



National Pg 3 MPs happy with SGR project



National Pg 4 Trade mission to DRC put off



National Pg 6 TARI showcases new agricultural technologies



Stores run out of disinfectants and masks, with steep rise in prices seen

● Government shuts down schools for one month, to watch the situation

By Guardian Reporters

ONLY a day after the first case of coronavirus was confirmed in the country, face masks and hand sanitisers that are used to contain the propagation of the virus started becoming scarce in city pharmacies and elsewhere as prices were on a steady upward climb.

A spot check by this The Guardian in Dar es Salaam yesterday showed that many pharmacies had run out of the two items, with attendants saying people went into panic buying from Monday when it was announced that a positive case was confirmed in Arusha.

Hand sanitizers that previously sold at 2000/- in the city yesterday shot up to 5,000/- and were hard to come by in shops. Face masks also rose from 500/- to between 1,500/- and 2,000/-. There were long queues in supermarkets and shopping malls that had stocks of the items.

Ummu Mwalimu, the minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children told a pharmacists' meeting in Dar es

Salaam on Monday that the government was considering setting indicative price for the items.

In the inland capital of Dodoma long queues were seen outside pharmacies early morning even before supermarkets opened. Masks that were previously of no use in the central region, became hot cakes that people fought-over, pushing its price to as high as 4,000/-.

"I appeal to the Medical Stores Department to take charge of the distribution of hand sanitizers and face masks countrywide to end the scarcity and price hikes," said Salaha Ramadhani.

A shop owner at Darajani area in Zanzibar, Khamis Omar said people have been flocking to his shop to buy protective masks and sanitizers, noting that prices of the protective gear have gone up and supplies are dwindling.

Earlier a mask was sold at 500/- but now the price has reached 1,500/- while a box of 50 masks now sells at 60,000/-, up from 7,500/-.

He said a half-litre bottle of sanitiser was sold at

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Health attendants at the Moshi-based Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre subject people visiting the referral hospital to coronavirus screening, as witnessed yesterday. Photo: Godfrey Mushi



TMA performance is world class - Nditaye

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has said the performance of the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) now meets international standards with increased accuracy in weather forecasts and other services.

It is the authority's good work that has made it rank highly among others on

the continent and beyond, earning Tanzania a lot of respect.

These observations were made by the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, Atashasta Nditaye (pictured), who underlined that Tanzania has reached international level in weather forecast.

Officiating at the TMA Workers' Council annual meeting, the deputy minister hailed TMA Director General Dr Agnes Kijazi for her shrewd stewardship that has enabled the institution to gain a formidable reputation.

He reminded the meeting that Dr Kijazi's election to the office of third vice president of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) testifies to her dedication, hard work and cooperation with workers in

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ACT-Wazalendo joins Chadema in push for free electoral body

By Henry Mwangonde

ALLIANCE for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) has joined the leading opposition party, Chadema, in the demand for a free electoral commission ahead of the General Election in late October.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the party's recently elected national chairman Seif Shariff Hamad said pushing for a truly independent electoral body is a key resolution reached at last weekend's party general conference.

"We agreed to collaborate with other opposition parties in demanding for a free electoral body and

Chadema has lately reiterated its demand for the formation of an independent electoral commission so as to be assured of free and fair elections later this year

other reforms in the way we conduct elections," he said.

Hamad said the party adopted various resolutions including changes to the party's constitution to match with the Political Parties Act, 2019 version.

The party also agreed to work with other political parties in fighting for democracy and the rule of law, participate in coalitions with other parties in this year's elections both in the Isles elections and in Union polls.

Chadema has lately reiterated its demand for the formation of an independent electoral

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Coronavirus messes up travel in Europe, irrational shopping rises

By Edna Lyatuu Hogan in Dublin

RYANAIR, the Dublin-based low-budget airline serving some 30 European nations as well as Morocco and the Canary Islands, has just announced plans to ground the majority of its fleet across Europe.

The no-frills airline headquartered in this Irish capital and acknowledged as one of Europe's oldest and most popular, has not ruled out the possibility of grounding its entire fleet.

Grafton Street, Dublin's usually busy south-side shopping thoroughfare, was widely described as deserted on Monday (March 16) - just a day before



the now cancelled St Patrick's Day parade was scheduled to take place here. The parade would have passed less than 50 metres from the city's most famous pedestrianised shopping street.

Across Ireland, supermarket shelves have been literally bare in recent days as panic-buying kicked in amongst the populace. For instance, owing to a shortage of supplies, Lidl in Baldoyle on Dublin's north-side was forced to remain closed as it awaited deliveries on Saturday morning after shopping sprees the evening before.

Another supermarket giant, Tesco, was forced to close multiple stores the previous day as it ran out of much of its stock at various locations - one of them Clare Hall, a short drive from Lidl's Baldoyle outlet. People were irrationally stocking up on household staples such as toilet roll.

Following the closure of some pubs, cafés and restaurants, some 120,000 people have been

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Weights and Measures Agency CEO Ludovick Manega (gesturing) briefs members of the Parliamentary Industry and Environment Committee on operations at the agency's centre at Misugusugu in Coast Region, which they toured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

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organisations in which she had played a role.

"TMA is one among few institutions that have maintained good performance and earning respect among peers regionally and beyond," he said, noting that TMA has maintained ISO 900:2015 certification.

The meeting will continue empowering TMA to improve accuracy in weather forecasting, since TMA reports are vital in environmental expectations and planning, he said.

He assured the workers that the government is committed to help solve

TMA performance is world class - Nditaye

challenges facing TMA in regard to its performance and workers' welfare.

Earlier, Dr Kijazi said that TMA faces many challenges including inadequate equipment, trained workforce and a paucity of space for meteorological activities.

The meeting would among other things discuss TMA's 2020/2021 revenue and expenditure estimates, delineating areas that would contribute to realization of organizational targets and increased revenues.

She used the occasion to urge the public to utilize TMA reports in an effort to adapt to climate change effects.

"TMA will continue performing its duties diligently for more accurate meteorological services," she stated, underlining that its forecasting is anywhere from 87 per cent to 96 per cent accurate.

She said Tanzania has earned a lot of respect in meteorological services with Bukoba and Songea stations being recognized for having long term data,

stretching 100 years back.

In her vote of thanks, board member Jane Kikunye expressed gratitude to the government for its efforts to empower TMA. "President John Magufuli has put TMA on the spotlight and the board is happy with the recent installing of weather radars in Mtwara, Kigoma and Mbeya," she told the gathering.

TMA is handicapped by lowly budgets and the government needs to consider improving its financial capacity, she added.

Stores run out of disinfectants and masks, as steep rise in prices seen

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9,000/- but the price has rapidly climbed to 12,000/-.

"A five-litre gallon of sanitizer is being sold at 75,000/- but is disappearing fast from the shelves due to many buyers especially for use in business premises and selling in other shops.

Some Zanzibar residents have advised the government and other public institutions to donate the protective gear for free as many local people cannot afford to buy them.

"If the government gave us free mosquito nets as well as free spraying of our homes against malaria, we ask the government to do so in respect of coronavirus protective gear," said Abeda Sulemani, a Mkwajuni resident.

On his part, the Zanzibar Minister for Health, Hamad Rashid Mohamed said the government has already distributed masks and other gear to all district hospitals.

He urged islanders to adopt the habit of washing hands frequently by using soap and water to improve protection against coronavirus.

In Bukoba municipality, hours after it was announced that the first coronavirus case had been confirmed, town dwellers reacted with panic buying of hand sanitizers and face masks, leading to the disappearance of the items from most pharmacies.

Interviewed residents said they entered pharmacies to buy protective masks and sanitizers but were told they had finished their stocks.

Ivan Longino, a resident of Mafumbo area said instead they are forced to use bar soap to wash hands in their families.

Jamal Abdul, another Bukoba municipality resident said the government should assist in making available the protective gear to save people from the dreaded infection.

Shakira Hussein, a pharmacy assistant said after hearing the news of the first coronavirus case

in the country, people flocked to the pharmacy to buy masks and sanitizers.

As of now a bottle of sanitizer is sold at 15,000/- up from 2,000/- to 3,500/- earlier, while prices for masks and gloves had not spiraled, still at 1,000/- and 2,000/- respectively.

Govt shuts schools, stops gatherings

Meanwhile, the government yesterday announced closure of schools from kindergarten to form six in a move aimed at preventing the spread of coronavirus.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said in a televised address that all social gatherings including entertainment, political and sports activities will cease to take place for 30 days as the situation is being monitored.

Forms six national examinations that were scheduled to kick off on May 4, 2020 will now depend on the coronavirus situation, the premier said, specifying that Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training will later issue an advisory on the pending exams.

All workshops, seminars and conferences have also been cancelled until further notice, he declared.

There will be screening centres in all entry points on Tanzania's borders in addition to ports and airports. "I direct regional commissioners in border areas to ensure that no one enters the country without being thoroughly screened," he said.

Majaliwa further directed RCs to work with health authorities to enhance detection capacity so that patients are isolated as early as possible before infecting others in families and open door gatherings.

"We will issue further directives after 30 days depending on the situation," he affirmed.

The government announced on Monday that a Tanzanian woman who arrived in the country from Belgium had tested positive for COVID-19 and was being isolated in Arusha as others who came into contact with her were being traced.

Coronavirus messes up travel in Europe, irrational shopping rises

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rendered redundant, according to the Restaurants Association of Ireland.

The government has already advised that pubs close their doors - and this has been implemented as of this week. More cafés and restaurants are likely to be directed to close shop.

The government has established a pandemic unemployment payment to provide a social welfare payment of 203 Euros per week to service industry workers or the self-employed who have been affected by the adverse economic conditions that have come into play across Ireland owing to the Covid-19 outbreak.

It must be said that at the time of writing this piece, fewer than 200 people are known to have contracted the novel coronavirus in the Irish republic. These measures are preventive rather than corrective as are being put in place in Italy and some regions of Spain.

David Bouvier is the Global Business Development Manager with Agrihealth, a corporate body keen to enter into the African market. His company is a member of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce (EU) Ireland determined to develop trade links between Europe

and East Africa.

Bouvier has this to say on the current crisis: "There is no straight answer, as we are learning about this virus every day. One thing is certain, and it is that any preventive actions recommended by international authorities need to be taken seriously."

"We believe values such as courage, solidarity and responsibility will be the best assets to prevent and fight this pandemic," he notes.

Witnessing this must be worrying for government authorities in Tanzania and other developing countries with big populations. Indeed, heavy investment in preparations is an absolute necessity in tackling the deadly virus.

"From an African perspective, I am in Tanzania now on a business trip and given the professionalism I have witnessed from Tanzanian Government officials, I have no doubt whatsoever that the Government of Tanzania is well prepared to fight corona," said Eco Systems International president Pat Kearney.

Banker and journalist Edna Lyatuu Hogan, Founder and CEO of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Ireland & the rest of Europe, filed this report exclusively to The Guardian from Dublin.

ACT-Wazalendo joins Chadema in push for free electoral body

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commission so as to be assured of free and fair elections later this year.

On Monday, Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe declared that it will be meaningless to go to the polls in October under the current electoral system and still expect free and fair elections.

He said without substantive reforms of the country's electoral system, like ensuring palpable independence of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), elections may bring the country into "unnecessary chaos and violence."

Indicating his disappointment in efforts to find common ground with the government through dialogue, the Hai MP said the government had turned a deaf ear to these demands, "and because we have reached the limit of our patience we will continue to demand these changes through activism."

The actions would involve organizing and holding rallies across the country starting April 4 where Chadema supporters will demand an independent electoral body as well as genuine preparations for the presidential, parliamentary and ward



CRDB Bank Plc's Corporate Affairs director Tully Mwambapa (L) demonstrates how customers can submit their views using a special QR Code programme launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday. She is with members of the bank's staff, including head of customer care Yolanda Urrio (C). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent

Residents of Muheza District in Tanga Region were in panic mode for the better part of yesterday as news spread that seven patients with coronavirus were admitted in the district's designated hospital.

The news that spread like whirlwind in the morning turned out to be a hoax as District Medical Officers Flora Kessy explained later that there were no suspected cases, let alone confirmed ones.

The panic prompted many residents to grab their phones asking friends and relatives on the veracity of the reports while others went on a buying spree of protective masks.

Speaking to this reporter, a resident of Majengo Shimoni area of Muheza town, Suzi Mkongwe said she was informed

Panic as fake coronavirus news spreads in Muheza

through her mobile phone that there were people with coronavirus admitted at Muheza District designated hospital.

She said the patients had allegedly come from Kwamnyefu village in Mpapayu Ward and whose occupation was farming.

Another Muheza resident, Rajabu Juma said he received information that seven people from Kwamnyefu village in the district with coronavirus symptoms were admitted in an isolation room at the hospital and that they were so worried over the

reports.

Due to the fast spread of the news that became the talk of town, people started greeting each other without shaking hands.

DMO Kessy said it was true they received seven patients from Kwamnyefu village but they were only suffering from common colds, with one of them was suffering from malaria.

She said Muheza residents should rest assured that there aren't any patients suffering from coronavirus

admitted at the hospital as the report was just a hoax.

On his part Muheza District Commissioner Mwanasha Tumbo started educating people on how to protect themselves from corona infection, appealing to residents to stop rumour mongering.

Adherents of religious denominations meeting at prayer houses ought to wash their hands with soap to prevent infection before greeting by shaking hands, or avoid shaking hands altogether, she added.



Vodacom Tanzania head of communications Jacqueline Materu (L) briefs an Education, Science and Technology ministry delegation led by deputy permanent secretary Dr Ave-Maria Semakafu in Dodoma city yesterday on how robots enhance efficiency at workplaces. This was at the mobile phone service provider's pavilion at the ongoing Science, Technology and Innovation exhibition at Jamhuri Stadium. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Parliamentary standing committee to push for the 'domestication' of data protection rights

By Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Legal and Constitution Affairs has directed the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) together with Haki Maendeleo to come up with a proposal on data protection, privacy, and consumer rights protection that would enable them to lobby for legislation.

The Acting Committee's chairperson, Emmanuel Mwakasaka (MP) Tabora Urban ordered for the proposal following the well-presented topic by Haki Maendeleo board chairperson, Dr. Abdallah Mrindoko on data protection, privacy, and consumer rights protection at a one-day familiarisation workshop with Parliamentary Standing Committee on Legal and Constitution Affairs workshop conducted by Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) in collaboration with Haki Maendeleo in Morogoro yesterday.

Responding after a brief presentation, Mwakasaka said that there is a need to have laws that protect consumers in this digital era due to a fact that the increase of the sophistication of information technology with its capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate data on individuals has introduced a sense of urgency to the demand for legislation.

Earlier, when presenting the topic, Dr Mrindoko pointed out a major challenge that faces citizens with current ICT development as the presence of many institutions that stores and process personal data in digital form in the absence of laws in place.

Dr Mrindoko added that in order for this digital potential to be fully and equitably realized, enabling regulatory and policy environments should exist at the national level.

He emphatically said that it should be considered that, the evolution of mobile money services have raised a number of issues regarding with consumer protection, saying these platforms has caused the convergence of telecommunications and financial sector that exposed regulatory challenges.

The current arrangement creates gaps in the regulatory framework due to the existence of two regulators, each with a limited scope of coverage, Dr Mrindoko pointed out.

"As the use of mobile phones in monetary transfer suggest a significant opportunity for expansion of financial access, still there are long-standing and serious issues of consumer detrimental in the field that need to be addressed to protect them," he added.

Besides, Dr Mrindoko explained that the development of E-health and National Identification registrations bring a lot of questions regarding data protection and privacy, commending that all these issues need single comprehensive data privacy and protection legislation.

However, when contributing during the discussion, The Legal and Constitution Affairs Ministry, Permanent Secretary, Professor Sifuni Mchome admitted the importance of having laws that govern data protection, privacy, and consumer protection, revealing that the process of enacting the law is in pipeline and soon the law will be in place.

"As the use of mobile phones in monetary transfer suggest a significant opportunity for expansion of financial access, still there are long-standing and serious issues of consumer detrimental in the field that need to be addressed to protect them,"

Fishermen call for amendment of 2003 Fisheries Act

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

AGRICULTURE, Livestock and Water parliamentary Committee has been advised to amend the 2003 Fisheries Act as it forces traders to shift to Uganda.

The Act is said to suppress fishermen and dealers of fish products in Kagera Region forcing many of them to conduct their businesses in Uganda.

Speaking at different occasions during the Committee's sitting on how to get involved in the law that does not suppress fishermen, Medard Kaijage, a fisherman said double-mesh fishing

nets are used as a habit because they catch fish, and they use them after seeing the permitted single-mesh fishnets do not catch fish.

Kaijage said the price of smaller fishing nets is sold between 200,000/- to 500,000/- adding that the money is often subsidized by big businessmen.

He said small mesh fishing nets are hazardous because they destroy fish breeding grounds as they catch small, young fish which sometimes don't get buyers so they have to bury them into the ground. He said the double-mesh type of fishing nets catch bigger fish and that is why in Uganda they mind a

lot about the size of the mesh.

The Permanent secretary in the Ministry of Fisheries Dr Rashid Tamatamah said the big challenge facing fishermen in Tanzania is the prohibition using double-mesh type of fishing nets whereas in Uganda there is no such prohibition.

He said fishing related factories have been helping a lot in the availability of employment for many Tanzanians.

Pascal Haonga, a Member of the Committee said the fisheries laws are enacted with collaboration with neighbouring countries.

He said the move by Uganda to

abandon the Law amounts to trade war because the country had six fish factories but now the number has risen to 13 because Uganda the laws to suppress fishermen are being disregarded, while here in Tanzania they are enforced.

He said the government should amend the Fisheries Act starting from the District/Town Councils level.

The Committee's Chairman Mahamudu Mgemwa (Mufindi North MP) said the panel has received the complaints from the fishermen and they are sound and will advise the government to have a new Act.

By Guardian Reporter

MPs happy with implementation of SGR project, nature protection

THE Parliamentary Standing Committee of Industries, Trade and Environment said yesterday that it was happy with the way the Standard Gauge Railway project was being implemented and the attention paid to protect environment.

Speaking at the end of the committee's one-day tour, the committee chairman, Suleiman Saddiq noted: "This is a huge national project that calls for very close follow up so that its implementation conforms to the protection of the environment. Nonetheless, the committee is happy with the implementation of the project and high degree paid to the protection of the environment."

He added that the committee encouraged the project supervisors to stick to strict protection of the environment.

He said the committee called on the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to cooperate fully with other parties in the project to ensure the environment was protected so that the project could last long and remain sustainable.

Saddiq said the committee would like to see people living along the line being educated on the emerging socio-economic opportunities, to allow them to benefit from those opportunities and guard against bad effects of constant interactions by many people using the railway.

He said that nation was paid dearly for construction of the project, emphasizing that there was no option but

to ensure people along the railway advanced socially and economically.

The committee praised a good job by Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) in improving the national energy infrastructure and for uninterrupted supply of power to the project.

NEMC director general Samuel Gwamaka said the council would observe keenly the committee's observations.

"Our job is to follow up and see if the

contractors are implementing the project according to the terms of environment impact assessment certificate is given to them," Dr Gwamaka said.

The TRC director-general, Masanja Kadogosa, thanked the committee for the visit and the pertinent observations, pledging that the orders of the committee would be strictly executed.

The committee also visited Kinyerezi power station.

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We are pleased to inform our Stakeholders and the General Public that, our office is now relocated at 2nd floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building along Jamhuri Street, Dar es Salaam.

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WB to finance key strategic economic projects in Dodoma

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

WORLD Bank, through cooperation with Dodoma City Council (DCC) and Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industrial and Agriculture (TCCIA) were in a process to rollout lucrative finance to support implementation of key private sector strategic projects with high impact to communities in capital city of Dodoma.

The envisaged project which is part of World Bank's strategic cities programme social cooperate responsibility (SCR) in capital city, targets to empower small-scale entrepreneurs in the region.

TCCIA regional director, Idd Senge told the Guardian during an exclusive interview that currently, they are mulling on how best to identify positive projects to be included and financed through the project.

"Our intention is to ensure small-scale scale entrepreneurs within Dodoma are included in the said program in order to be assisted and promoted," he said.

So far, according to him, the chamber (TCCIA) has already identified some

entrepreneurs groups, in categories of iron, aluminum and wood works, added.

As per the World Bank's schedule, the target is to open major producing clusters and thus, the entrepreneurs we're gathering will be joined in special relevant clusters in order to be assisted.

He added, in the envisioned clusters, the prospectus entrepreneurs will receive special training in order to sharpen their production skills and productivity.

"Dodoma is now a capital city, which literary means there is a need for organization of business activities in the region to copy with international standards," he expressed.

He said, the project, if prevail, will play crucial role in assisting a good number of youth in central zone regions to get direct employment, as well as establishing their (youths) own income generating activities.

"Trough the World Bank (WB) support, we will make sure all small scale entrepreneurs in capital city are conducting their business activities in profitable venues and conditions," he added.



Dodoma residents pictured yesterday washing their hands with a disinfectant before going past the Jamhuri Stadium main gate to tour a science and technology exhibition organised by the Education, Science and Technology ministry. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

RC Gambo calls for robust cyber-security

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA Regional Commissioner, Mrisho Gambo has cautioned against the new challenges being posed by crimes in the cyberspace and called for effective measures to improve cyber-security.

He expressed concern over the misuse of social media for illegal activities and suggested the need to strengthen the capabilities of law enforcement agencies to be able to meet the challenges posed by it.

"It is high time; we work on this challenge, which is on the increase over rising misuse of the internet, whereby criminals use it to steal people's money and commit other crimes, something which thwarts the development of the communication industry," RC Gambo said when speaking on Monday at a one-day seminar that brought on board religious leaders from across the region.

Organised by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), the seminar aimed to empower clerics with better skills on wise-use of

social media and other communication platforms.

Gambo called on TCRA to come up with new innovative approaches that will make the public safe from cyber-related crime, taking into accounts technology is changing and criminals are also changing their ways of stealing on a daily basis.

"So to me, awareness is an important aspect in dealing with online fraud," he said, suggesting the need to bring on board more players in the sector for maximum results.

Head of TCRA in the northern zone, Eng. Emelda Salum said the seminar was part of the countrywide awareness campaign dubbed: 'Sirubuniki Mjanja Haingizwi Chaka', which is meant to empower clerics with skills on how they can help to relay the message to their followers on cybercrime.

"We believe that these leaders can act as a tool towards relaying the message to members of their churches and mosques. And we're quite sure that the message will reach as many people as possible," said Mabel Masasi, TCRA's senior communications officer.

By Guardian Reporter

A strong trade-cum-investment TPSF-led delegation planned to leave for DR Congo on April 6, 2020, to explore trade and investment opportunities has been postponed indefinitely due to the threat of Coronavirus.

Addressing a joint press conference in Dar es Salaam, chairperson of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Angelina Ngalula, said: "We have decided to postpone our trade mission following the reported cases of disease in both countries."

She called on traders in both countries to be patient, noting that preparations for a three day trade mission for DR Congo were in top gear and the number traders/investors who registered for the mission surpassed the target of 200 people who earlier planned.

"Also take this opportunity to inform the business community and public in general

TPSF-led trade mission for DRC in April postponed indefinitely

that the indefinite postponement meant we will continue with preparations while awaiting clearance from the authorities when the virus controlled," she explained.

"Tanzania is producing quality goods that have a ready market in DRC. But Tanzania has also many economic opportunities. We want these things to be known to our colleagues in the DRC. Tanzania currently, chairs the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Business Council, meaning we have the duty to encourage and promote business among ourselves. This is the background behind this tour," she explained.

TPSF recognises the immense focused efforts of the government in building this enabling infrastructure and we thank the government for this great job," she said.

Speaking at the same venue, Tanzanian ambassador to the DRC, Lt. General (rt'd) Paul Mella called on the business community to mobilize and fully exploit business potentials and opportunities to do serious business.

"I call on potential Tanzanian business people to come forward and register for a trade mission," he said, noting that the market was big and reliable.

Earlier, a representative of ambassador of the DRC in Tanzania, Moma Kampinga said Tanzania's trade mission to his country would be of paramount significance as two countries have a long time history of cooperation.

"Tanzania's goods and products have a good market in Congo. I courage you to go and promote your products," he said.

By Correspondent Joseph Kithama

TRCS appeals for coronavirus awareness campaign in schools

TANZANIA Red Cross Society (TRCS) has made a nationwide appeal to educational institutions to introduce dissemination on the novel coronavirus epidemic, as a

precautionary measure to check on the epidemic in the country.

Delivering a speech to mark the "Talent and Academic Day", organised by Destiny

Secondary School at Bunju-A in Dar es Salaam, the representative of the secretary general for Tanzania Red Cross Society, Dollar Rajab Kusonge, appealed to other educational institutes to mimic the exemplary dissemination on COVID-19 epidemic made at the event by a school girl.

Presenting on the epidemic with the assistance of hand-drawn charts, the Master of Ceremony (MC) for the well-attended event, Victoria James, a Form Four Science student at the secondary school, alerted the public and international community not to solely leave the task of prevention against the epidemic on the government's shoulders.

"If we don't join our hands in preventing the spread of the disease, we might face extinction" the secondary school MC, whose talents in

communication skills and Mathematics amazed many who attended the colorful s event, remarked,

Dollar Rajab Kusonge, who happens to be the Dar es Salaam regional chairman of the Tanzania Red Cross Society, told the presenter: "You are an asset, your level of presentation on the epidemic could be compared to that of the BBC".

The Red Cross official, who is also a lecturer at the National Transport Institute (NIT) in Dar es Salaam, said he will liaise with Destiny Secondary School in grooming the talented school girl to make presentations in international forums.

"Talent alone, is not enough to make somebody attain his dream in life, it has to go along with self-discipline, self-dedication, endless adaptation of skills, hardworking, patience, persistent and innovative," Kusonge told the Children and their

respective parents.

He also stressed on the need to have a proper network of people around a person who battles to achieve his destiny.

At the event, which was also attended by Moga primary school, Day-Star, SIHA and New Era Montasouri, the Destiny's students made an exposure of a school-made Air Condition, Volcanic Eruption made from a mixture of soda and other ingredients.

The school's headmaster, Ezekiel Katubayomo said the annual event was meant to provide an opportunity for students to sharpen their talents in both academic classes and outside.

The annual event was also coloured by moving songs composed by the student themselves, drama plays on school girl pregnancies, HIV/AIDS infection, waste disposal and presentation on historical stone and tool discovery, slave trade and map reading and interpretation.

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF
DAR ES SALAAM AT KISUTU

CIVIL CASE NO. 73 OF 2019

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LIMITED.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

DAVE IMPEX LIMITED.....DEFENDANT

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AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if you default in appear the court will inter Judgment on your absence.

Given under my Hand and Seal of court this 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2020.



Principal Resident Magistrate
KISUTU - DAR ES SALAAM

315627101



Ubungu district commissioner Kisare Makori cuts a ribbon in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when receiving 150 desks, chairs and tables donated by NMB Bank Plc to three secondary schools and one primary school in Ubungu municipality. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



PUBLICATION OF FUND RECEIVED AND EXPENDITURES FOR RAILWAY CHILDREN AFRICA FOR SIX MONTHS OF THE PERIOD ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2019

Railway Children Africa (RCA) is a subsidiary of Railway Children UK - an international charity that fights for vulnerable children who live alone and at risk on the streets, where they face abuse and exploitation. They run away or are forced to leave homes where they suffer poverty, violence, abuse and neglect.

PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In accordance with Non-government organization (amendment Regulations 2018) Railway Children Africa is pleased to publish its provisional financial statements and funding status for 6 months and for the period ended 30 Nov 2019

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR SIX MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30 NOV 2019 | |
|---|------------------|
| | TZS'000 |
| INCOME | |
| Receipts from Restricted Funders | 2,305,997 |
| Receipts from Unrestricted Funders | 7,788 |
| Total Income | 2,313,785 |
| EXPENDITURE | |
| Staff Costs | 604,156 |
| Administration & Support Costs | 82,923 |
| Support to Local Partners & CSOs | 771,925 |
| RCA Direct Programme Activities | 250,613 |
| Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning | 69,607 |
| RCA Direct Project in Mwanza | 469,039 |
| Total Expenditure | 2,248,264 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | 65,521 |

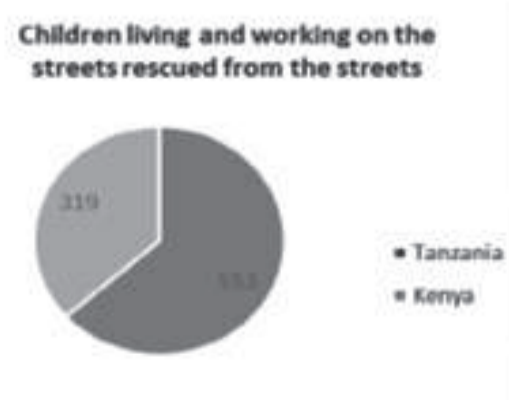
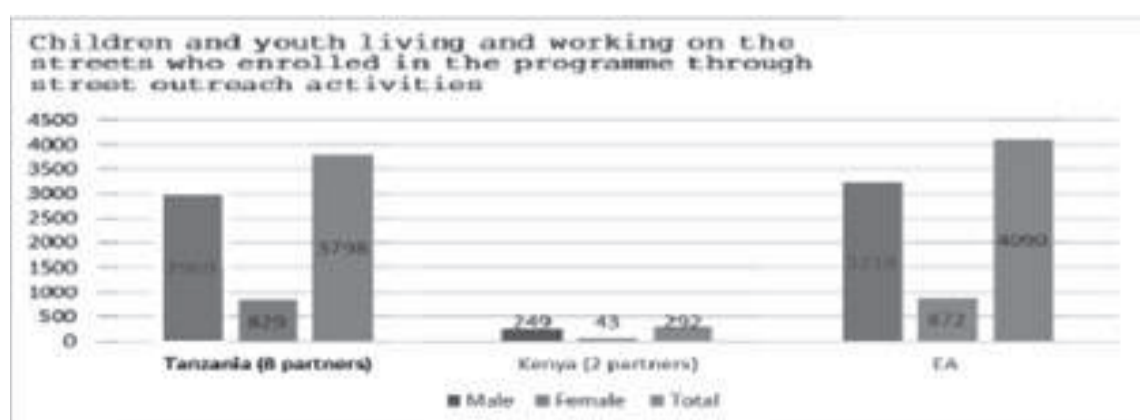
| FUNDING ANALYSIS BY PROJECT FOR SIX MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30 NOV 2019 | | | |
|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| Project name | Project Aim | Key Activities & Project Location | Expenditure (TZS'000) |
| USAID Kizazi Kipya | Improved and expanded services for children living or working on the streets (CLWS) | Provision of technical support to USAID Kizazi Kipya partner CSOs that aims to increase access to health, education, and Economic Strengthening services for about 8,700 Children living and working on streets of Mwanza, Arusha, Iringa, Mbeya, Dar es Salaam and Dodoma | 413,998 |
| UKAID DIRECT - Advocacy for Children living and working on streets. | Advocating for the Implementation of UN General Comment to change Lives of Tanzanian Street Children | Analyzing existing laws, regulations & guidance and identifying changes needed in line with the General Comment, developing of practical Standard Operating Procedures for government/ civil society as guidance in delivering targeted services for street children while ensuring quality, resourcing and adequacy of services for street children in Mwanza, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Iringa and Dodoma. | 1,328,741 |
| UBSOF - Care Reform | Provide alternative family-based care opportunities for Children from Tanzania streets | Partner with least three long term care homes and supporting the reintegration of children back to their families from these institutions and supporting them to change their modus operandi. Project location is Mwanza, Dar es Salaam and Dodoma | 245,698 |
| Railway Children Projects | Reintegration of children and youth from streets to safe families and communities. | Supporting Railway Children Africa and its implementing partners to reintegrate children and youth from the streets back to their families and communities in Mwanza, Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Dodoma and Iringa. | 259,827 |
| TOTAL | | | 2,248,264 |

| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR SIX MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30 NOV 2019 | |
|---|----------------|
| | TZS'000 |
| ASSETS | |
| Non current Assets | |
| Equipments | 31,111 |
| Total Non-current Assets | 31,111 |
| Current Assets | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 206,262 |
| Receivables | 42,257 |
| Total Current Assets | 248,519 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 279,630 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Deferred income | 263,320 |
| Payables | 16,311 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 279,630 |

The financial statements outlined above were authorized for publication by the Railway Children Africa Board on 31 January 2020

Some notable achievements

During the reporting period 5,041 children and youth were provided with one or more core project services. Of these, 4,090 were children and youth living and working on the street contacted on the streets and involved in street outreach activities, and 951 were siblings of reunified children.



WE FIGHT FOR CHILDREN LIVING ON THE STREETS



Costech advised to set aside funds to help in spotting, nurturing of innovative activities

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

COMMISSION for Science and Technology has been advised to allocate special funds to be used in identifying and developing all innovation works by university students and other citizens and thus make them benefit the nation in its pursuit to attain industrial economy.

The advice was given yesterday by the Acting President of the Faculty of science and Technical Education at Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) Dr John John during the opening of the exhibition on innovation at the university which brought together students and staff from various colleges in Mbeya Region.

Dr John said among the obstacles that make creativity fail to be beneficial is COSTECH's lack of funds to coordinate and develop creativity work of young people.

He advised COSTECH to prepare policies that will protect the patent rights of inventors, the institution he comes from and the nation in general to avoid patent rights infringements from other people.

"Universities have three main tasks

- to research, teach and give expert advice and hence it is high time for COSTECH to prepare special policies that will protect the inventors' rights and develop them, as well as enabling them financially on inventions that seem to be beneficial to the nation," he said.

For his part, MUST President Hassan Masanja advised students to concentrate on digital skills that search for solutions on various raised issues in the society.

The Deputy Head of Finance and Planning at MUST Dr Justinian Anatory said the university has been of great assistance to the society by helping them in issues of science and technology.

He said the university is among the beneficiaries of funds from people in the United Kingdom through Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) to develop various creativity works and inventions including the use of mobile phones and environment.

HDIF Director of Finance and Administration in Tanzania Revocatus Vedasto said the Fund started work in 2013 and many students and innovators have benefited.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority employees line up in the city yesterday to wash their hands with a disinfectant before heading for their offices as a precaution against the spread of coronavirus infections. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NAIROBI

Kenya yesterday confirmed its fourth coronavirus case.

Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe announced that one more patient tested positive at a private health facility.

Kagwe said the patient travelled from London and arrived in Kenya on March 9. The CS said tracing of persons who may have come into contact with the patient is ongoing.

Kenya has conducted III tests since

Kenya confirms fourth case of coronavirus

the country started running Covid-19 tests early this month. A total of 71 cases tested negative, 36 people are under observation and four tested positive, CS Kagwe said.

The Health minister said in a media briefing that all travellers into Kenya including citizens, diplomats, residents and UN staff will swear a legal document that they will observe quarantine rules.

Kagwe further said that water supply for consumers with outstanding bills will not be disconnected, citing an agreement with Water Cabinet Secretary Sicily Kariuki.

The first coronavirus case was recorded in the country on Friday. On Sunday President Uhuru Kenyatta announced two more cases and unveiled measures to stop the spread

of the virus.

The president suspended learning at all levels and announced a nationwide partial lockdown. He encouraged businesses and government offices to close all non-essential services.

President Kenyatta yesterday declared this Saturday a National Day of Prayer amid fears that the viral disease could spread further.

Unlike other previous events, On Saturday, the President said, Kenyans will pray to God in their homes, with a small group of religious leaders congregating at the State House in Nairobi. "We cannot ignore the need to turn to God. In these circumstances as we have done in the past as a nation, we have always turned to God first to give thanks for the many blessings that He

has bestowed on our nation.

"But we also turn to God to share our fears, our apprehensions, but also to seek his guidance and ever-present protection," the President said.

He said that in God, Kenyans had a place to turn to amid Covid-19 virus, which has been declared a global pandemic.

Globally, the virus has infected more than 168,000 people and killed at least 6,610, according to the World Health Organisation. Almost 80,000 people have recovered.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received licence applications from the following applicants:

| S/N | NAME OF APPLICANT | SHAREHOLDER NATIONALITY & PERCENTAGE | TYPE OF LICENCE | AREA OF OPERATION |
|-----|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Elipa (T) Limited | 1) Elipa Mauritius Limited- Mauritius-90% 2) Arthur Dallas Seme-Tanzania-10% | Application Services Licence | National |
| 2. | Ottimale Technologies Co. Ltd | 1) Ally Abdallah Albakry- 80% Tanzanian 2) Wahid Abdallah Ally- 20% Tanzanian | Application Services Licence | National |
| 3. | Voto Mobile Limited | 1) Voto Mobile Inc- 96% Canadian 2) Ms. Kellen Eilerts, - 1% American | Application Services Licence | National |

Pursuant to Section 8 of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licence to the applicant to reach the Authority, within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the application.

Comments should be addressed to:

Director General,
Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority,
Mawasiliano Towers,
20 Sam Nujoma Road,
P.O. Box 474,
14414 DAR ES SALAAM.
E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz



Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Augustine Mahiga (L) has a word with Haki Maendeleo chairman Wilfred Warioba in Morogoro municipality yesterday shortly after closing a one-day familiarisation workshop for members of the Parliamentary Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee. It was jointly organised and conducted by the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) and the NGO. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Institute to showcase 30-plus newly developed agricultural technologies

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MORE than 30 agricultural technologies are expected to be exhibited by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in Uyoale, Mbeya with the aim of providing education to farmers and increasing the grain and vegetable production.

Speaking to Journalists, the Director General for TARI-Uyoale, Dr Tulole Bucheyeki said the exhibition aims to help farmers by providing them with modern farming technologies to be applied in vegetable and grain crops.

He said the 30 technologies to be exhibited would bring positive impacts to farmers and eventually transform the whole sector.

The director added: "the institute has developed new technologies to

specific crops including maize, beans, sunflowers, nuts, spinach, onions, cassava, tomatoes and carrots, all these efforts aims to help farmers earn more in their undertakings."

Dr Bucheyeki said the agricultural technology exhibition started last year, saying that every farmer who visits the exhibition will add the number of productivity due to good agricultural knowledge that will be provided.

For his part, TARI agricultural officer Boniphace Minja said the institute has invested much of its efforts in conducting more researches so as to come up with best seeds technologies which goes in line with the climate change.

The official advised farmers to adhere to best agricultural procedures advised by the experts for them to

harvest bumper harvests.

TARI as a semi-autonomous body under the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for all agricultural research activities conducted by the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) in the country.

The institute aim to contribute and increase agricultural productivity through development and deployment of improved agricultural knowledge and technologies by adopting innovation systems approach.

TARI is generating and promoting application of knowledge in agricultural technologies as catalyst of change in achieving agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and economic growth involving stakeholders in the country and global community.

Katavi investment guide to promote trade, investment flows in pipeline

By Guardian Reporter, Katavi

THE government is planning to come up with an investment guide with a focus on promoting trade and investment opportunities in Katavi Region.

The proposed investment guide will identify trade and investment opportunities that are available in the region with a focus on attracting interested national and international business communities to invest in the identified trade and investment opportunities.

This is in line with the government's efforts to promote the country's investment opportunities in the key sectors of industries, agriculture and mining, to mention but a few.

The launching of the proposed investment guide will be graced by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in the near future, according to Assistant Administrative Secretary (Economics and Production sector) at Mpanda District Municipality Awariywa Nnko.

He revealed this during a meeting with a delegation from the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) led by its President Paul Koyi held at the municipality's offices on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

"There are a lot of trade and investment opportunities in Katavi that can attract investors in the key areas of agriculture, mining and industries," said Nnko during the meeting.

Referring to the investment opportunities in the agriculture sector in the region, Nnko said the region is facing a shortage of facilities to store produced cotton.

He further revealed that the region in 2018 introduced cashew nuts growing by planting a total of 606,607 cashew nuts plants. Therefore he called upon the interested investors to start constructing cashew nuts processing

factories in the region with a view of processing the products locally.

According to the available statistics, during the cotton season 2018/19, Katavi produced a total of 8,688 tonnes of cotton.

"Apart from the shortage of warehouses, there is also a shortage of markets for produced cotton products," said Nnko.

TCCIA President Koyi who is in Mpanda District for an official tour of Katavi Region advised the government authorities in the region to hold a technical meeting with TCCIA officials to discuss on how they can create markets for the produced cotton products.

"As TCCIA, we are also dedicated to secure potential buyers of produced commercial crops grown in Katavi including maize, rice and cotton," said TCCIA President.

Apart from cotton, Katavi is also a producer of maize and rice, of which according to the available statistics, during 2018/19 season, the region produced 344,093 tonnes of maize and 196, 651 tonnes of rice.

During the tour, Koyi also inspected various development projects implemented by TCCIA members in the region.



There are a lot of trade and investment opportunities in Katavi that can attract investors in the key areas of agriculture, mining and industries



Alfred Chula (in wheelchair) congratulates a women's group supported by the Rural Development Organisation at Mdabulo in Mufindi District for helping him with the 500,000/- wheelchair, as Iringa regional administrative secretary Happiness Seneda (2nd-R) looks on. This was during International Women's Day celebrations, at regional level at Utosi village in Sadani ward. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

By Joseph Mwendapole

Report faulty water meters, WMA urges

WEIGHTS and Measures Agency has advised people to report to the agency immediately after they notice that they have been supplied with inappropriate water meters so that they can be replaced with new ones.

For the past one year, WMA through its Misugusugu Centre in Kibaha District, Coast Region has managed to inspect over 83,257 water meters and found 530 among them not functioning properly.

WMA Chief Executive officer, Dr Ludovick Manega said this yesterday here when Members of Parliamentary Committee for Industry and Environment visited the centre.

"If you find that your water meter do not work properly please don't sit down and complain, come to us, we have offices in all regions, tell our people about that matter you will be replaced with new ones because WMA want to make sure every water user pay for the right bills," he said.

Manega also cautioned water meter suppliers to make sure they submit them to WMA so that they are inspected before distribute them to the final users

He said currently the government has embarked on big water projects

to make sure all citizens are supplied with clean and safe water so meter suppliers must make sure they import right meters to avoid complaints from water users.

"We receive a lot of complaints about water meters, so we promise to continue doing check and balance to make sure we inspect all water meters that are imported and our aim is to protect the rights of our citizens so that they pay their bills fairly but also protect the government revenues," he said.

For his part, the committee's

chairperson, Suleiman Sadiq Muradi congratulated WMA for the well job done at Misugusugu center.

He said that WMA has managed to work on all challenges that was poised by members of parliament when they met last year in Dodoma.

Murad said MPS have seen how water meters and fuel trunks are inspected in order to get the correct measurement.

"You are doing a very great job, my committee's members are satisfied with your efforts to make sure all water meters work properly and reduce users complaints," he said.



Angellah Kairuki (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), welcomes Scania Company managing director Lars Eklund (R) earlier this week for talks at her Dar es Salaam office. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt welcomes Scania initiative on locally assembling of trucks

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has welcomed the Swedish truck conglomerate-Scania to establish a multi-million dollar assembly plant in Tanzania as the company takes advantage of Tanzania's high-quality natural gas.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), Angellah Kairuki, confirmed in Dar es Salaam yesterday that she had recently talked with Scania Managing Director Lars Eklund on the issue.

"We welcome that investment initiative from Scania. We expect the proposed plant will be a huge investment project, the kind of projects we need in this region. On our part, as

a government, we shall continue to improve the business environment in order to attract foreign investment inflows and consolidate the gains on our industrialisation agenda," she said.

She said the government was positive on the Scania initiative because a successful multi-billion project of that nature would create jobs for Tanzania, introduce new technology and increase government revenue.

She pledged TIC support to the prospective investor, saying "in cooperation with the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) our job, as a ministry, is to expose investment opportunities and attractions so that we can achieve comfortably our vision of making Tanzania a middle-income

industrial country by 2025."

Eklund told the minister their company appreciated the conducive investment climate prevailing in Tanzania, but said besides the good investment environment, natural gas was an important raw material in running buses that use diesel or CNG gas.

"The abundant natural gas found in Tanzania was one of the important considerations in making this decision because for a long time we have been using gas to run our buses," he said.

Neither the minister nor Eklund hinted on the cost of the envisaged project.

Kairuki only quipped that Tanzania was "at home with the initiative."

Tanzania has three categories of investors. 'Ordinary foreign investor' is one who invests not less than 100,000 US dollars.

Category two accommodates an investor who brings into the country not less than 50,000,000 dollars and top-level investor invests not less than 300,000,000 dollars.

Sweden was not among the top ten investors in Tanzania in a period between 1990 and 2018. The group members are China, UK, USA, Mauritius, India, Australia, Kenya, Netherlands, Belgium and Egypt. The group has collectively 3,173 projects employing 549,770 people and the projects have a total value of 29,120.36 US million dollars.

JK to officiate at opening of 2020 climate change symposium next week

By Gerald Kitabu

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete is expected to officiate the opening of the annual 2020 climate change symposium and expo slated for early next week in Dar es Salaam.

The event will bring together different stakeholders and partners from various parts in the country to discuss climate change and how it affects different development sectors and communities in the country.

Speaking at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Director of programmes at ForumCC Angela Damas said that the second day will be presided over by the Minister of State, Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), Mussa Azzan Zungu adding that the symposium will bring together more than 200 participants from across Tanzania including CSO's, researchers, academia, scientists, implementers, policy and decision makers.

She said the objective of the 2020 climate change symposium and expo is to find ways and solutions to have resilience and other forms of development that is low in carbon.

Damas said the discussion will also dwell on how different sectors can actually work together in enabling sustainable socio-economic development.

She said Tanzania like any other country around the world is facing the problem of climate change. "We need solutions, we need to be resilience, in order for us to develop and to adopt to these changes. We see them in our infrastructures, in our development projects, in our health, in agriculture which is the mainstay of the economy.

It is high time that we don't let other people talk about our situation, but we take action, we talk among ourselves about our situation. We help each other

about finding ways we can adopt, we can be resilience to this big monster facing us, she added.

Programme manager for sustainable energy and climate change from TaTEDO, Mary Swai explained that the symposium will also discuss how climate change affect energy and challenges related to research, science and policy. How they affect implementers from attaining their goals and sustainable energy in particular.

Because we work directly with communities, we shall also get opportunity to give our views on the challenges we face as we work with the community about climate change issues," she said.

Campaigns coordinator from Oxfam Mkamiti Mgawe said that the symposium will also discuss climate change and gender issues especially women and climate smart agriculture.

"We want to discuss how policy can be inclusive that why we shall have break up sessions that will involve policy and decision makers, women, youth, agriculture and productive groups like the farmers among other groups to discuss on the effects of climate change, environment and how to address them.

The 2020 climate change symposium and expo is organised by ForumCC, TaTEDO, Oxfam, Action Aid among many others and funded by European Union.

"We want to discuss how policy can be inclusive that why we shall have break up sessions that will involve policy and decision makers, women, youth, agriculture and productive groups like the farmers among other groups to discuss on the effects of climate change, environment and how to address them."

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Economic stimulus plan crucial, given the coronavirus epidemic

DURING the 2008 world financial crisis (or financial meltdown) - with adverse events including steep fall in stock markets, decline in asset values, corporate losses etc that hurt the economy prompted lead many governments both in developed and developing countries put in place some kinds of economic stimulus plans as response - they designed something to mitigate the impact of economic slowdown from depression and the impending recession.

The major strategy country was to affirm the economic policy that businesses are the engines for growth and therefore must allocate some resources and time towards specific initiatives and projects that have a wider positive impact on the country and on society.

The local solutions to the solving of the economic problems are vital because they bring the problems to actuality based on experiences and demand driven outlooks.

The problem demands basic principles to be established to act as benchmarks for the stimuli programme compliance.

Following eruption of the Corona virus disease (Covid-19) in China that has been spreading like bush fire around the world a warning has already been given - that economic fallout from epidemic could "be worse" than the financial crisis of 2008, and economists in the west have begun urging for having in place a programme for a stimulus at an economy-wide scale to

avoid the real chance of a depression.

Since developing countries such as Tanzania that is still dependent of the west for a good chunk of its investment projects, industrial machinery and raw materials we suggest such programme should require less use of foreign exchange, should be private managed and owned projects; and people centred leading to mass job creation.

The plans must promote value addition and wealth creation and improves the well being of Tanzanians.

The plans must also take into account the reduction of PAYE tax in order to motivate workers in the revival crusade and increase their disposal income to stimulate domestic consumption.

The strategy should base on local finance to be sourced internally by making the exercise self financing through policy and structural changes that would expand the prime property ownership base.

The construction industry for instance has the propensity to catapult the economy and therefore should be prioritized since the sector involves employment of a lot of people and uses local resources and materials by 90 percent while the products have multiplier effects that create other economic engagements like hospitality industry, business space and education.

In fact a critical review of our activities is necessary in all economic sectors and we believe that with increased access to credit we hope the economy shall react naturally to the growth of activities and rebound.

More efforts needed in addressing misery caused by Down syndrome

IT'S so easy for us to forget what the reality is for most Tanzanians who are born with a disability. It's easy for us to put to the back of our minds what children born with Down syndrome are faced with when they are born. It's so easy for us to ignore the fact that mothers who give birth to children with Down syndrome are faced with unbearable reactions. It's easy for us to not think about it, because when you do think about it you feel helpless and devastated.

Doctors and midwives have no knowledge regarding Down syndrome and communication to new parents is atrocious. There have even been incidents where hospital staff have refused to touch new borns with Down syndrome. There is no counseling or support whatsoever for new parents. No information regarding Down syndrome is given about related health conditions or what to expect in the future. New parents literally have no idea what is going on with their new baby and are left in the dark.

We feel that there should be support services or development interventions for families with Downs syndrome because Down syndrome is thought of within communities as a curse from God or a result of witchcraft.

Fathers regularly leave the family due to believing the wife has brought shame upon them. Families are shunned by society and their own relatives when they have a child with Down syndrome.

We urge the government to set special facilities to support children with 'Down syndrome defects', after a study revealed that they are still capable of participating in various activities in the society.

The survey conducted by the Dar es Salaam-based Pearl of People with Down Syndrome Foundation, indicated that majority of the children are skilled in handicrafts, music and hotel industry.

In most of the developing countries, many people fail to differentiate people suffering from Down syndrome disease and those from mental defects.

Down syndrome occurs when an individual has an extra partial (or whole) copy of chromosome 21.

Chromosome 21 is one of the 23 pairs of chromosomes in humans. Chromosome 21 is both the smallest

human autosome and chromosome, with 48 million nucleotides (the building material of DNA) representing about 1.5 percent of the total DNA in cells.

It is not yet known why this syndrome occurs, but Down syndrome has always been a part of the human condition. It exists in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics and health.

Adequate access to health care, to early intervention programmes, and to inclusive education, as well as appropriate research, are vital to the growth and development of the individual.

In December 2011, the General Assembly declared 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day. The General Assembly decided, with effect from 2012, to observe World Down Syndrome Day on 21 March each year. In order to raise public awareness of Down syndrome, the General Assembly invites all member states, relevant organisations of the United Nations system and other international organisations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organisations and the private sector, to observe World Down Syndrome Day in an appropriate manner.

The quality of life of people with Down syndrome can be improved by meeting their health care needs, including regular check-ups with health professionals to monitor mental and physical condition and to provide timely intervention be it physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, counselling or special education. Individuals with Down syndrome can achieve optimal quality of life through parental care and support, medical guidance, and community based support systems such as inclusive education at all levels.

For World Down Syndrome Day 2020, Down Syndrome International focuses on the theme "We Decide": all people with Down syndrome should have full participation in decision making about matters relating to, or affecting, their lives. Effective and meaningful participation is a core human rights principle supported by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

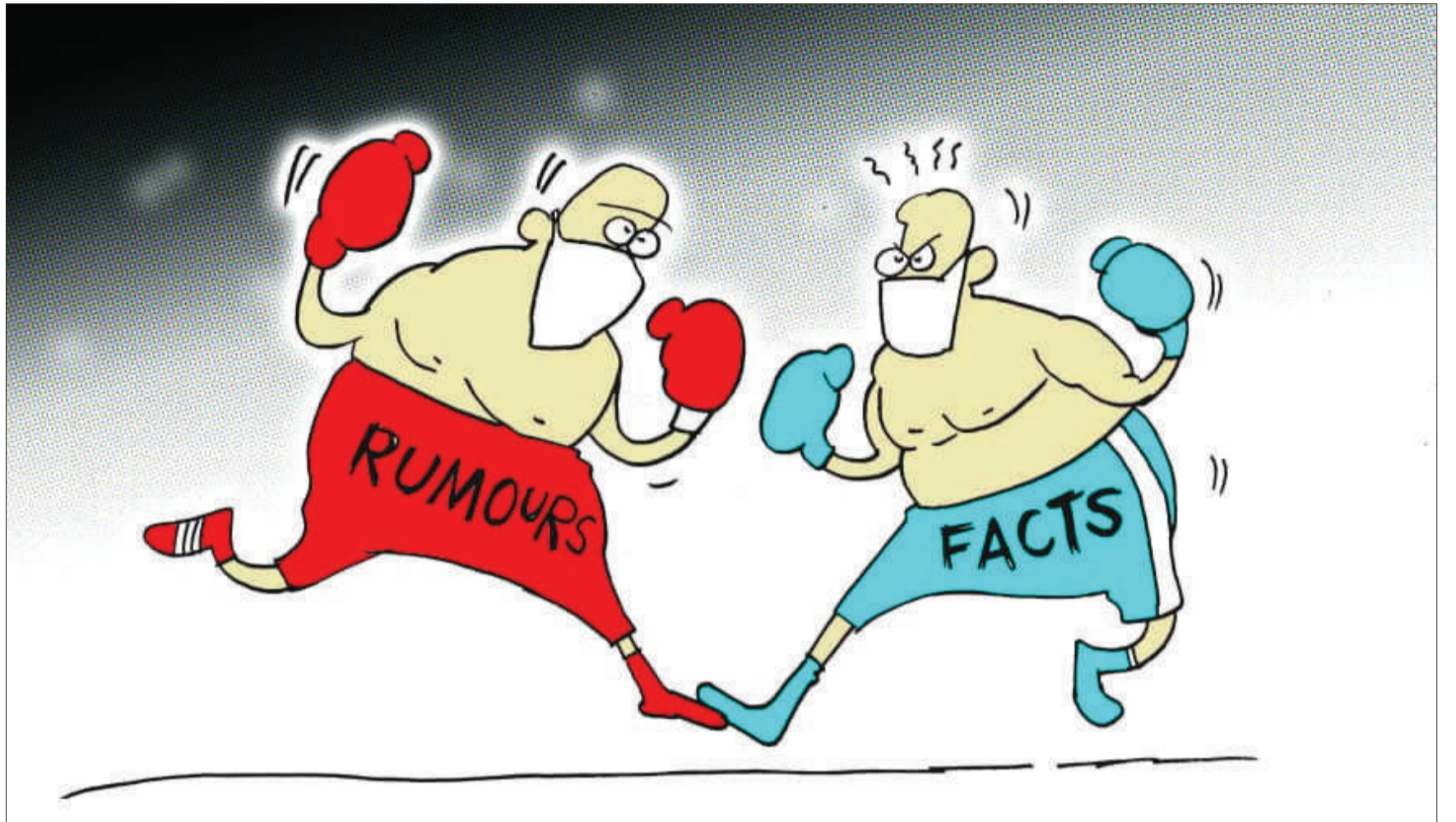
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Sales and Marketing: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



EAC states should act uniformly on Covid-19

By Special Correspondent

THE World Health Organisation this week declared coronavirus a pandemic. The disease has placed the world under lockdown. Sport, tour and travel, and general business are under intense stress. Countries - rich or poor - are not sure on how to respond.

Within the East African Community (EAC), Kenya and Rwanda have this week reported the first cases of people on their soil testing positive for coronavirus, a highly infectious pneumonia-like illness that has so far killed more than 5,000 and been contracted by more than 140,000 people worldwide.

In response to the pandemic, US president Donald Trump this week announced a ban on flights from mainland Europe, particularly what is called the Schengen area. One may wonder why Trump targeted mainland Europe and left out countries like the UK, which have also been badly affected by the pandemic. But that is a different debate. Many other countries around the world have blocked flights



The East African Community Secretary-General Liberat Mfumukeko. The East African Community has suspended all planned meetings of the regional body, including the heads of state summit citing the coronavirus pandemic

from China, the country where the disease was first detected.

In Uganda, the government first prevaricated over the matter but has recently come out a bit more firmly, issuing orders on public gatherings and requiring arrivals from the most highly

affected countries to cater for the costs of a 14-day mandatory quarantine, the standard measure for preventing the spread of the virus.

Not every country in the EAC, however, is taking such measures. Each of the six countries of the EAC is acting

alone in the face of the existential threat that coronavirus has become. Some countries will inevitably have instituted less stringent measures than others, but the consequences are likely to be shared. This is because under the EAC, borders are collapsed and people move freely from one country to another, save for some glitches between Uganda and Rwanda and Rwanda and Burundi.

This means that people who contract coronavirus in one of the countries that may have instituted less stringent measures may easily move the virus on to a neighbouring country which may be vigorously protecting its citizens from possible infection from international arrivals but doesn't do as much with regard to citizens of other EAC countries.

This is why the countries of the EAC needed to have moved as one and agreed on measures to be implemented across the bloc in order to more effectively deal with the threat that coronavirus presents. That there is hardly talk of such initiative, even when we share passports as EAC citizens, is a demonstration of how unwell the EAC is at the moment.

By Special Correspondent

REFLECTING on International Women's Day, the female Ambassadors and High Commissioners in Tanzania wish to salute all those working to achieve gender equality because a more equal world is a better world.

Eradicating poverty and building more peaceful and prosperous societies are more than line items in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - they are goal posts against which we measure the success of our combined efforts.

There is a direct correlation between women's meaningful engagement and empowerment and the success of families, communities, businesses and countries. And while this starts with each of us as individuals, true progress requires us to come together as advocates and champions for an equal world.

The year 2020 is the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference of Women and the adoption of the Beijing

True progress demands unity in crusade for an equal world

Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25).

A quarter century after the world came together to enshrine the importance of gender equality, it is time to rededicate ourselves to this effort; to the theme for International Women's Day (IWD) in 2020: #EachforEqual.

Each of us has been inspired by the Tanzanian women and girls we have met through our work: private sector giants; inspired politicians and leaders; passionate youth; dedicated activists; enlightened academics!

We are endlessly impressed by the strength, wisdom, innovation and passion these women and girls share. Each of us has worked to create opportunities; to help break down

barriers to progress. We join our voices with Tanzanians to empower women and girls; to cultivate the female thinkers, speakers, and leaders of tomorrow.

As women Heads of Mission, each of us has worked hard for our achievements and each of us understands that women and girls face unique challenges and disadvantages.

We have all faced these challenges, and we have overcome them - not because the world is committed to equality, but because we are.

We are committed to a world in which women and girls are valued and empowered. We are resolute in our support of women and girls having control over their own lives.

And we promote women and girls participating as decision-makers at every level of society, contributing to and benefiting from development and prosperity. Let's all be committed. Let's all be #EachforEqual.

• **Joint International Women's Day 2020 statement issued in Dar es Salaam by Heads of Mission Pamela O'Donnell (Canada), Wang Ke (China), Mette Nørgaard Dissing-Spandet (Denmark), Riitta Swan (Finland), Regine Hess (Germany), Theresia Samaria (Namibia), Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway), Mónica Patricia Clemente Mussa (Mozambique), Francisca Pedrós Carretero (Spain), Sarah Cooke (United Kingdom) and Inmi Patterson (United States).**

Governance of tenure: Protecting rights of the marginalised, ensuring food security

By Guardian correspondent

IN its Feed Africa Agricultural Transformation Strategy, the African Development Bank commits to support efforts by African countries to eliminate poverty in the continent by 2025, end hunger and malnutrition within the next five years and make Africa a net food exporter.

The strategy is grounded on the fact that Africa has 60 percent of the world's underdeveloped arable land while 70 percent of its people live in the rural areas, their contribution to the continent's GDP resulting from agricultural activities is estimated to be only 25 percent.

"Africa is rich in land. It has abundant arable land to be able to feed itself but it is food hungry and suffers from poor malnutrition. There is urgent need for agricultural transformation that would fast-track agricultural growth in order to support a sustainable future for Africans," explains James Omoding-Odipo, AfDB Chief Agricultural Economist.

Many African countries also face the challenge of poor land governance as evidenced by absence of clear and appropriate land policies, weak land legislation and registration and weak institutions that would oversee land administration beginning from the local level. "But there are also cases of statutory roles of government and customary regimes. In dealing with these challenges and in fast-tracking agricultural growth, secure land tenure is critical in attaining these goals," says Omoding-Odipo.

Agricultural growth in Tanzania is constrained by a number of factors including low productivity of land, low quality of inputs and underutilized irrigation potential. Limited investment in agriculture is another constraint.



Pastoralist communities' representatives discussing land tenure rights. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Investment in agriculture promotes food security and nutrition. Lack of investment accounts for low productivity and inefficient food production systems. And where legal systems and policies are weak, investments result in poor land administration, making local people lose land and other natural resources, leading to food insecurity and affecting livelihoods.

"Some have lost their rights and access to their land and water resources. Promises for jobs have been unmet. Locals have also not realised access to markets for agricultural products and increased food production as promised by investors," reads part of Responsible governance of tenure: a technical guide for investors, a publication by FAO.

"Uncharted investment in agriculture has also led to loss of legitimate tenure rights and has also bred conflicts and disputes of tenure rights some of which have become violent and bloody," the document adds.

In 2008 four villages in Kilwa District of Lindi Region: Mavuji, Migerere, Nainokwe and Liwiti, were tricked into selling a total of about 100,000 hectares of land to an investor, Bioshape Company, mainly because of weak oversight of land rights and tenure rights by the relevant authorities. However, it later came to light

that the agreement between the company and the villages was dubious and while the investor left without undertaking any project, communities lost not only the ownership to the land but also their tenure rights.

In another instance, privatisation of Kapunga Rice Farm in Mbeya in 2006 also saw small scale farmers lose access to water sources after the new owner banned locals from using water available within the farm area to irrigate their farms. Rice production among smallholder farmers dropped soon after privatisation.

"Both cases show that authorities were not keen to protect ownership of land and tenure rights of small farmers and other marginalised people. Investments in agriculture should not infringe the rights of local communities and individuals," says Masalu Luhula, a lawyer with LANDESA, an international NGO that works to protect land rights of rural communities, particularly women.

According to review of land tenure systems to support the creation of enabling environment for agricultural transformation, insecurity of land tenure has resulted in the decline in productive capacity of agricultural land.

"In Tanzania, the problems facing land tenure have been left to

grow over the years without government taking decisive action. However, the current government has shown commitment to deal with these problems in order to protect the rights of the rural poor," said Prof. Kironde Lussoga in a meeting to discuss land tenure issues in Tanzania.

The situation in Tanzania is similar to what is happening in many developing countries. It is against this background that in 2002 FAO and partners endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) of Land, Fisheries and Forests in order to promote secure access to land, fisheries and forests in a bid to attain national food security.

VGGT defines food security as the right to adequate and nutritious food. Investment in agriculture is vital for food security and appropriate nutrition.

The guidelines seek to promote responsible and sustainable land tenure rights through management of the country's natural resources. Implementing the guidelines would see protection of legitimate tenure rights and put countries on track to attain economic goals and promote better living conditions.

"These expectations should be built on responsible agricultural investment that safeguards

against dispossession of legitimate tenure right holders. Such investment should respect human rights, reduce poverty and promote food security as well as sustainable use of land, forests and fisheries. The bottom line is how the public, particularly the poor and marginalised, have access to land, fisheries and forests," reads the VGGT, in part.

However responsible governance of tenure is not only limited to land, fisheries and forests; it is tightly linked with access to and management of other natural resources such as water and mineral resources. Tenure systems therefore determine who can use what resources, for how long and under what conditions. "In Tanzania, any mention of land tenure rights entails customary and statutory tenure rights and tenure systems may be grounded on policies, laws, regulations and traditional arrangements," says Luhula.

"Where there is poor governance of tenure, people can experience frequent hunger and poverty especially if they lose their tenure rights to their homes and sources of their livelihoods," he adds.

Governance of tenure targets to increase productivity, provide social protection for the most vulnerable and strengthen their resilience to natural disasters. This calls for investments to provide opportunity to farmers to make their own investments in which case they should get space to participate in the decision-making process. For this reason, investment must rhyme with national development plans and must protect local tenure rights of smallholders.

"Agricultural investment must safeguard land tenure rights as tenure rights to land and other natural resources are fundamental to livelihoods, poverty alleviation

and foods security. Responsible governance of tenure thus promotes production of food and cash crops as well as sustainable social and economic development that can help eradicate poverty and food insecurity and encourage responsible development," said Beatha Fabian, Land Officer at FAO Tanzania. She was speaking during a stakeholder's workshop on strengthening of governance of tenure through implementation of VGGT in the context of National Food Security in Tanzania. The workshop was held in Dodoma recently.

Governance of tenure also tasks non-state actors with responsibility to protect tenure rights holders. Business enterprises and the private sector in general must respect human rights and it is imperative that all parties should recognise that no tenure right, including private ownership, is absolute. "All tenure rights are limited by the rights of others and this is a basic statutory and customary principle," stresses Luhula.

According to USAID, since national policies and customs on tenure vary widely from country to country, even between countries in the same region, the Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure provide a framework for countries to use in the establishment of laws and policies, strategies, and programmes which clarify and secure tenure rights. "It accommodates for many differing viewpoints on 'Best Practices' and introduces a broad range of structures that can be relevant in all parts of the world," says the organisation in one of its documents published through LANDLINKS.

The World Bank Group acknowledges that the governance of tenure is a crucial element in determining if and how people, commu-

nities and others are able to acquire rights, and associated duties, to use and control land, fisheries and forests. Many tenure problems arise because of weak governance, and attempts to address tenure problems are affected by the quality of governance.

It points out that weak governance adversely affects social stability, sustainable use of the environment, investment and economic growth. People can be condemned to a life of hunger and poverty if they lose their tenure rights to their homes, land, fisheries and forests and their livelihoods because of corrupt tenure practices or if implementing agencies fail to protect their tenure rights.

"People may even lose their lives when weak tenure governance leads to violent conflict. Responsible governance of tenure conversely promotes sustainable social and economic development that can help eradicate poverty and food insecurity, and encourages responsible investment," reads part of the Group's publication.

The importance of governance of tenure is not limited to promoting food security and reducing poverty. During a high-level session of COP 14 of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Conference of the Parties (UNCCD) in September last year, delegates acknowledge the importance of VGGT as a tool to promote better access, control and stewardship over land and equitable tenure security.

"The meeting encourages parties to use the principles laid out in the VGGT in the implementation of activities to combat desertification, land degradation, drought as well as climate change," said Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, in his closing remarks.

Coronavirus: China's restaurants and shops have 'sleepless nights' with business closures surging

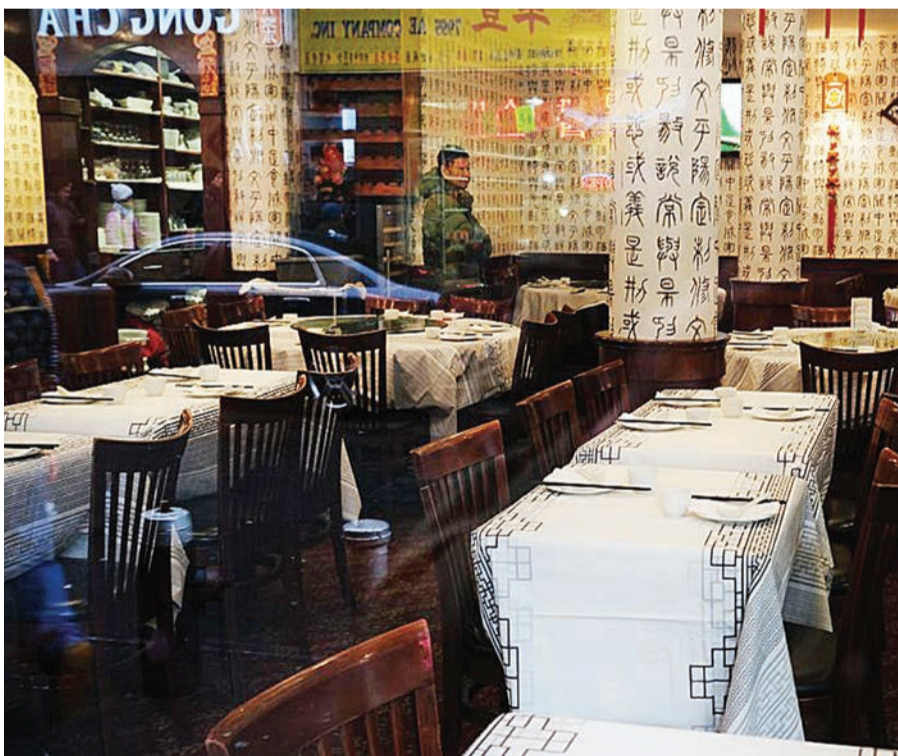
By He Huifeng

STRUGGLING under a coronavirus-related ban on restaurant dining, Jay Li and his business partners last month made the heartbreaking decision to close their three eateries in the Chinese city of Guangzhou and sack all their staff.

Under the containment policy, which does not include food delivery services, the capital of prosperous Guangdong province - once a heaven for gourmets - has suffered an unprecedented downturn, with once-thriving restaurants and shops forced to shut down.

The fate of Li's two dim sum houses and a third restaurant specialising in local cuisine are indicative of the economic toll of the new coronavirus, which has rippled across China and led authorities to put severe curbs on large parts of the services industry.

"I thought 2019 was bad enough, but the epidemic made the situation worse in 2020 and cut cash income to almost zero," Li said, adding: "Our savings just can't support the rent and labour that cost at least 700,000 (US\$101,000) yuan a month."



With Chinese banks not interested in lending to small businesses, Li said: "Shutting down the business was the only thing we small-sized cafes and restaurants could do."

Across China, restaurants, hotels, small shops, and tourist agencies have borne the brunt of Beijing's efforts to contain the virus outbreak, leading to a rush of closures that threaten to leave some business owners deep in debt.

Along a single half-kilometre

stretch of Zhongshanba Road, one of Guangzhou's main business thoroughfares, "up to 10 restaurants, shops and hotels - big and small - have shut down or are looking to move because they have run out of cash," said a local property agent who asked not to be identified.

Given progress in combating the spread of the virus - China last week reported the fewest number of new cases since it began publishing statistics on January 20 - some areas

have started to dismantle restrictions on transport and public assembly.

But the relaxation of containment measures is too late for some businesses. Some 75 per cent of mainland catering companies have suspended operations in the past two months owing to the epidemic, according to a survey released by the China hospitality association last week.

More than 70 per cent of survey participants said their overall revenue fell by more than 90 per cent over the period. Moreover, 27 per cent of caterers said they had to close for good following a shortage of money, while 45 per cent said their cash flow was only sufficient to cover operating costs for two more months at best.

Losses in the catering industry are only part of the damage the coronavirus has inflicted on China, which has recorded more than 80,000 infections and more than 3,100 deaths.

While some losses can be recovered, with restaurants able to reopen once normality resumes, the shock to China's services sector and the wider economy could be huge.

China may report an unprecedented economic contraction in the first

quarter of this year, meaning that Beijing is all but certain to miss its grand goal of doubling the size of the nation's economy between 2010 and this year.

Feng Guohua, the founder of a Hunanese food chain in Shenzhen city, said only seven of his 30 restaurants had the local government to reopen for dine-in services, and the turnover of those seven restaurants was just 10 to 30 per cent of usual.

"I am suffering losses of 300,000 yuan (US\$43,200) every single day," Feng said, adding: "For every restaurant owner I know, their goal for 2020 is to survive and remain in business."

Another Shenzhen business owner is Steve Gong, who with a close friend invested more than 300,000 yuan to buy a franchise selling baked flat bread in November. He said that he was so concerned about the situation that he was going "sleepless".

"To shut down, we would lose our entire investment," Gong said, elaborating: "To continue, we earn only 200 yuan (US\$29) a day but the rent and four workers cost us nearly 40,000 (US\$5,800) a month. Both our families still have heavy property debts." Gong was hopeful that

business would improve, but said he would jump at the chance to sell the franchise if he could find a buyer - adding: "A third of eateries at the food court our shop is in are going to close."

China's tourism industry has also been hit hard by the virus' control measures. "I believe all small private travel agencies of my kind had no income in February," said Kent Cai, who runs a company in Zhejiang province that operates tailor-made tours for wealthy mainland tourists.

Cai said virus restrictions were preventing would-be travellers from joining groups, adding that he still had to pay a monthly salary of about 2,300 yuan (US\$331) to each of his 18 employees in Hangzhou and Ningbo cities, while they had not worked since late last month.

"I estimate that my firm will see a revenue loss of at least 4 million yuan (US\$576,000) in the first half of this year," he said, adding: "It's the biggest crisis the Chinese tourism sector has ever had."

In Guangdong, one-third of the province's 717 star-rated hotels were forced to close temporarily last month and those that remained open saw an average occupancy rate in the single digits. This is according to the provincial

hotel and lodging association.

Indian hotel chain Oyo announced plans to lay off 60 per cent of its 8,000 workers in China as it struggles with a number of setbacks, including the impact of the coronavirus epidemic, according to Chinese tech blog Technode.

Other parts of the services sector, including China's more than 12,000 cinemas, were also struggling. Since late January, all of them have suspended operations, meaning that they collected no revenue during the Lunar New Year holiday, when millions of Chinese typically splurge on shopping and going out.

Cinemas across the country reaped a total of 5.86 billion yuan (US\$844 million) during the week-long Lunar holiday in February 2019, according to Maoyan.com.

"At least 28 new films have been pulled from theatres since January 23," said Guan Zhi, a Guangzhou-based independent movie producer, adding that almost all film crews he knows have paused shooting.

This article first appeared in the South China Morning Post print edition. He Huifeng is an award-winning journalist who has reported on China since 2001.

Kenya's ambitious wind turbines battle community land crosswinds

BY DUNCAN E OMONDI
GUMBA AND GUYO CHEPE
TURI

The tussle in Kenya's high court between Marsabit County residents and the government over the land used for Africa's biggest wind farm continues to threaten stability in the area.

The project, which the government regards as its ambition for clean and renewable energy and a symbol of its Vision 2030, was inaugurated by President Uhuru Kenyatta in July 2019. It comprises 365 wind turbine generators, each with a capacity of 850 kW. The total wind farm capacity is 310 MW.

Five years before the farm's inauguration, the affected communities sued the government for irregular allocation of 150,000 acres of community land in the Sarima area of Loiyangalani District. The land was allocated to Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited for the generation of wind-powered electricity.

The Sarima area, lush plains overlooking Lake Turkana, is home to the minority Rendille, Samburu and Turkana communities. The land has enabled them to sustain their pastoralist lifestyle for centuries, providing alternative grazing and water for livestock and saving them from debilitating drought.



Only community-centred social security can promote sustainability for the Lake Turkana wind farm project. File photo

The communities use this land as a fall-back during dry seasons due to its rich pasture, and as a gateway to access water for their livestock.

The land has enabled communities to sustain their pastoralist lifestyle for centuries. Rendille elders told ISS Today they regarded it as their traditional cultural site while the Samburu said they traced their origin to one of its water sources. A Turkana village situated on the land at the time the project was initiated has since been relocated into a fenced-off enclosure in the project area. These residents have to undergo vetting to access their homes.

The land issue is accompanied by other grievances related to the project, such as increased crime and reportedly unfulfilled promises to the communities.

The project ran into crosswinds at inception when the World Bank pulled out in 2012 as they said the power purchase agreement would make power too expensive for Kenyans in the long run. The World Bank said the take-or-pay provisions in the power purchase agreement between the Kenya Power and Lighting Company and Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited would be financially risky for Kenya Power.

The law suit by the local communities followed two years later over lack of community participation in the land allocation process as required by the Community Land Act.

The project ran into crosswinds at inception when the World Bank pulled out in 2012

Under normal circumstances the communities may have welcomed a project of this magnitude since its huge capital investment could bring socio-economic benefits. Instead the hostility towards the project by the local communities has nurtured a simmering conflict between the communities and Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited. This is mainly fuelled by negative consequences of the project including prostitution, drug abuse, highway robbery and other crimes.

Numerous unskilled youth employed as construction labourers now find it hard to resume their pastoralist lifestyles in the quest for a false promise of urbanisation. They have turned to drug abuse and crime. Young women and school-going girls have dropped

out of school to become sex workers to earn money from project workers.

Community members also question the sourcing of outside labour. One Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited employee asked ISS Today: 'Why is [Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited] employing drivers from outside Marsabit County while such skills are plenty within the county?'

Claims of unfulfilled promises ISS Today could not independently verify include pledges of social amenities like health and education. Community members feel cheated. Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited needs to address this in order to foster a positive atmosphere for the

project to thrive.

Hostility towards the project by the local communities has nurtured a simmering conflict

In April 2013 a similar wind power project proposed for the Bubisa area of the same county was halted by the high court, which ruled that the acquisition of community land by the investor was irregular. Gitson Energy, which had proposed to generate 300 MW wind power and 50 MW solar energy, had to walk away after an appeal against it. Another community in Kinangop, Nyandarua County, halted a similar wind power project proposed to generate 60 MW energy.

In the case of the Lake Turkana Wind Power project, residents told ISS Today that whereas the entire concession area was 150,000 acres, the project occupied only about 40,000 acres. They alleged that the company was in possession of two separate title deeds for the 40,000 and 110,000 acres.

They wondered why the company held the large unused tracts of land, restricting local communities from crucial access that would allow them to sustain their livelihoods. A local elder, Abdullahi Buroya, told ISS Today: 'The allocation of large unutilised land to [Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited] can only be explained as going beyond greed and abuse.'

There is a need for dialogue between Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited and the communities facilitated by an independent arbiter.

Only community-centred social security can promote sustainability. Both the community and the wind power company need to coexist peacefully, and must be able to resolve disputes among themselves without involving a third party.

This can be achieved through cultivating harmonious relationships with the host communities, which will in the long run promote trust between Lake Turkana Wind Power Limited and these communities. Genuine dialogue would provide an atmosphere for both stakeholders to identify the gaps overlooked at the project's inception.

Lake Turkana Wind Power should also consider limiting itself to what the project requires and return the remaining land to the community. It also needs to right the wrongs identified by the World Bank consumers enjoy the anticipated lowering of power costs in the long run.

Once this is done and a settlement is reached, Lake Turkana Wind Power will reap the dividends of trust and understanding from the host communities. This will promote peaceful relations between the parties to the conflict for both now and the future.

By Jon Allsop

How the coronavirus could hurt the news business

The paywalls are coming down. As the news about the coronavirus has intensified, major outlets - including Bloomberg, the Wall Street Journal, the Atlantic, the Seattle Times, and McClatchy, the newspaper chain that recently filed for bankruptcy - have made some or all of their virus coverage available for free to non-subscribers.

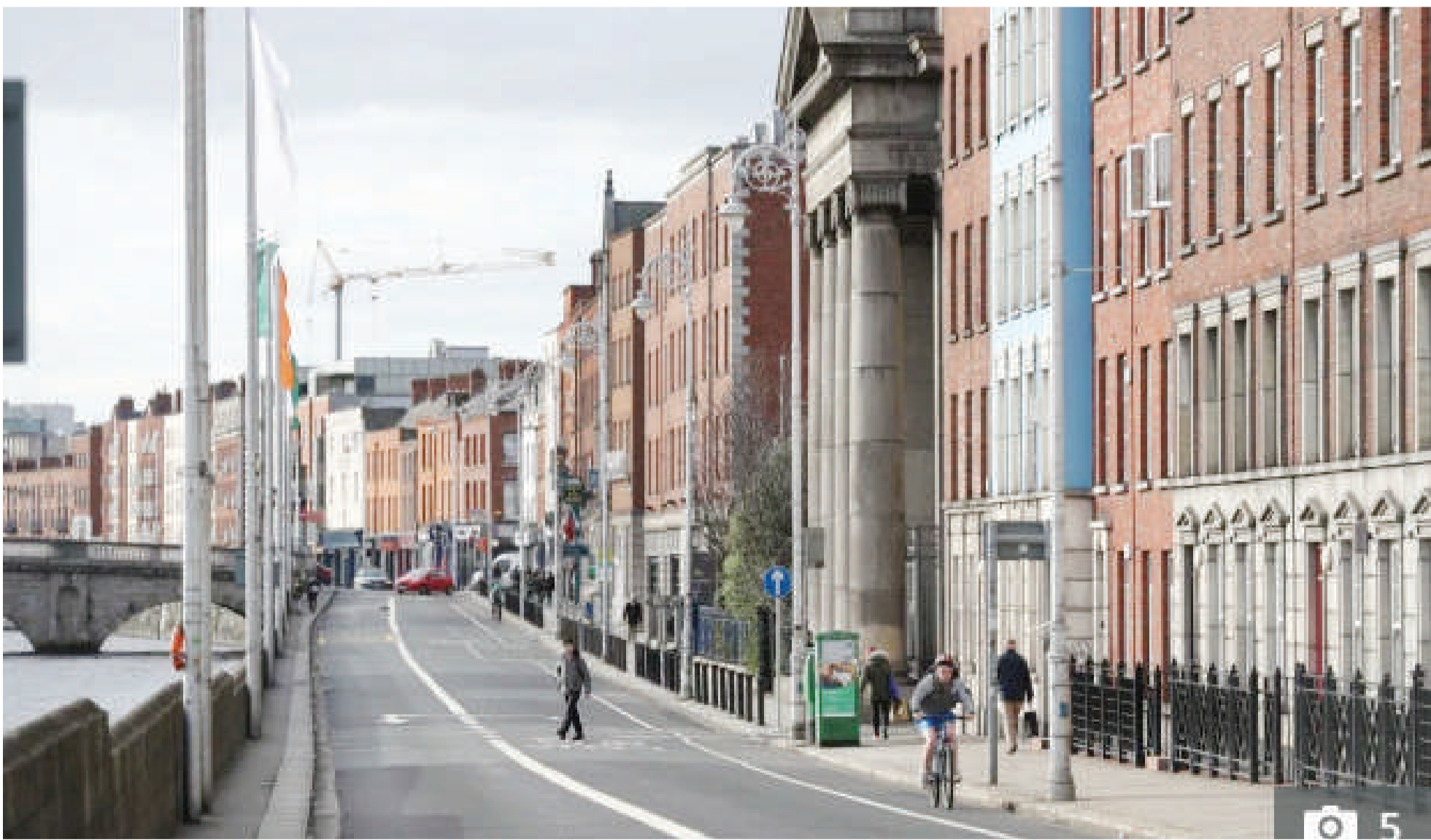
Yesterday, the New York Times followed suit: Dean Baquet, the executive editor of the Times, said, on a call with staff, that the virus is the biggest story the world has seen since 9/11.

At moments like this, offering up-to-date, reliable information that everyone can access is a good thing to do. It could also be good for business.

There is enormous interest in the news right now, and major national news organisations have moved quickly to capitalise; collectively, they've flooded the market with coronavirus podcasts, newsletters and other products - many of them free.

BuzzFeed, for instance, launched a newsletter called "Outbreak Today." Its logo is an emoji wearing a face mask. The coronavirus has dominated regular programming on cable news, as both CNN and MSNBC have broadcast special programming in which medical experts have answered viewers' questions.

Still, the disruption caused by the coronavirus will likely impinge on news organisations' ability to function. Routine reporting will become harder the more society is walled off. As Joshua Benton, of Nieman Lab, has noted, the virus has the potential to pull the bottom out of an advertising market that has been tough on many media companies for years.



Streets deserted amid corona fear

Last week, the Times said it was already seeing an advertising slowdown, which executives attribute to uncertainty caused by the virus - and that was before the rapid escalation of recent days. If the economy tips into recession, the effect on advertising could be dire.

As Benton has observed, the coronavirus could prove to be a disaster for local outlets, in particular. Despite industry-wide declines in print circulation, many newspapers still rely on dead-tree products for the bulk of their revenue; what happens when newspaper carriers become virus carriers, and get taken off their routes?

Swaths of the local news market are controlled by a hand-

ful of financial firms that have already made painful cuts to their media properties. If owning newspapers becomes an even more unattractive proposition, the moneymen could simply decide to bail - and what then?

Even the nonprofit news model, which has often been held up as a viable alternative to the caprices of private ownership, is not immune. As markets sag, major foundation funders might scale back their giving to protect their endowments.

Some local outlets are hurting already. Sarah Scire, Benton's colleague at Nieman Lab, has pointed to the example of The Stranger, a biweekly based in Seattle, Washington, where the coronavirus first caused major

problems on American soil.

The Stranger derives 90 per cent of its revenue from holding its own events and providing a marketplace for others - in short, its survival depends on "people getting together in groups".

On Wednesday, The Stranger's Twitter account urged readers to donate to keep it afloat, saying: "We pride ourselves on having navigated many storms in the world of independent local media," the post read, "but this time is different".

In recent years, we've gotten used to hearing dire prognostications about the complete erosion of the local news business in the United States. The coronavirus will likely accelerate almost

all of the malign trends. Its impact could end up looking loosely analogous to that of the virus itself.

Big media companies with healthy finances and growing subscriber bases will likely survive, and could even profit. Outlets with serious underlying health conditions might die.

There is a lot more on the coronavirus. For instance, we have learned about more famous people - including Justin Trudeau's wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau; Utah Jazz star Donovan Mitchell; and Arsenal soccer manager Mikel Arteta - having tested positive for the virus.

Fabio Wajngarten, press

secretary to Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, has also tested positive - less than a week after meeting with President Donald Trump. Bolsonaro has been tested for the virus, but Trump still has not been. Stephanie Grisham, the White House press secretary, said that Trump had "almost no interactions" with Wajngarten, and so doesn't need a test.

Janna Brancolini, an American journalist in Milan, writes that her experience living in Italy right now does not chime with international media coverage of the country's "excruciating quarantine".

We have meanwhile

learned that this weekend's US presidential debate would go ahead without a studio audience or spin room. CNN, its co-host, has announced that it will move the location of the debate from Phoenix to its studio in Washington, DC.

Jorge Ramos, of Univision, has been replaced as one of the moderators following his possible exposure to the coronavirus; his colleague Ilija Calderón will take his place alongside CNN's Jake Tapper and Dana Bash. Both networks will air the debate at on Sunday evening.

Three staffers at CBS News have now tested positive for the coronavirus; the network's New York offices have been closed for cleaning and will house minimal staff when they reopen next week.

NBCUniversal is meanwhile encouraging all of its employees worldwide to work from home. Fox News - some of whose hosts have dismissed virus fears as liberal hysteria - has told staff to work from home where possible and has closed its shows to live audiences.

And the owners of all three networks, along with The CW Network, WarnerMedia, Disney, and Discovery, cancelled their May ad-sales events, known as upfront. Instead, they will present to advertisers over the internet.

With the markets in free-fall, CNBC's Jim Cramer excoriated the Trump administration's response to the virus, calling for "radical action" to prevent serious economic damage. Shortly later, Cramer went off camera to take a phone call; when he came back, he said the administration was considering some of the ideas he had floated.

• A dispatch by the New York-based Columbia Journalism Review.

Liberia's first COVID-19 case eclipsed by true lies

By William Q. Harmon and Robin Dopoe

The situation surrounding the first confirmed case of the COVID-19 virus in the country is seemingly drifting away from how the virus can be contained into what would be considered as a war of words between the Executive Mansion and Nathaniel Blama, the person confirmed infected.

While announcing Liberia's first recorded case of the contagious and deadly Coronavirus COVID-19 early Monday morning, President George Weah Shockingly said in a nationwide broadcast that the virus was brought into the country by a top government official who happened to be the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Nathaniel Blama. The President in his statement accused Blama of violating preventive health protocols at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) for reasons not disclosed.

The EPA Executive Director entered Liberia last Friday from the Green Climate Fund Board Meeting in Switzerland, a country within Europe where the virus is reportedly overwhelming.

"The infected person is Mr. Nathaniel Blama, Executive Director of the EPA, who

arrived in Liberia on Brussels Airlines on Friday night, the 13th of March. Along with several other officials of Government traveling on the same flight, Mr. Blama chose not to be quarantined in keeping with the health protocols that were in place at the airport," President Weah emphatically stated.

The President further said, "All other persons who traveled and by-passed the mandatory screening protocols are being made to report to the health authorities immediately and without any further delay. Any other person who attempts to by-pass screening at any post of entry will be arrested and taken into compulsory quarantine."

But after a few hours when the President addressed the nation, the EPA came out with a rebuttal, stating that its Executive Director never evaded any preventive health protocols at the Roberts International Airport.

The EPA through its Communication Director, Danise Love Dennis said the information was not true and that Mr. Blama submitted himself for screening procedures at the RIA and requested voluntarily for further tests that later proved him to be positive.

EPA boss, in a two-minute audio recording in which he appeared to be talking with

friends, said he did not by-pass any health procedures but has been doing just as the doctors have been saying. He added that more damage has been done by the misinformation that he refused to be quarantined.

"I did not do anything out of protocols. I talked to the doctors and they advised that since I was okay I should not create panic and that I should drive myself to the hospital and the ambulance was going to be behind me. And we did just that. So why are you guys panicking? Talk to Dr. [Francis] Kateh, talk to Dr. [Mosoka] Fallah. That's what we agreed upon," said Blama.

"And when they brought the ambulance in the community, community members were running behind it even after the health workers escorted and I got in. Then now you guys have done enough damage by misinforming the public that I refused quarantine. That is not true and that is not fair," he added.

By then the EPA through its Media and Communication Specialist, Danise Dennis had earlier reacted swiftly that the President was misinformed by health authorities.

Ms. Dennis told the Daily Observer in an exclusive interview that the President may have probably been



misinformed as it was EPA boss who requested for additional testing after going through screening at the RIA.

"What is going out there is not actually the real information. The President was probably misinformed and it is our hope that the correct information will be put out there. Dr. Nathaniel T. Blama, Sr. went through the regular screening at the RIA along with other Government officials to be identified," she said.

She also clarified that afterward Director Blama only came in contact with his driver when he went through the initial protocols

at the RIA. "The only person he came in contact with was his driver who is also under observation as we speak," she said, adding that he had no contact with his family members as they are not at his home.

"However, he voluntarily requested additional testing knowing he had come from Switzerland. The test came out positive and he went into self-quarantine and later drove himself to a government quarantine center." The information given to the President is incorrect. Director is law-abiding and if he had voluntarily not asked for additional testing, no one

would have known he's positive. He also informed his entire staff about the result. It is important to note that he drove himself to the treatment center."

The clarity from the EPA was precipitated by President George Weah's pronouncement that Director Blama evaded health protocols at the RIA.

Ms. Dennis had initially posted on the EPA and her Facebook pages what she termed as clarity to the saga. So what appears to be an official clarity from the EPA now contrasts to the President initial address, which came in hours after reports emerged that the

country had recorded its first confirmed COVID-19 case.

President Weah amid these clarities has suspended Mr. Blama and appointed his deputy, Randall Doubayou, to act as Executive Director of the EPA for the time being. Communication Specialist, Danise Dennis, has also been suspended for time indefinite for what the EPA calls a unilateral decision to post on social media what contradicts the President's earlier remarks.

An expert in Psychology says the suspension of Blama would increase his trauma thus worsening his condition as he is already down with the contagious virus.

Though many had harbored the thought that it was just a matter of time for Liberia to record its first Coronavirus case, no one had the slightest clue that the virus would have been brought by a top government official—people who should have been more careful in ensuring that the nation remains safe.

The news about the country's first case, especially through a senior government official, sent shockwaves among Liberians on social media and in radio-land as they expressed their anger, grief and fear.

Though the President stated that there were some government officials who along with Mr. Blama evaded protocols at the RIA, no particular names were mentioned.

However, one person who traveled with the suspended EPA boss on the same flight was the head of the National Climate Change Secretariat at the EPA, Jeremiah Sokan.

It is reported that Sokan has also reported himself to health authorities and was taken to the quarantine center at the Redemption Hospital in New Kru Town, Bushrod Island.

Blama has since begun receiving huge criticisms. He is practically being hammered for allegedly refusing to adhere to safety measures by ignoring a request to be quarantined. Some are now calling for his immediate dismissal.

While some are bashing the suspended EPA Executive Director, others are calling for support to him in his difficult time.

"It seems we are not taking into consideration the psychological effects the situation is having on him right now. At this point he needs our prayers. Dismissal would further compound his predicament. We should rather be praying for the EPA Executive Director's recovery," a caller said on the radio Monday afternoon.

Coronavirus pandemic presenting our country opportunity to increase manufacturing capacity - President Akufo-Addo

The President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, says that, even though the Coronavirus pandemic presents severe consequences for the country, it also presents Ghana with an opportunity to reduce her dependency on imports.

In a meeting with the leaders of the country's pharmaceutical and banking industries on Monday, 16th March, 2020, at Jubilee House, the seat of the nation's presidency, President Akufo-Addo bemoaned the overly-reliant nature of the country on foreign-made things across the board.

According to him, Ghana should possess the capacity to become self-sufficient in the manufacture of items such as masks, hand sanitizers and disposable gloves - basic items needed to combat the spread of Coronavirus.

"We are not talking just pharmaceuticals. We are far too dependent on the things made abroad and imported by us for use. We should be making most of the things we make in Ghana ourselves, and I am seeing what is happening to us, in this crisis, as an opportunity. It has very big consequences, but it also an opportunity. They say necessity is the mother of invention and advisedly so," the President said.

Whilst praying to Almighty God to shield the country from an increment in cases of infections, he noted, however, that should there be a spike in the incidents of infections, the country will be presented with a significant challenge.

With the meeting having in attendance bankers,

pharmaceutical giants, regulators of the industry, the President was hopeful that "together, in this coalition, we can then begin to address these deficiencies in a systematic and pragmatic manner."

He continued, "So, I called you here for all of us to put our brains and minds and hearts together to see a way forward for the future of our country. Whatever decisions are made today are not going to transform the situation today or tomorrow. But, then, we are going to be putting in the building blocks, the platform, for the transformation of tomorrow."

To the Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr. Ernest Addison, who was present at the meeting, the President stressed that "there is the need for us to work collectively to see how our banking sector, which, fortunately under his leadership, is becoming stronger and stronger, can find a way of channeling monies and resources to some of you here so that you can begin to do things for our health system here."

President Akufo-Addo concluded by stating that "if we want to be a properly functioning country, we cannot continue to live of other people's ingenuity and hard work. We have to live of our own ingenuity, creativity, and hard work. That is the only way we can build a viable nation."

The President reiterated Government's determination to overcoming the pandemic, and urged all and sundry to put their shoulders to the wheel to help combat the spread of the virus.

Fight, not flight, must be the strategy for flattening COVID-19 curve

By Siddharth Chatterjee

The number of coronavirus cases in Kenya has jumped to three after the government confirmed two more cases. President Uhuru Kenyatta has announced a raft of proactive measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

Barely three months into the COVID-19 outbreak, stock markets have plummeted, and global supply and production systems have wobbled. Across the world panicked shoppers have cleared shelves of hand sanitizer, soap and tinned food, as if preparing for a siege.

The message by UN Secretary-General António Guterres that "as we fight the virus, we cannot let fear go viral" is absolutely pertinent. And the people of Kenya can count on the United Nations Country team as an ally in this fight.

Global pandemics are the new threat to humanity. The number of new diseases per decade has increased nearly fourfold over the past 60 years, and since 1980, the number of outbreaks per year has more than tripled.

Factors such as climate change, rising populations and increased travel have made humans more vulnerable today than they were 100 years ago. An infection in one corner of the world can make its way to the most



distant corner within a day.

In sub-Saharan Africa, there are genuine fears over how health systems will cope. Most are ill-prepared and ill-equipped to implement public health measures such as surveillance, exhaustive contact tracing, social distancing, travel restrictions and educating the public on hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

These are the basic steps that will delay the spread of infection and relieve pressure on hospitals, even as support is sought for costlier solutions such as personal protective equipment, ven-

tilators, oxygen and testing kits.

For countries in Africa and other areas where health resources are limited, a little-understood pandemic such as COVID-19 is a challenge that requires a whole-of-society response. While science creates the tests and will eventually develop a vaccine, the most effective immediate responses to pandemics depend more on simple actions we can all carry out than on pharmaceutical-based solutions.

Flattening the COVID-19 curve will also be aided by accurate information. Rising

public panic and hysteria is stoked by the difficulty in sifting fact from rumour, speculation and inaccurate information. One of the problems of the age of social media and citizen journalism is that it provides a forum for everyone, and enables the dangerous fiction that anyone with an opinion is an expert. In such circumstances a rational, science-driven narrative is difficult to sustain.

Getting ahead of COVID-19 by ensuring that only accurate information and scientific guidance takes control of the narrative is crucial. It

is for this reason, the United Nations Country Team in Kenya is offering communications support - amongst other initiatives - to the Ministry of Health in its current commendable response to the problem. Everyone will benefit if they heed the wise counsel of CS Mutahi Kagwe. For example he emphasizes the importance of frequent and thorough hand washing. Hand washing saves lives and is the best defence against communicable diseases. Though microbes are evolving millions of times as fast as humans, and humans have little or no immune

protection against new flu strains, the scientific understanding of the risk of pandemics, and our ability to predict the next pandemic before it even happens, is better than ever.

It is now known, for instance, that most new infectious diseases originate in animals, including SARS from bats and some strains of influenza from birds. Factors that include close proximity to live animals, poor hygiene in relation to meat and live animals at markets, overcrowding, and bush-meat consumption can allow pathogens to jump the species barrier to humans.

These scientific advances are being deployed to find more comprehensive solutions such as vaccines. Widespread access to such vaccines confer immunity to individuals and even 'herd immunity' for populations. Vaccines work and have saved countless lives.

Countries in Africa must also take the fight to the pandemic through simple but effective measures for detecting, testing, isolating and mobilizing their people to mitigate transmission.

With simple, fact-informed hygiene measures as the main weapon, the continent can slow the virus's spread and flatten the curve. And the UN family in Kenya is in lockstep with the Government of Kenya to fight COVID 19 on all fronts.

Reasons for optimism, during the corona crisis

By Yariv Cohen

The last few weeks have caused distress all over the world. Since the coronavirus burst into our lives without notice, the reality we live in seems to surpass even the craziest science fiction movies; And as the number of patients continues to climb exponentially, stock markets plummet, fear of a global recession is increasing every

day, a cure or vaccine is still a far away dream, and people everywhere are consuming negative updates 24/7. Not detracting from the severity of the situation, we have to remember that there is always a little light at the end of the tunnel. Indeed, even in the most severe crisis that humanity has known in the past, there were small bright-spots and reasons for optimism. When the virus

is contained, we will all go back to normal, with hard earned lessons that will have the potential to lead humanity towards a better future.

These are the main lessons that give me a little bit of optimism throughout these difficult days:

Making our world cleaner is possible. Except for some who still choose to ignore the consequences of global warming, most people today

agree that the climate crisis is real, dangerous - and requires real action. But alongside growing worldwide acceptance of the need for action, there is always this feeling that no matter what step we take, its impact on the situation will be minimal.

The last few weeks are proving the opposite is true. Since the Corona crisis erupted, many pol-

lutants have been drastically reduced: the number of flights in the world has plummeted, private consumption has declined, and many polluting plants have been suspending operations. It's enough to take a quick look at the NASA satellite imagery, which shows a "drastic drop" in air pollution levels in China since the epidemic began. A few days ago, NASA released more im-

agery, this time from Northern Italy (the world's leading outbreak point of the virus), with pollution levels dropping significantly as well.

The challenges of dealing with the spread of the Coronavirus are vast and negative in most cases, but they also prove that in an emergency, humanity can dramatically reduce the levels of pollution.

WASHINGTON DC

“Demography is destiny” is an oft-cited phrase that suggests the size, growth, and structure of a nation’s population determines its long-term social, economic, and political fabric.

The phrase highlights the role of demographics in shaping many complex challenges and opportunities societies face, including several pertinent to economic growth and development.

Nevertheless, it is an overstatement to say that demography determines all, as it downplays the fact that both demographic trajectories and their development implications are responsive to economic incentives; to policy and institutional reforms; and to changes in technology, cultural norms, and behavior.

The world is undergoing a major demographic upheaval with three key components: population growth, changes in fertility and mortality, and associated changes in population age structure.

It took more than 50,000 years for world population to reach 1 billion people. Since 1960, we have added successive billions every one to two decades. The world population was 3 billion in 1960; it reached 6 billion around 2000, and the United Nations projects it will surpass 9 billion by 2037.

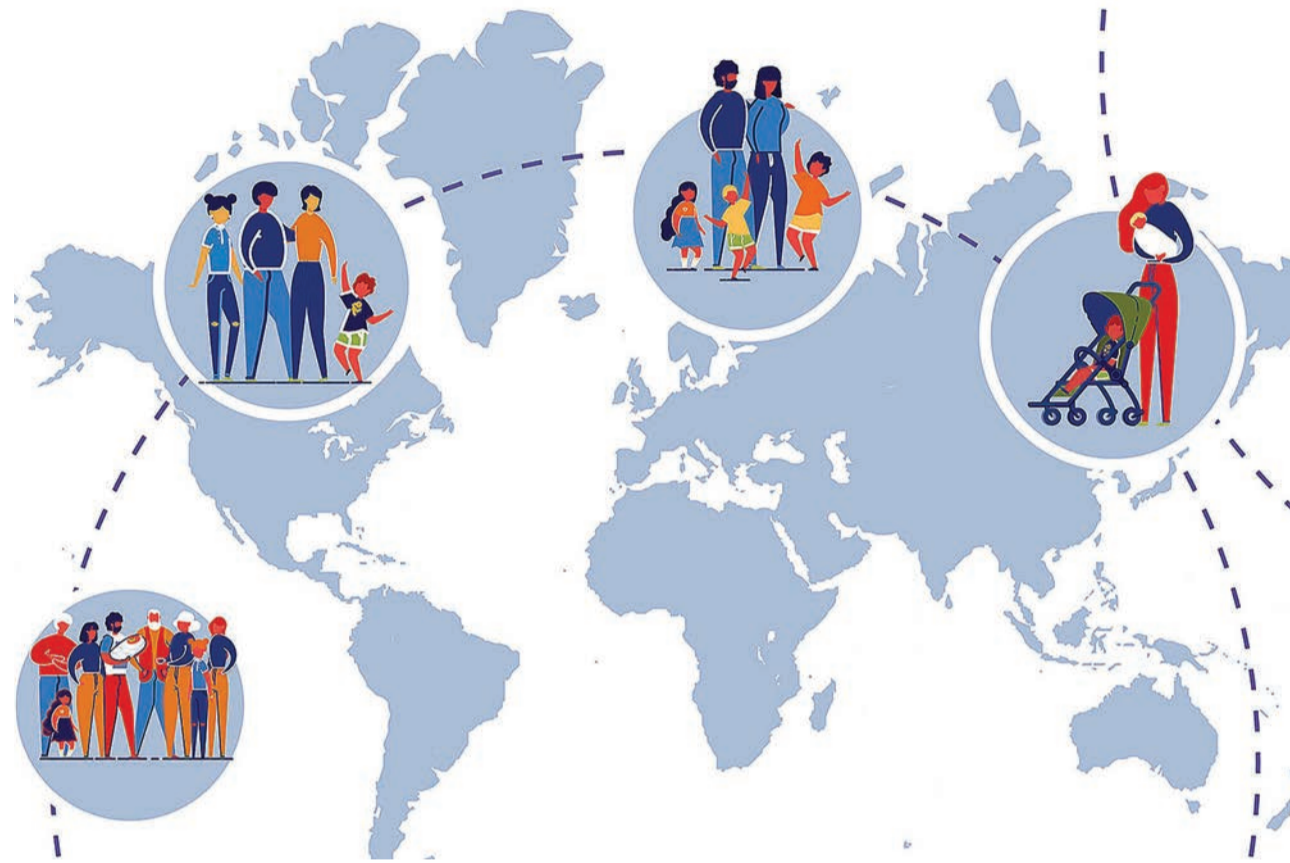
The population growth rate has been slowing, however, from peak annual rates in excess of 2 percent in the late 1960s, to about 1 percent currently, to half that by 2050.

Although global income per capita more than doubled, life expectancy increased by 16 years, and primary school enrollment became nearly universal among children during 1960-2000, rapid population growth poses myriad challenges that are both privately and publicly daunting.

These challenges include the need for more food, clothing, housing, education, and infrastructure; the absorption of sizable numbers into productive employment; and more strenuous environmental protection.

Although the explosive nature of global population growth is abating in relative terms, decade-on-decade increases remain sizable

Population 2020: Demographics can be potent driver of peace and process of economic development



and are taking place from ever more populated starting points.

Earlier concerns about a global population explosion have, to some extent, yielded to concerns about rapid population growth in particular countries and regions (see “Coming of Age” in the current issue of F&D).

Indeed, the overall slowdown in the rate of world population growth masks significant shifts in the distribution of world population by development status and geographic region.

Countries the United Nations classifies as less developed encompassed 68 percent of world population in 1950; today they represent 84 percent. That share will continue to rise, because virtually all of the nearly 2 billion net additions to world population projected over the next three decades will occur in less developed regions.

This is a major concern, because less developed regions tend to be more fragile—politically, socially, economically, and ecologically—than their more developed counterparts.

With 1.44 billion people, China currently has the largest national population in the world, followed by India, with 1.38 billion. But by the end of this decade, India will be the most populous country, with a projected 1.50 billion

people, compared with China’s peak population of 1.46 billion.

Between 2020 and 2050, Nigeria (projected to overtake the United States to become the world’s third-most-populous nation) and Pakistan—already among the 10 most populous—will surge forward. Asia will continue to be home to a dominant but declining share of the world’s population (60 percent today and 54 percent in 2050).

Finally, notwithstanding continued global population growth, in 61 countries and territories that are currently home to 29 percent of the world’s people, population growth in 2020-50 is projected to be negative, with the sharpest decline (-23 percent) projected for Bulgaria (see “Eastern Europe’s Exodus” in this issue of F&D).

Population size and growth reflect the underlying forces of mortality, fertility, and international migration. These forces vary considerably across countries and can help account for key differences in economic activity and performance, such as physical capital, labor, and human capital accumulation; economic well-being and growth; and poverty and inequality.

These forces generally respond to economic shocks; they may also respond to political developments

such as the beginning and ending of wars and governance crises. In many developing economies, population growth has been associated with a phenomenon known as the “demographic transition”—the movement from high to low death rates followed by a corresponding movement in birth rates.

For most of human history, the average person lived about 30 years. But between 1950 and 2020, life expectancy increased from 46 to 73 years, and it is projected to increase by another four years by 2050.

Moreover, by 2050, life expectancy is projected to exceed 80 years in at least 91 countries and territories that will then be home to 39 percent of the world’s population.

Increased longevity is a colossal human achievement that reflects improvements in survival prospects throughout the life cycle, but especially among infants and children.

Cross-country convergence in life expectancy continues to be strong. For example, the life expectancy gap between Africa and North America was 32 years in 1950 and 24 years in 2000; it is 16 years today.

Historic and anticipated reductions in cross-country health disparities reflect gains in income and nutrition among low- and middle-income countries, the diffusion of innovations in health technologies and institutions, and the distribution of international aid.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the average woman had roughly five children over the course of her childbearing years. Today, the average woman has somewhat fewer than 2.5 children.

This presumably reflects the growing cost of child-rearing (including opportunity cost, as reflected mainly in women’s wages), increased access to effective contraception, and perhaps also growing income insecurity.

The social and economic implications of this fertility decline are hard to overstate. Among other things, lower fertility has helped relieve many women of the burden

of childbearing and child-rearing.

It has also contributed to the empowerment of women in their households, communities, and societies and has allowed them to participate more actively in paid labor markets. All these factors reinforce the preference for low fertility.

Between 1970 and 2020, the fertility rate declined in every country in the world. Fertility tended to decrease more in countries with high initial fertility, another facet of demographic convergence. Among geographic regions, Africa and Europe are currently homes to the highest (4.3) and lowest (1.6) fertility rates, respectively.

If the population’s age structure is sufficiently weighted toward those in prime childbearing years, even a fertility rate of 2.1 can translate into positive population growth in the short and medium term, because low fertility per woman is more than offset by the number of women having children.

This feature of population dynamics is known as population momentum and helps explain (along with migration) why the populations of 69 countries and territories are currently growing even though their fertility rates are below 2.1.

Cross-country migration is also relevant to population growth. The effects are quite important in some countries, such as Guyana, Samoa, and Tonga, where net emigration in the past 30 years has been appreciable.

Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates have had the highest rates of net immigration. Among the world’s 10 population super powers, migrants have the largest relative presence in the United States (15 percent in 2019).

For most countries, though, international migration has not been a dominant demographic force, because more than 96 percent of the world’s population currently live in their countries of birth (see “Immigrant Swan Song” in the current issue of F&D).

The age structure of a population reflects mainly its fertility and mortality history. In high-mortality populations, improved survival tends to occur disproportionately among children. This effectively creates a baby boom.

Eventually, the boom ends when fertility abates in response to perceptions of improved child survival and as desired fertility declines with economic development. But as the relatively large baby-boom cohorts proceed through adolescence and into their adult years, the population share at the peak ages for work and saving swells.

This enhances the productive capacity of the economy on a per capita basis and opens a window of opportunity for rapid income growth and poverty reduction. Events of the past decade, ranging from the Arab uprisings to more recent mass protests in Chile and Sudan, also show that countries that fail to generate sufficient jobs for

large cohorts of young adults are prone to social, political, and economic instability.

The “demographic dividend” refers to the process through which a changing age structure can spur economic growth. It depends, of course, on several complex factors, including the nature and pace of demographic change, the operation of labor and capital markets, macroeconomic management and trade policies, governance, and human capital accumulation.

Nonetheless, the demographic dividend model can account for much variation in past economic performance among different countries and regions (e.g., East Asia vs. Latin America vs. sub-Saharan Africa) and helps identify more- and less-promising country settings for future economic growth. For example, from 2020 to 2030, Nepal, Jordan, Bhutan, and Eswatini are projected to experience the largest gains among countries in the ratios of their working-age to non-working-age populations.

The dependency ratio—the inverse of the working-age to non-working-age ratio—measures the economic pressure working-age individuals face to support, in addition to themselves, those who are not of working age. In 1990, the ratio in more developed regions was appreciably lower than in less developed regions (0.68 versus 1.04).

By 2020, as a result of different patterns of fertility decline and population aging, the ratio had increased to 0.70 in more developed regions and decreased to 0.75 in less developed regions.

And by 2050, the dependency ratio is projected to be greater in more developed regions (0.89) than in those that are less developed (0.77). This switch suggests that in the coming decades, demographics will be more favorable to economic well-being in less developed regions than in more developed regions.

This will be especially true in Africa, the only region in which this ratio is projected to decline by 2050.

For countries that have yet to experience appreciable demographic transitions (like Chad, the Central African Republic, Somalia, and Sierra Leone), policies are appropriately oriented toward catalyzing those transitions.

Such policies include investment that promotes infant and child survival, such as expanded vaccine coverage as well as wider access to well-provisioned and appropriately staffed primary health care systems.

For populations that have experienced health and survival gains, countries could benefit from policies to enable a decline in fertility, such as promoting girls’ education and access to reproductive health and family planning services.

And countries with relatively sizable portions of the population concentrated in the high-work and high-

savings part of the life cycle need policies to realize the potential benefits of favorable demographics.

Such policies include support for the operation of competitive labor and capital markets, equipping workers with human capital, building infrastructure, sound macroeconomic management, carefully designed trade policies, and good governance. Such policies are always desirable, but a large working-age population share raises the stakes.

In some countries, making investments in these various sets of policies could be challenging, as per capita income is currently lower in real terms than it was in some of today’s advanced economies when they were at a comparable demographic stage.

Population aging is the dominant demographic trend of the twenty-first century—a reflection of increasing longevity, declining fertility, and the progression of large cohorts to older ages.

Never before have such large numbers of people reached ages 65+ (the conventional old-age threshold). We expect to add 1 billion older individuals in the next three to four decades, atop the more than 700 million older people we have today.

Among the older population, the group aged 85+ is growing especially fast and is projected to surpass half a billion in the next 80 years. This trend is significant because the needs and capacities of the 85+ crowd tend to differ significantly from those of 65-to-84-year-olds.

Although every country in the world will experience population aging, differences in the progression of this phenomenon will be considerable. Japan is currently the world leader, with 28 percent of its population 65 and over, triple the world average.

By 2050, 29 countries and territories will have larger elder shares than Japan has today. In fact, the Republic of Korea’s elder share will eventually overtake Japan’s, reaching the historically unprecedented level of 38.1 percent.

Japan’s median age (48.4) is also currently the highest of any country and more than twice that of Africa (19.7). But by 2050, Korea (median age 56.5 in 2050) is also expected to overtake Japan on that metric (54.7).

Three decades ago, the world was populated by more than three times as many adolescents and young adults (15- to 24-year-olds) as older people. Three decades from now, those age groups will be roughly on par.

By income group, the sharpest growth in the numbers of older people will occur in countries currently classified as middle income. This is unsurprising, as these countries make up 74 percent of the world population.

What may be surprising is that the older-population share in middle-income countries is increasing at a much faster rate than in their low- and high-income counterparts.

Moreover, in comparison with high-income countries, today’s middle-income countries are projected to have appreciably greater real incomes when their older-population shares reach comparably elevated levels. This contradicts the common claim that developing economies are getting old before they get rich.

Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =070=

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

STALACTITE
O

10 letters: STALACTITE, WHODUNNITS
9 letters: PARSONAGE, RECESSION
7 letters: STRANGE, STRIDOR
6 letters: BLAMED,
5 letters: ASKEW, BANTU, KORAN, CEDAR
4 letters: LAID, LAMB, GALE, GRIM, COST, MALI
3 letters: SIT, RUN, MAD, ERA, MAT

CLUES: ACROSS
1 Good chance (10)
7 Bleed (4)
8 Answer (6)
10 Canvass (5,3)
14 Disabled (4,2)
15 Utter (3)
16 Announcer (8)
18 Beach (5)
19 Only (3)
21 Funny (5)
24 Less than average height (3)
25 Grade (5)
26 Country in West Africa (4)
29 Oval seed of South American plant (6)
30 Chief city of Greece (6)
31 Tower on a farm to store grain (4)

CLUES: DOWN
1 Dead (8)
2 Changeable (13)
3 Free time (7)
4 Not closed (4)
5 Flightless bird of Mauritius (4)
6 Tamed animal (3)
9 No (4)
11 Beloved (7)
12 Beneficial (6)
13 Goodbye (2-2)
17 On time (8)
20 Thick absorbent cloth for drying (5)
22 Monetary unit of Denmark (3)
23 Method (5)
25 Blemish (4)
27 Attar (4)
28 Premonition (4)

Comments: 0789 43 73 09

BUSINESS

NATURAL DEFENCE

WEF expresses hope of young population on African continent having softening hit against coronavirus

DAVOS

While the World Economic Forum expects that African healthcare could be strained by the coronavirus, it also believes the continent's young population could help soften the blow.

"One important fact to keep in mind is that across Sub-Saharan Africa, only 3% of the population is over 65. This is dramatically lower than similar age brackets in China (11%) and Italy (23%)," says Elsie Kanza, Head of Africa at the World Economic Forum.

According to the US government, early data suggests that older people are likelier to suffer seriously illnesses due to the novel coronavirus. An Italian government report shows that by the first week of March, the average age of Italians who died from the coronavirus was 81. According to another report, only two of the people who died in the epicentre of the Italian crisis, Lombardy, were younger than 50.

"While young adults seem to suffer less with the virus, we could still see increased strain on healthcare systems,"

says Kanza. Referring to the South African government decision to declare a national disaster on Sunday, Kanza said preparedness is crucial. "Limiting the spread of the virus will ensure hospital and healthcare systems do not come under further strain. Public-private cooperation has never been needed more."

She says that many African countries are deploying lessons learned from the Ebola outbreak. The African Centre for Disease Control - the pan-African authority on public health created to respond to Ebola - has been supporting countries with the repurposing of screenings, surveillance systems and isolation wards for covid-19. 43 countries can currently test for the virus.

Economically, Kanza says the slowdown of European markets - a major trading partner for Africa - will result in a temporary hit to the continental economy. "But the good news is that China's factories are starting to switch back on and this could mitigate lasting damage."



Elsie Kanza, Head of Africa at the World Economic Forum.

ALERT

Fear lingers over paper money 'link' with coronavirus spread

NEW YORK

Authorities worldwide have raised concern over the possibility of banknotes spreading the coronavirus. These concerns have led to the Federal Reserve in the US to "quarantine" banknotes received from China, which is where the outbreak started.

Iran has also heeded the call, and is discouraging the use of banknotes.

The Louvre in Paris has also stopped accepting banknotes, as a measure to stop any potential spread of the deadly virus.

The coronavirus could very well spread through the circulation of banknotes, authorities have said. The virus has caused a near-global shutdown and sent the world into a frenzy, having battered the global economy.

IMPRESSIVE

NIT advises TBS to stop hiring foreign firms for car pre-shipment inspection

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Bureau of Standards which hires foreign firms to undertake pre-shipment inspections of use cars from their port of loading should give the job to National Institute of Transport hence save the country millions of dollars annually.

NIT Rector, Prof Zacharia Mganilwa said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that hiring foreign pre-shipment inspection firms is unnecessary because it is costing the nation foreign currency.

"TBS has been using foreign firms to undertake used car pre-shipment inspection abroad which attracts US 150 per car although this job can now be done by NIT in the country," Prof Mganilwa said noting that currently, NIT has modern motor vehicle inspection equipment which TBS can make use of for used cars imported from anywhere in the world including Japan, United Kingdom, Dubai or United States of America.

"I advise TBS to conclude their contracts with foreign pre-shipment inspection companies because NIT is now capable of conducting similar exercise and save the state unnecessary foreign currency expenditure," he added.

The NIT chief said in addition, the institute will not be charging in foreign currency and that any local currency fee will likely be lower compared to the hard currency denominated payment. "We want to see how we ensure that billions of shillings we current spend remains in our country hence request TBS to rescind signing new contracts with foreign firms," Prof Mganilwa stressed.

With its newly acquired equipment, the Mabibo based state transport training institute has capacity to inspect more than 1,000 motor vehicles per day. According to him, the main objective is to ensure that all used motor vehicles imported in the country meet required standards and are road worthiness benchmarks.



NIT rector, Prof Zacharia Mganilwa (L) inspects a modern motor vehicle inspection lane which can also be used in checking used imported cars at the institute's main campus in Dar es Salaam. Photo courtesy of NIT.

"We have improved our motor vehicle inspection department so as to conform with global market standards hence we ask our TBS peers to trust us and give us the job in question," the NIT

chief added.

According to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee, the government lost 12.16bn/- between 2002-2011 due to improper inspection of imported vehi-

cles by foreign pre-shipment companies many of which were cheating. The Committee had directed TBS in 2010 to find a local used cars inspection agent instead of the foreign based agent.

DRAWBACK

Pangolin sales in Gabon plunge over coronavirus fears

LIBREVILLE

Pangolins were once a prized item in the markets of Gabon's capital Libreville, but bushmeat sellers have started hiding the small, scaly mammals behind boar legs and porcupine carcasses.

Trading the endangered animal, considered to be the most poached in the world, is illegal in the west African country. But that's not why the merchants are hiding their stocks. A team of Chinese researchers suspect the pangolin of transmitting the novel coronavirus to humans at another game market some 11 000km from Libreville in the Chinese city of Wuhan - the epicentre of the pandemic that has rocked the world.

As a result, bushmeat sellers in Gabon's markets have lost some of their best customers. Several at a Libreville market claim that Chinese buyers used to come to snatch up their pangolin supplies, but those shoppers have now disappeared. "We've been eating pangolin for years - don't bring the disease here," said Melanie, a vegetable seller at the market acting as a spokesperson for the bushmeat sellers, who prefer to stay silent.

Scale prices 'like ivory'

The animal's meat is a delicacy in Gabon, but Asian customers are also interested in the scales that cover the pangolin and make its tail look like an artichoke. Used in Chinese medicine, the scales are sold at a steep price to illegal dealers in China, says Luc Mathot, director of the NGO Conservation Justice.

At "\$1,000 a kilogramme, more or less like ivory," he calls the price "ridiculous" since the scales "are made of keratin, like in fingernails." The high price has been a boon to central African hunters, who con-



Pangolin meat is sold alongside fish at a market in Libreville.

sider the pangolin "the cherry on the cake" when they go off to target other game, says Pauline Grentzinger, a veterinarian from the Lekedi national park.

She says that pangolins "are not very shy". "When they see you, they roll into a ball, you just have to bend down to pick them up..." But she emphasises the importance of protecting the vulnerable animal. "It's a species not very related to other species and which, besides representing unique aspects of evolution, is the only mammal covered in scales!"

Some customers under-

While Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo have become hubs for trafficking pangolin scales, trading is informal in Gabon. The price of Gabonese pangolin has soared in recent years, according to researchers in a 2018 study. They blamed international trafficking for the boost in demand.

In Gabon, three of the four African species of pangolin live in the forests that cover 88 percent of the country. The country has adopted strict wildlife protection standards, according to Lee White, the minister of water and forests. In 2006 the giant pangolin species was classified as one

of the world's most endangered and its international trade was banned.

"We are conducting border surveillance with teams of sniffer dogs" that detect the scales, but also elephant ivory or panther skins, White explained. At the national level, game "can be sold between members of the same community" for "customary use," but its trade in the Libreville markets is "illegal," White says.

Forest rangers sometimes lack the means to deal with international trafficking networks. However, some of the traffickers themselves may be affected by the panic created

by the spread of the coronavirus.

"China has closed its market to exotic meats, as soon as it was required," says Grentzinger of Lekedi national park. But for the moment, with only one case of COVID-19 detected in Gabon, bushmeat lovers are not discouraged.

"We'd been told about monkey, which would give Ebola, and yet we kept eating it and never got that," says Melanie. Other market customers seem to agree. "It has no impact on your health. On the contrary, the most important thing is to eat it fresh," says customer Tatiana.

UPGRADING

SAT and Agriculture ministry preparing organic farming curriculum for colleges

By Francis Kajubi

A curriculum for organic farming training courses at certificate and diploma levels is currently being prepared by stakeholders led by Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

Founder and CEO of SAT, Janet Muro said recently that the new curriculum may become operation by June this year and will cover all 29 state owned agriculture training colleges in the country.

"The curriculum for both certificate and diploma levels are meant to train experts in ecological organic agriculture because Tanzania like many African nations is realizing threats of conventional agriculture to people's health," Muro said.

She added that the curriculum targets at bridging the knowledge gap of organic farming by most of state's extension officers especially those serving at wards and district levels because the existing curriculums omitted the subject.

According to her, effective next

June, all students undergoing agriculture courses at certificate and diploma levels shall study both organic and in-organic agriculture techniques. She named some of the 29 state owned agriculture training colleges that will implement the curriculum as Mati-Ilonga, National Sugar Institute (NSI), Mati-Horticulture Tengeru, KATC Moshi, TRACDI and St. John's University.

"We started by building tutorial staffs' capacity so that they understand the new curriculum. The initiative also targeted at strengthening capacity of respective colleges in terms of infrastructure to facilitate implementation of the curriculum," she added.

On the other hand Maro called upon organic farmers to explore the global market share of spices which are in high demand both in European Union and the United Kingdom. "I call upon farmers especially those who have opted to go for organic farming to invest in spice cultivation because global demand is growing," said the SAT CEO.

SAT Program Manager, Frank Maro backed his boss' observation saying spices which can



Students at Mati-Horticulture Tengeru in Arusha region undergoing field training.

be grown even semi-arid areas, are the hottest commodity at the world market. Maro asserted that SAT owns an organic farm that covers an area of 600 acres and has employed 25 workers alongside

50 temporary workers to cultivate organic products. "The farm is also being used by students of Sokoine University of Agriculture for further research purposes and they include those undertak-

ing doctorate studies," he noted. SAT was established in 2016 with its headquarters at Vianzi village in Mvomero district of Morogoro region as an organic farming dedicated center.

CEILING

Yatani caps insurance premiums at Sh40 daily

NAIROBI

The Treasury has capped microinsurance premiums at Sh40 a day under new regulations that seek to boost risk coverage among the poor.

The regulations define a microinsurance product and offer rules to guide firms on how to operate cheap insurance. Besides capping the fees, firms will offer microinsurance cover not exceeding Sh500,000 to compensate for illness, injury, death or loss of property with the contracts capped at one year, but subject to renewal.

Kenya insurers have remodelled their products to target the poor via small premiums, but analysts reckon they do not fit under the microinsurance model including shorter contracts and speedy settlement of claims.

Under the new regulations published last week by Treasury Secretary Ukur Yatani, micro insurers will be required to settle claims within 10 day or seek regulatory approval for delayed payment. "The amount of daily premiums or contributions shall not exceed forty shillings ... the sum insured shall not be more than five hundred thousand shillings," Mr Yatani said through the regulations.

"A registered insurer engaged in microinsurance business shall continue providing such products and regularise compliance with these regulations within three years from the date of the coming into operation of these regulations," he added.

The regulations are also meant to boost usage of insurance among Kenya's poor who hinge on traditional and inadequate risk mitigation mechanisms such as social networks to meet spiralling medical, school and funeral costs through the so called harambees.

Kenya's insurance penetration – the ratio of the value of insurance premiums to GDP – has remained at less than three percent for decades, and in 2018 dipped to a 15-year low of 2.43 percent.

FinAccess survey revealed that more than half of workers earning more than Sh50,000 have some form of insurance. But less than a quarter of those earning between Sh20,000 and Sh50,000 had insurance, leading insurance firms to target this segment to boost profits.

George Nyakundi – General Manager at ICEA Lion Life Assurance reckon the cheap products in the market are not fully micro insurance, arguing that the new regulations will address the gaps that have hindered access across the low income segments.



Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani.

COUNTER-MEASURES

More Rwandans opt for online shopping amid COVID-19 fears

KIGALI

Rwandans are increasingly opting for online shopping in the wake of COVID 19. Online shop owners commit to supplying for the prospected high demand.

As COVID 19 cases increased to 7 in Rwanda, the Government of Rwanda has suspended all public and social gatherings and encouraged people to keep social distance and stay at home where possible.

As a result, more Rwandans are opting for online shopping for groceries and other goods needed at home. Egide Butare is a Managing Director of Store to Door an online grocery shopping and delivery company.

For the last three days, their orders have more than tripled. They used to get on average 5 orders a day, but since the reported Coronavirus cases, the orders have now reached 18 and are expected to grow. "We have recorded a noticeable increase not only in orders but also in the amount of goods ordered and therefore the money earned," Butare told The New Times.

He added that cleaning utensils, especially hand washers and dry goods such as grains and sugar are the most demanded items. Store to Door is not the only online shop that has recorded a visible increase in demand.



Clarisse Iribagiza, CEO of HeHe Mart.

Clarisse Iribagiza, CEO of HeHe Mart, said they have recorded a 50 percent increase since the first COVID-19 case confirmed on March 14th. For HeHe Mart, also dry goods and cleaning utensils are the most

demand items. "We have seen an unusual increase in the last three days and hopefully increasingly so. We are now making sure that we meet the skyrocketing demand," Iribagiza said.

Prices to remain stable. Asked whether the increasing demand will imply an increase in prices, both Store to Door and HeHe Mart replied that prices will stay the same regardless of expected bigger

market. "Even if the demand increases, we will not take advantage of our customers. We have maintained the same prices over the last two weeks [before COVID 19 first case confirmation]. We are now fo-

cusing on the quality of services delivered," MD of Store to Door, Butare added.

He further explained that the priority now is to cater for the increasing number of clients and proving to them that Rwanda's online market is a viable option and has its advantages, not only in times of crisis. For the stock, Butare explained that since imports are being widely affected, the supply is unpredictable.

"Some products that were normally popular are already out of stock due to extreme demand and the situation might get even tighter eventually," he said. Butare added: "However, the likely alternative will be shifting to locally made products since shipping is getting more complex due to COVID-19 pandemic. This is an appropriate time to use and promote Made-in-Rwanda products.

For HeHe Mart, Iribagiza told The New Times that her shop is flexible with customers and prices will not change because of the demand. "We are very intentional about providing customers with better services even when the demand is higher," she said.

The number of the novel coronavirus cases in Rwanda, has risen to seven following two more people who tested positive on Monday. Government had temporarily closed schools and places of worship, but in the latest statement, it says that the closure period may be renewed based on circumstances.

ENCOURAGEMENT

'Port closures won't disrupt movement of goods, so stop panic buying'

JOHANNESBURG

The recently announced port closures are only meant to limit the movement of people and will not affect the flow of goods to the country, Trade and Industry Minister Ebrahim Patel has said.

At a briefing on Covid-19 on Monday, Patel and other ministers unpacked government's plan to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus outbreak, which has now reached South African shores. The latest recorded figure of in-

fections stands at 62, News24 reported. In response to the crisis, President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday declared a state of national disaster and announced a travel ban would be implemented as well as the closure of 35 land ports and two seaports - Mossel Bay and Saldanha Bay.

Passengers, not goods
At the briefing on Monday, Patel stressed that the two ports will only be closed for passengers. Passengers from ships that dock at Saldanha and Mossel

Bay will not be allowed to disembark and crew changes will be disallowed. This should allow export and import of goods to continue, he explained. Exports are critical to the economy, while South African also need to keep up with the imports of essential goods, said Patel.

Some 35 land border posts are also closing, but this will only impact individuals, as there were no commercial activities at these posts, Patel added. Patel said that government's intention is to keep the movement of goods in the

economy flowing. If government wanted to limit the flow of goods it would have closed the Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth ports, which normally process cargo, said Trade Law Centre researcher Willemien Viljoen.

Critical industries
According to Patel critical industries such as healthcare, food and beverages were also making sure that their supply chains remain intact. The retail sector is also securing its supply chains to ensure that the current panic buying does not lead to more panic and disruptions

to the supply chain. Government has also investigated how the manufacturing of hand sanitiser, face mask, gloves and test kits can be ramped up in South Africa - and where imported components are needed, these can be secured.

So far, imports from China, particularly electronic goods such as smartphones and television sets and motor vehicle components, have been impacted, said Viljoen. As China limited the movement of people, there had been delays in the processing of goods

at harbours because there was no labour, Viljoen said.

Production from China

PwC chief economist Lullu Krugel noted that with the closure of factories in China, the production of goods slowed down. Now that factories are coming back online, Krugel said it could take three months for supply to stabilise. In turn exports of minerals from South Africa to China was also hit, due to the reduced demand, she explained.

CRISIS

Asian stocks fall after historic Wall Street rout

SYDNEY

Most Asian shares fell on Tuesday, a day after Wall Street's historic market rout, with fleeting initial gains evaporating as the coronavirus remained a major risk to economic growth.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan gave up early gains to trade 0.4 per cent lower. Japan's Nikkei stock index slid 2.7 per cent and South Korea's Kospi was off 3.2 per cent. Australian shares were up 0.5 per cent, although this followed a plunge of almost 10 per cent on Monday.

US stock futures rose 1.1 per cent early in Asian trading, but these gains were not enough to ease investor concern about the continuous spread of the flu-like virus. "It's no surprise that we're seeing a bounce after the big falls on Monday,"

| | | | |
|------|------------------|-------|------------------|
| NYSE | -1,177.37 | VOLUC | 54,144,997 |
| NYA | 9,674.60 | TRAN | 7,005.37 -934.03 |
| UTIL | 683.07 -79.53 | SPMI | 2,411.75 -272.25 |
| DXY | 98.05 -0.70 | SPX | 2,423.95 -287.07 |
| TNX | 7.28 -2.23 | SPH | 2,555.50 -128.40 |
| TYH | 138.31 2.52 | WTI | 28.68 -3.05 |
| RLX | 1,969.85 -217.43 | BRNT | 29.73 -4.12 |
| DRG | 539.55 -43.58 | GOLD | 1,496.80 -19.90 |
| FTSE | 5,151.08 -215.03 | FANG | 2,668.50 -333.53 |
| | | VIX | 80.12 22.29 |
| | | RUT | 1,058.62 -151.52 |
| | | XES | 2.33 -0.28 |
| | | REIT | 1,627.83 -291.14 |
| | | XSD | 73.42 -9.41 |
| | | KBE | 27.52 -3.71 |
| | | GDX | 21.27 2.27 |

Stocks again fell sharply on Wall Street on Monday.

said Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets in Sydney. "However, the situation

continues to deteriorate on the economic front because of the virus." Gold, which is normally bought as a safe

haven, extended declines on Tuesday as some investors chose to sell whatever they could to keep their money in

cash. Oil futures rebounded in Asia, but downside risks remain because of an expected slump in global en-

ergy demand and Saudi Arabia's plans to increase crude output to expand its market share.

The US Federal Reserve stunned investors with another emergency rate cut on Sunday, prompting other central banks to ease policy in the biggest co-ordinated response since the global financial crisis more than a decade ago. But investors are worried that central banks may have spent all their ammunition and that stricter restrictions on personal movement are necessary to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

Financial markets cratered on Monday. The S&P 500 tumbled 12 per cent, its biggest drop since "Black Monday" three decades ago, despite the Fed's surprise move on Sunday to cut interest rates to near zero, its second emergency interest rate cut in less than two weeks.

Some \$2.69 trillion in mar-

ket value was wiped from the S&P 500 as it suffered its third-largest daily percentage decline on record. Over the past 18 days, the benchmark index has lost \$8.28 trillion. Traders are looking ahead to data due later on Tuesday, which is forecast to show German investor sentiment tumbled in March.

The US will also release retail sales and industrial production for February, which is unlikely to reflect the impact of the coronavirus. Some investors say markets will not settle unless the US government announces a big fiscal spending package to match the Fed's bold actions to slash rates and keep credit markets functioning.

Others say liquidity in some financial markets is starting to fall because there's such a high degree of uncertainty, meaning even some traditional safe-havens may not be that safe. Spot gold fell about 0.3 per cent

to \$1,509.50 an ounce. In the currency market, the Swiss franc, another safe haven, was little changed at 0.9470 to the dollar as traders pondered policymakers' next moves.

The dollar rose 0.3 per cent to ¥106.35, recovering slightly from a 2 per cent decline from the previous session as the Fed's rate rippled through financial markets. US crude ticked up almost 2 per cent to \$29.24, but even this bounce is likely to be temporary. Saudi Aramco repeated on Monday it plans to boost output to record levels.

Top global oil producers Saudi Arabia and Russia started a price war after failing to agree on a plan to curb supply. The coming flood of supply from Saudi Arabia and other producers could result in the largest surplus of crude in history, said global information provider IHS Markit.

INTERVENTION

Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Reddit and Twitter join hands in clearing air on coronavirus

NEW YORK

Several of the world's largest social media companies announced that they're working together to fight misinformation surrounding the coronavirus pandemic and the Covid-19 disease, according to a joint statement published to Facebook's website on Monday.

Facebook, Google and its subsidiary YouTube, Microsoft and its subsidiary LinkedIn, Reddit, and Twitter all co-signed the statement. "We're helping millions of people stay connected while also jointly combating fraud and misinformation about the virus, elevating authoritative content on our platforms, and sharing critical updates in coordination with government healthcare agencies around the world," the statement read. "We invite other companies to join us as we work to keep our communities healthy and safe."

The statement comes as social media companies are under immense pressure to crack down on rampant fake coronavirus cures, false testing methods, and other inaccurate or misleading claims that have spread across their platforms.

Facebook and Twitter have taken steps to ban content about the coronavirus that could cause harm - both platforms said they'll highlight government agency information under searches for coronavirus-related terms.

Google recently announced a 24-hour coronavirus incident response team and said it will work to remove misinformation from search results and YouTube, while

also promoting accurate information from health agencies. On Sunday, Google sister company Verily released an apparently half-finished website meant to direct Americans to testing locations, after President Donald Trump announced it prematurely.

But the sheer volume of fake news, which the World Health Organisation has called an "infodemic," is testing whether the industry is actually capable of effectively limiting the spread of misinformation.

Newsguard, which ranks websites by trustworthiness, said in early March that "health care hoax sites" have received more than 142 times as much social media engagement in the past 90 days as the websites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization combined.

Even before the COVID-19 outbreak, Facebook, Google, Twitter, and others were already under fire from lawmakers and other critics who claim the companies aren't doing enough to stamp out harmful and misleading content in other contexts like violent extremist, cyberstalking, and political ads.

On Monday, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said it's easier for Facebook to "take a much harder line" in cases like a global health emergency, while Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google parent company Alphabet, told employees in a memo that this is a pivotal moment for the company, according to Bloomberg. It remains to be seen how much the companies' aggressive efforts will make a difference in halting the spread of harmful coronavirus content.



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY
STARTING 7:30 PM

| TUESDAY 17 March | THURSDAY 19 March | SUNDAY 22 March | MON 16 March | TUES 17 March | SAT 21 March | WEDNESDAY 18 March | FRIDAY 20 March | MON 16 March | TUES 17 March | SAT 21 March | WEDNESDAY 18 March | FRIDAY 20 March |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 06:00 Al Jazeera | 06:00 Al Jazeera | 08:00 CNN International | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 06:00 Al Jazeera | 06:00 Al Jazeera | 08:00 CNN International | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi |
| 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) | 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) | 09:00 Drive It rpt | 6:00 Kumekucha | 6:00 HABARI | 07:00 Habari | 07:00 Habari | 09:00 Drive It rpt | 6:00 Kumekucha | 6:00 HABARI |
| 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha | 6:40 Kumekucha | 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) | 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) | 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt | 6:40 Kumekucha Michezo | 6:40 Kumekucha Michezo | 08:00 Al Jazeera | 08:00 Al Jazeera | 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt | 6:40 Kumekucha Michezo | 6:40 Kumekucha Michezo |
| 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? | 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? | 10:00 Culinary delight rpt | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 09:00 Watoto wetu | 09:00 Watoto wetu | 10:30 Innovation rpt | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI |
| 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) | 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) | 10:30 Sports Gazette rpt | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 9:30 Shamba lulu rpt | 9:30 Shamba lulu rpt | 11:30 Usafiri wako rpt | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo | 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo |
| 8:55 Habari za saa | 8:55 Habari za saa | 8:55 Habari za saa | 16:00 Special pgm rpt: Sauti za Busara | 16:00 Special pgm rpt: Sauti za Busara | 11:00 Usafiri wako rpt | 8:55 Habari za saa | 8:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Meza huru | 10:00 Meza huru | 12:00 Eco@Africa rpt | 8:55 Habari za saa | 8:55 Habari za saa |
| 9:00 Kongamano: Wanawake na Fedha (Mubashara) | 9:00 Kongamano: Wanawake na Fedha (Mubashara) | 9:00 Kongamano: Wanawake na Fedha (Mubashara) | 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt | 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt | 12:30 Innovation rpt | 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo | 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo | 10:30 Watoto wetu | 10:30 Watoto wetu | 12:30 Innovation rpt | 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo | 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo |
| 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 17:00 EcoAfrica rpt | 17:00 EcoAfrica rpt | 12:30 Sports Gazette rpt | 9:30 Isidingo | 9:30 Isidingo | 11:00 The Base | 11:00 The Base | 13:00 Usafiri wako rpt | 9:30 Isidingo | 9:30 Isidingo |
| 12:30 Aifa ya jamii rpt | 12:30 Aifa ya jamii rpt | 12:30 Aifa ya jamii rpt | 17:30 Meza huru | 17:30 Meza huru | 13:00 Innovation rpt | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 11:30 Jiji Letu | 11:30 Jiji Letu | 13:30 Usafiri wako rpt | 10:00 Watoto wetu | 10:00 Watoto wetu |
| 12:55 Habari za saa | 12:55 Habari za saa | 12:55 Habari za saa | 19:00 The Décor rpt | 19:00 The Décor rpt | 13:30 Innovation rpt | 10:30 Habari za saa | 10:30 Habari za saa | 11:55 Mipishi rpt | 11:55 Mipishi rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 10:30 Habari za saa | 10:30 Habari za saa |
| 13:00 Kipindi maalum: KTMDA | 13:00 Kipindi maalum: KTMDA | 13:00 Kipindi maalum: KTMDA | 19:30 Shamba lulu | 19:30 Shamba lulu | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? | 11:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 11:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 13:30 Arts & lifestyle rpt | 13:30 Arts & lifestyle rpt | 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? | 11:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 11:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt | 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt | 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt | 20:00 Series: The Secret | 20:00 Series: The Secret | 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? | 11:15 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Watumishi housing rpt | 11:15 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Watumishi housing rpt | 13:30 Tanzania yetu | 13:30 Tanzania yetu | 15:00 Eco@Africa rpt | 11:15 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Watumishi housing rpt | 11:15 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Watumishi housing rpt |
| 13:55 Habari za saa | 13:55 Habari za saa | 13:55 Habari za saa | 20:45 The Monday Agenda | 20:45 The Monday Agenda | 15:00 Eco@Africa rpt | 11:55 Habari za saa | 11:55 Habari za saa | 13:55 Habari za saa | 13:55 Habari za saa | 16:30 Capchat rpt | 11:55 Habari za saa | 11:55 Habari za saa |
| 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 21:25 Bundes Post | 21:25 Bundes Post | 16:30 Capchat rpt | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 17:30 Meza huru | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera |
| 14:55 Habari za saa | 14:55 Habari za saa | 14:55 Habari za saa | 21:30 Capital Prime News | 21:30 Capital Prime News | 17:30 Meza huru | 12:30 Meza huru | 12:30 Meza huru | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:00 Innovation rpt | 12:30 Meza huru | 12:30 Meza huru |
| 15:00 Meza Huru | 15:00 Meza Huru | 15:00 Meza Huru | 22:00 Kipima Joto | 22:00 Kipima Joto | 18:00 Innovation rpt | 12:55 Habari za saa | 12:55 Habari za saa | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 12:55 Habari za saa | 12:55 Habari za saa |
| 15:00 Watoto wetu | 15:00 Watoto wetu | 15:00 Watoto wetu | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 13:00 Arts & lifestyle rpt | 13:00 Arts & lifestyle rpt | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 13:00 Arts & lifestyle rpt | 13:00 Arts & lifestyle rpt |
| 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 13:30 Tanzania yetu | 13:30 Tanzania yetu | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 13:30 Tanzania yetu | 13:30 Tanzania yetu |
| 18:00 Jiji Letu | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 13:55 Habari za saa | 13:55 Habari za saa | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 13:55 Habari za saa | 13:55 Habari za saa |
| 18:10 Yu wapi | 18:10 Yu wapi | 18:10 Yu wapi | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 18:15 Mipishi rpt | 18:15 Mipishi rpt | 18:15 Mipishi rpt | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 18:30 Uchumi na biashara | 18:30 Uchumi na biashara | 18:30 Uchumi na biashara | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 19:00 Jarida la wanawake | 19:00 Jarida la wanawake | 19:00 Jarida la wanawake | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 19:00 Isidingo | 19:00 Isidingo | 19:00 Isidingo | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 19:30 Habari | 19:30 Habari | 19:30 Habari | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 21:05 Tanzania yetu | 21:05 Tanzania yetu | 21:05 Tanzania yetu | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 21:35 Chetu ni chetu | 21:35 Chetu ni chetu | 21:35 Chetu ni chetu | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost | 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost | 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 23:00 Habari | 23:00 Habari | 23:00 Habari | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 23:30 The Base | 23:30 The Base | 23:30 The Base | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |
| 00:30 DWTV | 00:30 DWTV | 00:30 DWTV | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 00:00 Al Jazeera | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 19:30 Innovation rpt | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost | 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost |

WORLD

Businesses in Africa suffer as COVID-19 epidemic disrupts Chinese supplies

NAIROBI

KENNETH Kiarie, who runs an electrical goods shop in downtown Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya in East Africa, might have to close his store by the end of April unless he can secure more supplies from China amid COVID-19 disruption.

The 42-year-old entrepreneur is heavily dependent on Chinese factories for his business for the past decade as Chinese goods are of high quality at an affordable price and cater for all income groups, but the COVID-19 outbreak has cut off supplies as the world's second largest economy has adopted massive quarantining measures and mobilized most of its resources to contain the virus domestically.

Since Kiarie received the latest shipment of goods in December, he has been unable to get more supplies to

replenish his dwindling stocks. More and more African and Chinese businessmen here have felt the impact of the pandemic.

Michelle Li, who operates a homestay hotel in Nairobi for Chinese tourists, is upset about the globally spreading virus. "The virus has been a huge shock to my business as my hotel hasn't received a single guest since the outbreak and some previous orders were canceled," he said.

The COVID-19 outbreak has testified to the extent of deep and enduring trade and investment ties between China and African countries.

China is Africa's biggest trading partner and a major player in Africa's supply chain, notably in such areas as electronics, furniture, industrial goods, machinery and household supplies.

Measures like social distancing and shutdown of factories to curb the



COVID-19 spread have inevitably led to disruptions to economic activity and supply chain. Data from China's General Administration of Customs showed that between January and February, the trade value between China and Africa in terms of U.S. dollars declined by 17.8 percent year-on-year with China's exports to Africa down by 13.8 percent and its imports from Africa plunging 21.7 percent.

African firms have faced a shortage of raw materials due to reduced imports from China as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, which has increased output prices as alternative import markets are not as cheap as China, said Jibran Qureshi, regional economist for East Africa with Uganda's Stanbic Bank.

"Port congestion at Durban (the third populous city in South Africa) and other locations meant that many businesses were forced to limit activity, with exports to China also decreasing," said David Owen, economist with London-based global information provider IHS Markit.

There is a possibility that the impact of the coronavirus on economy may be significant, with sectors such as tourism, finance and manufacturing

mostly affected, said Dawie Roodt, chief economist of South Africa-based financial services company Efficient Group.

The virus will have a negative impact on growth in the short term, but it's too soon to talk about the long term impact, said Jannie Rossouw, head of the School of Economic and Business Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.

"Close ties between China and Africa are important for Africa's long-term development as China has invested in the continent, and I'm sure the investment will continue," Rossouw said.

John Lui, an entrepreneur who runs a shop in Johannesburg, told Xinhua that "we think as soon the outbreak is brought under control, and we hope, everything will go to normality."

"Some businesses are planning to order when factories re-open ... We need to keep relations and grow them between the continent and China," he added. Given that businesses have speed up the pace to resume normal operations in China, economists project activities will see a visible recovery in March and conditions will improve soon.

Xinhua

Racism detrimental to global solidarity amid COVID-19 battle

BEIJING

WITH the whole international community gearing up for the joint battle against a dangerous coronavirus, the sole superpower on the planet is letting the world down.

Ever since the onset of the COVID-19 epidemic, a cluster of U.S. politicians have kept using the global health threat as a weapon to smear and stigmatize China.

They accused Beijing of covering up the outbreak, turning a blind eye to its timely sharing of information with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the broader international community.

To the astonishment of the world, they even went so far by employing racist language to label the pathogen behind the disease the "Chinese virus" or "Wuhan vi-

rus," although its origin remains undetermined and viruses have no nationalities.

Such slanderous rhetoric is irresponsible and despicable. It is a far cry from what the so-called "shining city upon a hill" is expected to do in face of a serious common challenge against humanity. To many, it is yet another symptom of Washington's moral decay and leadership deficit.

Smearing China will not gloss over the United States' earlier mistakes in its response to COVID-19. Although it went against the WHO's advice and rushed to be the first to impose a travel ban on China, it then seemingly fell into wishful thinking and denial, squandering the precious time China has bought the world with enormous sacrifices and prompting widespread criticism from the U.S. public of acting too little and too late.



Scapegoating China will not help with Washington's ongoing epidemic containment efforts.

At the same time, stigmatizing China will not contribute to the global battle against the pandemic. On the contrary, at a time when the world is

in dire need of strong solidarity and mutual support, it only sows division and distrust and corrodes the very foundation for a global united front.

Thus it is high time that Washington woke up both to the threat of the coronavirus spreading on

its soil and across the world, and to the threat of the political virus in its mind that is distorting its perception and hindering its response, and lived up to its due responsibility on the world stage.

Just as Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, told U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a phone conversation on Monday, the U.S. side should immediately correct its wrongful behavior and stop making groundless accusations against China.

The United States, as Yang urged, should take into consideration the common interests and will of the people in both countries and around the world, enhance communication and cooperation with China and the international community, and jointly safeguard the international public health security.

Xinhua

Israel's internal security agency to track coronavirus patients

By Bloomberg

ISRAEL approved the use of tracking technology developed to combat terrorism to retrace the movements of coronavirus patients and people they've encountered, a controversial step in the country's fight against the fast-spreading illness.

Critics say the use of this location technology, so far limited to 30 days, constitutes a dangerous precedent and an invasion of Israeli citizens' privacy.

The cabinet debated the use of this technology for six hours, placing "strict oversight" over the tools

"to ensure that they would not be abused," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday night.

"These means will greatly assist us in locating patients and thereby stop the spread of the virus," Netanyahu said.

Israel's internal security agency, commonly known by its Hebrew acronym Shin Bet, will monitor the cellphones of coronavirus patients to track their movements and will send text messages to people who came in contact with them to go into quarantine or be tested for the illness. The agency will have the cellular data of all Israeli citizens.

It's long been known that Israel has collected data from mobile phone companies to track people for counterterrorism purposes. But the technology whose use was approved on Monday can also sift through masses of data to pinpoint not only people who are being tracked, but also those they may have come in contact with, the Ynet website said.

Lawmakers sworn in at the seating of parliament on Monday did not debate the plan, which was approved late Monday. It was authorized at a time when the prime minister -- still operating in a caretaker capacity after three

inconclusive elections -- and his allies are taking unilateral steps in response to the virus's spread, including restrictions on court activities that led to the postponement of Netanyahu's corruption trial, due to begin on March 17.

Sensitive Matter

The government asked the Shin Bet to apply the technology after concluding that other authorities lacked the capabilities to track the virus's spread, the organization's head, Nadav Argaman, said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The sensitivity of the matter is very clear to me," Argaman said.

Only a "very limited group" of agents will have access to the data and it will not be stored in the agency's database, he added. Until now, Israeli authorities have relied on the accounts of patients about their whereabouts.

That unusual and unnecessary step of bringing in the Shin Bet sets Israel "on a slippery slope," tweeted Tehilla Shwartz Altschuler, head of the democracy in the information age program at the Israel Democracy Institute, a research center in Jerusalem. "You can find this data in other ways."

Agencies

Epidemic won't stop China's opening up endeavour

CHINA is continuing to deepen reform and expand opening-up amid downward economic pressure and the novel coronavirus pneumonia, or COVID-19.

Chinese governments at all levels and in all regions have rolled out favorable policies to expand opening-up in various aspects, offering strong support to stabilize the Chinese and global economy.

The People's Bank of China and Shanghai municipal government on Feb. 14 issued a guideline together with other three departments to further build Shanghai into an international financial center and boost the integrated development of the Yangtze River Delta.

The guideline, consisting of 30 measures, outlines support for such

areas as science and technology enterprises, financial management subsidiaries, new directions of investment by insurance funds, foreign exchange derivatives from the interest rate options for yuan, establishment of fintech companies in the Lingang area of the Shanghai pilot free trade zone, and investment and trade liberalization and facilitation.

The guideline fully indicates that expanding opening-up of the financial sector is a long-held policy of China, and its force and pace will not be affected by the epidemic.

To minimize the impacts from the epidemic on commerce, the Ministry of Commerce on Feb. 18 issued the Circular on Responding to Novel Corona-

virus Pneumonia, Stabilizing Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment and Promoting Consumption.

The circular requires that enterprises in foreign trade, foreign investment, commercial circulation and e-commerce should be supported to resume work and production in an orderly manner, and the joint construction of major projects along the "Belt and Road" should be promoted in a stable and orderly manner.

It also urged that foreign trade management procedures should be simplified and enterprises should be guided to apply for and receive paperless import and export licenses. The circular pointed out that supportive policies should be given to strengthen export

credit insurance, to actively respond to overseas restrictions on trade, to stabilize confidence of foreign companies in China, and to guide pilot free trade zones to speed up the establishment of trial zones for reform and opening-up and innovation.

The government has also unveiled a package of policies to reduce or exempt taxes for enterprises, increase fiscal expenditure, inject liquidity into the financial system, and reduce government approval items and processes.

Although the epidemic has brought some pressure to the Chinese economy, many foreign companies believe that the impact is short-term and remain confident in the Chinese market.

In mid-February, Oaktree Capital Management, an American private equity company, became the first foreign company to set up a wholly owned unit in Beijing during the epidemic. The move showed the strong appeal of the domestic financial market to foreign investment, as well as the optimism of foreign companies about China's economy and capital market in the long run.

Such optimism is also reflected by the practices of other foreign-funded companies in China. Tesla's gigafactory in Shanghai is currently expanding capacity, attracting many foreign enterprises on the industrial chain to invest in China. U.S. multinational food, snack, and beverage corporation

Sub-Saharan Africa records over 100 COVID-19 cases with S. Africa most affected

CAPE TOWN

THE number of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases has passed 100 in the Sub-Saharan African region, where more than 20 countries have reported cases and taken measures to fight the virulent disease, including South Africa, Nigeria and Ethiopia.

Among Sub-Saharan African countries, South Africa has seen the sharpest rise in the number of cases.

The country reported its first case on March 5 and as of Monday, 62 confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed.

Elsewhere in Africa, Liberia on Monday announced its first case of COVID-19. A Liberian senior official who recently returned from a foreign trip has been confirmed as the first case of COVID-19 in the west African country, its government said.

Also on Monday, Benin, Tanzania and Somalia confirmed first cases of COVID-19. Benin's Ministry of Health said in a statement that the patient is a 49-year-old male of Burkina Faso nationality, who entered Benin on March 12.

Tanzanian health authorities on Monday said the patient was a female who arrived in the country from Belgium by RwandAir on Sunday.

Somalia government on Monday announced the suspension of all international flights for 15 days starting on Wednesday as the country confirmed the first case. Most of the cases in the region involve people arriving from Europe and North America.

The cases reported recently in South Africa are distributed in the Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the Western Cape provinces, according to the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD).

All these patients have a history of travels to European countries, the United States, Canada, India, or the United Arab Emirates, the NICD said. Of the 62 cases, there are two cases of local transmission, who are under investigation, the institute said.

The NICD said it is in the process of conducting confirmation tests and following up on possible contacts that the patients may have come into contact with.

Since the commencement of the outbreak, the country has conducted about 2,400 tests.

The NICD said it continues to enhance outbreak response activities to contain COVID-19 in the country. As most of the confirmed cases are imported by people who had travelled to Europe and North America, the country has imposed a travel ban on countries seriously affected by COVID-19.

From March 18, travelers from high risk countries will not be allowed, President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Sunday evening as he declared a National State of Disaster.

Ramaphosa also announced a raft of emergency measures in place, which include school closure, prohibition of gatherings of more than 100 people, mandatory testing, self-isolation or quarantine for South African nationals returning from affected countries.

The government is also strengthening surveillance, screening and testing at ports of entry into South Africa. On Monday, the Department of Tourism announced that it will be suspending Africa Travel Indaba, which was scheduled to take place on May 12 to 14 in Durban.

The International Jazz Festival and Cape Town Carnival, both scheduled for later this month, have also been cancelled.

Ramaphosa said his cabinet is in the process of finalizing a comprehensive package of interventions to mitigate the expected impact of COVID-19.

Ramaphosa said he will be chairing a National Command Council to coordinate all aspects of the national response.

"With COVID-19 officially declared a pandemic, all countries in Africa must act," said Matshidiso Moeti, The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa.

As of March 12, 62 WHO experts in technical areas including coordination, treatment, infection prevention and control, community engagement and surveillance have been deployed across 18 countries, and more deployments are planned. Those experts who have arrived in countries with confirmed cases are now assisting national governments in their response, helping them to manage the disease and prevent onward transmission, according to WHO.

Sakoba Keita, Director General of the Health Security Agency of Guinea, said countries in the region need to exchange information and control strategies, so that there is coordination among countries.

Keita called for the countries in the region to take energetic measures in the direction of limiting travel by citizens of affected countries to the continent.

"In terms of funding response actions, we know that African countries have few resources. But greater political will is needed so that national budgets can take care of this matter very quickly."

Keita hailed China for taking robust measures to fight the virulent disease. Tajudeen Raji, head of Public Health Institutes and Research of Africa CDC, said China CDC has been working closely with Africa CDC, providing support to the recently established Africa Taskforce on Coronavirus.

Xinhua

PepsiCo has also upped the ante in its investment in China, bringing over \$700 million to the Chinese market.

The epidemic cannot stop China from expanding opening-up. China has proactively followed the trend of economic globalization, pursued development with its doors open and succeeded in the historic transformation from a closed and semi-closed economy into a fully open one. Openness has become a trademark of China.

The country has grown by embracing the world, and the world has also benefited from China's opening-up. Standing at a new starting point of the history, China will only make its door to the world more and more open.

People's Daily



Workers work on a production line for step up reagent production to help prevent and control the epidemic in Huzhou City, Zhejiang Province. (Photo by People's Daily)

China to boost precise prevention, care for frontline community workers in COVID-19 fight

A LEADING group of China's COVID-19 response on Monday called for efforts to improve precise prevention and control, as well as solid measures to care for community staff working at the frontline.

The group, led by Premier Li Keqiang, also demanded efforts to coordinate the prevention and control measures and the spring farming. The positive trend of the prevention and control situation should be expanded, according to a meeting of the group held Monday.

Li, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, presided over the meeting.

It is now the most crucial moment to curb the spread of the epidemic, so the prevention and control work should not be relaxed at all, according to the meeting.

Hubei Province and Wuhan, as the centers of the epidemic, should continue to strictly implement prevention and control measures, boost prevention and control from the source in communities, improve the level of treatment and ensure the timely and accurate release of information on the epidemic, the meeting said.

Beijing and other cities with large population mobility should have channels, communities and ports watched over to prevent the inflow and spread of the epidemic, the meeting said.

Other regions should adjust the emergency response levels based on the actual situations and combine them with the differentiated prevention and control at the county level,

precisely implement the prevention and control measures after the resumption of work, reduce unnecessary crowd gatherings and restore normal production and life in an orderly way, the meeting said.

The meeting also called for greater efforts to advance development of fast and convenient detection kits, the development and testing of major drugs and the development of effective vaccines in a bid to promote scientific and accurate prevention and control.

At present, the epidemic situation in China is generally at a relatively low level except for Hubei, showing a positive trend. Community prevention and control, however, is an important gateway and foundation to further control the spread of the epidemic and prevent sporadic outbreaks.

People working at urban and rural communities have contributed remarkably to the fight against the epidemic, and local regions should pay more attention to them and care for them.

The protection conditions of community workers shall be improved, including provision of reasonable amount of masks, protective clothing, and well-considered arrangements be made to help them continue their work.

The meeting also urged a balance between epidemic prevention and control work and spring farming, adding that Hubei should also carry out agricultural production in an orderly way while maintaining solid work in epidemic prevention and control.

Global Times

South Sudan's transitional cabinet ministers sworn

JUBA

South Sudan's transitional cabinet ministers were sworn in on Monday to officially begin work.

The swearing-in ceremony of 33 ministers and nine deputies was administered by John Gatwech Lul, deputy chief justice in Juba and witnessed by President Salva Kiir, the First Vice President Riek Machar and four other deputy presidents. Foreign Affairs Minister Beatrice Khamisa Wani and Deputy Minister of Interior Mabior Garang de Mabior

who are under self-quarantine are yet to arrive in Juba from Nairobi and will be sworn in at a later date.

"I wish you all the best of luck and I need you to succeed in your duties as you have made your oaths in front of us here. So as the head of the government I will work with you together and to see into it that we are doing the right thing," Kiir told the ministers shortly after taking their oath.

South Sudan's Cabinet Affairs Minister Martin Elia Lomoro said that the duties and responsibilities of the revitalized transitional government

of national unity are defined in the agreement in which they are committed to implementing it to the letter and spirit.

"Mr. President, this is an opportunity you have given us as ministers to work for our country, to clean our faces that has been tarnished by the more than six years of conflict that everybody describes as unnecessary," Elia said.

President Kiir last week named 35 cabinet ministers to serve in the transitional unity government after a series of delays. **Xinhua**



Russian President Vladimir Putin

Putin discusses measures to combat COVID-19 with Estonian leader

MOSCOW/TALLINN

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid have discussed the measures taken to combat the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) during a phone call on Monday, the Kremlin press service informed. The phone call was held at the initiative of Estonia.

"The heads of state have exchanged information regarding the measures taken in Russia and Estonia aimed to avoid further spread of the coronavirus infection," the message informs. "They have discussed certain matters of cooperation in this regard."

For her part, Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid earlier commented on the phone call on Twitter on Monday. "And finally for today a phone call with Vladimir Putin. Discussed our measures to contain the spread of the virus and how to allow safe passage home to our respective citizens and permanent residents. We agreed that further communication must be direct and timely," she stated.

As of Monday morning, 205 cases of COVID-19 were documented in Estonia. The first case of the virus was reported in Estonia on February 27. On March 13, the Estonian government introduced a national emergency over the coronavirus outbreak. Starting March 17, Estonia reestablishes border control and introduces an entry ban for foreigners.

In late December 2019, Chinese authorities notified the World Health Organization (WHO) about an outbreak of a previously unknown pneumonia in the city of Wuhan, central China.

On March 11, WHO officially characterized the situation with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) as a pandemic. The disease has spread to about 160 countries. According to official data, over 175,830 people have been infected with the virus globally, and over 6,700 have died. There are 93 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Russia.



The heads of state have exchanged information regarding the measures taken in Russia and Estonia aimed to avoid further spread of the coronavirus

People's Daily

Anger mounts over UK gov't's decision to keep schools open

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson faced a backlash on Monday over his decision to keep schools open, with angry parents keeping their children at home and complaining that other countries were doing more to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Britain has reported 1,372 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 35 deaths, fewer than in Italy, Spain and France, where schools have been shut, though the British numbers are expected to rise.

Johnson's spokesman said the scientific advice was that school closures were not a step the government should be taking at this time, but a growing number of parents are refusing to send their children to school.

In Doncaster in northern England, Suzana Ilieva has kept her six-year-old son at home since Friday, out of fear that he could transmit the virus to an elderly relative who lives with her family.

"I think the government is irresponsible and for the sake of protecting the economy is damaging people's lives," she said. "I made my own decision with my husband."

In Anglesey in north Wales, Helen Wright was at home with her 10-year-old son and had asked his school to send her a home education pack.

"I do not trust government guidelines or the government over their handling of the matter," she said.

Several teachers who spoke to Reuters reported that a larger than usual number of children were absent on Monday. They did not wish to be quoted, saying that managers had asked staff not to talk to media.

The tags #Covid19Walkout and #CloseTheSchoolsNow were both trending on Twitter in Britain. Pupils were posting photos of densely packed school corridors and staircases, saying it was impossible to follow guidelines on social distancing.



A religious street preacher stands alongside protesters who are calling for greater action from the government to prevent the spread of coronavirus, outside Downing Street in London, on Monday. (AP)

"@BorisJohnson it's time to act!" a user called Charlotte said in one of many tweets directed at the prime minister. "We need you to take action to SAVE LIVES! Why are we the only country not doing anything? This is so frustrating."

On parliament's website, a petition calling on the government to shut schools and colleges had attracted more than 590,000 signatures, and numbers were rising fast. Any petition on the website that gets more than 100,000 signatures must be considered for a parliamentary debate.

In Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom that shares a land border with the Republic of Ireland, a mother whose daughter suffers from underlying health problems launched an emergency legal challenge against the government's stance.

The education ministry said on Monday morning that the official guidance had not changed.

"Our advice to schools is to remain open unless otherwise advised by Public Health England," a spokeswoman for the ministry said.

Some schools have already closed due to a member of staff or a pupil or a relative showing symptoms of

the coronavirus, but the spokeswoman declined to say how many.

"It's a dynamic situation. We're not going to get into a numbers game. Some schools are opening, closing, opening again," she said.

The education minister, Gavin Williamson, will meet school representatives later on Monday and information will be given to the public after that meeting, the spokeswoman said.

Some parents said pulling their children out of school was a difficult choice.

"I'm very much on the cusp, the key balance to strike being the likelihood that my kids could get and spread it (two of them are asthmatic) against the likelihood they could fall behind their peers educationally," said father Gary Mark Fuller on Twitter.

The British government said on Sunday it would step up its response to the crisis, including isolating older people "in the coming weeks".

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the government would legislate this week to force people into quarantine if they are diagnosed with the virus, and was ready to ban mass gatherings.

Agencies

Iraqi president names Adnan al-Zurfi as new PM-designate

BAGHDAD

IRAQI President Barham Salih yesterday appointed Adnan al-Zurfi as the prime minister-designate who will form an interim government, the official television reported.

Salih received al-Zurfi in his office in the Presidential Palace in central Baghdad and handed him the task letter to form a new government within 30 days, the state-run Iraqiya channel said.

Al-Zurfi's nomination came one day

after the deadline of 15 days set by the Iraqi constitution for political blocs to submit a candidate for the post of prime minister-designate to Iraqi president.

Al-Zurfi is an Iraqi Shiite politician, who was born in the city of Kufa in Najaf province in 1966. He joined the Dawa Islamic Party in his early life and fled the country during the Saddam Hussein regime and returned after the US-led invasion in 2003.

He served as the governor of Najaf province for several years after 2009,

and withdrew from Dawa party to form al-Wafaa Coalition in 2013. He is now part of al-Nasr Coalition led by former prime minister Haider al-Abadi.

According to the Iraqi constitution, the prime minister-designate has 30 days to put together a cabinet and present it to the parliament for approval, as the parliament must approve the government program and each individual minister in separate absolute majority votes.

Agencies

International community confident about long-term sound economic growth of China

CHINA has the capability to triumph over the challenges amid the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic, said former foreign dignitaries, international experts and scholars, as well as heavyweights from the finance sector during interviews with People's Daily.

They noted that China, as the "world's factory" and the "world's market", enjoys enormous economic resilience and potential, and they are confident about the country's long-term sound economic growth.

China has maintained an economic and social order that agrees with its efforts to fight the COVID-19 in the recent days, and facilitated orderly

resumption of work and production across the country. It is now seeing gradual rebounding capacity of industries and smoother economic and social circulation.

Former Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf hailed the quick and powerful prevention and control measures taken by China to curb the spread of the virus and maintain social stability amid the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19. The country's huge consumer market, potential for economic transformation, and effective policies will energize continued growth of its economy, Sharaf added.

Director of the Center of International Financial Manage-

ment of Brazilian think tank Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV) believes impact from the epidemic on Chinese economy is temporary and controllable, saying China is still one of the most competitive countries in the world.

He said the Chinese government has strong resolve and efforts to stabilize market expectations and boost market confidence in the sector of financial services, adding that China will surely turn crisis into opportunities, keep reducing the impact from the epidemic, and achieve its goals and tasks in economic and social development.

The epidemic will not cause

radical impact on the fundamentals of the Chinese economy, as the latter is already enjoying a considerable scale effect, said Wichai Kinchong Choi, senior vice chairman of Kasikorn Bank (Thailand).

China, by taking dual approach on both epidemic prevention and economic development, has managed to minimize the epidemic's impact on its economy, Choi explained.

Swiss investment bank UBS Group AG also believes that the novel coronavirus epidemic will not change the long-term economic development of China.

"We expect a sharp rebound in Chinese growth from 2Q

onward based on pent-up demand and monetary and fiscal stimulus," it said in a recent report, adding that the country's growth momentum driven by domestic consumption remains unchanged, and global suppliers will not lose interest in the huge Chinese market.

Albert Keidel, a senior research fellow at U.S. think tank Atlantic Council, holds that the epidemic will not cast a shadow on the medium- and long-term growth of the Chinese economy, while the policies of the country to enhance urbanization and constantly improve infrastructure will still propel the economic growth of the country.

Observers of global economy found what come along with China's economic pressure are huge potential and opportunities.

The nationwide efforts to fight the epidemic has given rise to new business models, such as the "homebody economy" and "cloud lifestyles" - something that enables people to have all their food, alcohol, clothing and entertainment brought to their doors.

They have expanded new space for high-quality economic development, and will help upgrade the global industrial chain.

Consumption, and in particular online consumption driven

by the digital economy, has been a primary driver for China's economic growth over the years, said Sharaf.

The economy driven by internet and artificial intelligence technologies witnessed robust growth during the epidemic. Besides, online consumption has been playing an important part in supporting the real economy and e-commerce is becoming a mainstream business model on stable operation. The pent-up demand of consumers will finally be released when the epidemic is gradually contained, thus prompting further economic development of the country.



Idris Elba

Idris Elba tests positive for coronavirus; filming halted for 'Matrix 4'

LONDON

BRITISH actor Idris Elba said on Monday he had tested positive for the new coronavirus, joining Tom Hanks and his wife, Rita Wilson, among the first major celebrities to contract the respiratory disease.

Elba, who starred in TV police drama "Luther" and played the Norse god Heimdall in "Avengers: Infinity War," said in a Twitter post that he had no symptoms but was isolating himself from others. It was not clear where he was located.

"This morning I tested positive for Covid 19. I feel ok, I have no symptoms so far but have been isolated since I found out about my possible exposure to the virus. Stay home people and be pragmatic. I will keep you updated on how I'm doing... No panic," Elba, 47, wrote.

Elba said he had taken the test because he found out on Friday he had been exposed to someone who had contracted the disease. He did not identify the person.

"Stay positive. Don't freak out," he said in a video accompanying the Twitter post. His wife, Sabrina, was seen in the background.

Hanks and Wilson said last week that they had contracted the disease while working on a film in Australia.

Former Bond girl Olga Kurylenko, who appeared in "Quantum of Solace" in 2008, said on Sunday that she was "locked up at home" after testing positive for the coronavirus.

Elba's announcement followed the halting of more movie productions worldwide. Movie studio Warner Bros said on Monday it had stopped filming on the fourth installment of the "Matrix" action franchise, star-

ring Keanu Reeves, and the third "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," a spinoff of its successful "Harry Potter" franchise.

Trade paper Variety said "Matrix" was about to film in Germany and "Fantastic Beasts" was about to start production.

Universal Pictures, Netflix Inc and Disney halted production of most of their live-action TV shows and movies last week as the coronavirus spread around the world.

Meanwhile, in Sydney, Oscar-winning actor Tom Hanks and his wife, Rita Wilson, have left a hospital in Australia's Queensland state five days after testing positive for the coronavirus, People magazine reported on Monday.

The pair are now resting at a rented home in Australia and remain under quarantine in the house, the U.S. magazine's report said, citing a representative of the actor.

Last week, Hanks wrote on Twitter that he and Wilson had tested positive for the virus in Australia, where he is working on a film, after they felt tired and achy with slight fevers. Both Hanks and Wilson are 63 years old.

Hanks had travelled to the Gold Coast, on Australia's east coast south of Brisbane, to begin filming a movie about Elvis Presley. He is set to play Presley's manager, Colonel Tom Parker, in the Warner Bros production. Warner Bros is owned by AT&T.

Hanks and Wilson were the first major American celebrities known to have contracted the coronavirus, which causes a disease, COVID-19, that has killed more than 70 people and infected more than 3,800 in the United States.

REUTERS

When Griot replaces reggae as local gospel music role model

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

LISTENERS in local radios devoted to Gospel Flava (used in contrast to Bongo Flava as the latter is secular or romantic in character, while the former is religiously inclined, and obviously in one direction explicitly) will have noticed a gradual change in the sort of music inspiring local composers. The change has taken time and it is just one of several phases of such changes as Gospel Flava involves a range of contrasting sentiments and motifs, thus it is hard to pin down to a mode of expression, the sort of words used and the flow, to suit varying expectations, etc.

Gospel Flava is a grandchild of choir singing, and even to this day there are young people who would have sang in school or church choirs and eventually graduated or shifted to Gospel Flava, though they may be thinning out. Those that one hears over local radios appear to have come out of 'talent search' and may not really have done well in their contests, as they appear to be wishing to talk rather than sing, which is typical Bongo Flava except at that point it takes to shouting and all manners of bravado. The choir group is probably the one that took to reggae as the role model, as here it is doubtless as to intensity of expression of sentiments, etc.

Whether or not Gospel Flava is changing because those who try that 'stuff' are going there more as apprentice musicians than as preachers through the song - for instance the



Famous gospel musician, Rose Muhando.

old Ramadhani Ongala acolyte Cosmas Chidumule - who is pastoral in each word he would sing, each song or stanza - is unclear. Quite a few others are in that bracket as well, as eventually quite a few have joined churches as sub-priests (nor ordained ones) like Rose Muhando at Mikochei B Assemblies of God and others besides. A former choir bass guitarist Joshua Makondeko is a full blown apostle.

Thus the way there was a shift from reggae type of singing to unclear rhythms seeking to imitate some Bongo blues or just putting in Gospel-like words in place of commonplace song scripts may indeed have to do with the spiritual copy or type of those seeking to enter Gospel Flava. Many of the post-reggae songs were birds of passage as they leave no mark, indelible sentiment as it was the case earlier, but some new songs are coming up with a new flavor. They are destined to last longer.

One noticeable mode of composition of those songs (not so many ask yet, but a few outstanding ones like the 'Haufananihwi' epic that has done the rounds in gospel stations or selected hours in various FM stations where this genre is left to dominate the waves. There are also some actually imported 'Griot flavor' songs from Nigeria or even its immediate neighborhood, but they introduced new terms in local conceptions of deity (or divinity). Ekwueme is such a term. In at least one instance local additions to the English original have been done to localize the song.

A check on Wikipedia shows that a griot is a kind of village narrator of what may have happened in the life of a king, the sort of praise singing that comes when kings or chiefs die. This art was taken from ancient Egypt and it was so intensive in its sentimentality as to deify

the mortal individual being buried or preserved as it was the case for the Pharaohs (if not always). There are references in prophetic books where Israel is warned about this practice, that it raises the ire of the Lord.

There are no similar shortcomings in current Lord praise singing in local Gospel music as it isn't exaltation of individuals that is at issue but of divinity. Thus there is room for intense and cultivated praise but it is one of the glory of divinity as different from the depth of personal sentiment as in the older genre in reggae type of Gospel flavor. In that case there is a link between the sentiment that drives a singer on stage and the kind of beat, rhythm employed, as rhythm makes one free.

What is however surprising is the proximity to which this kind of music has with language in general, and how it has traditionally been interpreted by implication, or at least as variation of meaning. Griot is basically a French term though it would have been adopted from West Africa, referring to the person (usually an old man but some internet photos also show young people in the griot position). Its other rendering is 'djeli' in French spelling or 'jeli' in Bantu form, unattached form, which comes to 'kejeli' or 'jelly' in English would imply it is a sticky sort of business, hard to swallow. Some religious people would pounce on this hidden meaning to say that is precisely the case, that we are supposed to contemplate Gospel in a sober and thoughtful manner (as in the reggae blend in part), not in praise singing which is often unbalanced in what it says of divinity, a raw theme.



SportPesa's Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas (2nd R), speaks to youngsters that turn out for Coast Region's KISA Academy at the center's venue in Kisarawe yesterday. The firm handed over sports equipment to the center, which is owned by former Simba SC and senior national football team's player, Abdallah 'King' Kibadeni (R). The gaming firm is presenting domestic football teams with sports equipment in the firm's campaign known as 'KITS FOR AFRICA'. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA

Coronavirus must hit peak by end-May for Tokyo Games to happen on time, says French Olympic Committee chief

PARIS

THE coronavirus pandemic must have reached its peak and be on the wane by the end of May otherwise the Tokyo Olympics cannot be staged on schedule, the head of the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF) said on Monday.

"My feeling is that if we're still in the crisis by the end of May I can't see how the Games can happen (on time)," Denis Masseglia told Reuters in a telephone interview.

"If we are beyond the peak and the situation is getting better questions will arise about who qualifies, but we will find the least worst solution."

Masseglia, who is back in France after a work trip to Japan, said the

International Olympic Committee (IOC) will hold a conference call with National Olympic Committees on Wednesday.

"I trust the IOC and I'm waiting for more information although I'm not sure we'll get a lot more on Wednesday," he said.

The conference call will be preceded by talks between the IOC and the international sports federations on Tuesday.

The Tokyo Olympics are scheduled for July 24-Aug. 9 with the Paralympic Games due to be held from Aug. 25-Sept. 6.

Last Thursday, Shigeru Ishiba, a ruling party heavyweight and a leading candidate to be Japan's next prime minister, said the country must

brainstorm plans for dealing with a cancelled or postponed Tokyo Olympic Games, even if that was unlikely.

The coronavirus pandemic has infected almost 180,000 people and killed over 7,000 worldwide, with the epicentre having switched from China to Europe.

Sports competitions have come to a halt in Europe as part of a global effort to contain the spread of the virus, hampering the preparations of athletes for the Olympics.

"At some points we're going to have to tell them (athletes) something (about the Games)," Masseglia said.

Masseglia, who has been head of the French Olympic Committee since 2009, said however that Japan had been tackling the spread of the virus

perfectly.

"A week ago, I couldn't even imagine the situation we're in today (in Europe). When I came back on Saturday morning (from Japan) I came back confident, optimistic, telling myself the Japanese had handled the problem a little differently," he said.

"They are in extreme precaution, there are water-based gels everywhere. Everybody wears a mask, they work almost normally."

Japan has had 895 cases of coronavirus, while the total in Italy, Europe's worst-hit country, had reached 27,980 on Monday.

"If we are out of the crisis in a couple of months everybody will want to get back to normal, it will speed things up and we will be able to imag-

ine something," said Masseglia.

Meanwhile, the European, American and final world qualifying boxing tournaments for the Tokyo Olympic Games were suspended on Monday due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, the International Olympic Committee said.

The IOC said the European qualifier in London, which was already under way and due to run to March 24, would end after Tuesday's evening session. It said it would provide details on the qualification process for the other regions at a later date.

The IOC's boxing task force (BTF), which is organising the event in the Copper Box at London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, had opted earlier on Monday to hold it without specta-

tors but then decided to end it early.

"The BTF eventually took the decision to suspend the event today, amid increasing global travel restrictions and quarantine measures, in order to allow the participants from over 60 countries to adjust their travel plans and return home," the IOC said in a statement.

"The BTF will continue to evaluate the situation daily, aiming to complete the distribution of the remaining Tokyo 2020 boxing quota places in May and June."

"The BTF's priority remains the qualification of athletes on the field of play, and it will inform all stakeholders as soon as more information is available," it said.

REUTERS

Ronaldinho case could involve money laundering

ASUNCION

THE inquiry that led to the detention of former Brazil player Ronaldinho enters a new stage this week as prosecutors focus on what they believe is a money laundering scheme involving the businesswoman who invited him to Paraguay.

Investigators will begin reviewing files and messages on the phones of the former Barcelona and AC Milan player and his brother and business manager Roberto Assis.

Osmar Legal, the lead prosecutor in the case, told Reuters he is investigating the link between the brothers and Dalia Lopez, a businesswoman who arranged their visit and who met them on arrival at the airport in Asuncion before they were detained. "She could be involved in a money laundering scheme and that means we have to investigate all the other people that were related to that kind of crime, including Ronaldinho," Legal said. "That is why we strictly maintain that he be kept in jail."

"Our principal hypothesis is that they produced false documents, that they used those documents [to enter Paraguay] and that they were eventually going to be used for some commercial means or investments that were not legal."

Ronaldinho, who was a key member of the Brazil team that won the 2002 World Cup and who also played for Gremio, Paris Saint-Germain and Flamengo, was arrested with his brother on March 6 after attempting to enter Paraguay with an adulterated passport, even though as Brazilians they do not need passports to

enter their landlocked neighbor. They have been in jail since their arrests. A judge denied them bail or refused to release into house arrest, saying they posed a flight risk.

Lopez, who runs a charitable foundation where Ronaldinho was set to appear during his visit to the landlocked South American nation, is on the run and wanted by law enforcement on suspicion of being involved in organised crime and the production and use of falsified documents.

Her lawyers could not be reached for comment. A lawyer for Ronaldinho and Assis has said their detention was "arbitrary, abusive and illegal."

Another two men who spent \$18,000 to obtain the false documents turned themselves into police last week.

Legal said the two men admitted taking money from Lopez to acquire the adulterated documents for Ronaldinho, Assis and Wilmondes Sousa Lira, the Brazilian who delivered them to the brothers.

Sousa Lira is in custody and his wife handed over transcripts of her husband's Whatsapp conversations with Lopez.

Investigators hope the phone records will shed light on why Ronaldinho wanted a Paraguayan passport and how he expected to use it.

"They weren't able to answer [those questions]," Legal said. "They said they were a gift. Their lawyers said they were tricked and acted in good faith. But if we believe that everyone acts in good faith then no one would ever go to jail."

(Agencies)

FIFA studying coronavirus impact on schedules, player contracts

LONDON

WORLD soccer governing body FIFA said on Monday that it was looking into the potential impact postponed fixtures would have on player contracts after the coronavirus outbreak suspended leagues across Europe and the rest of the world.

The big five leagues in Europe – in England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France – have all been suspended, as have the Champions League and Europa League, adding to a potential fixture pile-up should the competitions resume later this year.

However, many players whose deals run until the end of the season will be out of contract after June 30, raising questions over how the ongoing league season can be completed with the current squads.

"FIFA is analysing the current situation and the potential impact it may have on all areas of football. More information will follow in due course," a FIFA spokesperson told

Reuters.

Teams such as Chelsea, who are chasing Champions League qualification, could be affected with front line players Olivier Giroud, Pedro and Willian all on contracts expiring on June 30.

The off-season transfer window is also set to open when the season ends, casting doubt over whether players will be allowed to move on before the current season reaches a conclusion.

The 24-team Euro 2020 tournament, scheduled to be held in 12 countries from June 12 to July 12, could also be pushed back a year which would create a longer window for national leagues to finish their seasons.

UEFA is being urged to prioritise domestic competitions and pressure is growing for Euro 2020 to be postponed, with representatives of European clubs and leagues joining national federations on an emergency video-conference call on Tuesday.

REUTERS

Valencia: 35% of squad, staff tested positive for coronavirus

MADRID

LA Liga side Valencia have said more than a third of their playing and backroom staff have tested positive for the coronavirus but that all cases were currently asymptomatic.

The club had reported five cases of coronavirus on Sunday, with Argentina's Ezequiel Garay and France's Eliaquim Mangala both confirming they were among those who had contracted the virus.

"Several further tests for the COVID-19 coronavirus amongst Valencia coaching staff and players have come back positive," the club said in a statement.

Valencia travelled to Milan last month for a Champions League match against Atalanta, which was played in front of a packed San Siro stadium, before restrictions were placed on sports events in Italy --

the worst-hit country in Europe.

"Despite the strict measures adopted by the club after their Champions League game ... these latest results show the exposure inherent to such matches has caused a positive test rate of around 35%," Valencia added.

"All cases are asymptomatic and those involved are currently isolated at home, receiving medical assessment and carrying out their scheduled training plan."

The flu-like virus has wiped out the international sporting calendar, with the big five soccer leagues in Europe -- England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France -- as well as the Champions League and Europa League all suspended.

The coronavirus has infected almost 180,000 people and killed over 7,000 worldwide.

(Agencies)

English game scratching heads for solution amidst coronavirus chaos

LONDON

USUALLY, a large portion of the Monday morning topic of conversation in Britain's workplaces and playgrounds is taken up by the weekend's Premier League and Football League action.

Crucial wins, calamitous losses, when, not if, Liverpool will seal the title and, of course, the obligatory VAR gripes, are the subjects to launch the week ahead.

This week, however, after Friday's suspension, there is no action to chew over, unless of course you follow a team in the fifth-tier National League -- the highest-ranking soccer competition yet to stop because of the coronavirus crisis.

Not that there is nothing to discuss though.

Just as across the globe, from golf to cycling, from NBA to tennis, the unprecedented shutdown of top-level sport has left English soccer in limbo and scratching its collective head trying to figure out what happens next.

West Ham United co-chairman Karen Brady ruffled feathers at the weekend, saying the Premier League, in which teams have either nine or 10 games still to play this season, should be declared null and void.

As if Liverpool's fans, like everyone else at the moment, haven't got enough to worry about, the "null and void" scenario is enough to leave them suffering sleepless nights.

It is 30 long years since Liverpool last won the title and with a 25-point lead the trophy was as good as secured, until the coronavirus pandemic intervened and the Premier



The unprecedented shutdown of top-level sport has left English football in limbo and scratching its collective head trying to figure out what happens next. PHOTO: AFP

League hit the pause button, until April 4 at least.

Scrapping the season as if it never happened would be horribly harsh on Liverpool but advantageous for some clubs, including West Ham, in danger of being relegated.

Presently that drastic scenario seems the least likely but as across European leagues there is no precedent or rules to determine what happens if a season is not completed.

European governing body UEFA will meet on Tuesday and are expected

to opt for a year-long delay to the Euro 2020 tournament that was supposed to start in June. They will also discuss what to do with this season's Champions League which has stalled with the last 16-stage incomplete.

Assuming the coronavirus outbreak relents and sporting life returns to a semblance of normality, say in June, it would mean the Premier League and Football League, together with their counterparts in Spain, Italy, Germany and France and beyond, would

have a window to complete the current campaigns.

For the sake of everyone involved, apart from those with glaring self-interest, it is hoped that's how it plays out, not least to decide which teams qualify for UEFA's Champions League and Europa League competitions for next season.

Otherwise the ramifications will be bitter, complex and costly.

While Liverpool have run away with the Premier League, few issues across Europe's big leagues are so cut and dried.

REUTERS

How Bruno Fernandes quickly turned Man United around

BY ROB DAWSON, ESPN CORRESPONDENT

Editors' note: Bruno Fernandes has been named Premier League player of the month for February. In this profile, published in early March, Rob Dawson looked at the Portuguese international's instant impact at his new club.

It was in the away dressing room at Goodison Park that Bruno Fernandes confirmed to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and the rest of Manchester United's coaching staff that he is the right fit for the Norwegian's Old Trafford revolution.

Fernandes had scored with a stunning long-range effort to earn a 1-1 draw with Everton but after the final whistle, his trademark toothy grin was missing. Instead, he sat on a wooden bench, quietly seething. While many of the traveling United supporters were already well on their way back to Manchester and relatively satisfied with a point away from home at one of the Premier League's in-form teams, it was not good enough for Fernandes. Speaking afterward, he said his teammates should be "mad" at the result.

It is the attitude Solskjaer is trying to develop in his new-look squad. New signings often have to be told that draws away from home, things typically celebrated at other clubs, are not good enough for United. Michael Carrick, who arrived from Tottenham in 2006, was one. Fernandes, though, did not need telling.

The club's recruitment department had been aware of Fernandes' talent for some time. A favourite of former United head scout Javier Ribalta, the attacking midfielder had been on the club's radar since 2017. Fernandes' numbers last season for Sporting CP -- 33 goals in 53 games -- turned curiosity into hardened interest this past summer and five months later, in January, United got their man.

As with so many transfers for United in recent windows, the deal was difficult to complete. Solskjaer was keen last summer but by the end of the transfer window, United had taken the unusual step of ruling out an agreement with Sporting CP. Privately, they said they'd become "irritated" by the volume of reports in Portugal that they believed were designed to put pressure on the club to act. Tottenham came closest to signing Fernandes that summer, engaging with tangible talks



Fernandes has meshed quickly with his new United teammates and proven that he's a player they can build around. (Agencies)

over the transfer despite being unable to agree a fee.

Even in January, there was a point when the transfer looked dead. Sporting CP officials met with Ed Woodward and Matt Judge at the club's London offices in Mayfair and made it clear they would not accept less than a guaranteed payment of €65 million with another €15 million in add-ons. Requests for United players, either Andreas Pereira or Marcos

Rojo, to join Sporting CP were briefly discussed before being dismissed. It wasn't until four days before the deadline that a breakthrough was made. United could end up having to pay €80 million with add-ons but for that to happen, Fernandes would have to become a Ballon d'Or contender and in that scenario, Woodward and Solskjaer would consider it money well spent.

When news broke about the possibility of

Fernandes joining Man United, those in Solskjaer's squad who did not know much about Fernandes asked his Portugal teammate, Diogo Dalot, for a rundown. "He is the best player in Portugal," was the standard reply. It took one training session the day before Fernandes' debut against Wolves on Feb. 1 for them to understand what Dalot was talking about. His confidence on the ball, even on his first day with a new club, stood out. Still, it is his character that has most impressed Solskjaer.

"I saw what he can do on the pitch but also his leadership qualities," said the United manager.

"If you do your due diligence and speak to people who know his personality, you would hope he'd have this influence, but you can't be 100 percent sure. Some players take six months [to settle in], but the point was get him in because of the quality. He relishes it, loves being around the place, gives everyone a boost and has an aura."

Solskjaer was keen to push the boat out to sign Harry Maguire in the summer as much for the leadership he could offer a young group as his

ability on the pitch, and he had the same urgency when it came to recruiting Fernandes. It did not go unnoticed that even during periods of intense speculation about his future at Sporting Lisbon, his performance level did not drop. After making his United debut in that 0-0 draw with Wolves at Old Trafford, he was advised that he did not have to give any postmatch interviews. Instead, he insisted on speaking to Portuguese TV to explain the result.

Substituted during the 3-0 win over Watford on Feb. 23, he was told by Solskjaer to go inside to keep warm. Rather than follow the order, Fernandes asked to watch the rest of the game from the bench so he could learn more about his new team.

His football intelligence and tactical knowledge has already been put to good use by Solskjaer, who asked Fernandes for a report on United's upcoming Europa League opponents, LASK Linz, after they faced Sporting Lisbon in the group stages. It should be no surprise, either, that Fernandes scored in a 2-1 win in Lisbon. He already has three goals for United in just five games.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Govt suspends sports events amid COVID-19 outbreak

SPORT

English game scratching heads for solution amidst coronavirus chaos

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Deo Kanda

Simba SC keen on making Kanda loan deal permanent

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

CONGOLESE winger, Deo Kanda, looks set to stay at Simba SC beyond his season-long loan spell from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) giants, TP Mazembe, after greatly impressing both the technical staff and hierarchy at Msimbazi Street squad.

After a difficult time at TP Mazembe last season, where he was reportedly at loggerheads with some of the club's officials, Kanda has appeared rejuvenated since his switch to Simba at the start of the season.

An injury setback also limited his playing time at TP Mazembe.

The DRC star was imposing in Simba's last week's league match against Singida United, he scored a brace in the 8-0 whitewash.

According to various reports from Simba's camp, Kanda's performances and integration with teammates have convinced the club to sign him outright as his contract with TP Mazembe is set to end.

Kanda has gathered plenty of admirers at Msimbazi Street squad. It is understood that the player himself is extremely happy at Simba, after rediscovering the joys of football he had lost during his last season with TP Mazembe.

He has scored eight goals and assisted three in 17 competitive appearances for Simba.

That does mean TP Mazembe are also likely to be interested in offering him a new deal, though it really depends on how much the African club football giants actually want him back at this stage.

Simba reached the quarter-final stage of the CAF Champions League last season where they were knocked out by TP Mazembe.

This season Simba were eliminated in the preliminary round by unfancied UD Songo from Mozambique.

To avoid a repeat of such embarrassment, the reigning Vodacom Premier League champions are already looking to build a better squad that can compete on multiple fronts.

Their quest to make inroads into CAF Champions League would be helped by a player of Kanda's quality.

His undeniable experience includes winning the CAF Champions League with TP Mazembe in 2010.

He has as well reached the finals of the FIFA Club World Cup with both TP Mazembe and Morocco's Raja Casablanca as well as lifting multiple domestic titles in DRC and Morocco.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government has suspended all sporting activities in Tanzania for a period of one month as a means of controlling the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19).

Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, in his address to the nation in Dar es Salaam yesterday, said the aim is to control further spread of the virus.

He said Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison

Mwakyembe, will write to all national sports associations informing them of the development.

"We are all aware of the Coronavirus case which was reported in the country on Monday, in an effort to prevent the spread of the outbreak, the government has suspended all gatherings for one month," he disclosed.

"These include all sporting activities where many people come together, Premier League, First Division League (FDL) and Second Division League (SDL) games, Inter-Secondary Schools Games (UMISSETA) and Inter-Primary Schools Games (UMITASHUMTA), the

responsible ministry will write all national sports associations on the development," he said.

Meanwhile, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) is expected to convene a meeting in the city today to discuss the way forward for the ongoing Vodacom Premier League amid fears of Coronavirus spurge.

Information from TFF said the emergency meeting will be coordinated by Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB).

"TFF president Wallace Karia has ordered the TPLB leadership to meet tomorrow (today), the meeting's agenda is the future of the Premier League amid the outbreak of Coronavirus in the country,"

said part of the release signed by TFF information officer Clifford Ndimbo.

The meeting comes two days after Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu, informed the nation of the presence of the Coronavirus case in the country. The minister said a 46-year old lady, who arrived in the country from Belgium aboard RwandaAir plane and landed at Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA), was diagnosed with the virus.

As a preventive measure in the wake of the outbreak, TFF recently banned all handshakes in football matches organized

by the federation.

Vodacom Premier League has so far 10 matches left, with only Young Africans SC (Yanga) having 11 games to play.

The epidemic has overwhelmed the globe and TFF can not overlook it and should today's meeting agree to postpone all Premier League games, it will join many other football federations around the world which have suspended matches due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Recently Confederation of African Football (CAF) indefinitely postponed the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Part of a statement released by the CAF last Friday, signed by its Acting Secretary General Abdel Bah, reads: "We will share with you a proposal of a new calendar that will be communicated on a second step, according to the evolution of the Coronavirus situation."

"Please rest assured that CAF is always in contact with World Health Organization (WHO) to get updated reports on Africa's situation and CAF Medical Committee is carrying out many inspection visits to the countries hosting the final tournaments."

It further states that the health and safety of CAF stakeholders such as players, sponsors, officials and broadcasters remain the continental soccer governing body's priority.

Dar soccer club targets promotion to FDL

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM-based Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) FC, who battle it out in this season's Second Division League (SDL), have said they will leave no stone unturned to ensure their objective of promotion to the First Division League (FDL) is realized.

The squad, which is in Group C of the SDL, has been placed second with 21 points and they have a game against Tukuyu United in hand.

Speaking after DTB FC's 3-0 win against Ruvuma's The Mighty Elephants at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Monday, the former's head coach, Edward Lazaro, expressed optimism that his charges are ready for promotion to FDL.

He said DTB FC has a strong squad which is capable of playing in any league in the country.

"Our aim is to earn promotion to the FDL, I'm confident that we will achieve that," he disclosed.

"I have said so because we have good support from our sponsors DTB Bank, our sponsors' aim is to see to it the team performs well and get promoted, I can assure them of that."

"In our group, we are placed second and our next game is away to



Dares Salaam's Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) FC player, Iddi Simba (2nd R), challenges Ruvuma's The Mighty Elephants' defender, Jaffary Mwarami, in a Second Division League (SDL) clash, which took place at Uhuru Stadium in the city on Monday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Tukuyu Stars in Mbeya at the end of this month, I'm sure we will get good results against Tukuyu Stars."

On Monday, DTB FC started the game on high note, they scored their first goal through Robert Kobelo on the seventh minute.

In the second half, The Mighty Elephants did all they could to turn the clash in their favour but they failed to find their opponents' back of the net.

Juma Madeba and Edwin Baluha also found their way into the score sheet for DTB FC on the 53rd and 75th minutes respectively.

Commenting on the win, Lazaro hailed his players for playing according to instructions, noting their focus now is on the game against Tukuyu Stars.

He said he will work on some weaknesses which he saw on his charges and promised a good game against Tukuyu Stars.

"Yes, we won 3-0 against The Mighty Elephants but we could have recorded more goals, I will work on the shortfalls and hopefully we will do well in our next and final game against Tukuyu," he said.

The coach also hailed his team's sponsors DTB

Bank saying the bank has helped the squad excel in the SDL games.

The Mighty Elephants head coach Shabani Kisiga who is also former Simba SC and senior national team midfielder, was modest in his team's defeat, saying DTB squad deserved to win the match.

"We played well, but I must admit that our opponents were better than us, hopefully next time we will do well," he said.

The Mighty Elephants are anchoring the Group C with seven points while Fountain Gate team are leaders.

VPL attention shifts to relegation dogfight

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

WITH Simba, Azam FC and Young Africans SC (Yanga) out of Vodacom Premier League action until next month, attention will today shift towards the league's relegation dogfight.

Six out of the seven fixtures today will involve relegation-threatened sides as the scramble for safety reaches fever pitch.

We are in for a relegation six-pointer at Sokoine Stadium as Mbeya City FC and Alliance FC face off. Alliance FC are one point behind 17th-placed Mbeya City FC.

There is just about nothing to choose between these sides and this could reflect in the scoreline.

Neither side has been solid defensively this season. Mbeya City FC have shipped in 35 goals while Alliance FC have conceded one more in 29 matches.

The first meeting between the two sides this season ended in a goalless draw at Nyamagana Stadium in Mwanza.

This match is typical, a winner takes it all given the stiff battle to survive the looming relegation monster that will claim four clubs while two more will have to tussle it out in the playoffs.

It is highly unlikely that Ruvu Shooting will be relegated come May, but today, they are set to visit a KMC FC side very

much fighting for survival.

KMC FC have four wins in a row, but they can not afford to relax as anything less than maximum points could send them back to the direct relegation spots.

Another relegation battling side, Ntanda FC, will host Biashara United at Nangwanda Stadium in Mtwara.

The hosts have looked promising under new head coach Abdul Mingange but they suffered a worrying 1-0 defeat to Polisi Tanzania on Saturday.

Ntanda FC, for that matter, can not afford another slip-up.

In Lindi, Namungo FC seeks to keep the pressure on Azam FC and Yanga in the top three race, but the Lindi squad will not have it easy against Kagera Sugar at Majaliwa Stadium.

The hosts have lost a bit of momentum after fantastic start to the year.

They have posted draw in their past four matches including back to back home stalemates against Yanga and Biashara United.

Nevertheless, it has been a positive season overall for Namungo FC head coach Thierry Hitimana and his charges as they are on course for a top four finish in their topflight debut season.

The wheels appeared to be coming off for Kager Sugar as they went on a seven-match run without victory before beating Lipuli FC 1-0 on

Flexibles by David Chikoko

