ to take action to control climate change.

The World Environmental Day (WED) marked under the theme; "biodiversity" offers an important moment for every individual to review and to recognise the dependence of human beings and ecosystems. We need to understand that the existence of ecosystems helps to provide food, oxygen, water and a safe climate which make the world a better place to live.

"The increase of human activities such as deforestation to pave the way for construction and for agriculture activities have increased risk to the environment as more than 300,000 hectares of forest are lost every year," the director said.

She further added: "A huge amount of trees lost every year causes the increase

of air pollution, loss of biodiversity, changes in the rainfall seasons as well as increase of temperature in some parts of the country."

With funds from European Union (EU), the Forum CC has joined effort with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), GIZ, Vodacom Foundation, United State AID (USAID), United Nations Global Compact, United Nations Information Center (UNIC), Germany Embassy, Nipe Fagio organisation, Sustainability Practice and media.

Muna further added that Forum CC has been in the forefront in making this day effective to every individual and responsible authority by providing an exclusive opportunity to implement various projects designed to control climate change.

"One among the major activities we have achieved so far include mobilisation of our members and stakeholders to implement various campaigns including afforestation so as to contribute to national efforts in banning the use of plastic bags and encouraging the government and responsible organ to see the need of using renewable energy," she added.



The increase of human activities such as deforestation to pave the way for construction and for agriculture activities have increased risk to the environment as more than 300,000 hectares of forest are lost every year



Agriculture deputy minister Omari Mgumba (R) speaks in Morogoro District yesterday shortly after NMB Bank Plc donated 10m/- worth of construction materials including timber and corrugated iron roofing sheets to support construction work at a dispensary and a primary school. Others (foreground) are NMB Eastern Zone manager Baraka Ladislaus (L) and Morogoro District administrative officer Hilary Sanga. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania's first gold refinery starts production

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE country's first ever refinery plant for gold and other minerals to standards demanded by international market has officially started work.

The plant - Eyes of Africa Ltd (EOA) has begun production with the capacity to refine 30 to 50 kgs of gold and other minerals per day, while the target is to attain 1,000 kgs by 2021.

On August 20 last year, while inspecting construction work progress of the plant the Minerals Minister, Doto Biteko, said soon after construction, the refinery will offer opportunities to minerals traders in the country to refine their gold therein, but will also enable the country to have quality minerals reserves of international standards of

up to 99.99 percent through the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

In addition, in January last year President John Magufuli instructed BoT to have gold in its reserves and spelled out government's efforts to control minerals exports, recognizing the fact that Tanzania is the fourth gold producing country in Africa, after South Africa, Ghana and Mali.

Biteko said soon after completion of the refinery BoT will start buying refined gold that will be placed in the national gold reserve and will assist the nation to start sell quality gold in the competitive international market.

Speaking here at the weekend to reporters at the refinery's head offices adjacent to Dodoma Airport EOA Director General Ferenc Molnar said as

of now the construction is 100 percent complete, all machinery has been installed and production has begun.

Molnar said through the refinery, the nation will increase the value for its gold and other minerals from 70 to 90 percent and will attain 99.99 percent acceptable in the international market.

He said apart from welcoming mineral traders and other institutions in the mineral chain, they are in the process of signing joint management contract with the Federation of Miners Association of Tanzania (FEMATA).

He said they will enter into agreement with FEMATA because the money accrued from their gold normally comes back to the country to benefit the nation but for big miners the money for the gold they export

remains in foreign countries except for the royalty.

He said Tanzania is among major gold producers and at the moment production stands at between 4.5 to 5 tonnes per month and annual production stands at 60 tonnes.

EOA Managing Director Prince Mugisha said Tanzania's aim is to ensure it gets the actual value for its gold, as many miners only sell gold alone but when it is mined it has other minerals including silver, platinum, brass and others. He added: "According to the mining law, the natural resource should not be sold raw. Hence this refinery will be able to identify other minerals inside the gold, to refine them to international quality standards and market them to international market."

The United Republic of Tanzania
President's Office
TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) is currently implementing Productive Social Safety Net Program which aims at protecting the vulnerable poor households from severest consequences of poverty by implementing interventions that will lead to increased household incomes and opportunities while increasing consumption.

The TASAF Executive Director is inviting applications from suitably qualified Tanzanian nationals to fill the below vacant posts:

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Director of Finance and Administration | 1 post |
| 2. Director of Coordination | 1 post |
| 3. Director of Knowledge Management and Advocacy | 1 post |
| 4. Conditional Cash Transfer Manager | 1 post |
| 5. Public Works and Infrastructure Manager | 1 post |
| 6. Human Resources Manager | 1 post |
| 7. Internal Audit Manager | 1 post |
| 8. Procurement Officer | 1 post |
| 9. Assistant Procurement Officer | 1 post |
| 10. Program Officer Public Works and Infrastructure | 1 post |
| 11. Development Communication Officer | 1 post |
| 12. Legal Officer | 1 post |
| 13. Internal Auditor | 2 posts |
| 14. Registry Officer | 1 post |
| 15. Driver | 2 posts |
| 16. Motor Vehicle Mechanic | 2 posts |
| 17. TASAF Monitoring Officer | 23 posts |

Job Descriptions and required qualifications for these posts are available in TASAF website www.tasaf.go.tz

How to apply;

- a) Applications, enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be sent to the following address: Executive Director
Tanzania Social Action Fund
Board of Trustees of PSSSF Building
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road
P.O. Box 2719
DODOMA.
 - b) Applications (In PDF Format), enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be sent through the following email address: hrm@tasaf.go.tz
- 2) Applications made in a way other than the above will not be considered.
 - 3) Deadline for receiving applications is **9th July, 2020**,
 - 4) Those who will not hear from us, 14 days after the deadline, should consider themselves as unsuccessful.

Ladislaus J. Mwamanga
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

215768201



World Vegetable Center

**Position Announcement
Research Assistant – Seed Specialist
(Arusha, Tanzania)**

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) is a non-profit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and five regional offices around the globe. WorldVeg conducts research and development programs that contribute to realize the potential of vegetables for healthier lives and more resilient livelihoods. For more information please visit our website: worldveg.org.

The Job:

The Research Assistant- Seed Specialist will perform the following duties, among others:

- Support project partners to improve seed quality for amaranth and other vegetable crops.
- Monitor and maintain seed quality and health in genebank.
- Conduct routine seed testing and cleaning, including germination tests, moisture tests, etc.
- Collaborate with national institutes to test for common quarantine diseases.
- Contribute to seed physiology research (dormancy, storage behaviour and longevity constants, ...).
- Maintain genebank seed inventory data up-to-date.
- Collect and record data and/or samples following instructions contained in experimental protocol.
- Supervise casual laborers during establishment and management of field trials.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Position requirements:

- MSc in Agriculture with a major in horticulture, seed technology or a related field.
- Minimum one year experience with laboratory methods or tools for detecting pathogens and insects.
- Minimum one year experience in vegetable field trials and data collection.
- Good knowledge of plant physiology, diseases and insect-pests of vegetable crops.
- An experience with field layout of experimental designs is an added advantage.
- Good writing skills and ability to communicate in English.
- Good knowledge and experience with the use of statistical software for data analysis.

The Reward:

This is a Nationally Recruited Staff position with competitive pay and benefits. The position is only open to Tanzanian nationals. The initial appointment is for six months and may be extended depending on requirement, funding availability, and performance of the incumbent. The position is available with immediate effect.

How to Apply:

Applicants are invited to submit a letter of application explaining their suitability for and interest in the position along with a detailed curriculum vitae, a recent passport size photograph, names and addresses (including telephone/fax/e-mail) of three referees, and date of availability.

Please send applications stating the job title "Research Assistant - Seed Specialist" by e-mail to info-esa@worldveg.org by the closing date on 20 June 2020.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

215768202

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Establishing of 'herbal college' a boon for traditional medicine

IN general use, herbs are plants with savory or aromatic properties that are used for flavoring and garnishing food, for medicinal purposes, or for fragrances, excluding vegetables and other plants consumed for macronutrients.

Herbs have long been used as the basis of traditional Chinese herbal medicine, with usage dating as far back as the first century.

Culinary use typically distinguishes herbs from spices. Herbs generally refers to the leafy green or flowering parts of a plant either fresh or dried, while spices are usually dried and produced from other parts of the plant, including seeds, bark, roots and fruits. Culinary herbs are distinguished from vegetables in that, like spices, they are used in small amounts and provide flavor rather than substance to food.

Herbs have a variety of uses including culinary, medicinal, and in some cases, spiritual. General usage of the term "herb" differs between culinary herbs and medicinal herbs; in medicinal or spiritual use, any parts of the plant might be considered as "herbs", including leaves, roots, flowers, seeds, root bark, inner bark (and cambium), resin and pericarp.

Tanzania is set to start offering courses to health experts on the use of herbs and alternative medicines in treating non-communicable diseases including diabetes and blood pressure.

We are told that an international naturopathic clinic has established a college in the country, namely, Cornwell Tanzania, which will apart from training health experts, provide education to the public on the importance of using herbs in treating different diseases.

Director, Cornwell Tanzania Elizabeth Lema recently told journalists

in Dar es Salaam that decision to establish the college was reached after realizing the availability of different herbs and plant species that can be used to produce local remedies.

According to Lema, the college will also educate the public on the types of nutritional natural foods that Tanzanians can regularly consume to boost body immune and protect themselves from diseases.

She said the college will be officially opened in July 2020 whereas it will offer a number of courses. She said those qualified includes Form Four leavers with the D pass rate in chemistry and biology subjects.

The two years courses are also suitable for health experts as they are likely to add new skills on how herbs can treat various diseases. "Tanzania will be the first country to have such a college in East Africa," said the director calling upon interested individuals to start applying for the course.

She said they have officials who are ready to provide additional information of health experts who wishes to know more about the courses and the college itself. She also explained that doors are also open to any person interested to know on how to use the herbs.

Lema added that they have already established farms that used to grow various medicinal trees which are harvested to manufacture the herbs and nutritional foods. The farms are located at Pemba Mnazi and Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam.

Cornwell Tanzania Co-director, Johny Brinkmann said: "We are proud to establish the college in the country; we aim to train and educate Tanzanians on the use of alternative medicines in improving body immune and curing diseases."

There's every reason for promotion of diversification of our agriculture

PIG farming is the raising and breeding of domestic pigs as livestock, and is a branch of animal husbandry. Pigs are farmed principally for food for example pork, bacon, gammon and skins. Pigs are amenable to many different styles of farming: intensive commercial units, commercial free range enterprises, or extensive farming being allowed to wander around a village, town or city, or tethered in a simple shelter or kept in a pen outside the owner's house.

Historically, farm pigs were kept in small numbers and were closely associated with the residence of the owner, or in the same village or town. They were valued as a source of meat and fat, and for their ability to convert inedible food into meat, and were often fed household food waste when kept on a homestead. Pigs have been farmed to dispose of municipal garbage on a large scale.

All these forms of pig farm are in use today, though intensive farms are by far the most popular, due to their potential to raise a large amount of pigs in a very cost-efficient manner. In developed nations, commercial farms house thousands of pigs in climate-controlled buildings. Pigs are a popular form of livestock, with more than one billion pigs butchered each year worldwide, 100 million of them in the USA. The majority of pigs are used for human food but also supply skin, fat and other materials for use as clothing, ingredients for processed foods, cosmetics, and medical use.

The activities on a pig farm depend on the husbandry style of the farmer, and range from very little intervention as when pigs are allowed to roam villages or towns and dispose of garbage to intensive systems where the pigs are contained in a building for the majority of their lives. Essentially, the pig farming can play a complementary role to other running livestock schemes and projects covering cattle, goats, sheep, poultry and fisheries.

Pigs are known to produce large

litters if they receive proper care and food, which means that the scheme will offer a quick sustainable pathway to better livelihoods for the communities.

Piggery farming can empower various people from the country's demographic configurations that include women, youths and even the aged.

The country currently has huge numbers of people that are neither formally employed nor creating their own businesses, so many people are struggling to make ends meet. Thus a pig farming can create employment for many other people along the value chain and outside the circles of the first beneficiaries.

Besides employment creation and income generation, the project will also boost food and nutrition security for many people nationally.

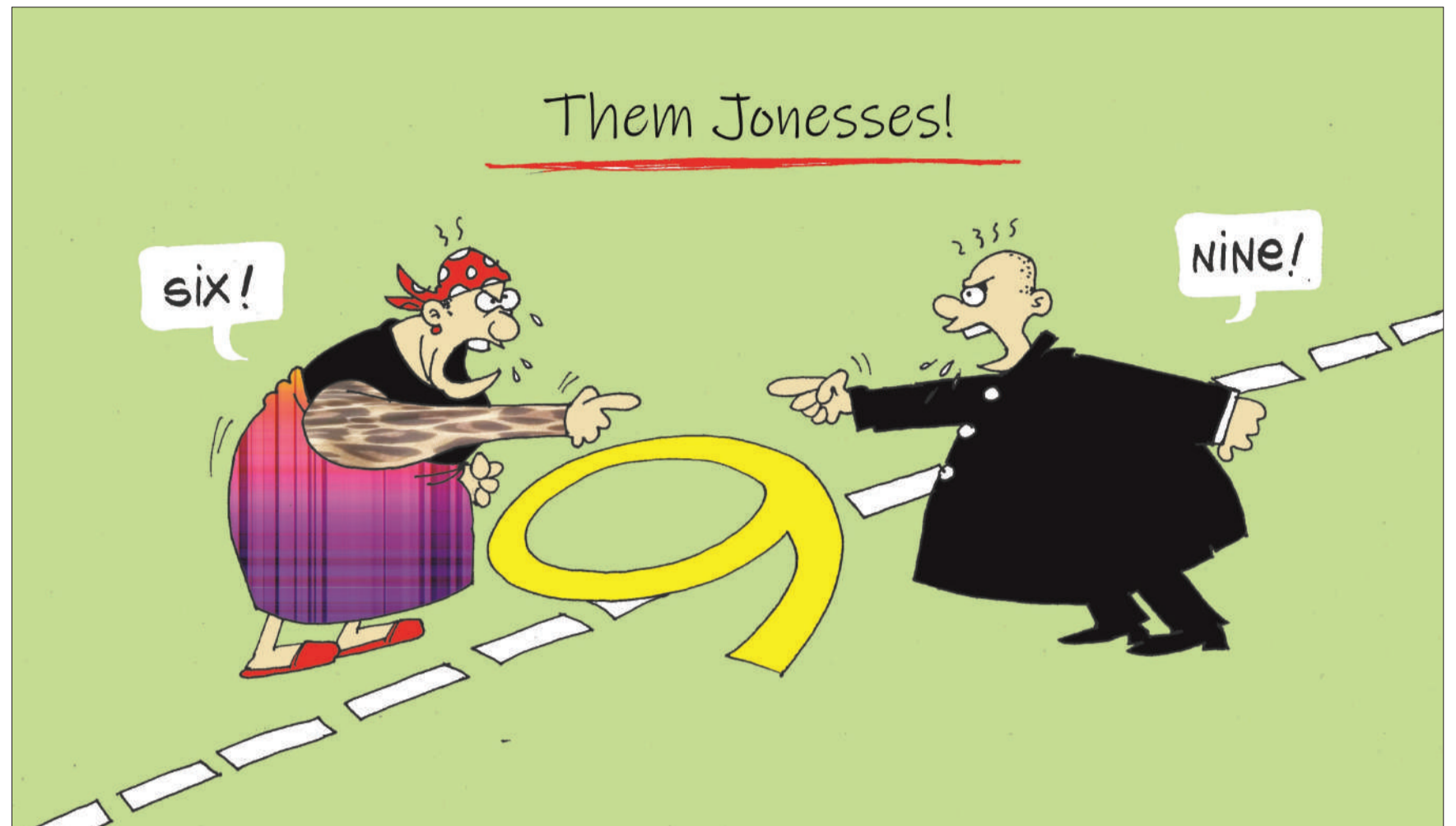
One other advantage with pigs is that farmers can use home-grown feeds if they cannot afford concentrates that are sold in shops. They can also divert considerable quantities of household and farm waste to the pigs.

For either option to work effectively they will need to seek advice from experts on the quantities they mix in making their own formulas.

Farmers will need to seek advice on bio-security measures needed in pig farming as well so that they do not contribute to spreading diseases. They must work with veterinary and extension officers in their various areas each time they need to do new things that they do not fully understand.

Farmers must remember that meat inspectors will reject pigs and pork if there is disease or parasites.

It is also crucial for various arms of government that are involved in agriculture to chip in and make available literature on pig farming so that farmers understand exactly what they will be doing should they use the handbooks for knowledge. Farmers must tap into this opportunity to produce big and sustainable herds of pigs.



By Antoinette Miric

HEALTHCARE workers are human too. This fact gets lost among the rhetoric of 'healthcare workers are heroes'. I believe that these comments come from a genuinely appreciative place, but I'm concerned about the overall impact these simple words can have on their mental health.

When you think of a hero, you might think of a knight charging into battle, regardless of the impending danger, protecting others' lives ahead of their own. That is a hero. This situation is different. Healthcare workers (HCWs) are not soldiers and they did not sign up to put their lives on the line. Their actions can be described as heroic and brave, but naming them as heroes inadvertently strips them of their ordinariness.

Yes, HCWs signed the Hippocratic Oath, but they also have expectations of a system that can protect them both physically and psychologically while protecting others. The South African mental health community is currently concerned about HCWs who are at risk of moral injury.

The term moral injury was coined

The burden of heroism

by the military on the battlefield, and it describes the after-effects of acting in ways that breach one's moral code. A moral injury can result in feelings of guilt and shame, can feel very similar to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and can result in long-lasting psychological damage. Knowing that South African health workers are going to need to deal with increased moral injury in the next few months makes the outpouring of hero rhetoric even more concerning.

The discordance between the public view of HCWs as heroes and the way that HCWs may view themselves can amplify feelings of guilt and inadequacy.

Being considered a hero while being on the frontline and experiencing moral injury is a recipe for psychological disaster.

We need to consider that specific deliberate actions in times like these mean far more than words. We need to set up psychological support structures for these brave, but burnt-out and

anxious HCWs. We need to set up rest stations, provide food, childcare and safe accommodation for those who need to be isolated. Provide personal protective equipment timeously and communicate clearly with HCWs.

My own experience as a naive young doctor in the early 2000s, when there was no treatment available for HIV/Aids, would surely be considered a moral injury.

The mountains of death certificates waiting for me and my colleagues every morning in the wards was enough to cause a tremendous traumatic response, and I still have twinges of PTSD symptoms when I think of individual departments where I worked. I could do nothing at that stage, but hold someone's hand while they died.

I don't think I truly processed those feelings until much later in my life. Now I think just the act of holding someone's hand might have made a small difference, even if it didn't feel so at the time.

The impending emotional states that HCWs are currently facing feels eerily familiar. We have a new generation of HCWs who will have those same feelings of guilt and shame that I felt all those years ago.

Thank goodness I could just work my shifts and get on with it, without public clapping every night, memes and rampant social media jumping on the bandwagon to fete us - reluctant heroes and heroines. I think that would have exacerbated the guilt and the shame I felt at that time and resulted in significantly more psychological scars.

So, please thank HCWs, talk about their strength, their bravery, even their heroic actions. Provide them with their basic needs, a safe working environment with compassionate leadership.

And please be careful about elevating my colleagues and I to hero status, since at best, it may feel superficially good for some HCWs, but at worst, it could cause considerable psychological suffering in this vulnerable population.

By Tee Wonokay

THE stories of nepotism and economic crimes in Liberia go back many generations, but for the purpose of this piece, I will focus on the recent decades of institutional corruption and economic crimes that have prevented the Liberian nation from achieving its best potentials.

The Liberian scenario reminds me of the line from the song 'Mike and the Mechanics' that says "Every generation blames the ones before."

Do not forget, that when Samuel Doe and other military officers executed President William R. Tolbert on April 12, 1980, they blamed corruption and decades of Americo-Liberian stranglehold on the nation's political system.

After the death of Tolbert, Doe took office and promised to be a good leader for all Liberians, and to provide an opportunity for every hard-working Liberian to prosper and live peacefully in a society that provides freedom and justice for all. But within a few years, the young head of state developed dictatorial tendencies and began crushing the voices of dissent.

Fast forward to December 1989 when Charles Taylor launched a military invasion, accusing President Doe of corruption and blaming him for the nation's problems, as you all remember, that conflict caused so

Cycle of corruption and blame games

much destruction and set the country

back many years. Anyways, Mr. Taylor became President following an election in 2007, but again, rather than diligently working to solve the nation's problems, Mr. Taylor operated a crime infested administration and either humiliated or executed those who questioned his authoritarian rulership, blaming opposition leaders for the country's economic collapse.

Eventually, Taylor's problems compounded and he was forced to leave under indictment by the international criminal tribunal, and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf came along following an election in 2005. Considering everything that had happened in Liberia's recent history, the hopes were high for Madam Sirleaf to turn the corner and steer the country in the right direction. I must admit that the Ellen administration did some good things in terms of advancing women's rights, etc.

But, rather than apologizing for the areas where it fell short and doubling its efforts to succeed, the government of Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf later became corrupt and arrogant, blaming the previous administrations and opposition leaders for Liberia's economic downturn, cracking down on protesters with a militaristic approach that created pictorials

reminiscent of the Taylor years.

In its final years, President Sirleaf's administration repeatedly refused to acknowledge the suffering of Liberians, and ignored its promises to deliver transparency and fight corruption as "public enemy number one."

Despite given countless opportunities to honor those deferred promises, the Ellen administration demonstrated no honest desire to dispense justice and equality for all. It continued the display of nepotistic tendencies and disregard for democratic norms by doing the following:

1) Appointing the President's unqualified adult-children into some of the highest profile offices in the nation

2) Disproportionately using force at the headquarters of the then opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) compound in 2006 as an attempt to silence the voices of dissent. Shots were fired on demonstrators for chanting anti-government slogans by state security personnel. Lots of citizens were hurt during that stampede, but the government never addressed that situation or took accountability.

3) The administration's clandestine association with Russian firm Gazprom and the lack of accountability by the National Oil Company of Liberia (NOCAL) in that deal etc.

For reasons mentioned above,

the Foundation for Human Rights Defense remains appalled by the Oslo Nobel Committee's decision to award President Sirleaf the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize. While Madam Sirleaf clearly deserves some credit for women's rights advancement, her overall body of work was overshadowed by rampant corruption, nepotism, and crimes against the Liberian people for her role in the 1989 invasion by the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) amongst others.

Once again, at the end of one corrupt administration, the resilient people of Liberia always carry the hope that the incoming administration will lead them in a new direction and restore their dreams, but time and time again, the people have ended up with each new administration being deaf eared to the country's economic turmoil and blaming the administration before it. For instance, even though the Liberian people have gotten somewhat used to public officials enriching themselves with tax payers' dollars for decades, what we are seeing in this current (Weah) administration is a whole new level of corruption and self-enrichment at tax payers' expense. I will reserve further judgement and see if this administration will take action to deliver justice and equality to all of its people.

FORUMCC calls for proper management of waste from used COVID-19 protective equipment

By Gerald Kitabu

IN this period of outbreak of corona virus disease (COVID-19), some Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) have expressed concern over Coronavirus plastic and mask wastes polluting the environment particularly bottles of sanitizers, face masks and gloves which are ending up being thrown on streets and in the sea. Our reporter GERALD KITABU caught up with FORUMCC's Executive Director REBECCA MUNA and here she explains why there is a need for relevant authorities to put in place mask wastes management:

QUESTION: What is your concern over the Coronavirus plastic and masks being used to shield people from the spread of corona virus?

ANSWER: Since the outbreak of the pandemic, there has been different masks of different shapes and sizes used to shield people from the spread of corona virus. Normally people use them to protect themselves and others from infection, which is a very good thing indeed. People of all walks of life have heeded and responded positively this directive that require them to use face masks three or more times a day. There are those which are used for only short time and thrown away. Some people use masks once and wash them and after one or two days, they are also dumped on streets. All these masks which are being dumped randomly have no specific collection point, proper storage system and disposal site. In fact, they end up scattered on streets. This is not acceptable as it may cause another public health problem. Some discarded masks, gloves, wipes and bottles of sanitizer are strewn on sidewalks and roads. When it rains, some of them find their way into residential homes and sometimes into the sea. Therefore, what I would like to say is that they need to be controlled because they could have devastating long term effects on human beings' health especially children and the environment at large. Currently, the whole Tanzanian population countrywide use different types of corona virus masks but there is no proper management plans as such, the amount of trash generated will obviously be large and may end up causing another serious public health problems as well as marine life problems.

Q: Do you have any experience on environmental cleanliness campaigns that you would like to share?

A: Yes we do have and we have been doing this several times. Besides conducting different activities such as annual symposium and expo, during the last year's campaigns to ban plastic bags forexample, FORUMCC and other organizations under the forum scattered all over the country participated effectively in the historic environment conserva-

tion move. We played our role very well. Forexample, the FORUMCC in collaboration with Ilala Municipal Council (IMC) and other stakeholders prepared a series of events that spanned for almost ten days. Some activities conducted were flash mob, beach cleanup, tree planting and education provision. In fact, over 600 people participated from cleaning companies, education institutions, women groups. It is now a tradition that people are used to the new bags. We all witnessed people voluntarily use non plastic bags after banning the production, importation, use and selling of the environmental polluter bags. I commend the good work of the government and different authorities for taking it as a matter of urgency because it directed all Tanzanians and the manufacturers to manufacture and use alternative means of carriers, particularly non plastic bags and those who defied were taken to task. This shows that it is possible even for the bottles of sanitizers, single-use masks, gloves, and surgical masks to be handled and managed properly.

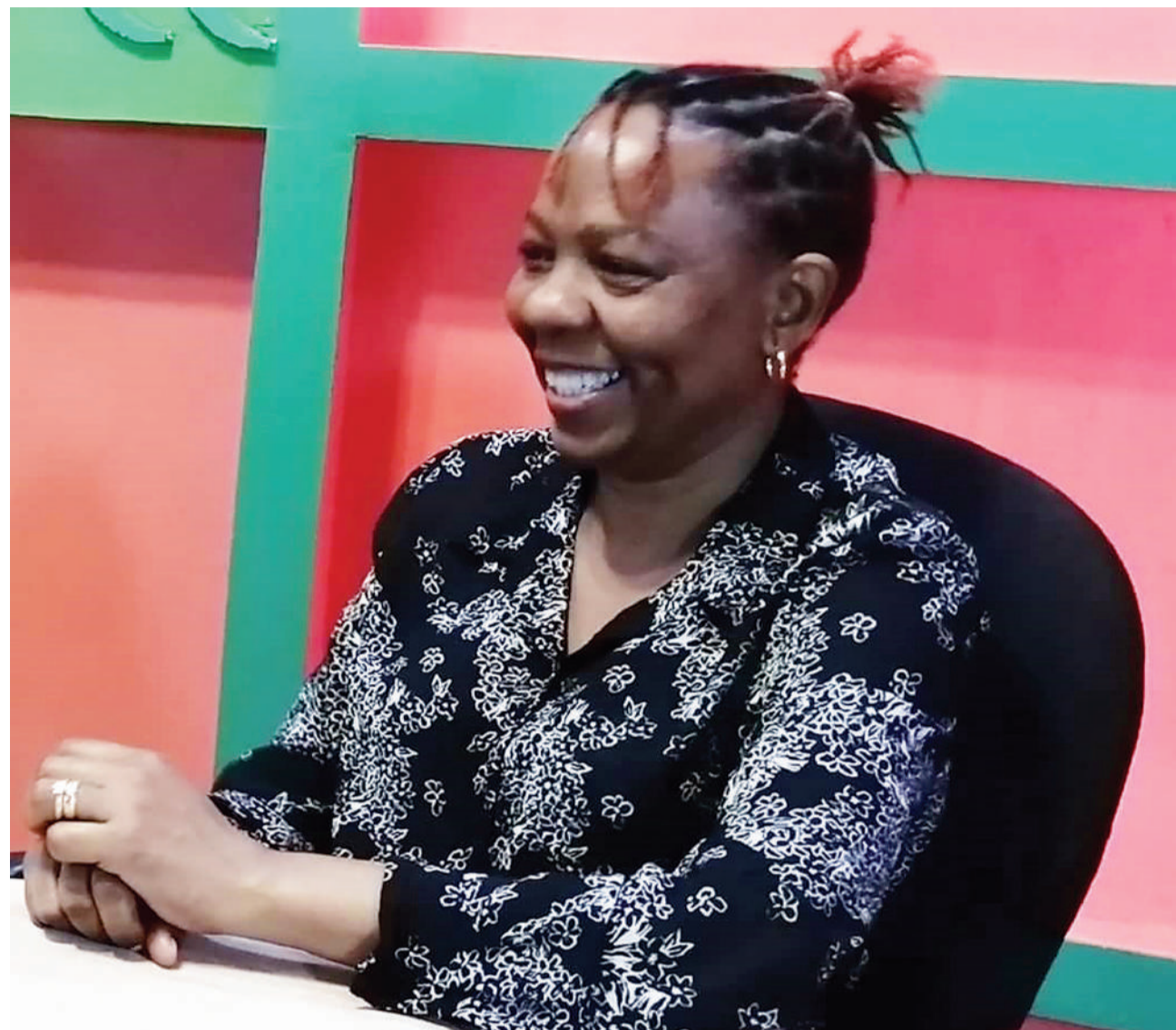
Q: Recently, people across the country witnessed heavy rains and floods, which, also contributed to difficulties in environmental cleanliness, as one of the climate change stakeholders, what should be done?

A: Yes, we faced heavy rains and floods in many parts of the country. The floods forexample left behind wastes that include the face masks, gloves and bottles of sanitizer. Some are still scattered on the streets. There is no specific collection points where they can be ferried to the dumping site.

As a result of climate change, the floods have also affected infrastructures, they have affected management and storage of the wastes be it at home, streets and markets. However, the rate at which the wastes are being collected in many town and cities is a bit slow due to the recent challenge of rain and floods. I suggest that there is a need to speed up this exercise and put in place proper wastes management plans and strategies.

There is a need to conduct awareness creation campaigns and constantly provide public education on proper management of these masks so that they don't cause another health problem. Therefore, at this period of the covid-19, the public education should be on how to collect, keep and manage the wastes so that we don't blame ourselves in future. This education campaigns should also be tailored in such a way it also help in the fight against climate change.

Forexample, the education campaigns that were conducted last year during the exercise of banning plastic bags were very useful and helpful to people of all walks of life. The campaigns reminded authorities, ordinary citizens, petty traders, grocery owners etc to adhere and make sure that cleanliness becomes their day to day responsibilities. Education campaigns should trickle down to the family level, so that



FORUMCC Executive Director Rebecca Muna

every person is aware of proper management of wastes and climate change. Environment conservation is very important for human health. It helps to protect people from problems including outbreak of diseases. So, what I can say is that the covid 19 is also here to remind our key roles and responsibility of managing properly the masks and conserving the environment to make

this planet a better place to live.

Besides conducting regular training to different Civil Society organizations, FORUMCC is also building capacity to the local communities and empower them to report irregularities. The Forum has been conducting several campaigns on climate change and the environment under Accountable Climate Action and Finance Transparency Ini-

tiative (ACATI), supported by European Union.

The Forum is an association of civil society organisations committed to work on climate change in their own programmes as well as through advocacy. It brings together development and environment organizations, those with technical skills and those with a more delivery and advocacy focus.

Any evidence that hydroxychloroquine can prevent Covid-19?

By Dana G Smith

US President Donald Trump once announced that he had been taking the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine as a prophylaxis against the novel coronavirus. That meant that he was taking the drug, which is under investigation as a Covid-19 treatment, to prevent getting infected.

There was no evidence that Trump has been exposed to the coronavirus or that hydroxychloroquine can prevent infection. However, there is a line of thinking that if someone has come into contact with the virus - which is not out of the question for Trump given that several White House staffers, including his personal valet, have tested positive for it - the drug might offer some protection.

Hydroxychloroquine has been a controversial medication since the start of the pandemic. The drug has both antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties, and early studies in cells suggested that it might be effective against the novel coronavirus.

However, results from clinical trials of its use in people with Covid-19 have been mixed. Initial promising results later came under scrutiny, and subsequent studies have reported no benefit.

Most damning was a study conducted by Veterans Affairs - which has not yet been peer-reviewed - showing that people with Covid-19 who received hydroxychloroquine actually had a higher death rate than those who did not.

Other studies have been halted after evidence emerged that the drug was causing a serious and potentially deadly cardiovascular complication called QT prolongation.

The QT interval, measured using an electrocardiogram (ECG), assesses how long it takes the heart to recharge between each heartbeat. A prolonged QT interval over 500 milliseconds can cause a dangerous and sometimes fatal heart arrhythmia.

Because of this risk, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has advised people against taking hydroxychloroquine unless they're part of a clinical study or it's prescribed by a doctor for malaria, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis - other indications for the drug.

Despite these concerns and the lack of evidence for its effectiveness, at least



A pharmacist displays a box of hydroxychloroquine tablets. Photo: Noah Seelam/AFP/Getty Images

34 clinical trials testing hydroxychloroquine for Covid-19 treatment are currently up and running in the United States.

That includes several studies that are exploring the drug's potential as either a pre-exposure or post-exposure prophylaxis, primarily in healthcare workers who are at the highest risk of exposure.

Matthew Pullen, MD, an infectious disease specialist at the University of Minnesota who's working on the hydroxychloroquine trials there, says that the drug may act as a prophylaxis by interfering with the virus's ability to infect cells through the ACE2 receptor (a protein on the surface of cells) and therefore preventing disease.

If the virus does get in, the medication could still prevent the virus from replicating, theoretically stopping the infection short. No results from the prophylaxis trials have been published yet to confirm whether the drug works as a preventive medication or not.

"Some of the prevailing thought is that drugs like this that affect viral replication are probably more efficacious if given when your viral

load is zero or low because if you're giving a drug to stop replication but you already have millions and millions of viral particles in your body, you're behind," Pullen says.

"Treating earlier in the course, the thought is that it may be more beneficial. Whether it is or not, that's why we're doing the studies to see if that is actually the case," he adds.

As for the cardiovascular complications, Pullen says hydroxychloroquine can cause QT prolongation, but it's not a risk as long as the person doesn't have a pre-existing condition and isn't taking other drugs that can also cause arrhythmias.

He says that the most serious complications have arisen in studies that combine hydroxychloroquine with azithromycin, an antibiotic commonly paired with the anti-malarial drug to treat Covid-19 and that can also cause QT prolongation.

"When you really get down to the details of the FDA report, the warning was really about taking this drug in combination with azithromycin or other QT-prolonging drugs, which a lot of people had been doing in hospitals and clinics at that point," Pullen says.

He elaborates: "Hydroxychloroquine alone actually hasn't really ever been documented to do that in any degree that would make us concerned about using it alone. On average, in large studies that have looked at this, they only see QT prolongation of about 10 milliseconds, which for most people is nothing."

Pullen adds that millions of people take hydroxychloroquine for malaria, lupus and rheumatoid arthritis for extended amounts of time without concern.

In the Minnesota clinical trials, which have enrolled nearly 3,000 people so far, there have not been any serious side-effects reported, including cardiac arrhythmia - although the researchers are not conducting regular ECGs to screen for this.

But that's not to say that it's fine or even a good idea for Trump to take the drug right now - if he has indeed been taking it as he said he was - or that he will be safe in the long run.

In one recent study of people with Covid-19 who received hydroxychloroquine alone, 19 per cent had a QT interval of 500 milliseconds or longer and 3 per cent had a change

of over 60 milliseconds, although the average increase was just 5.5 milliseconds.

Having a longer QT interval before starting the medication or being prescribed other drugs that could also affect the heart's rhythm was associated with a greater risk of prolongation.

Trump's use of hydroxychloroquine also goes against the very principles of the scientific process established in the United States. The FDA specifically recommends against taking drugs that have not been proven safe or effective for use, especially if it's not an emergency scenario.

David Boulware, MD, MPH, a professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota and the lead scientist on the clinical trials, summed up the controversy in an emailed statement to Elemental, saying: "There are no data that pre-exposure prophylaxis is effective to prevent coronavirus. It may be. It may not be. We do not know. The only way I would recommend taking hydroxychloroquine is within a clinical trial."

Dana G Smith is a senior writer for Elemental covering health, science and the science of wellness.



NOTICE OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Notice is hereby given that the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of Maendeleo Bank PLC will be held on Saturday 27th June 2020 at 10:00am. Shareholders will participate ONLINE through Zoom platform.

The Annual General Meeting will be held via **ZOOM online meeting platform** because of concern of safety to our Shareholders and avoid possible infection of corona virus disease. This is due to the large number of Shareholders who expect to participate and lack of meeting venue that can accommodate the standard sitting space per member that meet the social distancing guidelines.

The Bank is taking serious on safety of our Shareholders and all other stakeholders. We join hands with the Government in fighting the spread of the Corona virus by ensuring that we comply to the advised safety guidelines including avoidance of mass gathering and ensuring social distancing.

The Agenda will be as follows:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda for the 6th Annual General Meeting.
3. Special Amendments to Memarts to include conduct of AGM meetings through digital platforms
4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting.
5. Matters Arising from the 5th Annual General Meeting
6. Managing Director's Report for the Year ended 31st December 2019
7. External Auditor's Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2019
8. To Receive and Approve Directors' Remuneration for the Year 2020
9. To Receive and Approve Appointment of External Auditors for the Year Ending 31st December 2020
10. To receive and approve dividend proposal
11. Any other business
12. Date of Next annual General Meeting
13. Closure of the meeting

NOTES:

1. Members wishing to participate on this online meeting must communicate with the Company Secretary through email: shareholders@maendeleobank.co.tz or sms / WhatsApp message through +255677 005050 by 25th June 2020 in order get information and guidance on how to participate the Meeting.
2. A member entitled to attend the meeting and who is unable to attend, is required to appoint a Proxy to attend on his/her behalf by filling in proxy forms and submit the form duly signed through email: shareholders@maendeleobank.co.tz or WhatsApp number +255677 005050 24 hours before the meeting. The proxy forms can be downloaded from our website (www.maendeleobank.co.tz).
3. The 2019 Annual reports and Papers for the meeting will be available on the Bank's website (www.maendeleobank.co.tz) from 15th June 2020.
4. Shareholders' proposals to be covered under agenda item number 11 should be submitted to the Secretary through email: shareholders@maendeleobank.co.tz or WhatsApp number +255677 005050 before 4.0pm on 25th June 2020.

BY THE ORDER OF THE BOARD

DR. IBRAHIM MWANGALABA
MANAGING DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY TO THE BOARD.

Reinventing the Mauritian economic model

BY RONAK GOPALDAS

Mauritius reported its first cases of coronavirus on 19 March and closed its borders to all foreigners on the same day. It was a radical step for a small, open economy, but a necessary one.

Subsequent containment efforts proved successful. A travel ban on foreign visitors was declared as early as 2 February. Contact tracing began soon after along with an aggressive public marketing campaign about the disease and what precautions to take. Under a countrywide lockdown, schools, markets and even its famous beaches were closed.

While the World Health Organization had forecast over 20 000 cases and 1 139 deaths for Mauritius in total, the country's swift action has meant just 337 infections and 10 deaths. Three active cases have been imported.

With the virus outbreak now largely contained, attention must shift to the economic and social fallout. Although Mauritius has reinvented itself before, the consequences this time challenge its economic philosophy and will require vision, creativity and innovation.

The country, heavily exposed to global dynamics, now faces a triple threat of declining tourism, capital flight from its financial sector and increasing concerns about food security. A rethink is needed of how to adapt, especially with a downturn in the global economy.

Mauritius faces a triple threat of declining tourism, capital flight and food security concerns.

COVID-19 has devastated the tourism and hospitality industry which has effectively been halted with border closures - both those of Mauritius and other countries. The sector contributes an estimated 25% of GDP and approximately 15% of all employment.

French and United Kingdom visitors are among the biggest contributors of foreign exchange receipts, with China also a fast-growing market. For many, lost income makes island holidays an unaffordable luxury. The fear of infection and practicalities of travel will also keep visitors away. South African Airways and Air Mauritius, two of the main carriers bringing tourists to the island, have been grounded by the pandemic, and both have entered business rescue.

However it's not just the tourism sector taking a beating. Pressures in the offshore sector could not have come at a worse time. Last year Mauritius narrowly escaped being blacklisted by the European Union as a tax haven - an

issue that's recently resurfaced. Dismissed as noise in some quarters, its impact could be dramatic.

More recently, the European Commission announced that Mauritius would be added to a list of states posing financial risk due to lax anti-money laundering and terrorism financing oversight. Despite the Mauritian government's assurances that it will implement remedies to be removed from the list, the immense reputational damage could exacerbate COVID-19-related outflows and divestments.

Pressures in Mauritius' offshore sector could not have come at a worse time.

Anuradha Ramphul, Managing Director at financial services consultancy St Lawrence Management, believes the reputation damage is already evident: 'We have seen some initial impact outside of the EU last week, for example, the Reserve Bank of India turning down investment proposals from Mauritius-based entities in the Indian financial services industry.' She nevertheless believes the authorities will soon address regulators' concerns.

Another setback came in May when Senegal announced it was withdrawing from its Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with Mauritius, criticising the agreement as lopsided. This is a blow to Mauritius' intra-Africa relations, amid efforts to pivot towards the continent. This will dent sentiment and future investment prospects, especially if other African nations follow.

Food security is another growing concern. Mauritius has diversified away from agricultural output (sugar and vanilla) for nearly five decades, all the while drawing historically subsistence farmers into the now collapsing services labour market.

Mauritius imports most of its food, making up 20% of total imports. In a climate of growing nationalism and protectionism, many countries have restricted some food exports to protect domestic food security. A sudden stop of staple imports from any one country would have a dramatic inflationary impact, heightening social pressures.

The impact of COVID-19 alone has forced extraordinary downward economic revisions. The economy is forecast to contract by up to 11% year on year in 2020 and unemployment to double from 7% to 17.5%. With economic and regulatory headwinds mounting, both Moody's and Fitch revised Mauritius' commercial bank's outlook to negative in line with their downwardly revised sovereign rating.

Mauritius must avoid middle-income trap pitfalls, but



Mauritius has faced existential shocks before but COVID-19 and other pressures mean radical changes are now needed. File photo

also reinvent itself to stay relevant.

This isn't the first time Mauritius has faced such existential shocks. Policymakers have previously reacted with dexterity, but this was as a lower income country moving up the industrial value chain. Now Mauritius not only needs to avoid the middle-income trap pitfalls, but also radically reinvent itself to stay relevant.

It therefore finds itself at a crossroads. The tenets of its economic success - being attractive to international markets in an increasingly globalised world - are threatened as nationalism grows and countries look inward.

But as Eumonix Chief Executive Claude Baissac argues, decision makers should be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater. With its small domestic market, endogenous solutions are limited. Instead, Mauritius should use one of its main comparative advantages - its seat at all diplomatic tables.

The country's strategic location and geopolitical appeal to foreign powers allow it to develop new sectors and industries tailored to specific needs. The Chagos question is an example, illustrative of the rapidly changing geopolitics of the Indian Ocean. With India, China, the United States, UK and France all having a vested interest from a strategic and economic perspective, this remains a unique comparative advantage.

That said, there's a need for creativity, says Kevin Teeroovengadam, a Mauritian finance executive. 'First, Mauritius must target self-sufficiency - it is essential to reduce its import bill which has been growing faster than exports for the past two decades. Second, we need to go big bang into in-

novation, digitalisation, and big data. Third, the blue economy is key given that we are surrounded by the ocean. Fourth, make the environment the centre of everything and create an economy around it.'

Having already lowered interest rates and tapped reserves for business lending, the Bank of Mauritius was recently granted permission to make equity investments in private companies. These investments should be directed to future-facing industries in science, technology and innovation.

The country's established manufacturing base can capture some of the shift away from Chinese supply chain dependence. And its skilled, multilingual workforce can drive a greater share of the global business process outsourcing market. Looking ahead, Mauritius' strong services focus positions it to play in emerging sectors like health and medical tourism, medical cannabis technology and green-gear industries.

While 'business as usual' is under threat, Mauritius has proved agile in adapting to a changing world. The crisis requires it to fortify existing economic sectors but offers the opportunity to forge a new future. To do so will require bold and visionary leadership. The question is whether the incumbents are ready for the challenge.

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Subsequent containment efforts proved successful. A travel ban on foreign visitors was declared as early as 2 February. Contact tracing began soon after along with an aggressive public marketing campaign about the disease and what precautions to take. Under a countrywide lock-

down, schools, markets and even its famous beaches were closed.

While the World Health Organization had forecast over 20 000 cases and 1 139 deaths for Mauritius in total, the country's swift action has meant just 337 infections and 10 deaths. Three active cases have been imported.

With the virus outbreak now largely contained, attention must shift to the economic and social fallout. Although Mauritius has reinvented itself before, the consequences this time challenge its economic philosophy and will require vision, creativity and innovation.

The country, heavily exposed to global dynamics, now faces a triple threat of declining tourism, capital flight from its financial sector and increasing concerns about food security. A rethink is needed of how to adapt, especially with a downturn in the global economy.

Mauritius faces a triple threat of declining tourism, capital flight and food security concerns. COVID-19 has devastated the tourism and hospitality industry which has effectively been halted with border closures - both those of Mauritius and other countries. The sector contributes an estimated 25% of GDP and approximately 15% of all employment.

French and United Kingdom visitors are among the biggest contributors of foreign exchange receipts, with China also a fast-growing market. For many, lost income makes island holidays an unaffordable luxury. The fear of infection and practicalities of travel will also keep visitors away. South African Airways and Air Mauritius, two of the main carriers bringing tourists to the island, have been grounded by the pandemic, and both have entered business rescue.

However it's not just the tourism sector taking a beating. Pressures in the offshore sector could not have come at a worse time. Last year Mauritius narrowly es-

caped being blacklisted by the European Union as a tax haven - an issue that's recently resurfaced. Dismissed as noise in some quarters, its impact could be dramatic.

More recently, the European Commission announced that Mauritius would be added to a list of states posing financial risk due to lax anti-money laundering and terrorism financing oversight. Despite the Mauritian government's assurances that it will implement remedies to be removed from the list, the immense reputational damage could exacerbate COVID-19-related outflows and divestments.

Pressures in Mauritius' offshore sector could not have come at a worse time

Anuradha Ramphul, Managing Director at financial services consultancy St Lawrence Management, believes the reputation damage is already evident: 'We have seen some initial impact outside of the EU last week, for example, the Reserve Bank of India turning down investment proposals from Mauritius-based entities in the Indian financial services industry.' She nevertheless believes the authorities will soon address regulators' concerns.

Another setback came in May when Senegal announced it was withdrawing from its Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement with Mauritius, criticising the agreement as lopsided. This is a blow to Mauritius' intra-Africa relations, amid efforts to pivot towards the continent. This will dent sentiment and future investment prospects, especially if other African nations follow.

Food security is another growing concern. Mauritius has diversified away from agricultural output (sugar and vanilla) for nearly five decades, all the while drawing historically subsistence farmers into the now collapsing services labour mar-

ket.

Mauritius imports most of its food, making up 20% of total imports. In a climate of growing nationalism and protectionism, many countries have restricted some food exports to protect domestic food security. A sudden stop of staple imports from any one country would have a dramatic inflationary impact, heightening social pressures.

The impact of COVID-19 alone has forced extraordinary downward economic revisions. The economy is forecast to contract by up to 11% year on year in 2020 and unemployment to double from 7% to 17.5%. With economic and regulatory headwinds mounting, both Moody's and Fitch revised Mauritius' commercial bank's outlook to negative in line with their downwardly revised sovereign rating.

Mauritius must avoid middle-income trap pitfalls, but also reinvent itself to stay relevant.

This isn't the first time Mauritius has faced such existential shocks. Policymakers have previously reacted with dexterity, but this was as a lower income country moving up the industrial value chain. Now Mauritius not only needs to avoid the middle-income trap pitfalls, but also radically reinvent itself to stay relevant.

It therefore finds itself at a crossroads. The tenets of its economic success - being attractive to international markets in an increasingly globalised world - are threatened as nationalism grows and countries look inward.

But as Eumonix Chief Executive Claude Baissac argues, decision makers should be careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater. With its small domestic market, endogenous solutions are limited. Instead, Mauritius should use one of its main comparative advantages - its seat at all diplomatic tables.

Agencies

US Congressional Democrats unveil police reform bill in wake of Floyd's death

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC leaders of the U.S. House and Senate on Monday introduced legislation aiming at reforming policing policies in the country, addressing some of the key concerns of the nationwide protests following the death of Minneapolis black man George Floyd under police custody.

The legislation, led by the Congressional Black Caucus, was announced at a news conference attended by Chair of Congressional Black Caucus Karen Bass, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, as well as other senior Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill.

"We cannot settle for anything less than transformative structural change," Pelosi said when introducing the bill. "Police brutality is heartbreaking reflection of an entrenched system of racial injustice in America. True

justice can only be achieved with full comprehensive action. That's what we are doing today. This is a first step."

According to the text of the 136-page Justice in Policing Act of 2020 cited by U.S. media, the bill will make it easier to prosecute police misconduct and recover damages caused by law enforcement.

It will create a National Police Misconduct Registry, mandating state and local law enforcement to turn over data on the use of force related to such factors as race, gender, disability, religion and age, while preventing "problem officers from changing jurisdictions to avoid accountability."

The proposed law will ban certain policing tactics, including chokeholds - as was applied in Floyd's case where he was pinned down by a police officer who knelt on his neck - and no-knock warrants in drug cases, meaning cops can't barge into people's homes without knocking on the door.



While requiring that federal police officers wear body and dashboard cameras, the bill also sets restrictions on the transfer of military-grade weaponry to state and local law enforcement. At the same time, it will make lynching a hate crime, but it remains to be seen if this section will receive support from the Republican-controlled Senate, which failed to pass an anti-lynching bill last week.

Additionally, the legislation seeks structural reform within the Justice Department by giving its Civil Rights Division subpoena power. Meanwhile, it will incentivize attorneys general at the state level to launch pattern and practice investigations into police departments in their constituencies, and provide grants for states to set up structures for probing police-involved deaths.

One area that the bill stops short of addressing directly, though, is defunding police departments, a demand of the recent protests that has gained traction nationwide. The Minneapolis City Council on Sunday voted to dissolve the city's police department, the epicenter of demonstrations.

Pelosi said she hopes that when the House passes the bill, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "must swiftly take it up," and that President Donald Trump "must not stand in the way of justice." **Xinhua**

ECA to host policy dialogue on 'building back better with African continent youth'

By Guardian Reporter

FOR a continent of over 1.2 billion people, coronavirus infection and death rates have been remarkably low in Africa but the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in massive negative economic effects that will be felt for many years to come.

The continent is likely to be more affected by the human, social and economic impacts of

the pandemic with the vulnerable and marginalised, especially women and the youth, being the most affected as the pandemic threatens to reverse hard-won economic and social gains.

African countries are implementing a two-pronged response articulated around immediate health and social measures, and economic stimulus as discussions among policymakers on building back better African

economies and social fabrics continue.

To bring Africa's youth into the conversation, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) and UNICEF GenU, yesterday hosted a virtual youth policy dialogue on the theme: "Building Back Better with African Youth".

"The voice and agency and contribution of the youth are critical

in shaping the narrative for building back better Africa's economic and social landscapes," the three institutions say in a concept note on the dialogue.

Also crucial, they say, is the need to address the pervasive fragility of countries' health and educational systems, and their dependencies on natural and mineral resources, macroeconomic instability, heightened public debt vulnerabilities and others. "The

new narrative for building back better African economies should be underpinned by countries' renewed commitment and actions to accelerate the pace and path of innovation uptake and industrialisation with empowered young women and men as pivotal actors and change-makers. Such a paradigm shift would enable Africa to unlock the youth's important potential and harness its demographic dividend," reads the concept note.

The dialogue's main objectives are to take stock of the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on the youth in Africa; consolidate concerns, conversations and contributions of African youth in responding to Covid-19 and building back better Africa's economies; and to provide a platform for capturing youth voices, insights and narratives in the African Union Youth Sector response to the

crisis. The meeting will highlight the specific challenges faced by young Africans from the pandemic and its mitigation measures; showcase efforts by young people to respond to different aspects of today's reality within the pandemic; and deal with the themes of education, innovation, employment, health, and meaningful civic and community engagement, among others.

AfDB-financed initiative planting seeds of change

By Neil Ford

SUDANESE farmer Hachem Ahmad Salam has been working his wheat fields for more than 20 years and was yet to see the much-anticipated African green revolution, touted to transform the continent into a breadbasket to the world, come his way. Things may be about to change. An African Development Bank (AfDB) agriculture initiative is helping him to revolutionise how he does agribusiness and boost his crop yields.

The AfDB-funded Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation initiative, or TAAT, disseminates 'best bet' crop seed varieties, agricultural inputs and farming practices to farmers by directing proven technologies across the African landscape. With tens of millions of smallholder farmers potentially benefiting from TAAT, the initiative is bringing a green revolution closer to home.

"With the support of the TAAT wheat project, I received improved wheat seed as well as training on row planting and other production techniques at farmer field school," says Salam. He also says the TAAT programme's heat-tolerant seeds helped increase his wheat harvest from an average 1.8 tonnes per hectare to 5.5 tonnes per hectare, in a region known for seasons of unforgiving heat.

TAAT is active in Sudan and 27 other Sub-Saharan African countries, and seeks to encourage countries to work together on harmonising policies and regulations to allow the millions of African farmers to more efficiently access and make use of technologies like improved certified seeds, livestock and fish across borders and agro-ecological zones.

"The goal is to radically transform African agriculture into a competitive, profitable sector and help reduce Africa's food import dependence by producing more of our own grains, produce, livestock and fish supplies," said Dr Andrew Mude, an agriculture division manager at the AfDB responsible for the TAAT initiative.

Since its launch in 2018, TAAT has focused on nine priority areas, such as the promotion of beans, cassava, rice, wheat, maize, sorghum and orange-flesh sweet potato production. Improved aquaculture development and livestock rearing are also priorities.

A large part of the 'tech' in TAAT, is around improved seeds, providing

higher yields and greater resilience to drought, heat, pests and other stressors. Take ordinary wheat, which needs temperatures between 20 to 26 degrees Celsius to produce high yields. Heat-tolerant wheat seed can thrive in areas where field temperatures rise in excess of 30 degrees.

As a result of these developments, in Ethiopia, farmers planting heat-tolerant wheat seed are cultivating bumper harvests in the country's previously underused lowland areas - once considered too arid to produce quality grain. According to the AfDB, this not only reduces the country's grain import bill, but also creates jobs and generates steady, decent incomes in rural agricultural communities.

The initiative engages partner organisations and implementing agencies to ensure a wide rollout. It works with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture on boosting bean production in eight countries in Central, East and Southern Africa. One implementing agency, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, is promoting TAAT-funded wheat production in seven countries, including East Africa's highlands.

TAAT Coordinator Dr Jonas Chianu says the initiative aims to increase African food production by 120m tonnes over the next eight to ten years - a figure worth some \$1.5 to \$2.8bn, depending on future market prices.

Cross-border cooperation is key to ensuring that new seed varieties can be deployed for use across entire agro-ecological zones that stretch across numerous countries, rather than just within specific countries. As regional seed markets are opened up and national restrictions are lifted, TAAT officials say, a single seed-testing programme can result in new seed varieties that can thrive in upward of 10 countries that share the same agro-ecological zone.

TAAT collaborates with the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research centres (CGIAR) such as AfricaRice. Between the years 2011 and 2015, AfricaRice worked with Nigerian farmers to increase the use of new seeds, fertilisers as well as information and communications technology support. CGIAR also advocated for the introduction of public policy in support of cross-border cooperation.

By the end of the period, paddy rice production by test group farmers increased by 7m tonnes per year and



average yields doubled. This success, buoyed up by regional harmonisation policy, resulted in about 4.2 tonnes of this climate-smart rice seed being supplied to four countries: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Nigeria.

Challenging perceptions

Much of TAAT's implementation success lies in the numbers: in just a few years, about 30,500 tonnes of heat-tolerant varieties of wheat seed have been deployed in Sudan, 25,438 tonnes of seed have been distributed in Ethiopia and to date, 7,600 tonnes of seed are being utilised in Nigeria - a country that TAAT's programme coordinator in Abuja says has significant potential.

"Nigeria stands to save a lot of money in reducing wheat imports, if more wheat was grown in country," says Dr Chrysantus Akem. The challenge, he added, is the erroneous perception that wheat is exclusively a crop for Mediterranean area nations. TAAT is

changing that perception, by deploying stress-tolerant wheat varieties developed to produce high yields in Africa. In Nigeria, Akem says, farmers worked with TAAT to screen a range of stress-tolerant wheat seed over the last three years, and identified three varieties that produced up to 4x yields. "Tropical rainfall and comprehensive irrigation could allow wheat to be grown year round," he added.

Fighting fall armyworm

TAAT is also part of the fight to counter the spread of fall armyworm, an invasive insect threatening crops of smallholder farmers. Fall armyworm first appeared in Africa in 2016, and without appropriate action, the insect could cause maize yield losses of an estimated \$2.4-\$6.2bn over five years. Fall armyworm prefers maize but can feed on over 80 additional species of plants including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton.

In Zambia, TAAT is working with the government, seed companies and community leaders to distribute pesticide-treated and drought-tolerant wheat, maize and sorghum to farmers. Since 2018, TAAT has provided Zambia with over 28,000 litres of chemical used to treat close to 5,000 tonnes of seed, that resists fall armyworm infestation. Almost half a million Zambian farmers have benefited.

"We need collaborating partners such as TAAT to come in and complement what the government is already doing," said Alick Daka, Deputy Director of Zambia's Ministry of Agriculture, during a recent tour of agribusinesses participating in the TAAT initiative.

From the lab to Africa's fields

TAAT is supporting research to adapt global agri-tech best practices to the African continent. The AfDB is collaborating with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, which is using hydroponic technology to boost

cassava plant production. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, about half of the world's cassava production is in Africa: the crop is grown in more than 40 African countries.

"I believe we have a role to help usher in Africa's Green Revolution," said Dr Jennifer Blanke (pictured above talking to a Sudanese farmer), Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social Development at the AfDB. "So many technologies exist. With these technologies, Africa should be able to leapfrog, but this can only happen if projects are scaled up," she added.

Back in Sudan, wheat farmer Hachem Ahmad Salam says TAAT-supported agricultural technologies are doing more than improve his harvest - they are also improving his and his family's quality of life. "My increase in income from TAAT-supplied wheat allowed me to send my two children to Khartoum to study at a private university," Salam said.

AfDB unveils strategy roadmap to safeguard Africa's food security

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has unveiled a strategic roadmap of projects and programmes to assist African countries in tackling the nutrition and food security aspects of the Covid-19 crisis through a raft of immediate and longer-term measures.

The Feed Africa Response to Covid-19 (FAREC) paves the way for a comprehensive intervention to build resilience, sustainability and regional self-sufficiency in Africa's food systems and help farmers cope with coronavirus-related disruptions to the agricultural value chain.

"The Bank's response to support the agriculture sector lays out specific measures aimed at addressing challenges faced by African countries across all aspects of the agriculture sector. Africa cannot afford a food crisis in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Dr Jennifer Blanke, the bank's Vice President for Agriculture, Human and Social

Development.

A report released alongside the roadmap recommends immediate, short- and medium-term solutions for the agriculture sector including; support of food delivery for the most vulnerable; stabilization of food prices; optimization of food processing; extension support services, and provision of key agricultural inputs through smart subsidies.

According to the report, the bank will prioritize policy support to enhance movement of inputs and food, to establish food security task forces in countries, and to strengthen the capacity of regional organisations to monitor multi-country initiatives.

The pandemic has worsened volatility in the price of food staples and complicated food system actors' investment decision-making. The confluence of impacts risks deepening food insecurity and malnutrition. According to the World Food Programme, over 40 million West Africans face food shortages



in the coming months.

FAREC forms one part of the bank's Covid-19 Response Facility (CRF) of up to \$10 billion. The CRF is the Bank's primary channel to deploy financial and technical measures to cushion African economies and livelihoods against the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

In May, the bank's African Development Institute, its focal point for capacity development, hosted a seminar that examined the pandemic's impacts on Africa's agri-food systems and offered policy recommendations to make them more resilient and efficient.

"Ensuring food security for Africans in all situations is at the core of the Bank's Feed Africa Strategy. Our institution will coordinate its efforts with different stakeholders across the continent to effectively answer the needs of regional member countries," said Dr Martin Fregene, Director of the bank's Agriculture and Agro-industry Department.

The good and bad lessons from Sweden: The more the laxity, the more the deaths

By Keren Landman

A funny thing happened in late April: Sweden - 70 per cent marginal tax rate, safety net replete - briefly became the darling of the American right wing.

The cause of the fandom - or enthusiasm - was the country's approach to mitigating the coronavirus pandemic's effects on its population: unlike most nations, including its Scandinavian counterparts, Sweden did not shut down its economy or schools.

Instead, the country's leaders asked its people to take responsibility for social distancing themselves and banned only gatherings larger than 50 people, allowing schools and businesses, including bars and restaurants, to stay open.

Officials advised people to work from home when possible and avoid non-essential travel and, on March 31, the country issued a ban on visits to elder care homes.

Sweden's Covid-19 daily death rate has consistently been among Western Europe's highest. And while daily numbers of confirmed Covid-19 cases are trending downwards in many parts of Europe, in Sweden, they have remained relatively stable or constant, and are trending upwards.

Be careful with assumptions

Sweden's approach relied on several assumptions, some more overt than others. One was that the country's entire population would and could, without punishment or incentive, maintain the social distancing needed to protect themselves and each other from disease transmission.

Another assumption was that infection with the coronavirus eventually leads to protection - both from repeat infection and onward transmission to others - and that its high transmissibility meant that many people would quickly become infected and thus pro-

ected.

And a third assumption was that the country's relatively low population density would be protective for everyone.

The goal of Sweden's strategy was to avoid the financial collapse facing countries whose near-universal shutdowns have led to severe economic contractions while simultaneously slowing disease transmission to avoid healthcare system overload.

But the strategy seems to be resulting in more deaths: Sweden's daily per capita Covid-19 mortality rate, already high in late April, is currently higher than obtains in any other European country - and an order of magnitude higher than that of its neighbours Finland and Norway.

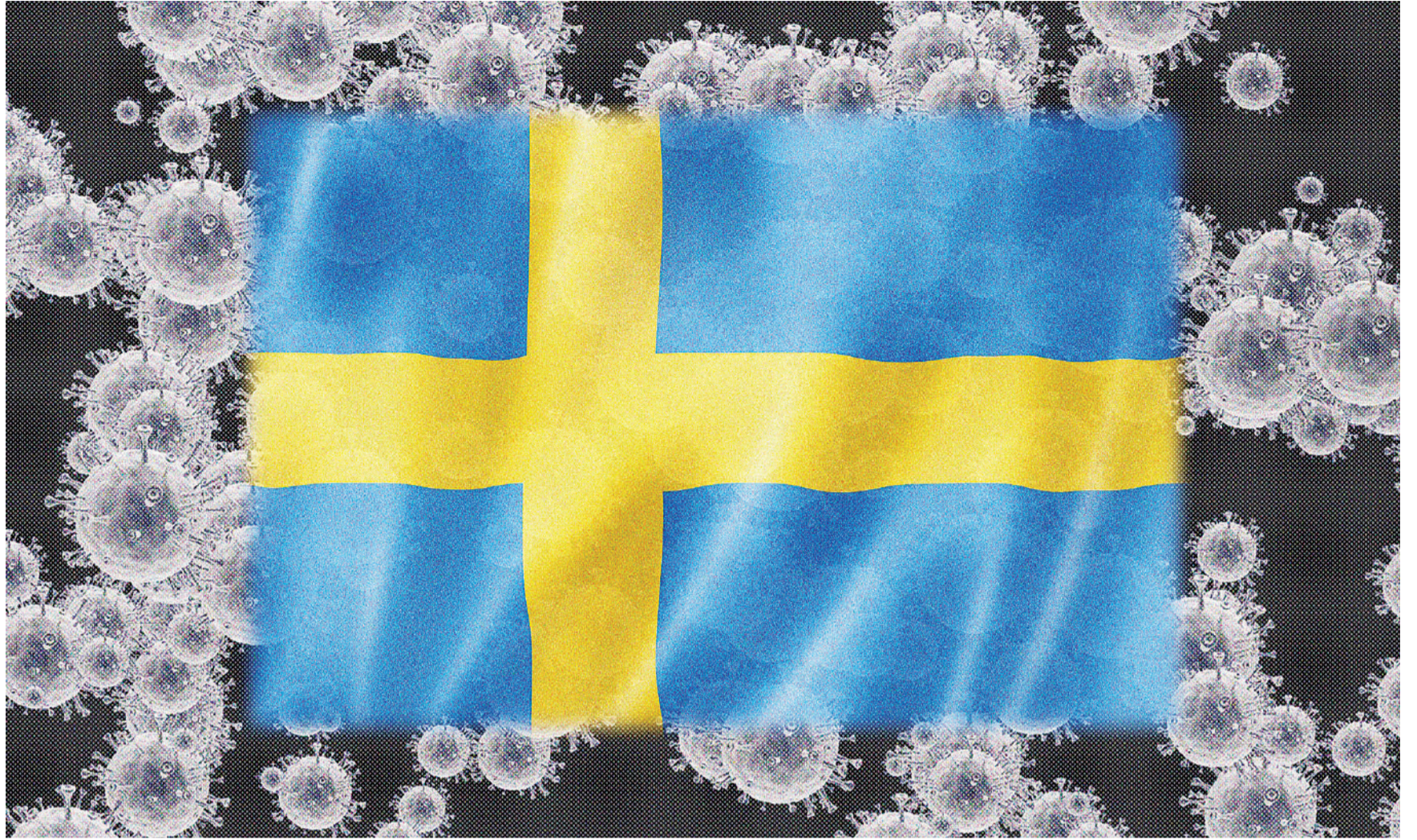
Despite the country's ban on care home visits, Covid-19 ravaged the largely older populations living in these homes, with nearly half of the country's deaths from the virus occurred in care home residents.

This pattern suggests that even in a country with low population density, "once the virus gets into congregate living facilities, it's extremely hard to control," says Eric Schneider, senior vice president for policy and research at the Commonwealth Fund, an independent health care research organization.

Sweden's liberal approach invited this problem "because you're allowing a certain level of cases in the community - and eventually, through workers, usually, or visitors, or other mechanisms, the virus will make it into those residential facilities", he says.

Widespread infections mean more deaths

Additionally, the assumption that Sweden's population would achieve broad protection as a consequence of infection, often called herd immunity by public health specialists, did not play out.



Sweden's leaders did not specifically identify herd immunity as a goal - and they have denied that it's part of the country's strategy. In early May, the epidemiologist who formulated the country's no-lockdown strategy estimated that 40 per cent of Stockholm's population would be immune to the virus by the end of the month.

Recently published antibody survey results, though, suggest that only 7 per cent of the city's residents had been exposed to the virus by late April, and the question of how much protection antibodies confer is still a very murky one. In Sweden - as in the rest of the world - population-level protection as a consequence of infection is still a mirage.

Some Swedes did voluntarily stay home when advised by their government to do so, but not nearly as many as in the rest of Scandinavia. According to Google mobility reports,

retail and transit activity are down by 16 per cent to 17 per cent in Sweden, while similar activity took deeper and more sustained dives in Norway, Finland and Denmark.

To the Commonwealth Fund's Schneider, the Swedish model is an intriguing experiment in relying on the voluntary efforts of citizens to change their behaviours without severe mandates - and it is not going well.

He says things might have turned out differently if the country had taken special steps to protect older residents in facilities, "but it's hard to know".

Sweden's top epidemiologist, Anders Tegnell, is quoted as having said in an interview with Swedish Radio that the country made some mistakes: "If we were to encounter the same illness with the same knowledge that we have today, I think our response would land somewhere in between

what Sweden did and what the rest of the world has done."

In any case, the most instructive phase of Sweden's approach may lie ahead. "It will be interesting to find out whether they can respond now, or whether they're going to keep going with a strategy that seems like it's not working," says Schneider.

A piece from *Elemental*, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Keren Landman is an infectious disease doctor, epidemiologist and journalist.

Will we all get Covid-19 eventually? How much curve-flattening is enough?

By F. Perry Wilson

IN the early days of the coronavirus pandemic the phrase "flatten the curve" got into the national zeitgeist - literally, "the spirit of the time" or the general trend of thought or feeling characteristic of a particular period of time.

By shutting down large aspects of society, social distancing, and other public health measures we would slow the spread of the coronavirus to avoid overwhelming our hospital system. Grim stories from Italy of triaging ventilators and patients dying in corridors made the problem that much more real.

And, so far, it seems that we have flattened the curve. We have not had to deny life-saving treatments because ventilators or ICU beds were not available.

This was due in no small part to herculean efforts on the part of healthcare workers to expand capacity but also to the efforts of everyday Americans who took the precautions seriously.

But one question has been sitting in the back of my mind since the talk of curve-flattening started. Does everyone get the coronavirus eventually?

It's an important question. This is a novel virus for which none of us is likely to have any existing immunity. We are ripe for infection and the rate of spread - without social distancing - is rapid. The presence of asymptomatic spread makes the situation even worse.

Of course, the more people get it, the more people become immune and the harder it is for the virus to continue to spread. The equation to calculate the percentage of the population who need to be immune to confer broad herd immunity is pretty straightforward. It's 1-1/R0.

If each person with the dis-

ease infects three others, then once two out of three people are immune, the disease doesn't have enough targets to keep spreading.

For Covid-19, we probably have to have between 65 and 70 per cent of the population immune before the thing dies out. I'll just point out we are nowhere close to that. Even in New York City, the American epicentre of the disease, seroprevalence studies only suggest that about 25 per cent of the population is immune.

If our battle against coronavirus is a baseball game, we are somewhere in the second inning. But if 65 per cent of us are going to get it eventually, then you can make a particularly utilitarian and somewhat strange argument about our public health measures.

Maybe, we should flatten the curve just enough to avoid overwhelming our hospitals - but no more. Get through this as quickly as possible without leading to excess deaths.

It even gives a quantifiable metric to score the government's response. As long as a single person doesn't get denied care because of hospital overcrowding, it's a victory.

There's a lot appealing about this argument. But I want to deconstruct it a bit from a practical, epidemiological and ethical perspective.

First, the practical. Delaying the spread of the disease doesn't only help hospitals cope with surges. It also buys us time to do medical research, identify treatments, and find vaccines.

And I want to point out that this isn't all pie-in-the-sky maybe we'll have a large randomised clinical trial of a new drug. This is highly practical work we figure out how to treat Covid-19.

Think of how much we've learned in these few months - about the utility of prong-



- about delay of intubation - about the risk of thrombosis that is changing how we care for these patients.

You're way better off getting sick from coronavirus now than you were in March. Another practical issue is that there is really no way to just skirt under overwhelming our hospitals.

We can't just dial up and dial

down the disease spread - it is different in different places and substantially lags policy choices. There's also a stochastic element here - outbreaks will happen and they will not be predictable.

Second, the epidemiological. It turns out that outbreaks don't just stop when you reach herd immunity. They have inertia. Dr Albert Ko, Chair of Yale's Department of Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases, notes: "You can overshoot predicted herd immunity. That's

just because of the dynamics when you have such high transmission or attack rates."

Finally, the ethical. Even if we assume that the total death rate is the same - which I hope at this point I've convinced you is not the case - compressing those deaths into a shorter period of time still robs people of life.

I mean, look, 100 per cent of people die eventually. As physicians, the war against death is one we will always lose. But we fight the battle to push that day as far into the fu-

ture as possible. I think we need to keep that in mind as we continue to struggle with Covid-19; every day is a victory.

A version of this commentary first appeared on medscape.com. F. Perry Wilson, Associate Professor of Medicine at Yale University, is a commentator at Medscape and writes on the uses and abuses of medicine, science and statistics.

ASSURANCE

TanESCO manager in Kisarawe promises residents electricity supply by September

By Beatrice Philemon

OVER 400,000 disgruntled residents of Kisarawe's district's Mkeramvuti area of Ilala District in Dar es Salaam will have their homes connected to national grid electricity by September this year.

State power company, TanESCO's Kisarawe Manager, Engineer Nyanda Busumabu said in an interview while responding to the disgruntled residents complaints of the delays in lighting their homes that the homes are on schedule to get connected.

Eng Busumabu said under the government's rural electrification project currently being implemented by Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Mkeramvuti is under a peri-urban electrification in Msongola ward of Ilala district.

"This is a nine month project that will be implemented by REA in five areas of Msongola ward which also includes Mkeramvuti area," he said noting that already installation of low voltage electric poles is underway in the area under Namis Corporate Limited as contractor appointed by REA.

He further said the project which was officially launched in August 2019 with operations starting in December of the same year, is due for completion later this year. "Under this project, a total of 17,882 new customers will be connected to national grid electricity but so far more than 240 residents are already connected," Eng Busumabu added.

Mkeramvuti sub-location Chairman, Cyprion Lihewe said last week that their main challenge remains access to electricity because TanESCO

and REA have been implementing the government's electrification project as slow pace.

"We are in Dar es Salaam but still living in darkness as if we are in remote villages of the country, we request Minister for Energy to sort us out,"

Lihewe said adding that residents are tired of using smoky kerosene lamps, candles, while very few well off families have installed solar panels to light their homes.

"Right now our economic activities are stalled because of lack of access

to electricity which has worsened our economic position," added the old man whose house remains powered by kerosene and candles.

"As leaders we are facing many questions from the public because despite government announcements

and annual budgeting, power supply is not yet in our area which is part of Ilala Municipality," he lamented.

Mvuti suburb was official established in 1974 and later on change its name to Mkeramvuti sub location in 1982.



Site foreman Pius Jeremia fixes suspension cups and pig teller on an electric pole which is one of the many that will relay power to Mkeramvuti sub-location in Ilala Municipality Dar es Salaam. Photo: Beatrice Philemon.

DANGEROUS

Africa recycles less than 0.1% e-waste

GENEVA

THE African continent recycles less than 0.1% of electronic waste (e-waste), according to data from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This comes to light just as the world marked the annual World Environment Day.

Africa's e-waste challenges have long been documented, with the United Nations Environment Programme previously stating that instead of being recycled in the Western countries, the waste is being shipped to the continent where it accumulates in toxic dumps.

ITU data shows the continent's e-waste recycling rate pales in

comparison to other continents. For example, Asia is shown to recycle 11.07% of its e-waste, while the Americas recycles 9.4% of its e-waste.

As a result, the UN specialised agency has reiterated the Connect 2030 Agenda, which calls for the global e-waste recycling rate to increase 30% by 2023 and the percentage of countries with e-waste legislation to be raised by 50%. The ITU notes that while total collected and recycled e-waste was recorded at 20% in 2016, the rate declined to 17.4% in 2019.

"The growth in demand for connectivity is increasing the amount of e-waste generated. Our devices contain many valu-



Africa's popular electronic wastes disused include desktop computers.

able materials, often extracted at considerable human and financial cost. The global e-waste recycling rate was estimated to stand at only 20% of e-waste in 2016, despite rich deposits of gold, silver, copper, platinum, palladium and other high-value recoverable materials in many ICT devices and equipment. Consumers must become more aware of the carbon footprint and loss of valuable materials associated with the use of online apps and services."

Joost de Kluijver, founder of e-waste collecting company Closing the Loop, which is an ITU member, reveals that of five factories that can recycle mobile phone e-waste, none

are in Africa. "For a continent with an explosive growth of the mobile industry, this creates a serious problem. Millions of phones become obsolete with no ways to recycle them," states De Kluijver.

In terms of e-waste legislation, the ITU highlights that in 2017, 67 countries had e-waste legislation in place. "All countries should have national e-waste legislation and an action plan to deal with e-waste, listing their national goals and objectives in relation to e-waste and recycling, and how to go about protecting the environment and natural resources in the face of increasing scarcity of resources."

UNCERTAIN

Difficult to say when cigarette ban will be lifted - Ramaphosa

PRETORIA

It is difficult to say when exactly the cigarette ban will be lifted, President Cyril Ramaphosa said in response to a written parliamentary question.

DA MP Annette Steyn asked what empirical evidence the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC) relied on to "collectively ban" the sale of tobacco products during the national lockdown and to contradict Ramaphosa's initial announcement

on 23 April that the sale of tobacco products would be permitted during Level 4 of the government's risk adjusted strategy.

She also asked on what date it's envisaged that the ban on the sale of tobacco products would be lifted. Ramaphosa's response read: "At this stage, it is difficult to determine when the ban on the sale of tobacco and related products will be lifted. This will depend on such factors as the progression of the disease in South Africa, the readiness of our health systems and evolving knowledge on the na-

ture and impact of the virus itself."

Ramaphosa said the decision to promulgate the Disaster Management Regulations, including regulation 27 which prohibits the sale of tobacco products "was taken after careful consideration, not only of the submissions received, but also the relevant medical literature focusing inter alia on the effects of smoking on public and individual health, especially in the face of a respiratory illness such as Covid-19."

"After my initial announcement on 23



SA President Cyril Ramaphosa.

April 2020, following representations that were made by various organisations and individuals and further consid-

eration of relevant medical studies and advice, a different position was ultimately adopted by the National Coronavirus Command Council and thereafter by Cabinet before the regulations were promulgated," Ramaphosa said.

News24 reported that The Fair Trade Independent Tobacco Association is set to argue that Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, has overstepped her powers in banning the sale of cigarettes under the nationwide lockdown, saying she does not have the authority to pick and choose what items be banned as a precautionary measure.

The court challenge to undo the 10-week ban of the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products is set to take place on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Gauteng High Court in Pretoria.

FRUSTRATION

Private varsities threaten to lay off workers

KIGALI

IT has been roughly two and a half months since learning institutions closed in an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

However, with the closure of schools one of the key concerns was whether teachers from private schools would continue to receive their salaries. The Government has since challenged private learning institutions to

diversify their revenue streams and told them they could benefit from a \$200-million (about Rwf186 billion) relief fund designed to help the private sector recover from Covid-19 impact.

Claudette Irere, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Education in charge of ICT and TVET Education, said earlier that; "For teachers in private institutions, who were the most affected during this time, we encourage and

will help the institution owners to seek help with the government fund allocated for the private sector."

This help should mainly be used for the teachers, he emphasised. However, private universities and their staff have raised concerns over the clarity of when the 'allocated' fund will be operational. "It is still unclear how and when this fund will be accessible to learning institu-

tions." Dr Callixte Kabera, the president of the private universities' association told The New Times.

"It is clear that it has been delayed, thus leaving most of the private universities with an alternative of laying off their staff." While teachers working for public schools are paid their monthly salaries, a teacher from the University of Technology and Arts of Byumba said; "We

have not been paid since the pandemic struck."

"But the school leaders say that they are still waiting on when the recovery fund will be operational" The concerns come after the government extended the closure of universities and other schools until September. This means that if they open in September, universities will have been closed for more than six months since the initial

lockdown in March.

Alternatively, a source from the Ministry of Education encouraged learning institutions to take advantage of the opportunities that have been availed. For instance, Lawrence Uwambaje, the Director General of the Teacher's saving and Credit Cooperative (Umwalimu Sacco) advises teachers and lecturers to make use of existing saving groups.

"We have allocated a fund to our member institutions, so far we have 8,000 members, which means that this can cover up a good number of teachers." Uwambaje added that; "The fund is given at a rate of 13 per cent, with a loan duration of two years. Institutions have been given a grace period of two years and can be paid on a quarterly basis."

PARTNERSHIP

Edenville Energy, Infrastructure Logistics sign four-year coal mining agreement

By Guardian Reporter

UK based coal to power company, Edenville Energy said its subsidiary Edenville International has signed a four-year coal mining agreement with Infrastructure and Logistics Tanzania last week.

In a statement, the company said under the agreement, In-

rastructure and Logistics Tanzania (ILTL) will provide an anchor tenancy at the company's Rukwa coal project by initially purchasing 3,000 tonnes of washed coal per month at standard market rates, before increasing this to 5,000 tonnes a month over a 12 month period.

"The signing of the agree-

ment followed the completion of extensive negotiation with ILTL and was the culmination of discussions that began last year," the company said in its statement while noting that the agreement is expected to represent the first stage of a wider strategic partnership with ILTL which would also address other aspects including an underpin-

ning of sales, marketing, offtake and an asset level loan.

The agreement, which would become effective once business activity can return to normal in the country following a partial lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic since March this year, had a contract term of four years and will be automatically be renewed for a further period

of four, years unless terminated by either party.

Given the delays in the anticipated ramp-up of production, initially from a protracted rainy season and subsequently from the consequences of the pandemic, the company said it had raised £500K through an equity placing to address its working capital position.

"I'm delighted to be able to make this announcement as I believe it heralds a new chapter for Edenville. It has taken some time to finalise the Coal Mining Agreement, largely due to global developments in 2020. However, I am confident we have now struck a beneficial arrangement for our shareholders, which we hope will set the pattern for

our future strategic partnership with ILTL," said Edenville CEO, Alistair Muir.

Muir thanked Edenville shareholders for their patience over the last few months while praising major shareholders, who once again subscribed for at least their pro rata in the capital increment representing over 70 percent of the total raise.

DEAL

Etisalat, Telecom Egypt sign key infrastructure agreements

CAIRO

ETISALAT and Telecom Egypt have announced two agreements that will facilitate the interconnection of fixed and mobile telecommunications.

Under the first agreement, valid for 3.5 years and valued at 2-billion Egyptian pounds (approximately US\$125-million), Etisalat Misr will use Telecom Egypt's infrastructure and network transmission services.

The two companies also penned an agreement on mobile-to-fixed termination. In a statement, Telecom Egypt said the partnership entails a development of the company's transmission and infrastructure services' commercial model with Etisalat Misr. For Etisalat Misr, the agreements will enable it to continue to deliver premium offers and mobile telecommunications services to its customer base in Egypt.

Hazem Metwally, CEO of Etisalat Misr said: "The development of events across the world makes telecommunications companies eager to cope with the required changes and during the next stage, agreements like the ones we have signed today will be reflected in the products and services that we will offer our customers for the first time in the Egyptian market."

Adel Hamed, Managing Director and CEO of Telecom Egypt described the transmission agreement as evidence that Telecom Egypt's long-term commercial model is valued by all mobile operators in the market.

"Telecom Egypt has heavily invested in its infrastructure to accommodate the significant and ongoing increase in data usage in Egypt. Such investments have especially borne fruit during these times that the world in its entirety is living."



Edenville's Rukwa coal mine.

PENALISE

AfDB debars Burmeister & Wain over engagement in frouds, corrupt practice

ABIDJAN

Pursuant to a settlement agreement, the African Development Bank Group on 8 June 2020, announces the debarment of Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor, for a period of 21 months, for engaging in sanctionable practices in a power generation project financed by the Bank in Mauritius.

In 2014 and 2015, Burmeister & Wain participated in tenders for the redevelopment of the Saint Louis power plant in Mauritius, a project financed by the Bank. An investigation conducted by the Bank's Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption has concluded that it is more likely than not that the company engaged in fraudulent and corrupt



AfDB President Akinwumi Adesina.

practices in the context of this project.

Evidence supports a finding that Burmeister & Wain, on a balance of probabilities, financially rewarded members of the Mauritian administration and others, through the intermediary of third parties, for providing access to confidential tender-related information which allowed them to tailor the technical specifications of the tenders to its offering, thus gaining an undue competitive advantage over other tenderers. Burmeister & Wain further concealed the arrangements it had entered into with the third parties, in breach of the rules governing the tenders.

The debarment imposed

by the Bank renders Burmeister & Wain ineligible to participate in Bank-financed projects and thus to benefit from its financing during the debarment period. The 21 months debarment qualifies for cross-debarment by other multilateral development banks pursuant to the Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions.

According to this agreement, debarments longer than 12 months pronounced by any of its signatories, including the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank Group, are

recognized and imposed in the same way by its other signatories.

By imposing a debarment of 21 months, the Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption recognizes Burmeister and Wain's extensive cooperation with the investigation, the company's transparency in dealing with the sanctionable conduct and the efforts that it has made to enhance its integrity compliance program since uncovering the sanctionable practices.

The Bank will release Burmeister & Wain from debarment at the expiry of the debarment period, subject to a successful review and clearance of the company's enhanced integrity compliance program by the Bank.

RESUMPTION

Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams gets cracking on her first day back at the office

CAPE TOWN

THE office of Communications and Digital Technologies Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams has confirmed the minister is back at work on Tuesday after two months on special leave.

News24 requested an interview with Ndabeni-Abrahams. However, her spokesperson, Mish Molakeng, said the minister would have back-to-back government meetings on the first day.

"The minister is back at work. However, she has back-to-back meetings," he said. Ndabeni-Abrahams pleaded guilty to contravening lockdown regulations in April and paid a R1 000 fine.

President Cyril Ramaphosa placed Ndabeni-Abrahams on special leave for two months, one of which was unpaid, and directed police to investigate after a picture emerged on social media of her having a meal at the home of former deputy minister of higher education Mduzuzi Manana during the national Covid-19 lockdown.

Ramaphosa then summoned Ndabeni-Abrahams to a meeting, where he expressed his disapproval and told her she had under-

mined lockdown regulations which required all citizens to stay at home to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The president ordered his minister to publicly apologise to the country. In a video message released soon after the directive, she said: "I regret the incident and I am deeply sorry for my actions. I hope the president and you, South Africans, will find it in your hearts to forgive me."

This came as Ramaphosa was at pains to get the public in line, time and again emphasising why a total lockdown, confining people to their homes and basically shutting down the whole economy were the only ways to contain the virus.

Ramaphosa has been criticised for failing to discipline Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu. As Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster urging South Africans to stay at home, Zulu was filmed in a public area, commenting on the difficulty of staying home.

In a lackadaisical manner, the minister said: "Stay at home if you can. I am finding it difficult to stay at home." She later apologised after calls by the public after the video was circulated on social media.



South African Communications and Digital Technologies minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.

WARNING

Global economy faces deepest recession since World War II, World Bank says

WASHINGTON

THE severe shock of the coronavirus pandemic and measures to contain it have pushed the global economy into the deepest recession since the Second World War, with per capita output declining in the largest fraction of economies since 1870, according to the World Bank.

The global economy is expected to contract 5.2 per cent in 2020, a sharp revision from the 2.5 per cent growth projection, the World Bank had made in January. It now expects per capita incomes to decline 3.6 per cent in all regions of the world as a result of the pandemic, which will push more than 60 million people into extreme poverty.

"This is a deeply sobering outlook, with the crisis likely to leave long-lasting scars and pose major global challenges," the lender's vice president for equitable growth, finance and institutions, Ceyla Pazarbasioglu, said.

"Our first order of business is to address the global health and economic emergency," Ms Pazarbasioglu said in the June 2020 Global Economic Prospects report, released on Monday. "Beyond that, the global community must unite to find ways to rebuild as robust a recovery as possible to prevent more people from falling into poverty and unemployment."

The coronavirus outbreak has claimed more than 400,000 lives and infected more than 7 million people worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking the

outbreak. The pandemic has spread at an astonishing speed to every part of the world and constitutes "the largest economic shock the world economy has witnessed in decades", Ms Pazarbasioglu said.

Covid-19 is expected to plunge a majority of countries into recession this year, according to the World Bank report. The World Bank's economic forecast is more pessimistic than the International Monetary Fund, which in April projected global output to shrink 3 per cent in 2020 and recovery to begin only in 2021.

The World Bank expects economic activity in advanced economies to shrink 7 per cent in 2020 as domestic demand and supply along with trade finance sectors take a hit. Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs) are projected to shrink 2.5 per cent this year, their first contraction as a group in at least 60 years.

The US, the biggest economy in the world, is forecast to contract 6.1 per cent



World Bank Group vice president for equitable growth, finance and institutions, Ceyla Pazarbasioglu.

in 2020, reflecting the disruptions associated with pandemic-control measures. Economic output in the European Union is expected to shrink 9.1 per cent in 2020 as the pandemic hit Germany and France's economies, the bloc's biggest. Japan's economy is anticipated to shrink 6.1 per cent after Tokyo implemented strict lockdown measures.

Economic activity in the Middle East and North Africa is forecast to contract 4.2 per cent, hit by the pandemic and volatility in oil prices. The World Bank's forecast for the Mena region is significantly below the 2.4 per cent growth projection it made in January.

Among oil exporting countries, economic activity is expected to contract 5 per cent, as producers implement output cuts agreed by the Opec + alliance of 23 countries to rebalance the oil market. The projection is a sharp revision from January's 2 per cent economic expansion forecast. Iran's economy is expected to contract 5.3 per cent, the third year of contraction in a row, as the country continues to struggle amid

tighter US economic sanctions. In the GCC, economic activity is projected to shrink an average 4.1 per cent, while Iraq's economy is expected to contract 9.7 per cent. Oil importers are set to see their economies contract 0.8 per cent in 2020, a downgrade from January's 4.4 per cent economic expansion forecast.

Under the World Bank's baseline forecast - which assumes that the pandemic would recede sufficiently for advanced economies by the mid-2020 and a bit later in EMDEs - global growth is forecast to rebound to 4.2 per cent in 2021. The World Bank projects 3.9 per cent growth in advanced economies next year and EMDEs to bounce back 4.6 per cent.

The baseline growth scenario - which also hinges on the global spillovers easing during the second half of this year and relatively shorter dislocations in financial markets - is "highly uncertain." Several downside risks cloud the global economy economic outlook, including the possibility of a more protracted pandemic, financial upheaval and retreat from global trade and supply linkages.

PESSIMISM

US may see closure of 25,000 stores in 2020 as pandemic devastates the retail sector

NEW YORK

AS many as 25,000 US stores could close permanently this year after the coronavirus pandemic devastated an industry where many mall-based retailers were already struggling.

The number would shatter the record set in 2019, when more than 9,800 stores closed their doors for good, according to a report from retail and technology data firm CoreSight Research. Most of the closures are expected to occur in malls, with department stores and clothing shops predicted to be among the hardest hit.

"If the anchor tenants close stores in the mall, other tenants are likely to follow suit," Coresight chief executive Deborah Weinswig said in the report, which put the expected range at 20,000 to 25,000. "Department and large apparel-chain store closures in malls will therefore create a ripple effect that spells bad news for malls."

The US has the most retail selling space per capita of any

country and the lowest sales per square foot, according to commercial real estate company Cushman & Wakefield. Most retailers have been reluctant to shrink their store networks, but the pandemic has forced many to rewrite their playbooks.

American retailers were shut down in mid-March in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, and - even though states are now beginning to ease restrictions - many shops are still shuttered or only providing limited service. As of June 5, retailers have planned about 4,000 permanent store closures, including hundreds by JCPenney, Victoria's Secret and Pier 1 Imports. In March, before the extent and duration of the virus lockdown was clear, Coresight estimated that about 15,000 stores would shutter in 2020. Alongside the closures, the firm expects to see another spate of bankruptcies as debt-laden retailers are pushed over the edge. Fifteen major retailers have already filed this year.



A member of the public stands outside the London Stock Exchange.

RESTRICTIONS

Yamato city in Japan to ban use of phones while walking

TOKYO

IT is a scene repeated the world over: pedestrians glued to their phones while walking, causing collisions and sometimes accidents. No more, says one Japanese city.

Officials in Yamato city, near Tokyo, submitted a bill to the city assembly to stop people from using their phones while walking. "The number of people using smartphones has rapidly increased and so have the number of accidents" in the densely populated area, city official Masaaki Yasumi told AFP. "We want to prevent that," he said, adding if passed it would be the first such ban in Japan. But Yasumi said there will be no punishment for those unable to tear themselves away from their screens in the street.

"We hope the ban will raise more awareness about the dangers," he said. Posters and messages will inform citizens of the rule, expected to take effect from next month. In 2014, research by Japanese mobile giant NTT Docomo estimated a pedestrian's average field of vision while staring down at a smartphone is 5% of what our eyes take in normally.

The company ran a computer simulation of what would occur if 1 500 people used the hectic Shibuya pedestrian crossing in Tokyo while all looking at their smartphones. The results showed that two-thirds would not make it to the other side without incident, with 446 collisions, 103 people being knocked down and 21 dropping their phones.

SATURDAY 06 June		SUNDAY 07 June		MONDAY 08 June		TUESDAY 09 June		WEDNESDAY 10 June		THURSDAY 11 June		FRIDAY 12 June		SATURDAY 13 June		SUNDAY 14 June	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
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7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari	7:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:00	Al Jazeera
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10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15	The Base rpt	11:15	The Base rpt	11:15	The Base rpt	11:15	The Base rpt	11:15	The Base rpt	11:15	The Base rpt	11:15	The Base rpt	11:15	The Base rpt	11:15	The Base rpt
11:45	The Great Queen Seonduk	11:45	The Great Queen Seonduk	11:45	The Great Queen Seonduk	11:45	The Great Queen Seonduk	11:45	The Great Queen Seonduk	11:45	The Great Queen Seonduk	11:45	The Great Queen Seonduk	11:45	The Great Queen Seonduk	11:45	The Great Queen Seonduk
12:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt
13:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	13:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	13:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	13:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	13:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	13:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	13:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	13:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	13:15	Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
15:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	15:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	15:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	15:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	15:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	15:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	15:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	15:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	15:30	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20	Igizo: Mtego	16:20	Igizo: Mtego	16:20	Igizo: Mtego	16:20	Igizo: Mtego	16:20	Igizo: Mtego	16:20	Igizo: Mtego	16:20	Igizo: Mtego	16:20	Igizo: Mtego	16:20	Igizo: Mtego
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	Jiji Letu
18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi	18:15	Mapishi
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19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba	19:30	Shika Bamba
20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari	20:00	Habari
21:00	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Art and lifestyle	21:00	Art and lifestyle
21:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo	21:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo
22:15	Kesho leo rpt	22:15	Kesho leo rpt	22:15	Kesho leo rpt	22:15	Kesho leo rpt	22:15	Kesho leo rpt	22:15	Kesho leo rpt	22:15	Kesho leo rpt	22:15	Kesho leo rpt	22:15	Kesho leo rpt
22:45	Isidingo rpt	22:45	Isidingo rpt	22:45	Isidingo rpt	22:45	Isidingo rpt	22:45	Isidingo rpt	22:45	Isidingo rpt	22:45	Isidingo rpt	22:45	Isidingo rpt	22:45	Isidingo rpt
01:30	DWTV	01:30	DWTV	01:30	DWTV	01:30	DWTV	01:30	DWTV	01:30	DWTV	01:30	DWTV	01:30	DWTV	01:30	DWTV

CAPITAL

Sat 06 June
08:00 CNN International
09:00 Drive It rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n'about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family
14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45 Bundesliga Kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Korean Drama: Kimchi Family
21:00 Out n' About
21:30 Movie: Disaster zone
23:00 Series rpt: Itohan
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 07 June
08:00 CNN International
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Series rpt: Itohan
15:15 Albu yako
15:30 Drive it rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt

Mon 08 June
06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Innovation
19:30 Jagina rpt
20:00 Series: Grapes of vine
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime
22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30 Eco@Africa
23:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 09 June
06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Innovation
19:30 Jagina rpt
20:00 Series: Grapes of vine
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime
22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30 Eco@Africa
23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 10 June
06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza Huru
19:00 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Series: Grapes of vine
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45:
22:45 The Decor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 11 June
06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine
16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: Grapes of vine
20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Capchat rpt
23:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 12 June
06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
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WORLD

Public viewing for George Floyd held in Houston, US

HOUSTON

A PUBLIC viewing for George Floyd, an African American man who died while in police custody, is underway on Monday in Houston, Texas, the United States.

The memorial is being held in the Fountain of Praise Church in Houston, where 46-year-old Floyd grew up. A private funeral service was expected to be held at the same place yesterday

The public viewing started at noon and continued till 6 p.m. local time, according to the Fort Bend Memorial Planning Center, the organizer of the public viewing and funeral.

Hours before the viewing began, people from Houston and across the country waited outside the church to pay tribute to Floyd. Police have also been deployed at the scene.

An African American who identified himself as Kelvin brought his whole

family to the viewing, including three children. "We are here to show the support to the Floyd family. I'm an African American male myself so I understand how important this move is right now," he told Xinhua.

"People need to be held accountable for the actions," he said, adding that the former police officers who are responsible for the death of Floyd "need to be convicted to show that they are not above the law."

Expecting a large number of visitors, the organizer said it is a tough task to make sure the social distancing regulation is met as confirmed COVID-19 cases are still growing in Houston.

Due to social distancing requirements, only 15 guests are allowed inside the church at a time. Visitors must go through metal detector and temperature check before entering the church. Masks are also mandatory.



People wait to attend the public viewing for George Floyd in Houston, Texas, the United States, June 8, 2020. A public viewing for George Floyd, an African American man who died while in police custody, is underway on Monday in Houston, Texas, the United States. (Xinhua)

The organizer told local media that Floyd's family contacted them a day after he passed away to conduct the services.

Bobby Swearington, owner of the Fort Bend Memorial Planning Center, told a local TV station that the family had only one request – the funeral be a grand experience.

Last week, two memorials were held in Minneapolis, the city in which Floyd died after being pinned by the neck for almost nine minutes by a white police officer's knee, and Raeford, North Carolina, the

state where Floyd was born. Hundreds of people paid their tribute to Floyd by laying wreaths at the memorials.

Floyd's body arrived in Houston Saturday night, the Houston Police Department said. At the request of the family, his entry was made private.

Demonstrations and riots have spread to cities across the United States since a video went viral of Floyd being suffocated to death in the midwestern U.S. state of Minnesota in late May.

Xinhua

White paper demonstrates China's strategic achievements in fighting COVID-19

BEIJING

A white paper on China's battle against COVID-19 has recorded how the country has worked to defeat the epidemic and helped other countries, providing solid evidence that China's painstaking yet effective efforts can never be downplayed.

A white paper is a regular means of elaborating and interpreting China's official stance on key issues concerning the country's core interests and issues with global implications. For an event like the COVID-19 epidemic, it is a realistic way to let the world know exactly what happened.

The document of 37,000 Chinese characters illustrates how China coped with this "unknown, unexpected and devastating" disease, and how it succeeded in cutting all channels for the transmission of the virus.

The white paper also records how China joined hands with other countries to show why cooperation and solidarity are the most powerful weapons against the disease.

It is known to all that the United States has the most COVID-19 infections and deaths in the world. But ironically, some U.S. politicians have been shifting blame and shirking responsibility for their own inaction and incompetence in coping with the disease. They have been fabricating rumors and making groundless accusations against China. But these rumors have even been refuted by scientists and medical experts from the United States.

The novel coronavirus is a brand-new virus. When it struck suddenly, no one knew what it was, how it was transmitted or how to stop it, thus making its prevention and control particularly difficult in the beginning.

China has made the fight against the virus a top priority, putting people's lives and health first. A series of prevention, control and treatment measures were taken decisively.

As a result, in little more than a month, China contained the rising spread of the virus; in around two months, the daily increase in domestic coronavirus cases had fallen to single digits; and in about three months, a decisive victory was secured in the battle to defend Hubei Province and its capital city of Wuhan, laying a solid foundation for the strategic achievements nationwide. Xinhua

Washington's Wuhan travel claim rebutted

By Wang Xiaodong

EXPERTS have rebutted US President Donald Trump's claim that China allowed residents of Wuhan, the Chinese city hit hardest by the COVID-19 outbreak, to travel abroad while banning them from going to other parts of China.

The exit routes from the city, both domestically and internationally, were shut off simultaneously in late January, they said.

The government in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province, announced on the early morning of Jan 23 the suspension of all outbound flights and trains, and all the city's public transport services, including buses and subway, to contain the outbreak of the coronavirus within the city.

The lockdown measure took effect at 10 am on the same day. Several hours later, highway exits in the city were also closed. The lockdown was lifted on April 8.

According to a white paper released by the State Council Information Office on Sunday, in addition to Wuhan, all other cities in Hubei province also suspended

international passenger flights to contain the outbreak.

Many other strict measures were taken across China for epidemic control, including extending the Spring Festival holiday to encourage people to stay at home, canceling mass gatherings, postponing the reopening of schools and closing public venues such as cinemas, theaters and gyms, according to the report.

Lockdown strictly enforced

Although the lockdown in Wuhan was strictly enforced, some overseas politicians have repeatedly claimed that infected people were banned from going to other parts of China but they were allowed to fly abroad, causing the spread of the disease overseas.

Responding to such claims by Trump on May 29, China's Foreign Ministry said they were "totally in contradiction with the truth". Following the suspension of the exit routes from Wuhan on Jan 23, no trains or commercial flights left the city between Jan 24 and April 8, it said.

Daniel Bell, dean of the School of Political Science and Public



China Eastern Airlines flight MU2527, the first domestic flight from Wuhan Tianhe International Airport after Wuhan's lockdown has lifted, arrives at Sanya Phoenix International Airport on the morning of April 8, 2020. (File photo)

Administration at Shandong University, said the claim that regular flights from Wuhan continued to run to cities such as London and New York in January and in some cases in February was "fake news".

Bell, a Canadian national, said in a post on his blog account that he searched on Umetrip, a popular flight service application in China, and "the records show

that flights out of Wuhan to the rest of the world stopped around midday on the 23rd, the same day China stopped flights from Wuhan to the rest of China."

It turned out that none of the flights that supposedly left from Wuhan after 11:26 am on Jan 23 actually left Wuhan, and they were canceled. Some flights that took off from other Chinese cities and normally required a stopo-

ver at Wuhan also canceled the stopover, he said.

Si Ning, a member of the China Law Society, said the claims were a serious distortion of the lockdown measures imposed by Wuhan and were false.

The notice made public by Wuhan's COVID-19 epidemic control headquarters on Jan 23 stated clearly that outbound flights from the city would be suspended from 10 am the same day, which meant people would not be able to fly to other countries from Wuhan, or to Beijing or any other city in China, he said.

On the other hand, China did not ban passenger flights from flying abroad from other Chinese cities on Jan 23. So even if Chinese passengers arrived in other countries after the lockdown of Wuhan, they were not from Wuhan directly, he said.

"It is certain that the Chinese government did not allow residents of Wuhan to fly to other parts of the world," Si said. "The records on the lockdown of Wuhan are true and plausible."

Moscow grateful for Washington's offer to help with oil spill

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has expressed its appreciation to the United States for offering to help clean up an oil spill in the Arctic town of Norilsk.

The accident, on May 29, was caused when a diesel tank at a thermal power plant owned by mining giant Norilsk Nickel collapsed near Norilsk, spilling 15,000 tons of fuel into the nearby Ambarnaya River and 6,000 tons on to surrounding land.

The spill, which covers 180,000 square meters and is visible from space, is the worst ecological disaster of its kind in the region.

Efforts by Russia's emergency services to mitigate the disaster have been complicated by logisti-



cal challenges: the area is hard to reach, the river is shallow, which hampers operations by boat, and the ground is swampy in spring.

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared an emergency and said he expected the mining company to pay for the cleanup, which could take years.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wrote on Twitter: "Saddened to hear about the fuel spill in Norilsk, Russia.

"Despite our disagreements, the United States stands ready to assist Russia to mitigate this environmental disaster and offer our technical expertise."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Russia is "certainly thankful to the US side".

"It is another goodwill gesture that proves that we can work for the good and can demonstrate this cooperation," Zakharova (pictured) said.

"We can also point out that the company [Norilsk Nickel] and state bodies have figured out the technology and set a time limit to solve the issue. So we will thank Mr Pompeo.

"I believe it is a very constructive discussion. There was an attempt at least. I feel that such things should be highlighted and thank you should be said. Therefore, it will be done so."

Complicated mission

According to Russian media, the cleanup has been complicated by the marshy ground amid a spring-time thaw and the shallow depths of the Ambarnaya River, which prevents boats from reaching the scene.

Russia's Investigative Committee has launched a probe into the cause of the incident and inspected facilities considered potentially hazardous in the permafrost areas.

Andrei Ivanov, a spokesman for the Russian Office of General Prosecutor, said a preliminary finding for the cause of the accident was soil subsidence, undermining the stability of the fuel tank's concrete platform.

Agencies

North Korea to cut off inter-Korean communication lines - state media

PYONGYANG

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will cut off all inter-Korean communication lines at noon Tuesday, the official Korean Central News Agency reported yesterday morning.

The relevant office on the DPRK side will "completely cut off and shut down the liaison line between the authorities of the north and the south, which has been maintained through the north-south joint liaison office" starting from 12:00 (0300 GMT) yesterday, the report said.

Other communications will also be cut off, which includes the East and West Seas communication lines between the military of the North and the South, the inter-Korean trial communication line and the hotline between the office building of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and South Korean presidential office Chongwadae, according to the KCNA.

The development is apparent follow-up action of DPRK after its top officials have recently threatened to shut down the inter-Korean liaison office or even withdraw from the military cooperation agreement signed in 2018 in protest at anti-DPRK propaganda leaflets that defectors from the North fly across the border.

On Thursday, Kim Yo-jong, sister of top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un, issued a statement threatening to close the liaison office or even completely dismantle a now-shuttered joint industrial park in the North's border city of Kaesong unless Seoul stops defector groups from sending leaflets into the North.

"The South Korean authorities connived with the hostile acts against the DPRK by the riff-raff, while trying to dodge heavy responsibility with nasty excuses. This has driven the inter-Korean relations into a catastrophe," the KCNA said. It went on to say that "the disgusting riff-raff have committed hostile acts against the DPRK by taking advantage of the South Korean authorities' irresponsible stance and with their connivance."

"We have reached a conclusion that there is no need to sit face to face with the South Korean authorities and there is no issue to discuss with them, as they have only aroused our dismay," it added.

The South Korean authorities connived with the hostile acts against the DPRK by the riff-raff, while trying to dodge heavy responsibility with

US groundless allegations against China's national security legislation for Hong Kong doomed to fail

WHEN the decision on the national security legislation for Hong Kong was approved at the third session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, those in power in the U.S. and its few loyal "fans" immediately began to clamor, blatantly interfering in China's internal affairs by issuing a "joint statement", tweeting and holding news conferences.

These scaremongers made an inflammatory statement claiming that China's decision had replaced the "one country, two systems" principle with "one country, one system". They slammed the NPC's decision, which complied with

Chinese laws, as one "throttling democracy and freedom enjoyed by Hong Kong citizens". They also lamented the end of the city as an international financial hub.

By concluding that the national security legislation for Hong Kong "damaged the interests of the world," and "challenged the values of democracy and freedom," they vowed to firmly resist the decision and compel China to abandon it, and brazenly announced sanctions against the country.

China is an independent sovereign state and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is a part of China. It's absolutely absurd that some West-

ern countries, the self-styled examples of law-based societies, strongly oppose the NPC's move to establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security according to the Constitution of China and the HKSAR Basic Law.

Furthermore, their accusations and attacks are based on hypocrisy and lies, which is shameful.

"One country" is the core of the "one country, two systems" principle, as HK is an inseparable part of China that no other country with ulterior motives is allowed to covet or interfere in. The principles of "the people of Hong Kong gov-

erning Hong Kong," and a high degree of autonomy representing the difference between HK and the Chinese mainland under the "one country, two systems" policy has its legal basis in China's Constitution and the HKSAR Basic Law.

The central government's exercise of jurisdiction over HK under the Constitution and other laws, a right enshrined by the Constitution, should never be challenged or interfered with by any external force.

Under the instigation and support of external forces, some radicals have disrupted Hong Kong, harmed its national security, trampled on its national dignity,

and challenged the authority of the central government by carrying out violent and terrorist activities. These forces and their foreign sponsors are targeting the whole of China, including Hong Kong.

Against this background, the central government needs to take resolute measures to implement the Constitution and the HKSAR Basic Law, and establish and improve the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security.

This is what is urgently needed to stabilize the city, and is essential for safeguarding national security from the state level. This is also a fundamental guaran-

tee of the long-term stability of the "one country, two systems" principle, and Hong Kong's status as an international financial hub.

The decision complies with China's Constitution and the HKSAR Basic Law, enjoys the support of Hong Kong residents, and follows the general trend.

The so-called "one country, one system" accusation is nothing but calumny and slander. Even mention of the Sino-British Joint Declaration is ridiculous, as it was a historical document that no longer had any practical significance since the city's return to China.

People's Daily



National Microfinance Bank (NMB) Lake Zone Manager, Donatus Richard (L), speaks after handing over prizes to best goal scorers at a match pitting Mwanza's sports reporters against the region's community news reporters, which took place in the region on Sunday. Also present was Mwanza Press Club's Chairman, Edwin Soko, Regional Police representative, Denis Ruzwa, and Mwanza Mayor, James Bwire (wearing a tie). PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Simba SC yet to reach normal fitness level, says Kahata

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

SIMBA SC midfielder, Francis Kahata, has stated that despite winning two friendly matches against KMC FC and Transit Camp in Dar es Salaam, the Msimbazi Street squad's players have yet to reach the fitness level they were in before the Vodacom Premier League suspension.

Simba, currently preparing for participation in the rest of the league's matches, took part in two friendlies at their ground at Bunju on Monday which ended with the club notching victory in the matches.

In the first of the friendlies which took place in the morning, Simba thrashed Transit Camp, a First Division League (FDL) team, 4-2.

Simba, later on, hammered fellow Premier League outfit, KMC FC, 3-1 in the evening.

The Vodacom Premier League is set to resume on Saturday after a two-month suspension, put into effect by the government, with a view to containing the coronavirus disease.

The rest of the sporting activities had also been suspended for the same purpose and are set to resume slowly.

Kahata (pictured) came on as second half substitute in Simba's friendly clash with KMC FC.

In an interview, which took place after the match, Kahata disclosed he had a chance to closely analyze both matches and felt his club played well in the two duels.

He pointed out the side's players, nevertheless, are not as fit as they were prior to the league's break.

"It is true, we have played in the morning and evening and we have notched victory in both. I though think we have yet to recapture the quality we showcased when the league was in

progress," the Kenyan midfielder stated.

"We though look to slowly get back to the form and we will attain the competitiveness. I promise the side's members and fans we have prepared to make them happy, they should turn up in big number to cheer us in the encounters."

Simba SC assistant coach, Selemani Matola, noted he and fellow tacticians at the side are contented their players have been impressive in the friendlies.

Matola stated the games targeted to give the coaches chance to try out each of their players in an effort to assess their competence after starting training.

"Every player has had chance to play and the decision has helped us come up with a list of players who are in great shape and can play the Sunday's Premier League encounter with Ruwu Shooting," the coach stated.



Hidden Tiger, famous five and a Beef stew: golf talking points

HONG KONG

TOP-LEVEL golf returns from its coronavirus shutdown Thursday as the US PGA Tour season resumes with a star-studded field at the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas.

AFP Sport looks at three talking points as the players prepare to go into battle for the first time since The Players Championship was abandoned in March.

- Can't see the Woods -

Sixteen of the world's top 20 will tee off on Thursday at Colonial Country Club, but Tiger Woods will not be among them.

The 15-time major winner last played on Tour in February at Riviera and missed the next four tournaments, including the Players, with a sore back.

The world number 11 looked to have his game in top shape on May 24 when he and Peyton Manning defeated Phil Mickelson and Tom Brady in a charity match.

But he may be saving his fragile body for the frantic revamped schedule in August and September, and so could return as late as Jack Nicklaus's Memorial Tournament on July 16, which Woods has never missed when healthy.

The Memorial could be the first of eight events in 10 weeks for the 44-year-old.

The WGC Invitational is on July 30-August 2, followed by the US PGA Championship, three

FedEx Cup playoff events, and September's US Open and Ryder Cup.

Woods needs one victory to set the all-time wins record having tied Sam Snead's 82 PGA Tour victories at the Zozo Championship in Japan in October.

- 'Debutant' Rory leads stellar cast -

World number one Rory McIlroy has been installed as favourite this week, despite never having played at Colonial before.

He will be joined in the hunt by the rest of the world's top five - Jon Rahm, Brooks Koepka, Justin Thomas and Dustin Johnson - with Thomas another to play the event for the first time.

But picking a winner is not easy: 101 of the 148 players have PGA Tour wins under their belt, the strongest field in the event's history.

The top three - McIlroy, Rahm and Koepka - will play together for the first two rounds in a stellar featured group that will have an odd feel in front of empty galleries.

Number four Thomas will play alongside his great pals Jordan Spieth and Rickie Fowler in what could be a fun grouping for an expected large TV audience.

- 'Beef' doesn't mince words -

While the return of the PGA Tour has been universally welcomed, the decision to restart the Official World Golf Rankings (OWGR) has not gone down so well.

Boxing needs urgent attention

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipoke

THERE is not any iota of doubt that boxing is one of an extremely select band of sports which are enthusiastically followed with undiluted passion.

Certainly, the fact that we have accomplished admirable feats in boxing as a country has boosted the sport's popularity among the menfolk and womenfolk of our great land.

For example, if we cast our minds backwards to the past, a certain boxer, Rashid Matumla, aka Snake Boy, looms large as indisputably one of our country's finest sporting heroes let alone just an unforgettable boxing icon.

Indeed, it should be recollected that Matumla singlehandedly and virtuously put Tanzania on the world boxing map after he became the first boxer in our nation's history to be deservedly crowned as a world boxing champion.

Thus, it can be vividly seen that the punishing and courageous art of boxing is very much a sport that tugs at the heartstrings of many a sports devotee in our country.

That being said, though a disturbing and unsettling boxing-related report surfaced recently which offered just grounds for alarm, in this writer's book.

Indeed, the report itself was a mammoth bombshell: our country does NOT even have one internationally accredited boxing coach and what's worse, this has been the extremely disappointing state of affairs for some time.

Doubtlessly, to describe our sweeping lack of globally accredited boxing coaches as a veritable



Morogoro's boxing coach, Zacks Mwaseba (L), trains professional boxer, Mohamed Jaylaan, in the region recently. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

conundrum would tentatively rank as a gross understatement.

To put it in figurative terms, it is akin to running through a forest without at all knowing the direction in which you're heading.

Clearly, whether we like it or loathe it, the bald truth of the matter is that unless we take remedial action urgently to address our lack of internationally accredited boxing coaches, then the sport on the domestic patch is likely to remain wallowing in the doldrums, the sterling exertions of one Hassan Mwakinyo notwithstanding.

Now, let us venture into the stormy waters of race relations in the USA.

A few weeks ago, an African-American male, George Floyd, was killed by a policeman in Minneapolis, America who knelt ceaselessly for

up to nine minutes on Floyd's neck, which, tragically, effectively killed him. Unquestionably, this despicable display of especially savage police brutality against yet another African-American in recent months (read: Ahmad Arbaury, officer Breanna Taylor) has not only sparked once-in-a-generation protests across American cities, big and small but significantly, it has also powerfully struck a chord with a sea of people around the globe.

Indeed, protests in places such as London, Sydney, New Zealand and South Africa among others have all been staged in the last couple of days to show solidarity with the struggle of African-Americans against endemic racism in ironically their own homeland.

In addition, prominent figures who

bestride the world stage like Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, the Duchess of Sussex, Megan Markle and sports stars like Formula One legend Lewis Hamilton, and NBA icon Michael Jordan have all fiercely excoriated the mindlessly ruthless killings of not just George Floyd but also other unfortunate African-Americans.

This then prompts this writer to encourage CAF as well as other foremost African football greats, past and present, to voice their condemnation publicly against the distinctly unsavory goings-on which have been happening in the US this year.

After all, we have to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our fellow African brethren in the diaspora, don't we?

Arusha confirms to host 2020 East Africa youth soccer tourney



Arusha's Future Stars Academy players prepare for a match in a past Chipukizi Cup tournament, which took place in the region. PHOTO: COURTESY OF FUTURE STARS ACADEMY

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA will host the annual East African youth soccer championship, dubbed 'Chipukizi Cup', in Arusha next December, maintaining the northern city's position as hub of regional bloc's activities.

Now confirmed for next December in Arusha and already invitations are being dispatched to potential participants, the event is being organized by Future Stars Academy, with the 2020 installment of the tournament marking its 11th year.

Apparently it is also expected that for the first time teams from Japan, South-Africa and DR Congo will be

among the participants.

The East Africa competition has, for over a decade, been attended by participants from the six East African Member States.

The Chipukizi Cup 2020 is scheduled to take place at Tanganyika Game Trackers (TGT) grounds from December 8-13 this year and will bring into Tanzania more than 100 teams from Kenya, Rwanda and as far as South Africa plus the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Despite the current Covid-19 pandemic, we were still going ahead with initial preparations, hoping that these infections will be contained by the time the event starts in four months' time," Alfred Itaeli, the Director of Future Stars Academy, said.

As for the youth teams from Japan, he disclosed, it will depend on how soon international flights will resume globally.

According to the organizers registration and participation fees are taking place online, with deadline fixed for November 20 this year.

Expected categories for the tournament will include the U-7, U-9, U-11, U-13, U-15, U-17 and U-20 for both male and female teams.

Kenya topped last year's Chipukizi Cup, which was the competition's 10th edition.

Tanzania, nevertheless, were not far behind either in the tournament, which was staged at the Tanganyika Game Trackers (TGT) arena for five days.

Kenya won four trophies including

those of U-7, won by Sakata Soccer, Express Soccer (U-9), U-11 (Angaza Soka) and Soka Talents who won the U-13 category.

It was, for that matter, no surprise Kenya held sway in the competition. They had brought to Arusha 114 teams, while hosts, Tanzania, managed to field only 52 squads.

Azam FC of Dar es Salaam took the U-20 category trophy, while Saint Patrick School of Arusha won the U-17 category, Upendo Friends of Arusha took the U-15 cup.

Tanzania, therefore, managed to win four trophies last year, the U-20 (Azam FC), U-17 (Saint Patrick), and U-15 (Upendo Friends) in boys, and for the girls, the U-20 (Arusha Soccer Center) and U-15 (Future Stars Academy).

La Liga gets its wish for season return but not without compromise

MADRID

LA Liga president Javier Tebas said the games would have to go on and from Thursday they will, with stadiums full of virtual fans, crowd noise from a computer game and fewer than 300 people allowed to attend.

As Ligue 1 in France was called off and the Premier League, still the benchmark for Spanish football, tied itself in knots, La Liga has been steadfast in its pursuit of completion.

"I always believed we would play again," said Tebas on Sunday.

The government in Spain had indicated it would be good for morale, perhaps even important for their standing in the world, while the country's infatuation with football meant the prime minister was often addressing the question of its return.

Yet driving La Liga's determination, as Tebas admitted, was the fear of financial meltdown. Cancellation would cost clubs a billion euros, he repeated, and no team would be spared.

Even with the season about to resume, Barcelona and Real Madrid have had to impose pay cuts. Atletico Madrid said they enforced a drop in wages "to guarantee their future".

Public opposition to the season continuing has therefore been fleeting. Eibar's players said last month they were "afraid" to go back to training while Valencia's Gabriel Paulista was one of the few to say it felt rushed.

Among the governing bodies, the players' union (AFE) was sidelined and even the conflict between La Liga and the Spanish football federation (RFEF) was largely put on hold.

Instead, La Liga has answered to the health authorities, who have always had the power to scrap even the most advanced plans at any given moment.

So when Sevilla host Real Betis on Thursday to begin a 39-day sprint finish with matches every day, they will do so according to strict guidelines that even this week were still being updated.

"We've planned everything to the last millimetre," Tebas said.

Infection risk 'practically zero' - Players will be tested for coronavirus within 24 hours of kick-off and visiting teams will use exclusive flights and hotels, before travelling to stadiums in two buses to ensure social distancing is maintained. Home team players will arrive in their own cars.

Both sets of players will have their temperatures taken before entering stadiums and will arrive wearing masks and gloves. All communal areas like changing rooms will be disinfected and aired before, during and after games.

Only 270 people will be allowed inside stadiums, including club players and staff, doctors and security personnel, matchday and club officials, as well as press and technicians.

During the match, fans watching on television can choose to adopt a virtual experience that puts images of seated supporters, wearing the colours of the home team, in the stands.

There will be artificial sound too -- taken from the computer game FIFA, using audio recorded from real matches -- that will then be adapted and implemented according to the flow of the action.

Tributes will be paid to the victims and heroes of the coronavirus pandemic, in the form of a minute's silence before kick-off and applause, contributed by real supporters and transmitted inside the stadium, in the 20th minute.

Tebas has insisted the risk of infection once games are in play is "practically zero" given the amount of physical contact but the summer heat in Spain must be considered too.

Fixtures lists now come with temperature predictions and, already, two kick-off times have been adjusted. Five substitutes will be allowed instead of three, as well as two drinks breaks.

Some regions in Spain have moved faster through the government's de-escalation programme than others and Tebas has said he would be in favour of clubs bringing supporters back when they can.

That could accelerate the league's initial timetable for 30 per cent of fans to return in September, 50 per cent in November and 100 per cent in January 2021. Until then, everyone will have to adapt.

AFP

Man Utd boss Solskjaer on signings: No rotten apples

LONDON

MANCHESTER United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has said he will not risk the harmony of his squad by signing "rotten apples".

Solskjaer will have money to spend during the next transfer window despite the financial implications of the coronavirus pandemic but the United boss said he won't bring in the wrong personalities who could disrupt the group.

"I did feel that I was professional and did feel privileged to play for Manchester United," Solskjaer said. "I wouldn't be able to look at myself if I didn't know I'd given everything for my teammates and my manager."

"That's what I also now look for in players that we sign or we bring up from the youth team. You have to have a good personality and that you are professional because one rotten apple in the basket will make the others rotten."

"So for me it's about building a team that will reflect me and my coaching staff's personalities and views. Of course there are standards because we want to win. We are in the business to win."

United will restart the campaign fifth in the Premier League table, looking to break into the top four and earn a place in next season's Champions League.

Silverware in either the FA Cup or Europa League would make



the Norwegian's first full season in charge at Old Trafford a successful one, but he said his overall goal is to turn the team back into title contenders.

"The first step to be a Manchester United player and person, you have to be humble enough to know you always have to work hard," Solskjaer told the Shiv Nadar Foundation. "Never give in and always do your best, 100% effort is required every day and don't think you are better than you are."

"You still have to play with that confidence at the same time. It's a fine balance but that is what is going to make the difference when we want to get to the championship again that we want to win."

(Agencies)

Bundesliga suggests home advantage a thing of the past in empty stadiums



Dortmund did win this weekend at home to Hertha Berlin but wins for the hosts have proven in very short supply with no fans in the stands. (Agencies)

By Tom Hamilton, ESPN Senior Writer

BORUSSIA Dortmund's famous Sudtribune, better known as the "Yellow Wall," was silent. As Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich scooped the ball over Borussia Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Bürki's head for what proved to be the winning goal, it was greeted by sporadic shouts of glee from the Bayern players and an echoic silence from what would normally be an immersive, claustrophobic atmosphere. Dortmund would then usually go up a gear and throw everything and the kitchen sink back at Bayern Munich. But not this time.

Teams in all sports have always drawn on home support for an extra boost; the crowd are, in essence, a "12th man" on the sideline. But with matches being played behind closed doors due to the coronavirus outbreak and the usually bouncing stands replaced by a strict number of security guards and engineers, teams failing to take any advantage from home comforts has become a familiar narrative.

No longer do they have that roar after conceding, or that feeling like with Liverpool's famous Kop, where the fans are seemingly sucking the ball into the net. Instead, as the home looks for inspiration, they're met with silence, clapping and the odd shout from the sideline.

Since the Bundesliga returned in front of empty stands, where they call them the "ghost games" ("geisterspiele"), home teams have won 21.7% of matches (10 from 46 games), down from 43.3% before the shutdown of play in March. Home teams have also scored fewer goals -- the pre-lockdown rate of 1.75 goals per game is now down to 1.28 -- while the away teams' winning ratio has risen from 34.83% to 47.8%. The same trends have been seen in Estonia (after 29 games there were just 11 home wins) and Czech Republic (after 32 games, just 10 home wins) since their leagues resumed when behind closed doors.

"I don't think that [the change in fortunes at home] is a coincidence," Leverkusen boss Peter Bosz said. "It's easier for the away teams when there are no fans in the stadium. Without spectators, it comes down more to the quality of players."

As the other top European leagues plot their return, those battling relegation will be mindful of what Freiburg coach Christian Streich said recently: "For us [smaller teams], the absence of fans hurts us more than it does the top teams." Eintracht Frankfurt boss Adi Huetter agreed with Streich, saying: "Teams with a high level of technical quality ... are less dependent on support. This disadvantages some teams more than others."

"The vibe is a little bit off"

Away from the mere psychological boost or hindrance served by thousands of fans either cheering you on or doing their utmost to put you off your game, there are mathematical trends in the differences between games played with and without crowds. Three scorecasting economics professors (Carl Singleton, James Reade both from the University of Reading and Dominik Schreyer, WHU, Otto Beisheim School of Management) have been analysing these numbers in their work-in-progress paper "Echoes: What happens when football is played behind closed doors." Their study shows how teams have traditionally won 46% of their matches in front of their home support. After analysing 191 matches played behind closed doors in Europe's top competitions since 1945, this figure falls to 36%.

To look behind the numbers, they analysed three factors: players, coaches and referees behaving

differently to how they usually would when playing in front of packed stands. Through plotting the form behind closed-door matches since 2002, away teams received 0.5 fewer yellow cards than normal and missed fewer penalties, while the home teams scored fewer goals. There was also less injury time awarded.

Their paper, which is still being researched, has the following summary of their findings: "We have found that the commonly observed home advantage in sport is almost completely removed when spectators are not present, and we find some suggestive evidence that this is because of the removal of the influence of spectators on the referee; almost half a yellow card less is given to visiting players, while less injury time is awarded."

The Bundesliga referees have spoken about the difference of officiating in these "geisterspiele" with Deniz Aytekin, who took charge of Borussia Dortmund vs. Schalke 04 -- a huge local derby -- revealing the effect it had on Aytekin personally.

"I have to admit that in the derby a week ago, I had pulse rates that were extremely low compared to games with spectators," Aytekin told German broadcaster ZDF. "Suddenly, these emotions are missing, which is just as elementary for us because ultimately we, too, live this passion."

For the players, it has been a jarring experience. "The vibe is a little bit off to be fair," RB Leipzig's Tyler Adams told ESPN. "But it's one of those things where you have to dig deep and really try to grind out the results, because to run that extra 15 yards without the fans cheering for you is definitely difficult sometimes. Those are the people you play for, and they give you that extra motivation. In a sense it feels like pre-season games with no fans. It's a weird vibe in the stadium with the echoes, communication and everything."

It remains to be seen whether the small sample pool of the Bundesliga and the trends there will transfer to the other leagues, or if it was just an anomaly that is possible when you bring in the past 130 years of football.

How this could impact the rest of the 2019-20 season

While the Premier League looks cut and

dry at the top, with Liverpool expected to win the title sooner rather than later, the battle to avoid the drop is still ferocious. Just eight points separate Norwich in 20th (21 points after 29 games) and Brighton in 15th. ESPN sources say those teams fighting toward the bottom of the table are concerned about the "integrity" of the league, given the differing circumstances in how matches were played before and after lockdown. This was one argument against neutral grounds -- ultimately an idea dropped except for a handful of games involving the league's top teams -- being used, but the Premier League clubs' analysts are playing close attention to any trends emanating from the Bundesliga.

For a team such as Norwich City, they've collected 15 points at their Carrow Road home this season, but just six on the road. Their fellow relegation battlers Aston Villa in 19th have six of their remaining 10 games at home -- they can no longer draw on inspiration from an empty Holte End.

There are some teams that are better away from home -- like in Serie A, teams such as AC Milan, Internazionale, Roma and Fiorentina have fared better on the road this season (Roma have won 0.23 more points away than they have at the Stadio Olimpico). Playing without pressure and expectation on home turf may now be liberating.

In Spain, La Liga is set to resume before the Premier League and Serie A, on June 11 with Sevilla vs. Real Betis. Adding to the uncertainty are Real Madrid and Levante's decisions to play their remaining home matches away from their usual stadiums, as the Santiago Bernabeu and Ciutat de Valencia are both being redeveloped. Real Madrid will play at their training ground, Alfredo di Stefano stadium, but Levante will need to travel 90 miles to play their home matches in La Nucia.

But like in the Premier League, it is the teams near the foot of the table who are concerned about what they have witnessed in the Bundesliga.

Real Valladolid are 15th in La Liga and four points off the relegation zone. Their next two matches are against rivals at the bottom Leganés (a) and Celta (h). "It's a reality that has an impact ... against Celta

and Leganes," captain Javi Moyano said. "Against Celta we'll be playing for our future, and we'd like 24 [thousand] or 25,000 [supporters] there with us."

"It's a handicap playing behind closed doors... Maybe it evens things up between both teams. Home advantage is important in [La Liga]. If you're not prepared mentally for being in an empty stadium... it could feel like you're in training. Whoever knows how to maintain their level of attention and concentration will win."

In "What you think about football is wrong," Kevin Moore writes how home advantage has steadily declined as the game has evolved. Back in the in 1895-96 season of the English football leagues, teams won 64.6% of home matches. In the 2015-16 season, across all four divisions, this was down to 41% -- in part due to tactical adaptation for home and away matches. But while sample sizes and pools of research can be microanalysed for those at the wrong end of the table, playing in front of empty stands mean they can no longer make "home" an uncomfortable experience for the visiting team, while those at the top end will also have to adjust without the intimidating Kop or Yellow Wall.

Former Bayern Munich and Germany midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger was once asked what he was most afraid of. He replied: "The Yellow Wall." Gio Reyna has made his first steps in the Bundesliga with Borussia Dortmund, and when you listen to his perspectives on the home atmosphere in Dortmund, you understand what the club have lost with the stands now lying silent.

"It really feels like there's an extra few players on your team and you ... can feel the intimidation for the other team," Reyna told ESPN. After Dortmund beat Schalke in their first match back after the lockdown, the players went and saluted the empty Sudtribune. But that sight of the home team smiling and joking as the match finishes and leaving familiar surroundings with three points secured has become far less common since "geisterspiele" became the new normal.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Bundesliga suggests home advantage a thing of the past in empty stadiums

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Yanga leave for Shinyanga today

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League's Yanga travel to Shinyanga today for their league encounter with Mwadui FC, which will take place at Kambarage Stadium on Saturday.

Yanga's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said a contingent of 26 players and six officials is, this morning, heading to Shinyanga by bus.

He stated he is confident that the team will do well in the game against hosts Mwadui FC.

"The team departs for Shinyanga tomorrow (today) morning, we will have 26 players and six officials making it 32 people, we are confident that the team will do well in our game against

Mwadui FC and collect maximum points," he said.

He also disclosed that all is set for the coming of Yanga head coach, Luc Eymael, who is expected in the country today.

Bumbuli disclosed once the coach arrives, he will rest and board a flight to Shinyanga tomorrow to join the team.

"Our head coach has confirmed that he is coming tomorrow (today) at noon and after his arrival, he will rest up to Thursday (tomorrow), he will then board a flight to Shinyanga to join the team, but all in all, the team is under assistant coach Boniface Mkwasa," he said.

Commenting on the team's morale in camp after the 3-0 loss to KMC FC in a friendly clash, which took place on Sunday,

Bumbuli stated the defeat served as a wakeup call to the players.

He said they have promised to perform well against Mwadui FC on Saturday.

He said the players knew of the defeat before the match as they were all tired, given they had taken part in three friendly matches in a row.

"You know the defeat in the hands of KMC FC was a blessing in disguise, it has served as a wakeup call to our players and they have promised to perform well during our game against Mwadui FC," he disclosed.

"The loss did not surprise our players as they were tired after playing three friendly games in a row," he said.

Yanga are holding the third place in Vodacom Premier

League table with 51 points from 27 games.

The record top flight champions have won 14 matches, recorded draw in nine and lost four.

Mwadui FC holds the 12th place in the standing with 34 points from 28 games played so far.

In recent interview, the Shinyanga-based side's tactician, Khalid Adam, said he is confident that his side will do well in their game against Yanga.

He was adamant that his side's aim is to collect maximum points so as to avoid relegation to the First Division League (FDL).

"We have played Yanga before, they are a good side, but our aim is to collect all three points, we respect them but the mission is to win the game," he said.

Simba SC allays fears over Mkude injury

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

SIMBA SC leadership has said the outfit's fans should not be worried by an injury the squad's midfielder Jonas Mkude had in a friendly encounter with KMC FC, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Monday.

Simba cruised to 3-1 drubbing of KMC FC in the clash, which aimed at helping the squads shape up for the remainder of the Vodacom Premier League.

Mkude, as noted by the officials, has not suffered serious injury.

The encounter took place barely a week after the Premier League, First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL) squads were allowed to participate in training to prepare for the remainder of their respective tournaments.

Sporting activities had been on an indefinite suspension, as directed by the government, in an effort to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Mkude had sustained shoulder dislocation and was immediately taken to a hospital.

Simba's Manager, Patrick Rweyemamu, stated an earlier examination on Mkude's injury has revealed he has not sustained serious injury.

"We are still waiting for final examination, but the one conducted earlier has proved he has not sustained serious injury which could have seen him experience long lay off," he disclosed.

He stated the duration of the midfielder's lay off depends on the final tests' results.

"We will know that should there be change in details, for now I want to assure Simba fans they should not be worried by the player's injury, we hope he will soon be in great shape and make his way back to the pitch," he stated.

Mkude sustained shoulder dislocation in the friendly clash, which took place at Bunju.

It was a second friendly game for Simba in a space of hours.

Simba had, in the morning, hammered FDL squad Transit Camp 4-2.

The Vodacom Premier League defending champions will get into action on Sunday, hosting Ruvu Shooting in a league fixture in the city.



Simba SC players celebrate a goal the squad netted in a recent Vodacom Premier League clash, held in Dar es Salaam.

MO Dewji ready to splash cash for Simba SC targets

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

CHAIRMAN of Simba SC's Board of Directors, Mohamed Dewji, has revealed that he would have no qualms about paying huge amount of money for any player from any part of the world in the coming transfer window.

The transfer window normally starts in June though due to Coronavirus pandemic things might change a little bit.

Dewji though has wasted no time to assure Simba supporters that they will go for any players proposed by the side's coach.

Through his Twitter account, Dewji insisted that the club would have no problem paying

what is needed to sign a player from any part of the world.

"My Simba colleagues, I want to assure you that none of our players will leave the den," he disclosed.

"But we will also sign any player, from anywhere, if the coach needs him in his squad. We are not making noises but we will definitely roar to announce our presence."

A third consecutive league title is on the card for Simba with only four wins needed out of the remaining 10 games.

Simba, in this case, want to beef up their squad in order to make inroads into the CAF Champions League after suffering shocking preliminary round

elimination in the showpiece this season. In the meantime, Simba

have been linked with several players in the local media in recent weeks including the likes of Coastal Union towering defender Bakari Mwanjama, and forward Reliants Lusajo of Namungo FC.

Also the list are Ghana's Asante Kotoko's Sogne Yacouba and Zambian forward, Justine Shonga, who plays for South Africa Premier Soccer League side, Orlando Pirates.

With a midfield that boasts of Deo Kanda, Luis Miquissone, Clatous Chama, Jonas Mkude, Francis Kahata, Sharaf Shiboub and Mzimiru Yassin, it is believed the striking and defensive units are the main areas of transfer focus

at the Msimbazi Streed squad.

Although Meddie Kagere, aged 33, and John Bocco (32 years old), are doing well, Simba's coach Sven Vandebroek has stressed the need for another striker to assist the duo and give the club more options upfronts.

Speaking about the club transfer status, club CEO Senzo Mbatha said they are now dealing with contract renewals of several players that are needed before venturing out to recruit additions.

Several players notably Paschal Wawa, Shiza Kichuya, Deo Kanda and Said Ndema, whose contracts are coming to an end this season are reportedly to have agreed extension offers.

TTA set to host competition after suspension

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Tennis Association (TTA) has said it plans to host a tournament once the International Tennis Federation (ITF) lifts the suspension of the activities of the sport.

Dennis Makoi, TTA chairman, said in an interview they are ready to host a tournament once the suspension is lifted by ITF.

He, however, stopped short of disclosing if the tournament will be local or international.

ITF suspended all tennis activities up to July 13 due to coronavirus outbreak.

"Our players, coaches and other stakeholders are missing tennis very much, but for now we cannot host any event as the ITF suspended all tennis activities until July 13, but after that surely we will host a tournament," he said.

He said last March, April and May, the country was to send U-14 and U-16 teams to Madagascar, Mauritius and Togo for ITF-sanctioned events, but could not make it due to the suspension.

"We were supposed to send our junior teams to international events in Madagascar, Mauritius and Togo for ITF events but they were suspended due to coronavirus," the official stated.

"Now we are waiting for them (ITF) to either reschedule the events or communicate to us if the tournaments have been cancelled altogether," he said.

Last week, the ITF, which said tennis activities remain suspended until July 13, issued guidelines which will be followed once the sport returns.

Some of the guidelines include players arriving at a venue already dressed and leaving immediately after the conclusion of a match, no handshake, no sharing of equipment (rackets, towels, water bottles, etc), and no doubles' matches.

The federation also said that the competitions should be held without spectators.

The ITF moreover said that players should use separate sets of balls (and mark them clearly prior to play) and should go around opposite sides of the net at changeovers.

"The guidelines, at this stage for local and national-level competitions only, seek to provide a framework in which tennis can be played again in a manner that protects against the risk from transmission or infection by the COVID-19 virus, and provide a number of practical suggestions as to how this might be achieved," ITF said in a statement on Friday.

"While following measures such as these will ensure that the risk from COVID-19 is minimised, the guidelines are clear that the risk cannot be eliminated altogether," it added.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



Tanzania's junior tennis player, Omary Sulle, battles it out in a past ITF/CAT competition in Kenya.

EATV SAA 1

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skanga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soop
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM