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AGES-OLD MODE OF TRANSPORT STILL COMING IN HANDY

Samwel Lucas of Msitu wa Tembo village in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, roars his fishing canoe on Tuesday just a stone's throw away from a house abandoned following the recent flooding of Nyumba ya Mungu Dam. Despite the huge risk using them means, dugouts remain a reliable working tool for many small-time fishermen in Tanzania. Photo: Gift Thadey

JPM, Uhuru confer over border truck movements

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli and his Kenyan counterpart, Uhuru Kenyatta, have directed their countries' transport ministers and border regional commissioners to convene a meeting to resolve disputes leading to the barring of truck drivers seeking to enter Kenyan territory.

Officials at the various border posts were restricting Tanzanian truck drivers having goods directed to Kenyan destinations fearing that they were Covid-19 positive. There are scores of border posts in Mara, Mwanza, Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions.

Addressing a rally in Singida, where he stopped for a while as he journeyed to Dodoma, President Magufuli said that he and President Kenyatta agreed over a phone conversation that ministers responsible should convene a meeting and come up with a solution on how to facilitate continued business operations between the two countries.

President Magufuli asserted that barring truck drivers from entering into either of East African countries was illogical since the countries depend on one another.

"How can all Tanzanian truck drivers test positive for Covid-19? Both countries are entitled to use the border to conduct businesses. The coronavirus should not be a reason to turn us into enemies," the president remarked.

He called upon leaders of both countries to consider mutual benefits for each country.

Dr Magufuli directed the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Wilbert Ibuge, the Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, Isack Kamwelwe, and regional commissioners for Mara, Mwanza, Arusha and Kilimanjaro to make sure they meet their Kenyan counterparts within a week.

President Magufuli applauded Singida residents for hard work, urging them to continue working tirelessly for their region's development.

He urged them to invest much in the agriculture sector especially in food crops.

"Cooperative unions purchasing crops from farmers should make sure that they make payments on time," he emphasized.

The president told Singida regional commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi to work on a land dispute between Mzee Masoud family and the owner of Al-Azhary secondary school.

On the way, the president also

'African countries spared worst of global pandemic'

NEW YORK

THE relatively low number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Africa has raised hopes that African countries may be spared the worst of the pandemic, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said, praising the continent for responding swiftly to the pandemic.

More than 2,500 people have died of the coronavirus across Africa, with a recent UN report saying the virus is present in all African countries with most recording fewer than 1,000 cases.

Guterres however warned that millions of people in Africa could be pushed into extreme poverty due to the pandemic.

"The pandemic threatens African progress. It will aggravate long-standing inequalities and heighten hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability to disease," the UN chief executive noted.

Since the pandemic is still in its early days in Africa, disruption could escalate quickly, he pointed out.

"African countries should also have quick, equal and affordable access to any eventual vaccine and treatment. That must be considered global public goods," he stated.

In his recommendations, Guterres urged international action to strengthen Africa's health systems, maintain food supplies and

TAFORI lists ten herbs to curb Covid-19 symptoms

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

RESEARCHERS at the Tanzania Forests Research Institute (TAFORI) have identified ten types of trees which they say can treat early symptoms of Covid-19.

TAFORI Acting Director General Revocatus Mushumbusi said this during a visit to a forest reserve in Shinyanga.

He said natural trees have great ability in tackling Covid-19 infections by steam inhaling or drinking the sap thereof after mixing it with roots.

They can cure early symptoms of the disease including high fever, coughing, colds, headaches and breathing difficulties, he stated.

"While the whole world is fighting the pandemic whose cure has not been found, we at TAFORI have identified 10 trees that can treat early symptoms of the infection, and if people use it correctly they will be safe," he said.

He mentioned the trees in local terminology as Mlungulungu, Nengo Nengo, Mwatya, Mlundalunda, Mfutwambula, Ningiwe, Mgada, Mondo, Msana and Mzima, whose roots and leaves have been treating various diseases that have symptoms akin to Covid-19.

Other diseases that can be treated by roots of the listed trees are high fever, coughing, colds, headaches, stomach pains, malaria, asthma, running stomach and breathing difficulties.

A traditional healer in Shinyanga, Mussa Kuhangaika said the cures have been extensively used and have assisted even in Covid-19 infection.

People have been steam inhaling them and drinking preparations from trees, he said, urging the government to facilitate more research on traditional herbs as it has a high probability of being the right cure for Covid-19 that can be found.

So far, there is no cure or vaccine for Covid-19, and last month, the president of Madagascar and the country's Institute for

MPs hail new deep sea fishing regulation bill

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is set to boost its coffers from the utilisation of marine resources in Tanzania's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Indian Ocean following the repeal and replacement of old laws.

The National Assembly yesterday enacted the Deep Sea Fisheries Management and Development Act, 2020 which replaces The Deep Sea Fishing Authority Act, 1998 and its 2007 amendments.

Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga

Mpina said the newly endorsed law is part of government initiatives to address some of the challenges in the deep sea fishing sub-sector, especially with regard to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Through this new law, the government will ensure a conducive investment environment and management of marine resources in deep sea fishing, he said.

The law, which is intended to be a Union piece of legislation, provides for administration, management and development of fisheries

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

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

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

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

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





Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition coordinator Onesmo ole Ngurumwa (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to Umyy Nderiananga (L), chairperson of Tanzania Federation of Disabled Persons' Organisations, a THRDC donation of Braille-version books. Photo: Correspondent Enock Charles

TAFORI lists ten herbs to curb Covid-19 symptoms

FROM PAGE 1

Applied Research launched Covid-Organics (CVO), a drink derived from the artemisia plant they believe can treat and prevent Covid-19.

On May 7 Tanzania received its first airlift of the organic innovation to use it in coronavirus prevention and treatment, while strident warnings

were being received from the World Health Organisation (WHO) that its efficacy is unproven.

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) recently partnered with the Ministry of Health to develop guidelines on how and what type of traditional medicines can be used for treating Covid-19.

Incorporating traditional medicine

came with critical support from President John Magufuli who argued for the use of traditional remedies against the deadly virus. Scores of MPs and other opinion makers supported this position during the continuing Budget session of the National Assembly.

NIMR Director General Prof Yunus Mgaya weighed in on "ongoing

confusion about the use of traditional medicines," and had started working with other agencies to develop guidelines on the matter.

"We are setting up guidelines about best practices on traditional medicine use and the kind of organic products or trees to be used... We'll let the public know as soon as we complete the work," he remarked.

TASAF to introduce online money transfers starting July

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) is planning to introduce online money transfers to beneficiaries of the cash transfer programme in the new stage scheduled to start in July this year, it has been revealed.

In the second stage of the third phase of TASAF, launched by President John Magufuli in February, 2020, all the beneficiaries will be required to have bank accounts or have mobile phones, the only ways of cash disbursement.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, TASAF's Executive Director, Ladislaus Mwamanga said all the transactions will be done through mobile phone money transfers or bank accounts, calling on the beneficiaries to ensure they have the national identification authority (NIDA) numbers.

He said after the launch of the new stage of the programme his office embarked on preparations for the implementation of the phase that will see at least 1.4 million people from both mainland and the isles registered as beneficiaries.

He noted that some 5,900 households that qualified for the 'Productive Social Safety Net' but were left out due to lack of funds will be included in the new stage, adding that a total of Sh 2.032 trillion will be used for various projects. Some of the projects include

improvement of infrastructure, health, education, water while other funds will be directed on subsidies to households.

"A lot of success were recorded in the earlier stages of the programme, one of them being use of technology in cash transfers to the beneficiaries," he said.

The executive director observed that use of online cash transfer started as pilot project on May, 2017 in 16 district councils of Arusha, Unguja, Ilala, Kinondoni, Tembe, Mpanda, Kigoma Municipality, Bagamoyo, Songea Municipality, Kisarawe, Kilwa, Muheza, Mkuranga, Bahi, Urambo and Siha.

Up to January, 2020, a total of 55,539 out of the 102,299 beneficiaries, being 56 percent had been registered for online cash transfer system and have been paid through the system eleven times using bank accounts or mobile phones numbers.

Mwamanga said the remaining 46,760 beneficiaries, being 44 percent who have not registered in the online cash payment system continues getting cash delivery throughout the payment schedules.

He explained that they did not register in the new system since it was at trial phase and the beneficiaries joined voluntarily. On the other hand, one of the conditions to join the system was that a beneficiary must have a mobile phone on bank account, of which most did not have.

'African countries spared worst of global pandemic'

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avoid a financial crisis.

It is also necessary to support education, protect jobs, keep households and businesses afloat, as well as cushioning the continent against lost income and export earnings.

He also advocated a comprehensive debt restructuring framework, starting with a debt standstill for countries unable to service their debts owing to economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The UN report said the low numbers

of cases in Africa could be linked to minimal testing and reporting, pointing to a World Health Organization (WHO) warning.

The latter had earlier stated that the pandemic could kill between 83,000 and 190,000 people in 47 African countries in the first year, "mostly depending on governments' responses."

WHO also warned that the socioeconomic impacts could smoulder for several years, the report intoned.



TBL Pic sales manager Peter Mweta (2nd-R) symbolically presents operational kits on Covid-19 to Olvari Shirima (C), director of Dar es Salaam's Joint Bar, for use by customers and attendants as part of a strategy to combat Covid-19. A total at 2,500 bars in Tanzania are expected to be reached with the support. Looking on are TBL business development representative Neema Mkama (R) and Joint Bar waiters Felista Patilio and Josephine Mshama. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

conservation and related activities in the Tanzanian EEZ.

Tanzania's EEZ covers 223,000 square kilometers while the country's coastal area from Tanga to Mtwara is 1,424 kilometers.

Apart from the new law, the government is working to revive the Tanzania Fishing Corporation (TAFICO) and the Zanzibar Fisheries Company (ZAFICO), including procurement of a fishing vessel.

"The new law will be a solution to the many challenges facing the fishing sub-sector. There were gaps in the previous Act, lacking specific sections to control fishing vessels flying the country's flag outside Tanzanian territorial waters," the minister noted.

The replaced law did not consider marine conservation and management measures. Other areas lacking were illegal, unreported and unregulated

MPs hail new deep sea fishing regulation bill

fishing, along with port state measures regarding bilateral fishing agreements, he said.

Mpina said Tanzania was once wrongly implicated in an illegal fishing dispute when a foreign fishing vessel-Haleluya was seen flying the Tanzanian flag in Colombia.

Other benefits of the new law include enhanced control of marine resources and conservation, curbing illegal fishing and improving data collection systems concerning marine resources harvested in EEZ.

The law is also expected to improve regional relationships and reduce the number of crimes related to fishing in deep sea.

Mpina stated that the ministry has secured 4.2bn/- for implementation of various development projects in the marine sector including construction

JPM, Uhuru confer over border truck movements

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met residents of Nzega in Tabora Region where he promised that the government will continue working on water shortages facing the region.

"There is a huge water project which includes pumping water from Lake Victoria and it is currently on trial. I am happy that Tabora residents have started enjoying water services from this project," he said.

He further urged the general public to continue taking precautionary measures to avoid contracting Covid-19 infections.

Meanwhile, the Arusha-based East African Business Council has called upon member states to recognize the importance of the cargo movers.

"The East African Community Partner States are impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic that has hit various industry sectors across the region. Truck drivers continue to selflessly deliver essential commodities including food, personal protective equipment (PPE), medicines, as well as raw materials within and across EAC borders," stated Dr Peter Mathuki, the EABC Executive Director, in a statement.

Dr Mathuki emphasized that truck drivers are among frontline service providers, risking their personal health to keep products moving to stores, hospitals, homes and elsewhere during this emergency.

"Stigmatisation against truck drivers should be frowned upon because once discouraged these persons could call it quits. This may lead to a disruption in the supply chain in the EAC thus impacting trade and investment even more," warned the EABC.

"The East African Business Council appreciates and recognizes the selfless dedication of truck drivers who are delivering goods to health facilities, factories and consumers. Drivers are essential in the transport and logistics

supply chain and in the EAC zone recovery and resilience prospects. They facilitate the movement of transit goods, imports and exports in the region," he elaborated.

In another development, Arusha region embarked on an exercise to take samples from lorry drivers entering the country from Kenya through the Namanga border post. The samples will be tested for Covid-19 infection before they are allowed in.

Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo said in a statement yesterday that that so far 34 such drivers have been tested and from the first 23 batch 10 were found to be infected and 13 tested negative. Results from the second batch of 11 drivers are yet to be released from Dar es Salaam.

It is estimated that total exports from the East African Community to the world at the moment stand at US \$14.0 billion per year, while the export share of intra-EAC trade averages at 22 percent of total foreign trade annually, on the basis of a recent EAC Trade and Investment Report.

"The East African Business Council appeals to everyone in the EAC region to embrace our truck drivers and motivate them to continue moving essential goods across EAC borders. This will boost availability of medicines, PPEs and food supplies that are crucial to protecting the health of our citizens and improving food security in the region," the statement underlined.



This may lead to a disruption in the supply chain in the EAC thus impacting trade and investment even more



Morogoro regional commissioner Loata ole Sanare (R) issues orders to Ulanga district commissioner Ngollo Malenya and other officials shortly after inspecting Mahenge market yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Govt set to improve availability of public health care services'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

TANZANIA is fighting high maternal mortality through improved healthcare services especially in rural and remote areas, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Ummu Mwalimu, the minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said it was working with the Office of the President (Regional Administration and Local Governments) to improve access to health services by renovating existing and building new health facilities to be able to provide antenatally clinics.

Mwalimu said in her written response from Special Seats lawmaker Josephine Genzabuke (CCM) the republic had improved 352 health facilities including a dozen being rebuilt with sophisticated accessories to carry out C-section survival kit during complicated childbirth. The facilities have also been strengthened to conduct advanced procedures including blood transfusion for patients in need of the service.

Initially, the legislator in her principle question to the government had claimed that 75 per cent of maternal mortality rate occurring in the country can be prevented. She asked for any government strategy in place to protect the lives of expecting and new mothers and especially in rural villages.

"About 67 new districts hospitals are being constructed all across the country to ensure equal and reliable access to health care to rural and urban dwellers," she said.

She explained that the government has moved also to increase the budget allocation of medical appliance and drugs from 31bn/- in 2015/16 to 200bn/- in 2019/20 fiscal year. The budget increments according to the minister are also coupled with intensified monitoring of resources. Generally,

she says the process had resulted in an increase to availability of essential medicine in public health facilities from 53 per cent to 94 per cent in the year under review.

"The government efforts have also helped pregnant women to continue receiving improved antenatal services which include preventive drugs against malaria (SP), Fefol drugs for preventing aplastic anaemia and other medical treatments," she said. She said the expecting mothers also go through blood pressure, syphilis and diabetes screening.

As a result, she said the number of women giving birth in health centres has been increasing steadily to 83 per cent in March 2020 from 64 per cent in March 2015.

In 2018, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan launched a nationwide campaign dubbed: 'Jiongeze Tuwavyushe Salama' aiming at enhancing interventions across the country to reduce the burden of maternal and infant mortality rate by engaging regional and local authorities.

The Tanzania Demographic Health Survey of 2015/16 published by the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) indicated that infant mortality rate stood at 25 deaths per 1,000 live births. Maternal death recorded 556 per 100,000 women aged 15-49, meaning at least 11 pregnant women died annually due to delivery complications.

The campaign launched in Dodoma by the VP targets to reduce maternal and infant deaths to 292 and 16 respectively by 2020.

"About 67 new districts hospitals are being constructed all across the country to ensure equal and reliable access to health care to rural and urban dwellers"

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

Suspected gangster shot dead in exchange of fire

POLICE in Tanga region have killed one suspected bandit and wounded another following fierce exchange of fire.

The deceased identified only as 'Macho Makavu' with a shotgun was climbing over a wall of house ready to commit a crime while his accomplice was on the ground keeping watch.

Tanga Regional police commander Blasius Chatanda said the incident happened yesterday at around 3a.m along Mbolea Street in Central Ngamiani Ward when the bandits stormed into the house belonging to Jamal Mbarouk (60), a businessman. Chatanda said after they stormed

into the house police who were on patrol and surrounded the house and an exchange of fire ensued killing the bandit instantly.

He said while they were confronting his accomplice they succeeded to shoot him but was miraculously rescued by other accomplices.

He said before this incident the bandits had also killed a watchman

at Brac offices in Usagara area after which they broke into the office but did not find huge amount of cash, only managed to get away with 200,000/-.

The RPC also appealed to Tanga residents to continue cooperating with the police by providing information on criminal activities about to be committed in various areas.

He also warned all those planning

to commit such crimes to think twice as the police are well mobilised to nab them. "We have also beefed up security at Horohoro border areas and appealed to wananchi to continue with their economic activities. In the period approaching Eid el Fitr holidays people should celebrate peacefully and should avoid huge gatherings," he stressed.

Three mobile network operators, UCSAF sign contract to install towers in Urambo

By Henry Mwangonde,

Dodoma



THE Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL), Halotel and the Vodacom Tanzania have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Universal Communication Access Service Fund (UCSAF) to install telecommunication towers in villages of Urambo district in Tabora region.

The three firms were the only telecom operators that had won the tender for installation of telecom towers benefiting 12 villages in four wards of Urambo district, Works, Transport and Communication Minister Eng Isack Kamwelwe (pictured) announced yesterday in the House.

In his written repose to Urambo MP Margaret Sitta (CCM), the minister said the telecom firms signed an implementation contract with the state-owned communication fund on January 24, 2020.

Vodacom Tanzania is to install telecom tower in two wards of Kasisi and Ukondamoyo involving villages of Azimio, Kasisi, Mapambano, Wema, Ifuta, Kamalendi, Tumaini and Ukondamoyo. According to the minister, TTCL will be executing its contract to supply telecommunication signals in Ugalla Ward that includes three villages of Issongwa, Izengabatogilwe and Ugalla while Halotel will dispatch its energy on

Vumilia ward that has only one village—Vumilia village.

Eng. Kamwelwe told the National Assembly here yesterday despite government efforts to improve access and coverage of telecommunication services across the country "some areas in Urambo district had challenges of communication signals." He named the areas as includes Ugalla, Uyogo, Usisya, Nsenda, Itundu and Vumilia wards.

Urambo MP, Sitta had earlier told the House that her district has a number of areas without

telecommunication signals while others had poor signals.

She said it was not a secret as the ministry is aware of the list of areas facing the problem. "When will those areas be attended to allow

the citizens to communicate smoothly during their quest for development activities?" she asked.

The minister explained that the remaining wards Nsenda, Uyogo, Usisya and Itundu will be attended with

the availability of budget during the financial year 2019/20. He said the initial offer that was announced by UCSAF did not receive any bidder and that the project will be executed by the fund at the letter dates.



RTI (www.rti.org) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to conducting innovative, multidisciplinary research that improves the human condition. With a worldwide staff of more than 4,000 people, RTI offers innovative research and development and multidisciplinary services.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

RTI International is implementing a new USAID Project called the Arithmetic and Inclusive Education Activity, this project is a USAID funded education project located at Plot #1131B Msanani Road, in between UNFPA and Uongozi Institute, Masaki, Dar es Salaam, same building with USAID Tusome Pamoja Project.

This project is intended to effectively and efficiently integrate the work of the Arithmetic and Inclusive Education Activity (AIE), improve the quality of early grade arithmetic instruction and improve the inclusion of early grade education for children with disabilities. This Arithmetic and Inclusive Education activity will be implemented in five regions of Iringa, Morogoro, Mtwara, Ruvuma as well as Zanzibar.

This request for proposals is for the supply of screening materials to be used by the Arithmetic and Inclusive Education project during pupils screening activities in all the public schools of the above mentioned regions.

RTI International now invites all suitably qualified suppliers to submit Proposals for the supply of materials in the two category below.

- A: STATIONERY MATERIALS- TENDER No: PR-DAR-20-209**
1. Sticky tape
 2. Tape measures
 3. Thin strong pointers
 4. Boxes of Pens

- B: MEDICAL SUPPLIES: TENDER No: PR-DAR-20-214**
1. Gloves
 2. Anti-bacterial sanitizers
- Supplier will be selected on the basis of price, quality of the product, experience of the supplier in supplying similar/related materials and lead time with the procedures stipulated in the request for proposal (RFP).
- To receive a complete set of RFP document in English send email to procurement@tusomepamoja.rti.org expressing your interest to participate on this tender. No payment is required to receive this RFP. Bid due date is set on 05 June, 2020 10:00hrs.
- All bid should be sent as soft copy to procurement@tusomepamoja.rti.org and marked with solicitation number on the subject line of the email.
- Chief of Party, Arithmetic and Inclusive Education Activity.
- Head office, Plot #1131 B Msanani road, Masaki P.O. Box 369 Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.**



TENDER

Consultant needed for Baseline Survey for Building Inclusive and Competitive Horticulture Businesses in Tanzania.

Rikolto in East Africa (formerly known as VECO) is part of the Rikolto network, an international NGO with more than 40 years of experience in partnering with farmer organisations and food chain actors across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Rikolto in East Africa has secured a four-year European Union funded project called "Building Inclusive and Competitive Horticulture Businesses in Tanzania's Southern Highlands" whereby part of the allocated project funds is intended to be spent on a Baseline Survey for the project. The area of the assignment is Mbeya, Iringa, Katavi and Songwe Regions.

The full tender is available on our website: <https://eastafrica.rikolto.org/en/consultant-baseline-southern-highlands>

Please read the tender thoroughly before submitting your tender bid via letter by 4pm, June 18, 2020.

RC underlines need to use warehouse receipt system for sesame crop

By Guardian Correspondent, Kondoa

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge has instructed all local councils in the region to use 'Warehouse Receipt' system for the sesame crop to protect farmers' interests.

Speaking yesterday during his official visit in Kondoa district, Mahenge said every local council should ensure they closely supervise the system without inciting any complaints from farmers.

He also called for the control of weights and packaging to enable farmers remain at peace with their crop on weighing scales that work.

He added: "there is the need to increase collecting centres for the sesame crop to reduce long distances farmers have to travel to sell their crop. Small traders at village level are allowed to trade in the crop among themselves to get money for basic needs but buyers thereof must eventually sell the crop via the 'Warehouse

Receipt' system."

He said in such arrangement the maximum weight of the crop to be bought from a farmer should not exceed 100 kgs as in excess of that he is supposed to sell his crop through the system.

He said the sesame so collected will be incorporated in the official system for the farmer to be paid his money which will be within 10 days after the auction.

He also appealed to all people in Dodoma region to open bank accounts to simplify payments.

Kondoa District Commissioner Sezaria Makota said pigeon peas, sesame and green grams will be sold via 'warehouse receipt' system to protect a farmer attain his targets.

The chairman of agricultural marketing cooperative society (AMCOS) Juma Hussein said their big responsibility is finding the market to sell farmers' crops and ensure they get their payments without being shortchanged.

Govt embarks on HIV/Aids programme aimed at forestalling virus transmission

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has started offering special care and treatment programme to help HIV/Aids infected youth especially girls in a move to create awareness among the group, the National Assembly was told here yesterday.

In a written response, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said the programme include setting a special day to offer HIV care and treatment to those affected.

The ministry was responding to a question from Special Seats Member of Parliament Maryam Msabaha who wanted to know the government plans to help young girls affected by HIV/AIDS.

In response the ministry said it has improved provision of care whereby this time the services are offered even during odd hours for those who need it on emergency basis.

"We have established clubs for youths to abstain

from unprotected sexual intercourse as well as platforms for them to discuss challenges on the provision of HIV/aids care," said the ministry's statement.

According to the ministry 85 per cent of the centres offer various services including retroviral drugs, counseling, reproductive health and children care.

The centres also offer sustainable use of ARVs and frequent visits to clinics whereby on average they serve about 2164 people per day.

The ministry said during the year 2019 the centre received 8.5 million phones calls for people in dire need of the services.

It further added that the ministry through the Kipepeo campaign has been sensitizing young adolescent through social media platforms whereby as of now regions of Morogoro, Arusha, Tanga, Singida and Dodoma had been reached and a total number of 27,176 youths had received the services via their schools where 15,241 were girls and 11,935 boys.



Monduli District planning officer Reginald Tesha (in red T-shirt) briefs members of the district's Finance and Planning and Administrative Committee on surveyed plots in newly endorsed residential areas at Makuyuni ward set aside for flood victims. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government is determined to promote forgotten tourist destinations in Pemba Island to lure as many tourists as possible for the country's economic growth.

Zanzibar Minister for Information, Tourism and Heritage Mahmoud Thabit Kombo made the commitment yesterday when speaking in the House of Representatives. Kombo was summing up and responding to various issues raised by members of the House of Representatives for the 2020/21 budget estimates.

He said already the government had initiated tourism programmes aims to benefit the citizens and realise economic strides.

According to Kombo, the Isles' government intends to develop Micheweni north area to become among attractive sites for tourists

'Z'bar determined to promote Pemba's forgotten tourist sites'

where big tourist hotels will be built.

He conceded the delay in the growth of the tourism sector in Pemba Island due to various reasons including lack of good roads and power infrastructures.

"We call on Pemba residents to mobilise themselves to lure tourists whose main is to benefit them and increase the nation's income," he said.

Kombo also called on the residents not to sell away their land plots, including those along the beach to investors and should instead follow the government advice striking joint ventures with the investors.

"In such joint ventures you will also benefit from your shares during your entire life and those of your future generations," he told them.

A Representative from Chake Chake, Suleiman Sarahani said Pemba residents were ready to join hands to beef up tourism after the development of various infrastructures including good roads and power supply.

The House endorsed the ministry's budget estimates of 20.38bn/- of which 14.29bn/- is for recurrent expenditure and 6.10bn/- for development expenditure.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mpanda

KATAVI National Park authorities have been called upon to start investing in domestic tourism promotion during the Covid-19 pandemic period instead of waiting for foreign tourists.

The call was given yesterday by Katavi Regional Commissioner Juma Homera after his visit to the park where he was informed on the plummeting incomes due to the absence of foreign tourists due to Covid-19 pandemic.

He said during the Eid el Fitr holidays the park should mobilize workers in the region, including those in the government, private institutions, business people and other stakeholders to visit the park.

"We must first mobilise ourselves here because I am sure if we advised all public servants in Katavi region to come and visit the park while wearing face masks as preventive measures

COVID-19: RC calls upon Katavi park to promote domestic tourism

against the disease's infections and all enter by paying entrance fees that are almost equal for free," he said.

He said they have succeeded to reduce poaching activities through the regular operations conducted and so far more than 100 weapons of various kinds had been seized and some those involved had already appeared in court. He called upon the people not to place barriers to prevent the flow of water of Katuma river for the wild animals such as the hippos.

The park's Ag. Assistant Commissioner Menendo Peter said last year the river dried up endangering the lives of animals like hippos and crocodiles; hence they had to spend a lot of money to transport water to save

them.

Katavi National Park is the third largest park in Tanzania. It is also by far one of the least visited in the country, making it a truly untouched wildlife paradise. It is located in the west of Tanzania and is quite hard to access it by road, so the easiest way in and out is by charter flights.

The park is primarily fed by Katuma river which normally in the rainy season of April and May transforms the park into a wetland. Lake Chada and Lake Katavi are both seasonal lakes which are situated within the park boundaries. In terms of vegetation the park hosts a varied mix of bush land, Miombo forests, riverine forests as well as grasslands.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
AT DAR ES SALAAM.

COMMERCIAL CASE NO. 32 OF 2019

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK
TANZANIA LIMITED.....PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT

VERSUS

TESTA LIMITED1ST DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT
JOHN JOHN MNYIKA2ND DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT
LAZARO OBADIA MTANI.....3RD DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT

DECREE

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff lodged this case against the defendants praying for judgment and decree as follows:-

- Payment of the sum of Tanzania Shillings Two Hundred Fifty Nine Million Nine Hundred Sixty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Cents Ninety eight (TZS 259,964,990.98) as of 22nd January 2019 being the outstanding amount on account of the Credit Facility.
- Interest on the outstanding amount specified at (i) above at the rate of Twenty three percent (23%) from 22nd January 2019 to the date of judgment.
- Interest on the decretal amount at the court's rate of seven percent (7%) from the date of judgment until full and final payment.
- Costs of the suit
- Any other reliefs which this honourable court may deem just to grant in favour of the plaintiff.

This matter coming for judgement on this 12th day of May 2020 before Hon. B.K Phillip, Judge in the presence of Advocate Gaspar Nyika for the Plaintiff and Advocate Jeston Justine for the 2nd Defendant.

THIS COURT DOETH HEREBY ORDER THAT:

- The 1st and 3rd defendants shall jointly and severally pay the plaintiff the sum of Tanzania Shillings Two Hundred Fifty Nine Million Nine Hundred Sixty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Cents Ninety eight (TZS. 259,964,990.98) being the outstanding amount on account of the Credit Facility as at 22nd January 2019.
- The 1st and 3rd defendants shall jointly and severally pay interest on the decretal sum in (i) above at the rate of Twenty Three percent (23%) from 22nd January 2019 to the date of judgment.
- The 1st and 3rd defendants shall jointly and severally pay interest on the decretal amount at the rate of seven percent (7%) from the date of judgment until full and final payment.
- The 1st and 3rd defendants shall bear the costs of the suit.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 12th day of May 2020.



B.K. PHILLIP
JUDGE

Extracted on this 18th day of May 2020.



A laboratory technician (R) at Dar es Salaam's Kilwa Road Police hospital shows Police Head of Human Resources Deputy Commissioner Anthony Rutashuburugukwa (L, foreground) yesterday medical equipment and supplies the URA (police) Saving and Credit Cooperative Society has donated to the hospital. Photo courtesy of Police Hqs



Business Registration and Licensing Agency (Brela) CEO Godfrey Nyaisa (R) presents a laptop and various other ICT equipment and supplies to Mafinga district executive director Saada Mwaruka in Dar es Salaam yesterday to enable the district to process and issue business licences electronically. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

WMA cautions unfaithful traders against measurement tampering

By Guardian Reporter

CHIEF Executive Officer of Weights and Measures Agency (WMA), Dr Ludovic Manege has warned unfaithful traders who are distorting measurement to maximise profit, saying their days are numbered.

Dr Manege sounded the warning yesterday when speaking at the climax of the World Metrology Day, an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations. This year's theme is 'Measurements for Global Trade'.

Dr Manege urged traders who have been playing down measurements for super profit to stop from doing so as WMA is there to protect consumers as it is in accordance with section 340 of the Weights and Measures Act, 2002 which was revised in 2016.

"Traders should inculcate a habit of using correct weights and measures in their businesses to bring fairness to consumers," he suggested, adding:

"It is important to note that the struggle against those who tamper with measurements needs cooperation from consumers who are the main losers in this illegal tendency."

"As we celebrate the World Metrology Day, Tanzanians who want to do international trade should ensure that their merchandises are certified by WMA. This will enable products to compete in the international markets," he said.

He further asked traders to ensure that their products have correct measurements if they are to win the competitive international markets, so that the Tanzania reach semi-industrialised nation by 2025.

In implementing Tanzania's industrialisation agenda, WMA has been in the forefront in educating industrialists to package their products in line with the laws governing the agency.

WMA is an Executive Agency, responsible for fair trade transactions through certification of weights and measures. It is the sole agency in

Tanzania for enforcing the Weights and Measures Act No.20 of 1982.

Since 1999 and in pursuance to the Executive Agencies Act Number 30 of 1997, the WMA replaced the former Directorate of Weights and Measures under the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The move was part of the Civil Service Reform Programme (CSRP) to increase efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery.

WMA is solely dedicated to protecting consumers, businesses and manufacturers from unfair practices through the application of accurate weights and measures. It endeavours to ensure optimum use of resources and fair trade interactions between investors, producers, transporters and consumers with an emphasis on consumer protection.

He also said that weights and measurements is key to ensure that customer get products with the correct measurement and with value for money. It also solves challenges emanating from weights and measures so that the consumer rights can be protected, he said, adding: The government through the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) gets correct taxes, hence the sector contributes handsomely to the national coffers."

According to Dr Manege, weights and measures play key role in infrastructures and transport, economic reporting, agriculture, industries, health, effective stock control and other sectors.

Weights and measures also play a key role in boosting regional trade as international buyers rely on specifications which are in the products, as correct measures reduce technical barriers to trade, hence spearhead free movement of goods.

Dr Manege said that the importance of weights and measures has led to the establishment of institutions that promote the global harmonisation of the legal metrology procedures that underpin and facilitate international trade such as the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML), which was created in 1955.

Failure to fix sewage systems: NHC told to throw out tenants

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA City Council has directed the National Housing Corporation (NHC) to kick out all tenants in the cinema building in the city centre due to their failure to install infrastructure for sewage water, resulting in seeping out of sewage into streets and endangering

people's health.

The single storey cinema building owned by NHC is situated on Lupa Street and has more than 15 tenants but lacks sewage water system.

Speaking to this paper early this week Sisima Ward health officer John Oden said he decided to shift the tenants for health reasons, adding: "the decision

was in accordance with the law as what I am doing is to give them written notice to shift until NHC renovates the sewage system." Some tenants also complained to this paper of foul smell from the seeping dirty water.

One of the tenants Brighton Ngowi said he rented space for business but the foul smell was overbearing.

Speaking on the issue, Mbeya Region NHC Manager said they have already taken steps by paying the cost for the renovation of the sewage system at the building.

However, he said Mbeya Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (MUWSA) is the one dillydallying in rectifying the sewage system.



VACANCY

Job Description

Job Title: Project Officer - Community Health Promotion and Gender

Job Reports to: Chief of Pedagogical Department

Duty Station: Dodoma National Office, with frequent activities in the villages

Education: Minimum Diploma in community health promotion and or related health fields

Experience: 3 years' work experience in mobilizing rural communities with an ability to work under pressure, tight deadlines with less supervision. Fluency in Swahili and English both verbal and written is desirable.

Contract period: 1 Year renewable upon successful performance and funds' availability

General Description of the Job: He/She will be responsible for the interventions towards community health promotion and gender under the Bread for the World funded project "Adaptation to Climate Change for Improved Livelihoods in Semi - Arid Chemba and Kondoa Districts of Dodoma Region, Tanzania".

Responsibilities and Duties

- Work under the general supervision of the Chief of Pedagogical Department and will require independent initiative in the preparation, and implementation of community health promotion and gender activities in the target areas.
- Undertake gender analysis as to who plays a central role on community health in relation to access to resource and assessing community understanding of spread and control of communicable and noncommunicable diseases.
- Develop and disseminate health, nutrition, and gender promotional materials for rural communities through use of varieties of media (banners, fliers, local radios, audios, mobile vehicles, etc.) is highly preferred.
- Undertake community awareness raising and training sessions on management of non-curative diseases including COVID-19 and HIV/AIDS.
- Conduct community dialogues on community health promotion and facilitate village health centres to undertake health afya check for non-communicable screening.
- Conduct trainings on gender roles, household resource control and ownership.
- Conduct training on women rights (Land and other assets).
- Establish and work together with a network of LGA community development officers to raise awareness and coach community leaders on the importance adherence to health, gender and nutrition requirements.
- He/She will establish women and youth peer groups to promote community health, high-nutrition diets and gender.
- He/She will support establishment of household high nutritious traditional vegetable gardens.
- Raise community awareness and consumption of diversified, nutrient dense and nutritionally adequate diets.
- Work with the M&E officer to monitor beneficiary adoption of the new nutrition targeted practices and vegetable consumption methodologies.
- Promoting food safety including appropriate methods of handling, preservation, processing, storage and utilization of foods.
- Perform any other duties as assigned by direct supervisor.

Applications

Applications, including cover letter, resume and copies of academic certificates and testimonials should be sent to The Managing Director, INADES Formation Tanzania, P. O. Box 203, Dodoma, Email: inadesformation.tanzania@inadesfo.net, no later than Friday 29th May 2020, at 17:00hrs.



Consultancy Opportunity

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

Pact Tanzania is looking for an individual Consultant to Document children in the mining communities service delivery model for future replication

Location: Dar es salaam, Bukombe, Chunya, and Songwe, Tanzania
Period: June/July 2020 (approximately 30 days)

Background

Pact is working in partnership with Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), and Railway Children of Africa (RCA) to implement a USAID Kizazi Kipya is a five-year project (July 2016 to June 2021) funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project aims to enable one million Tanzanian orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), adolescents, and young people including the hard to reach children laborers and child miners affected by HIV/AIDS to utilize age-appropriate HIV/AIDS-related and other services for improved care, health, nutrition, education, protection, livelihoods, and psycho-social well-being.

Consultancy objectives

Under the guidance of Pact's Senior Technical Advisor, the consultant will provide a synthesis of best practices on delivering comprehensive children in the mining communities service delivery model focusing on HIV related services for the period 2018-2020. The consultant is expected to document the services provided and the methods and/or approaches used to deliver the services and share best practices relevant to a wider scale or have the potential to become best practices. The aim of this is to capture and share practices and experiences to build collective knowledge and inform best practices from CIM service package delivery.

The overall objective of the consultancy is to synthesize and document the approaches, services, means of service delivery, lessons learned and best practices from the implementation of the Kizazi Kipya children in mining communities with a focus on comprehensive HIV related services

Specifically, the Consultant is expected;

1. To identify from the existing reports, implementing partners, stakeholders, beneficiaries and field interventions the approaches, services, means of service delivery, lessons learned and best practices with a focus on comprehensive HIV related services.
2. To undertake further in-depth analysis and documentation of the approaches, services, means of service delivery, lessons learned, and best practices with a focus on comprehensive HIV

related services and recommendations for future replication.

3. To lead stakeholder's consultation workshop to review and validate the identified approaches, services, means of service delivery, lessons learned, and best practices with a focus on comprehensive HIV related services and recommendations for future replication.

Qualification and Experience

- Master's Degree in the field(s) relevant to fulfill the duties and responsibilities as described above
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in a position(s) in child labor programming
- Experience of similar work.
- Experience with mining communities is a plus
- Experience in Tanzania.

Skills and attributes:

- Team player, self-starter, & enthusiastic
- Excellent English written communication skills
- Strong computer skills, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.
- Ability to engage others and demonstrated interest in building the personal capacity and skills of other people.
- Creative and analytical thinker

Application:

Interested candidates should request for the full Terms of Reference through email to procurementTZ@pactworld.org by Friday 29th May 2020.

Please submit the following by email.

- CV
- Cover letter, including daily consultancy rate and terms
- Biodata form (please request this from procurementTZ@pactworld.org)
- Consultant Daily rate quote
- Contacts for three past professional references related to similar job assignments.

Email the application to toconsultanttz@pactworld.org

Deadline is 2pm EAT Wednesday June 3, 2020;

Please note:

1. Late or incomplete application will not be accepted.
2. The Application that complies with all the specifications/requirements and offers value for money, as well as all other evaluation criteria indicated in the TOR, shall be selected.
3. Pact may cancel solicitation and not award.
4. Pact may reject any or all responses received.
5. Issuance of request for proposal/application does not constitute a contract commitment by Pact.
6. Pact reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow the solicitation instructions.
7. Pact reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.

47 schoolgirls rescued from early marriage, FGM in Mara

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FORTY-SEVEN primary and secondary school students in Serengeti District, Mara Region have been rescued from early marriages and female genital mutilation in a span of less than a month, starting from April this year.

The rescue has been made by a non-governmental organisation—Hope for Girls and Women Tanzania in collaboration with the Tanzania Police Force.

Organisation's Executive Director, Rhobi Samweli said that the move has been successful due to the anti-Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) operation carried out in the district.

"We're not alone in this operation. We worked in collaboration with security organs and other stakeholders," she said, adding that nine of the girls are in secondary schools, 20 in primary schools, 13 are Standard Seventh school leavers and five of them are uneducated.

So far, she said that all the rescued girls are in the organisation's safe housing facility in Mugumu Town.

According to Rhobi, FGM is very active in the district, particularly at the time when schools have been closed.

Commenting on how the teenage girls were rescued, the activist said: "On April 1, we were tipped off by good Samaritans on the matter and in collaboration with police officers we started searching for them and until yesterday we found 47 teenage girls who were at risk of being married and circumcised."

She said: "In collaboration with police force we're still hunting for the perpetrators. It hurts to hear that girls, some of them under the age of five are

undergoing such cruelty."

Serengeti District has 78 villages, 30 wards and four divisions, and "we've decided to move around all those areas to ensure we rescue the girls from the violence."

For his part, Mara Regional Police Commander Daniel Shillah said the fight to end FGM is a cross-cutting problem that requires combined efforts and that the most important thing is for the community to be educated to break the chain of this outdated tradition.

"FGM is still a problem in Mara region, so all members of the society should support efforts to eradicate such practices by providing education and information on such actions to relevant state authorities," said RPC Shillah.

The police, he said, would not tolerate such atrocities and would instead continue to hunt down the perpetrators so that the law could take its course against them, emphasising that education could solve it most.



In collaboration with police force we're still hunting for the perpetrators. It hurts to hear that girls, some of them under the age of five are undergoing such cruelty



Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei (L) has a word at Mbeya's Kabwe bus stand on Tuesday with would-be passengers and other people on the importance of wearing face masks as a precaution against Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

Government to build tarmac road network along Lake Nyasa shores

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbambabay

THE government plans to construct road network to tarmac level along the eastern shores of Lake Nyasa in Ruvuma Region from Lituhi up to Chiwindi on the border with Mozambique.

Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme said the government has provided 129bn/- for the construction of 66 kms tarmac road from Mbinga to Mbamba Bay - the headquarters of Nyasa District and whose work is more than 50 percent

complete. Speaking to Mtpule village residents in Nyasa District Mndeme said in its budget for the coming Financial Year the government has inserted the 41 kms road at tarmac level from Nangombo to Chiwindi at the border with Mozambique.

She told the residents whenever they see experts coming for survey they should offer their cooperation and that the repair work now being done on the bridges is to enable vehicles to pass during the intervening period.

She said feasibility studies on Kitai, Lituhi up to Mbamba Bay have been completed and what remains is to allocate funds for start of the project that would see Nyasa district areas connected by tarmac roads network.

The RC further said in the Phase V government intends to see transportation challenges faced by residents of Nyasa District are solved as it has already bought three ships including two for cargo transport.

Meanwhile, the Ruvuma RC who is

also the chairperson of the region's Defence and Security Committee has called upon the residents of Chiwanda Ward in Nyasa District at the border with Mozambique to ensure the country is secure and that the road to be built by the government will also ensure the security of the area.

Tarmac road network in Nyasa District will make Ruvuma Region connected by tarmac road in the Mtwara Corridor from Mtwara up to Mbamba Bay in Ruvuma Region.



Water ministry permanent secretary Prof Kitila Mkumbo (R) washes his hands at a public facility developed and equipped by the Dodoma Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority moments after inaugurating it and handing it over to officials of Dodoma city's Majengo Market yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Channel your complaints through our commission, CHRAGG's chair appeals

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

THE Chairman of the Tanzania Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), Judge (Ret) Mathew Mwaimu has appealed to all citizens in the country's southern regions not to sit with their complaints but submit them to the commission's offices to be dealt with.

Judge Mwaimu issued the appeal early this week during his visit to CHRAGG offices in Lindi Region that serves all regions in the Southern Zone including Mtwara and Songea.

He said in the last two years the commission lacked leadership, i.e. commissioners, the situation that contributed to some of its work to stop but as of now the commission is complete and wanted people to submit their complaints to be worked upon.

"I want to tell you that the commission exists and is strong, bring your complaints concerning human rights violations and good governance and we promise we shall work on them as quickly as possible," he said.

Earlier, while speaking to the Lindi Regional Commissioner Godfrey Zambi in his office, Judge Mwaimu said basically CHRAGG is an institution created to assist the government to solve people's problems emanating

from violations of human rights and good governance.

"CHRAGG is the eye of the government which it uses to identify challenges that emerge especially in violations of human rights and the basics of good governance to steer away the government from unnecessary conflicts with its citizens," Judge Mwaimu explained.

For his part, the Lindi regional commissioner told Judge Mwaimu that the region was opening up and there are many projects being implemented hence it would be better to put in place procedures to follow up to ensure they are implemented without infringements to the basics of human rights.

Judge Mwaimu also congratulated CHRAGG officials in the Southern Zone for good work and reminded them to ensure residents of the area get good and timely service from them.

Residents of southern regions have been called to use CHRAGG offices for prompt services through its address: P.O. Box 1050 Lindi Tel (023) 2202734/2202744.

And for those wishing to communicate directly with CHRAGG head office in Dodoma the address is P.O. Box 1049, Dodoma, Tel: 0734 047 775/0734 119 978; email info@chragg.go.tz.

By Guardian Correspondent, Chalinze

Jafo unhappy with pace of Chalinze District headquarters construction

MINISTER of State in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) Selemu Jafo has directed Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) who are constructing Chalinze District Council office headquarters to ensure its first phase is completed by May 31 this year after which they should stop work.

Jafo issued the directives early this week after inspecting the project's construction work saying he was not pleased with the construction pace of the contractor.

"Ensure that by May 31 the first phase is completed and after that TBA should not continue with the project, and the District Council should find another

contractor to finish the project," Jafo said.

He said despite the availability of funds, TBA has been dillydallying, the situation that contributes to the delays in the country's development.

"Its not that I don't like TBA, not at all, there are areas you have done good work, but in this project

you are letting us down, I am not satisfied by your work pace as it is not like the TBA that I use to know," he added.

TBA Manager for Coast Region Asha Muzanza said the reasons for the delay include the rising cost of building materials and the challenge on the availability of water.

Chalinze District Engineer John Chizima said upon its completion the three-storey complex will cost 5bn/- out of which 1.8bn/- is for the first phase.

Chalinze Member of Parliament Ridhiwani Kikwete congratulated Jafo for the decision as TBA has been delaying the project's completion.

While at Kibaha rural district Jafo inspected the construction of District Council headquarters that will cost more than 4b/- and the construction of the District Hospital and directed the District Executive Director to fully supervise these development projects to be completed in time according to the funds allocated.



Bahi district commissioner Mwanahamisi Nkunda (in headscarf) takes a bodaboda (motorbike taxi) yesterday for a ride that saw her visit rice farms destroyed by recent floods. Photo: Correspondent Paul Mabeja

LGAs urged to wage war on COVID-19 pandemic

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

POLICY Forum Local Governance Working Group (LGWG) has called upon local government authorities to support government efforts in combating Covid-19.

In a joint statement that was read yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Israel Ilunde on behalf of the network's chairperson, they insisted that war against Covid-19 should start at grassroots level and that the government shouldn't be left to fight it alone.

Ilunde noted that the country reported for first time Covid-19 case mid March this year, the government has been taking various initiatives to control its spread including formation of the national task force.

However, despite the efforts, LGWG has pointed out some challenges which need to be worked out to enhance the fight against the pandemic.

Ilunde said more efforts are required to make sure each of the citizens are reached with appropriate information on the disease as well as its preventive measures. He said most people in remote rural areas do not know how to protect themselves from the pandemic. He said the importation, production and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) to the community was still small.

The protective gears currently in high demand are PPE for health workers,

hand sanitisers and face masks.

According to him, production of low cost fabric masks was crucial since most people cannot afford to buy the N95 or surgical masks. He said failure to acquire face coverings has resulted into some people not going to public places.

Some low income earners can't afford to buy masks of high quality, as a result they don't go to public places to seek services or in public transport as it is a government's requirement.

The network suggested for the central government to come up with special packages (emergence funds) to enable local governments to provide protective gears to vulnerable groups including the disabled and those from poor families.

Local government authorities lack strategies to support vulnerable groups especially those whose businesses have been affected by the outbreak of Covid-19.

"We suggested that local governments lower charges on various fees and levy to small businesses affected by the pandemic outbreak. Authorities should also formulate by-laws to ensure cleanliness of businesses premises and make it a mandatory for traders to wear face masks," said Ilunde.

LGWG also asked the government to ensure transparency on the material and financial support it receives from stakeholders in support of the war against the pandemic.

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

State-run water projects to benefit 42,732 Mpwapwa District residents in 2020/2021

THE government is set to implement a number of water projects in Mpwapwa District in the coming financial year which will benefit 42,732 residents and end long time scarcity of the precious liquid in the district, the National Assembly was told here yesterday.

The Ministry of Water said in a written response to a question by Mpwapwa Member of Parliament George Lubejeje who wanted to know when the government will implement

its promise to construct a water well in villages of Chamanda, Chitemo, Nana, (Mwenzele) Kiegea, Kazania, Ng'hambi, Kisisi, Godegode and Gulwe in his constituency.

The MP said the government promised to construct wells three years

ago but the promise has not been met and residents are now being forced to travel up to 10 kilometres in search of water.

In response, the ministry said it was already implementing some water projects in villages of Gulwe, Godegode,

Ng'hambi, Mangaliza, Nyabu, Nana, Kiegea, Mgoma Kitati and Wota. "In the coming year, the ministry is intending to research on water sources and carry out feasibility studies to implement the remaining projects," the ministry said.

The ministry also said in ensuring

that water scarcity becomes history in the district, it is set to implement other projects in the coming financial year at villages of Kazania, Singonali, Mlunduzi and Chinyika because studies have already been completed.

According to the ministry during the

2019/20 financial year, it developed water projects at 13 villages of Kidenge, Luhundwa, Mpwanila, Bumila, Iyoma, Mzase, Mima, Iramba, Kibakwe, Seluka, Lukole, Kingitina Chogala whereby it is expected that upon completion a huge number of people will be saved from the challenges.

For the remaining villages, the ministry said it will continue including them in other projects being implemented by regional and district water authorities as well as at national level.



WWF for a living planet

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER

The WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Tanzania, an international conservation organization, is seeking for a competent and experienced Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, to be based in Dar es Salaam.

I. Major Functions

Under the technical guidance of Monitoring & Evaluation Manager and Regional Forest programme coordinator; The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer will be responsible for coordinating the systematic monitoring of the progress and impact of the WWF East Africa Regional Programme, focused on the design, implementation and reporting of a programme monitoring plan. Responsibilities also include preparation of annual work plans and supporting reporting and evaluation cycles. The over-riding aim is to ensure that indicators required meeting both donor and internal reporting and evaluation commitments are consistently met, measured and reported. In support of this, the officer works closely with the programme staff team, partners and third party researchers to ensure that routine data collection protocols are maintained.

II. Major Duties and Responsibilities

- Prepare, or revise as appropriate, a comprehensive programme monitoring plan, based on relevant programme documents, funding proposals, log frames and other relevant planning documents;
- Maintain a master spreadsheet database for monitoring all progress and impact indicators for the programme, ensuring the database is updated semi-annually through collective process involving programme team members, ensuring all are conversant with their roles and responsibilities on the same;
- Ensure that programme colleagues and member countries are trained in, and aware of, routine monitoring information and data requirements, monitor actual performance on collection of that data by the said team, and keep the Programme Coordinator updated on a quarterly basis;
- Oversee the identification and engagement of third party contracted consultants, researchers or partners in meeting data collection needs of the monitoring plan, where needed, including drafting of contracts;
- Under supervision of the Programme Coordinator, support the process of identifying, contracting and overseeing mid-term and final project evaluations, and ensuring outputs and recommendation from the same are shared with the staff team and other stakeholders as relevant, and incorporated into annual work plans and future project design, as appropriate

Required Qualifications and skills: Minimum Bachelor's degree in Forestry/ Forest Economics or Forest Biology. Master's degree will be an added advantage; At least 5 years working experience in monitoring and evaluation relating to natural resources management initiatives and/or project cycle management; Experience, training and knowledge in the field of forest conservation monitoring, including both data collection and analysis will be a particular added advantage.

Additional information: Detailed Terms of Reference can be obtained via http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/jobs/. Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the People & Culture Manager, via email to: hresources@wwftz.org by Friday, 29th May 2020 at 4:30 pm.

Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted and the interviews will take place in Dar es Salaam.
WWF is an equal opportunity organization.



WWF for a living planet

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Tanzania, an international conservation organization, is seeking for a competent and experienced Communications Officer, to be based in Dar es Salaam.

I. Major Functions

Under the technical guidance of Communications Manager and Regional Forest programme coordinator; the Communications Officer will be responsible for ensuring the delivery of outputs under the East Africa Regional Forest Programme that are related to awareness-raising, communications and capacity strengthening in general; facilitating sharing knowledge and increase the programme visibility in the member countries and other relevant stakeholders on issues relating to illegal trade in timber, forest governance and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

II. Major Duties and Responsibilities

- Ensure that relevant program materials such as Human Interest Stories, donor reports, proposals, factsheets, infographs etc. are developed and disseminated to donors and target groups through relevant media and network channels. The Communications Officer will assist WWF member countries in the proposal development stage to identify appropriate communication activities for the projects.
- Develop and maintain contact information, materials and relationships with journalists and media outlets (print, TV, radio, web etc.) in 5 member countries to increase coverage of conservation issues in the media (print, broadcast and digital). Specific activities may include:
- Draft and edit articles, press releases, human interest stories and other advocacy/information materials.
- Provide content for WWF Regional Forest programme blogs, TCO website and social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube). Monitor content on line and provide guidance and reactions and responses whenever needed. Ensure that the programme makes the best use of technology for key communications activities (e.g. content development for web sites & intranet development, social media and online marketing).

Required Qualifications and skills: Minimum Bachelor degree in Mass Communication, preferably with post graduate qualification in climate change, forest economics or forest biology. At least 5 years working experience in communication and media related to natural resources management initiatives, forest conservation and/or climate change adaptation and mitigation. Experience, training and knowledge in the field of communication and media related to forest conservation, protected area management will be a particular added advantage.

Additional information: Detailed Terms of Reference can be obtained via http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/jobs/. Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the People & Culture Manager, via email to: hresources@wwftz.org by Friday, 29th May 2020 at 4:30 pm.

Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted and the interviews will take place in Dar es Salaam.

WWF is an equal opportunity organization.

Investing in the agricultural sector key in eradicating poverty, hunger

IN politics, humanitarian aid, and social science, hunger is a condition in which a person, for a sustained period, is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs. So in the field of hunger relief, the term hunger is used in a sense that goes beyond the common desire for food that all humans experience.

Throughout history, portions of the world's population have often suffered sustained periods of hunger. In many cases, hunger resulted from food supply disruptions caused by war, plagues, or adverse weather. In the decades following World War II, technological progress and enhanced political cooperation suggested it might be possible to substantially reduce the number of people suffering from hunger. While progress was uneven, by 2015 the threat of extreme hunger subsided for many of the world's population. According to figures published by the FAO in 2019 however, the number of people suffering from chronic hunger has been increasing over the last four years. This is both as a percentage of the world's population, and in absolute terms, with about 821 million afflicted with hunger in 2018.

While most of the world's hungry people continue to live in Asia, much of the increase in hunger since 2015 occurred in Africa and South America. The FAO's 2018 report focused on extreme weather as a primary driver of the increase in hunger.

While the FAO's 2019 report found there was also a strong correlation between increases in hunger and countries that had suffered an economic slowdown.

Many thousands of organisations are engaged in the field of hunger relief, operating at local, national, regional or international levels. Some of these organisations are dedicated to hunger relief, while others may work in a number of different fields. At the global

level, much of the world's hunger relief efforts are coordinated by the UN, and geared towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal for "Zero hunger"

There are a number of significant changes that are happening in Africa, the most important being that it is a continent with some of the fastest growing economies. Five of the world's fastest growing economies are in Africa.

This has resulted in increased wealth in a segment of the population, with its attendant shift in food consumption patterns.

Africa's population is also growing fast. For instance, between 2015 and 2050, the populations of 28 African countries are estimated to have more than doubled.

Combining the effects of consumption pattern changes and the high population means that the agriculture sector must respond by not only producing more food, but also food that appeals to a wealthier society.

African countries will likely continue to experience lower agricultural yields due to the impact of climate change, encroachment of agricultural lands - particularly crop and rangelands and biodiversity loss.

In order to ensure sustainability of the agriculture sector, increased and quality investments need to be channelled into the sector.

A majority of Africa's poor population lives in rural areas. Increasing investments into the agriculture sector can therefore play a critical role in poverty alleviation, especially rural poverty, since the majority of rural poor depend on agricultural activities for their livelihoods.

Further, agriculture is key not only to on-farm activities - it largely supports off-farm activities that contribute directly and indirectly to increased household incomes, hence reduction of poverty and inequality.

Biodiversity and people's well-being: Vital link for sustainable development

IN order to ensure sustainable development, it is necessary to conserve biodiversity and use it sustainably. Indeed, the critical role of biodiversity in development was recognised in the Rio+20 outcome document. "The World We Want: A Future for All".

Rio+20 also popularly known as Earth Summit was a major United Nations conference held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June in 1992.

For several decades, world governments and policy bodies have been on a course of attempting to improve human well-being through sustainable development, which includes improved education, health and environmental quality.

In other words, biodiversity is essential for sustainable development and human well-being. It also underpins the provision of food, fibre and water; it mitigates and provides resilience to climate change; it supports human health, and provides jobs in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and many other sectors

The International Day for Biological Diversity (or World Biodiversity Day) is a United Nations sanctioned international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues. It is currently held on May 22.

The Day falls within the scope of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals. In this larger initiative of international cooperation, the topic of biodiversity concerns stakeholders in sustainable agriculture; desertification, land degradation and drought; water and sanitation; health and sustainable development; energy; science, technology and innovation, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building; urban resilience and adaptation; sustainable transport; climate change and disaster risk reduction; oceans and seas; forests; vulnerable groups including indigenous peoples; and food security.

The United Nations Conference

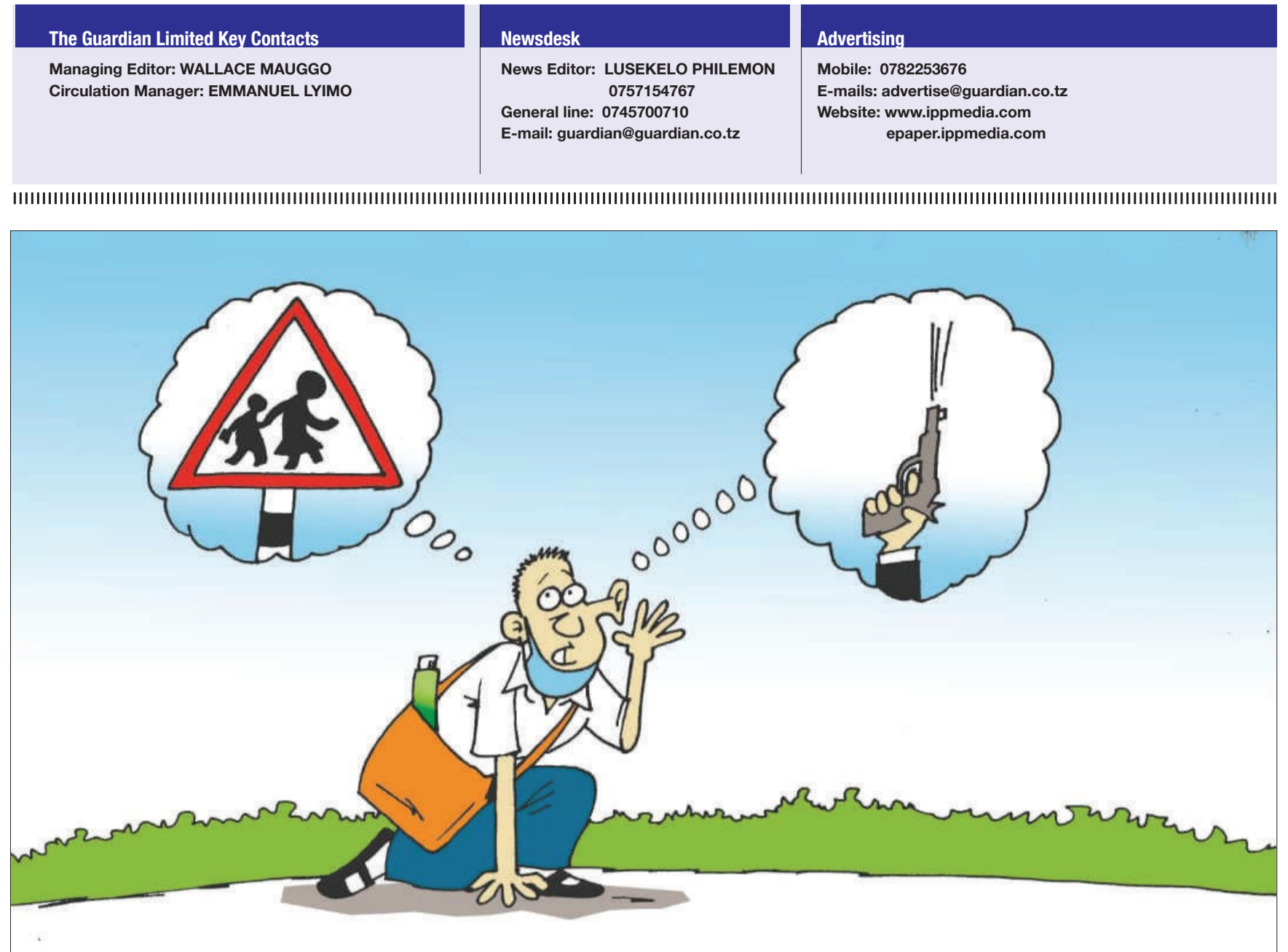
on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, the Rio Summit, the Rio Conference, and the Earth Summit was a major United Nations conference held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June in 1992.

Earth Summit was created as a response for member states to cooperate together internationally on development issues after the Cold War. Due to issues relating to sustainability being too big for individual member states to handle, Earth Summit was held as a platform for other member states to collaborate. Since the creation, many others in the field of sustainability show a similar development to the issues discussed in these conferences, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was also held in Rio, and is also commonly called Rio+20 or Rio Earth Summit 2012. It was held from 13 to 22 June.

The issues addressed included: systematic scrutiny of patterns of production - particularly the production of toxic components, such as lead in gasoline, or poisonous waste including radioactive chemicals; alternative sources of energy to replace the use of fossil fuels which delegates linked to global climate change; new reliance on public transportation systems in order to reduce vehicle emissions, congestion in cities and the health problems caused by polluted air and smoke and the growing usage and limited supply of water.

An important achievement of the summit was an agreement on the Climate Change Convention which in turn led to the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Another agreement was to "not to carry out any activities on the lands of indigenous peoples that would cause environmental degradation or that would be culturally inappropriate".



By Erna Solberg and Nana Addo Dankwa

WHILE we must all support the call by the UN to scale up the immediate health response to curb the spread of COVID-19, the response to the pandemic cannot be de-linked from the SDGs.

Our world today is dealing with a crisis of monumental proportions. The novel coronavirus is wreaking havoc across the globe, upending lives and livelihoods. The cost of the pandemic in terms of loss of human lives is painful, but the effects on the global economy and on sustainable development prospects are also worrying. The International Monetary Fund estimates that our world has entered into a recession, and while the full economic impact of the crisis is difficult to predict, preliminary estimates place it at US\$2 trillion.

The pandemic has exposed fundamental weaknesses in our global system. It has shown how the prevalence of poverty, weak health systems, lack of education, and a lack of global cooperation exacerbate the crisis.

If there was any doubt that our world faces common challenges, this pandemic should categorically put that to rest. The crisis has re-enforced the interdependence of our world. It has brought to the fore the urgent need for global action to meet people's basic needs, to save our planet and to build a fairer and resilient world. We face common, global challenges that we must solve through common, global solutions. After all, in a crisis like this

By Johan Swinnen

THE spread of COVID-19 highlights how vulnerable we all can be to global shocks and greater inclusivity is critical for strengthening our resilience.

As the world battles the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the social and economic disruption it is generating, concern about the impact it will have on food systems is growing.

Smallholders and rural dwellers, women and youth, and conflict-affected people already are too often excluded from full participation in food systems, leaving many of them with little access to nutritious diets and limited income opportunities. With many countries closing borders and shuttering economic activities to slow the spread of COVID-19, the livelihoods of these people are at even greater risk, emphasizing the need for making our food systems inclusive.

But making food systems inclusive is not just a moral imperative. In prosperous times the exclusion of vulnerable people is a massive lost opportunity for development that leaves millions of people behind to the detriment of all. But in times of crisis, like we are experiencing today, inclusivity can be a matter of life or death. Bringing excluded individuals into food systems

Amid raging coronavirus pandemic, SDGs will help us build back better

we are only as strong as the weakest link. This is what the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global blueprint to end poverty, protect our planet and ensure prosperity, are all about.

Sadly, this pandemic hit at a time when the SDGs were gaining traction and a significant number of countries were making good progress. As the world is seized with containing the spread of the virus and addressing its negative impacts, the reality is that countries are resetting their priorities, and reallocating resources to deal with the pandemic. This certainly is the right thing to do because the priority now is to save lives, and we must do so at all costs.

That is why we must all support the call by the United Nations to scale up the immediate health response to suppress the transmission of the virus, end the pandemic and focus on people particularly, women, youth, low-wage workers, small and medium enterprises, the informal sector and vulnerable groups already at risk. Working together we can save lives, restore livelihoods and bring the global economy back on track.

But what we cannot afford to do, even in these crucial times, is shift resources away from crucial SDG actions. The response to the pandemic cannot be de-linked from the SDGs. Indeed, achieving the SDGs will put us on a firm path to

dealing with global health risks and emerging infectious diseases. Achieving SDG 3 (Good Health) will mean strengthening the capacity of countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

This pandemic has exposed the crisis in global health systems. And while it is severely undermining prospects for achieving SDG 3 by 2030, it is also having far-reaching effects on all other SDGs.

Emerging evidence of the broader impact of the crisis on our quest to achieve the SDGs is troubling. UNESCO estimates that some 1.25 billion students are affected, posing a serious challenge to the attainment of SDGs Goal 4 (Quality Education); and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates some 25 million people could lose their jobs, with those in informal employment suffering most from lack of social protection. Unfortunately, these are just the tip of the iceberg.

Crucially, in many parts of the world, the pandemic and its effects are exacerbated by the crisis in achieving clean water and sanitation targets (SDG 6), weak economic growth and the absence of decent work (SDG 8), pervasive inequalities (SDG 10), and above all, entrenched poverty (SDG 1) and food insecurity (SDG 2). The World Bank estimates the crisis will push some 11 million people into poverty.

Even at this stage in the pandemic, we cannot deny the fact that the crisis is teaching us, as global citizens, the utmost value in being each other's keeper, in leaving no one behind, and in prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable.

What is acutely needed is enhanced political will and commitment. Our world has the knowledge, capacity and innovation, and if we are ambitious enough, we can muster the resources needed to achieve the Goals. Buoyed by the spirit of solidarity, Governments, businesses, multi-lateral organisations and civil society have in the shortest possible time been able to raise billions, and in some cases, trillions to support efforts to combat this pandemic. If we attach the same level of importance and urgency to the fight against poverty, hunger, and climate change, we will find success in this Decade of Action on the SDGs.

As the world responds to this pandemic and seeks to restore global prosperity, we must focus on addressing underlying factors through the Sustainable Development Goals. We must not relent our efforts, even amid this crisis. While some SDG gains have been eroded, this should not deflate our energy. They should rather spur us to accelerate and deepen our efforts during this Decade of Action to 'recover better', and build a healthier, safer, fairer and a more prosperous world.

Inclusive food systems help build resilience in withstanding pandemics and other shocks

will grow and strengthen them so that they serve everyone better and can help people withstand shocks like pandemics, civil conflict, and volatile weather.

Fortunately, food systems, as indicated in the 2020 Global Food Policy Report, can be made more inclusive with well-crafted policies that lower the barriers to participation by focusing on three key areas: providing the investments in infrastructure and services to foster broad-based economic growth, particularly in rural areas; equipping marginalized people with the means for success; and creating social protection programs that safeguard the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable.

Even as the world is rapidly urbanizing, rural areas remain home to the largest numbers of poor people. It is therefore critical that policymakers work to enable broad-based growth that creates vibrant rural economies. Food markets and value chains are expanding across Africa and South Asia, offering new opportunities to promote agricultural growth and create nonfarm

employment.

But an enabling environment can go only so far - if, for example, smallholder farmers or midstream processors lack the technical knowledge or capacity necessary to scale up or meet food-safety regulations; if women and refugees do not formally own their land and therefore have little incentive to invest in improved production; or if young people trying to stay in agriculture lack the capital, credit, or skills necessary to invest in raising productivity or starting an off-farm enterprise.

Investing in people in is therefore critical to making food systems work for everyone. Providing the marginalized and vulnerable with education, training, credit, secure land-tenure rights, and access to new technologies, will not only improve their lives but will also help strengthen food systems and grow economies - to the benefit of all. To that end, policymakers can begin by enacting laws, regulations, and policies that recognize land tenure and ensure access to credit and trainings for these groups, securing them more equal benefits.

Some of the most marginalized people will require even more direct support, including social protection programs that support even the most basic access to food systems and food and nutrition security. In extreme circumstances such as wars, food and cash transfers can provide essential calories that prevent malnutrition. In more stable conditions they can promote improvements in nutrition, employment, agricultural production, or education. Such programs protect livelihoods and provide the most vulnerable with the means to benefit from and contribute to growth and development.

Inclusive food systems are not a panacea, but they are an essential piece of our efforts to build a more equitable and stable world. The spread of COVID-19 has highlighted how vulnerable we all can be to global shocks and greater inclusivity is critical for strengthening our resilience. We no longer have the luxury of delaying reforms and debating their benefits. We need to act now so that everyone, especially the most vulnerable, can withstand the next shock.

NEW YORK

Stand in solidarity to preserve Africa's hard-won development, urges UN chief

THE coronavirus pandemic threatens the hard-earned gains Africans have made throughout the continent, the UN chief said on Wednesday, urging the world to stand in solidarity with the people, "now, and for recovering better".

At the virtual launch of a UN briefing paper focusing on the impact of COVID-19 across Africa, Secretary-General António Guterres pointed out that citizens across the continent have done much to advance their own well-being, detailing strong economic growth, an on-going digital revolution, and a bold free-trade area agreement.

Villagers in Kasungu District in Malawi watch a demonstration of a drone in flight.

But, he added: "The pandemic threatens African progress".

The UN chief elaborated on the coronavirus' potential to aggravate long-standing inequalities and heighten hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability to disease, saying "much hangs in the balance".

Demand for Africa's commodities, together with

tourism and remittances, are in decline, he observed. "The opening of the trade zone has been pushed back - and millions could be pushed into extreme poverty".

Moreover, the virus has taken more than 2,500 African lives: "Vigilance and preparedness are critical", underscored Mr. Guterres.

'Spectrum of urgent challenges'

Noting that while UN agencies, country teams, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian workers continue to provide support, "a spectrum of urgent challenges", require more urgent assistance.

"We are calling for international action to strengthen Africa's health systems, maintain food supplies, avoid a financial crisis, support education, protect jobs, keep households and businesses afloat, and cushion the



Women queuing for food rations in Cameroon practise social distancing to help combat the spread of COVID-19

continent against lost income and export earnings", the UN chief spelled out.

Guterres echoed his call for a global response package amounting to some 10 per cent of

the world's gross domestic product and advocated for "across-the-board debt standstill", followed by

targeted debt relief.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, school children attend a parade in

South Africa.

"It will also be essential for African countries to sustain their efforts to silence the guns and address violent extremism", he continued, noting that upcoming elections "offer potential milestones for stability and peace".

The UN chief underscored that as women will be central to every aspect of the response, stimulus packages must prioritize increasing social protection and putting cash in their hands.

"Many difficult decisions will need to be taken as the pandemic unfolds, and it will be essential to retain the trust and participation of citizens throughout", Guterres said. Moreover, African youth must be empowered, and human rights respected.

In closing, he asserted that Africa was still in the early days of coronavirus infection, compared with other continents, warning that disruption could escalate quickly.

"Ending the pandemic in Africa is essential for ending it across the world", concluded the Secretary-General.

Donkey owners call for an end to donkey theft

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

In many small African communities and Tanzania is no exception, the family donkey is an essential lifeline and member of the family.

So, when a donkey is stolen and sent for slaughter, it is not only a tragic loss of a beautiful animal, but a cruel twist to the lives of so many families who depend on their trusted companion in order to survive, say Makatapola villages in Iringa district.

In celebrating the World Donkey Day, stakeholders, owners and donkey meat consumers in Migoli and Makatapola villages in Iringa district have called upon the government to come up with strategies to control donkey theft which is rampant in the area.

They however urged authorities to suspend the donkey slaughter business which is considered to be among the major factors contributing to the theft of the animals. Donkey keepers claimed to solely depend on the animals for survival.

According to them, stolen donkeys are sold to donkey meat processing factories in Shinyanga and Dodoma regions.

Robert Geitani, a resident of Migoli village called on the government to close the Chinese donkey business to protect the lives of the animals as well as improve livelihoods of donkey keepers.

He called upon village authorities to supervise implementation of by-laws to reduce incidents which contribute into donkey deaths.

Mario Katemba wanted the community to realise the benefits of the animals since they provide support on a number of daily human tasks such as carrying water, cultivation and carrying luggage.

"These animals have contributed into improving my family's welfare. We normally use them for various activities including farming", he noted.

Iringa district livestock officer, Isidory Karia, who is also the district co-coordinator of donkey welfare and livelihood projects commended Inades

Formation Tanzania for working to improve the animal's welfare.

Karia said most of the locals are now aware of the importance of donkeys and taking part to protect them.

"The animals have become part of the community due to socio-economic gains", he said.

Head of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries at the Iringa District Council, Mathew Sanga said the council had a total of 5,228 donkeys.

He appealed to donkey owners to build better shelters and make sure donkeys are given good food to continue keeping them healthier. He said donkeys contribute in the agricultural value chain since they used to transport goods to market places.

A statement by Inades Formation Tanzania chief executive officer, Herman Hishamu, said the organisation works with the community where people rely heavily on donkeys for survival.

Hishamu, said that in areas with high water availability challenges, the donkey has continued to carry water and enable communities to take precautions against Covid-19 through regular hand washing.

Tanzania joined other stakeholders around the world to celebrate World Donkey Day on May 17th, 2020 in recognition of the great value of the animals. Millions of people around the world rely on donkeys for economic and social activities.

Theme for this year's celebration was: 'Power Donkey's work for the welfare of the community'.

The donkey or ass is a domesticated member of the horse family, Equidae. The wild ancestor of the donkey is the African wild ass, E. africanus. The donkey has been used as a working animal for at least 5000 years. There are more than 40 million donkeys in the world, mostly in underdeveloped countries, where they are used principally as draught or pack animals.

Working donkeys are often associated with those living at or below subsistence levels. Small numbers of donkeys are kept for breeding.



Seychelles milestone offers lessons on marine protection

VICTORIA, Seychelles

COMMONWEALTH countries committed to saving the ocean will benefit from new knowledge gained from the Seychelles, which has just designated almost a third of its ocean as marine protected areas (MPAs).

The island nation recently set aside 30 per cent of its marine territory, or about 410,000 square kilometres, to be legally protected from activities that damage the marine environment.

Other than sustainable tourism, the new laws will ban almost all human activity in half of the protected areas, while allowing only low-impact sustainable businesses to operate in the other half.

The milestone is a culmination of six years of intense technical and legal work, scientific research, as well as community and political engagement.

Commonwealth Secretary-

General Patricia Scotland said: "Seychelles has demonstrated remarkable leadership as the 'champion country' for marine protected areas under the Commonwealth Blue Charter. It is immensely encouraging to see how the experiences, insights and lessons learned from Seychelles will inspire and catalyse other member states who also wish to protect their ocean."

"Marine protection goes beyond conservation, allowing for the development of 'blue' economies based on sustainable ocean activity. A healthy ocean also presents enhanced opportunities for economic recovery post Covid-19, and for building resilience and withstanding the impacts of natural disasters and extreme weather events."

The new marine spatial plan maps out the entirety of Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (spanning 1.37 million

square kilometres) and was financed through an innovative 'debt-for-nature' swap co-designed by the Government of Seychelles and The Nature Conservancy.

Alain de Comarmond, Principal Secretary of Environment at the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change of Seychelles stressed that countries would need to set their own targets and methods according to their own circumstances.

He outlined four basic elements that led to Seychelles' success: political support, efficient partnerships, a robust framework for implementation, and patience.

He explained: "The starting point in all of this is the political support and commitment. The President and political leaders were clear about the objective for Seychelles, and the Cabinet was updated regularly on all progress of our work."

"Finding the right partnerships is also very important. For small developing states like Seychelles, most of us do not have all the technical capacity or knowhow needed. We were very lucky to have a very strong partner in The Nature Conservancy, which provided technical and financial assistance."

Mr de Comarmond added that a well-oiled chain of teams and committees across various agencies helped to ensure that the process was inclusive. The government recognised that the business community and civil society needed to be fully engaged and take ownership.

He said: "We took a very patient and persistent approach, investing a lot of time in building trust and getting the agreement from all our stakeholders. Proposals were always backed with scientific data."

Seychelles' achievement of 30 per cent coverage is far be-

yond international targets of 10 per cent by the end of this year. However, a growing number of Commonwealth countries are supporting a more ambitious target of 30 per cent by 2030, to be agreed at the next UN Biodiversity Conference.

Under the Commonwealth Blue Charter, Seychelles leads an action group of 16 member countries, including: The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, The Gambia, Ghana, Jamaica, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, Tonga, the UK and Vanuatu.

Head of Oceans and Natural Resources at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Nicholas Hardman-Mountford, said: "A key goal of the Blue Charter is to share knowledge and experiences, while working together to scale up strategies, in this case for the effective management, monitoring and enforcement of MPAs."

Securing a job right out of college is always an extreme sport and it isn't then you should either thank you lucky stars or acknowledge your intern years to offering you experience on paper. It's even more difficult now as you try doing that in the middle of a worldwide pandemic and an economic meltdown.

Many people and students as well have lost income: jobs on campus or around town. They've lost internships, which really help them build their Cvs. Now they are entering the workforce at a time when millions are getting laid off.

Some students could not complete their internships in some organizations due to the effects of the pandemic.

They were used to being busy: up at 6:30 a.m., bed by midnight, back-to-back internships, activities, track. But because of the pandemic, they are just home hoping one day life will resume back to normal.

I'm "learning to accept that things are going to change and I'm just trying to be OK with it," one of them said disappointed.

"What do I do? I feel like I was thrown into an intersection with a bunch of ways to go - and then I have no direction. I'm extremely passionate about what I do, but ... I'm trying to get used to the idea that I might not get a job in my field for a little while." Nancy a Student at SAUTI had her say.

All in all my take is, when life situations go south, move

Navigating a career through hard times



along but be resilient and focus on the basics...

Be flexible. In your mind, when you pursued a specific course, you feel like this specifically fits just that area and that the skills you're learning within your course work are giving you a foundation. The

experiences and opportunities you take advantage of will ultimately shape your career pathway, more than what you studied in. So be flexible in exploring other industries that are thriving right now, like technology and online platforms. Think in terms of, how can you

pivot in this time and use the skills that they've learned, but just applying them in a new way?...

The current pandemic has created a lot of confusion and fear, and for students that can be really paralyzing and especially for those that are entering the job market, students in this situation should reach out to their school's career centers on campus. Certainly, they can get connected to a career adviser, counselor who has access to all kinds of tools that they might draw from to help these students begin the process of beginning to sort out some of their thoughts, reactions and feelings and develop a game plan so they can get moving forward."

However, because the job search is likely going to be extended and how people choose to use that time is important. Don't just sit back and consume this time thinking about what you will do but instead focus on learning new marketable skills. Use this time to maybe shore up a gap in your skill set or take an existing skill to another level.

Give yourself time to adjust. People think this is now a gap year within their college years. How about a gap year after college. Maybe now is a time to push the long-term plan off a bit and regroup, by focusing on what's in front of you right now.



"How do I set myself apart? "is a very crucial rhetorical question to ask yourself right away as the bad news is employers are on a hiring freeze.

How do you set yourself apart in a way that makes already struggling businesses see the value of hiring you in the middle of a pandemic?

How can you market yourself in a way that makes you appealing as a candidate, so much so that people are willing to hire you now, even though they are financially struggling?

It's important that you start to take a personal approach to the job search, let it be about the connections you're making, and that includes leveraging your current network.

Do you have acquaintance that know someone that might need some help right now? ... If not, maybe expanding that pool and reaching out to your faculty members would help.

Are there any connections there that you can make potentially? Think about it.

Tailor your experience as now is not the time to be submitting generic materials for hundreds and hundreds of opportunities. Instead, set yourself apart and be creative in how you sell yourself to prospective employers. Mark you, Employers don't want to hire somebody just looking for a job. They want to hire somebody who's looking for their job.

Keep networking in mind, don't forget about its miracles because when the economy starts picking up, you would luckily be the one who just happened to nail the job right at the right time. You're the one that people remember and get to call back. So what you're building now is their relationships and the connections that will turn into opportunities eventually.

Use this time effectively.

Migration is a safety net during climate change disasters

BY AIMÉE-NOËL MBIYOZO

Movement is a critical resilience strategy for communities affected by climate change. Climate threats are currently high across much of Africa, with floods, droughts and the biggest locust outbreak in generations. Increased restrictions on movement due to COVID-19 may intensify the effects and put people at even more risk.

Major desert locust outbreaks across East Africa are threatening food security in at least eight countries and are projected to continue spreading. It is the worst infestation in 70 years for Kenya and 25 years for Somalia and Ethiopia.

The West Indian Ocean has been warmer than usual in the past two years due to rising ocean temperatures and the Indian Ocean Dipole. After years of drought, this has led to exceptionally heavy rains in the countries near this ocean, namely Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia and South Sudan. These rains are ideal breeding conditions for desert locusts.

A desert locust swarm can travel 150 km in a day and a small swarm can consume the equivalent of food for 35 000 people in one day. The first wave in early 2020 saw swarms the size of cities. The second wave, which started in early April, compounds the damage already done.

Now the region is experiencing its highest rainfall in 40 years. In addition to major flooding and landslides, this second and even bigger wave of locusts is predicted to mature in June. This could lead to considerable crop damage as farmers begin their main harvest.

Sudden onset climate change disasters are the top



With climate threats high across Africa, COVID-19 restrictions may prevent people from moving as a survival strategy. File photo

drivers of internal migration. The African Union has labelled the infestation 'an unprecedented threat to food and economic security'. It warns that the locusts could spread to western and northern regions, becoming a continental plague. Almost 25 million people in the affected area already face severe food insecurity. This region is also home to one of the world's largest populations of displaced people - almost 4.4 million refugees and over nine million internally displaced people.

While the Indian Ocean Dipole has pushed warm waters to East Africa, a corresponding subtropical Indian Ocean Dipole has pushed cold water south of Madagascar and suppressed rains across Southern Africa. Since late 2018, Southern Africa has been subjected

to severe drought due to below average and erratic rainfalls and extreme temperatures. Crops and livestock production have been severely impacted, affecting over 18 million people.

In Zimbabwe, the drought has decimated maize and other crop production. This is exacerbated by political and macro-economic mismanagement. The country is facing its worst hunger crisis with almost half the population (7.7 million) in rural and urban settings urgently needing humanitarian aid.

Historically, millions of Zimbabweans have fled into neighbouring Botswana and South Africa during difficult times to seek work or get basic supplies. These borders have been closed under COVID-19 restrictions. Formal border closures or a lack of safe and regular passage opportunities often drive

irregular and unsafe movement, particularly in desperate situations.

People unable to leave areas affected by climate disasters can become trapped and extremely vulnerable

Slow onset climate effects, including drought, desertification and salinisation (increasing salt content in soil), are disrupting crops more frequently and diminishing agricultural returns for many farmers. Being able to move allows individuals and families to diversify income, spread household risk and send remittances home. But that requires resources.

In rural and farming communities, people are most likely to move the shortest possible distance

to a location where they can find work. It's most often temporary and circular. Families are unlikely to abandon a farm due to a season of poor crops. They're more likely to send some members to seek work and remit money to supplement farming income. These members often return once conditions improve.

Sudden onset climate change disasters such as extreme temperatures, landslides, droughts, wildfires, floods or hurricanes are the top drivers of internal migration. Reportedly 24.9 million people were newly displaced by disasters in 2019, compared to 8.5 million by conflict and armed violence. And 195%

more Africans were affected by extreme weather events in 2019 than in 2018.

In sudden onset climate disasters, people mostly flee to the nearest safe location or where there's aid. People unable to move away from affected areas can become trapped and left extremely vulnerable. Often the groups most susceptible to climate-related threats, such as poor subsistence farmers, are the least able to move away.

While migration offers a positive adaptation strategy to mitigate the impacts of climate change for those who can achieve it, immobility can increase vulnerabilities and risks. COVID-19 has rendered people more immobile than usual.

The impacts of climate change are likely to converge

with the economic and social fallouts of COVID-19

As of 7 May, 219 countries - including all African countries - had issued over 60 771 domestic and international movement restrictions. In some cases, measures to contain the coronavirus are opposite to those needed for climate change responses. In some cases, governments have refused to open evacuation centres due to COVID-19 concerns.

Safe passage for people threatened by climate change must be facilitated where needed. People fleeing disasters, in particular, must be enabled to move away from danger as safely as possible, including using health screenings to minimise COVID-19 transmission.

The impacts of both sudden and slow onset climate change are likely to converge with the economic and social fallouts of COVID-19. Urban economic slowdowns, reduced remittances and government support packages due to lost revenues will create severe hardship across Africa. Movement restrictions meant to protect people could end up inhibiting their ability to respond or push them towards irregular or dangerous means.

If freedom to travel remains limited during the pandemic, people will be even more vulnerable than projected, including while travelling to access life-saving help. Aid agencies, including the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme, recognise these complex threats. They've recently increased their appeals to protect food security and livelihoods. With COVID-19 dominating international attention, it's more urgent than ever that these threats are recognised and these appeals fully funded.



Thursday 21 May 2020

BoT says alternative banking channels increased deposits by 8.5pc in Q4 2019

By Francis Kajubi

INVESTMENT in alternative banking channels such as digital platforms and agency banking have led to an increase in deposits by 8.5 percent from 18.63trn/- to 20.21trn/- during the last quarter of 2019.

Bank of Tanzania said in its Consolidated Zonal Economic Performance Report for the year ending December 2019, that the banks investment and adaptation of new digital platforms and agent banking played a key role in the growth.

The report stated that in addition to physical branches which are mainly based in urban areas, investment in alternative channels facilitated mobilization of deposits and thus enabling banks to increase deposits which were used to issue loans to both the public and private sectors.

"The deposits mobilization improved during the period under review partly on account of increase agent banking, improved efforts in digital deposits mobilization and the ordinary branch banking," reads part of the report.

The report further noted that Dar es Salaam zone had the most contribution with a share of 64.4 percent, while South Eastern zone accounted for the least share at only four percent.

Details of the central bank report shows that Dar es Salaam's deposits amounted to 13.01trn/-



Bank of Tanzania deputy governor responsible for financial deepening, Dr Bernard Kibasso

followed by Northern zone covering Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara with 2.50trn/- while Central zone which consists of Dodoma, Singida and Tabora mobilized deposits worth 1.57trn/- . The South Eastern zone had only mobilized 781bn/-.

As a result of the good deposits mobilization, loans and advances made by banks to various sectors of the economy grew by 2.2 percent to 14.51trn/- compared to 14.2trn/- extended in the last quarter of 2018.

"The highest growth of bank loans was recorded

in Central and Lake Zones, consistent with expansion of construction and trade activities. Out of the outstanding stock, 66.1 percent of the total loans were directed to personal, trade and agriculture activities," the report noted.

The central bank further noted that the financial sector remains stable and promising for the future thanks to professionalism and huge investments being made in alternative banking channels.

Meanwhile, the number of Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) decreased from 4,177 registered at the end of December 2018 to 3,714 by December 2019. The BoT report stated that despite the decrease in the number of SACCOS, the total number of members, share values, value of deposits, savings, loans issued and outstanding loans increased.

"Number of members increased to 711,507 from 620,616, share value increased to 57,066bn/- from 53,644bn/-, savings increased to 200.21bn/- from 176.48bn/- compared to that registered in the corresponding period in 2018. Deposits topped 51.6bn/- from 39.54bn/-." The central bank's quarterly report added.

KCB boss four-year pay packet crosses Sh1bn

NAIROBI

KCB Group #ticker:KCB Chief Executive Officer Joshua Oigara has earned Sh1.05 billion in the last four years, benefiting from the performance-based pay that has cemented his position as Kenya's most handsomely rewarded executive.

Regulatory filings by KCB, which is Kenya's biggest bank by assets and most profitable lender, show that Mr Oigara has earned 63 percent of this money in form of performance-related bonuses, equivalent to Sh667.6 million between 2016 and 2019.

KCB has been disclosing executives' pay, including salaries, stock options and bonuses, in its annual report since July 2017 in line with the legal change that made it mandatory for listed companies to make directors' pay public.

Mr Oigara, 45, whose renewable term of five years ends in 2023, earned Sh262 million in basic salary over the four years with the annual pay rising from Sh57 million in 2016 to Sh72 million last year, reflecting a 26.3 percent growth. His allowances, such as house, car and telephone perks, over the four years totalled Sh60.5 million or Sh1.26 million per month, which is at par with the pay of a CEO serving a State owned firm like Kenya Power.

Mr Oigara was also paid Sh59.6 million in gratuity, and Sh2.3 million in non-cash benefits, which include medical insurance cover, club membership and professional indemnity cover. "The KCB Group approach towards reward and recognition is to ensure that individuals are adequately compensated and recognised for their role towards the overall success of the groups' business," said the lender in its annual report for 2019.

"Executive directors' performance is measured on the basis of a balanced scorecard... covering areas around financial performance, customer and stakeholder satisfaction human capital, culture, learning and growth and efficiency in internal business processes."

The lender reckons that its management pay is also based on the market average obtained through a regional survey of executive compensation all the way to bonuses that are linked to a range of metrics such as return on equity. KCB, which also operates in neighbouring Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan, has returned double-digit profit growth for most of years since it hired Mr Oigara as CEO in 2013. The bank's net profits rose 4.8 percent last year to Sh25.1 billion from Sh23.99 billion the previous year, and has risen from Sh19.7 billion in 2016.

This has translated to outsized compensation for Mr Oigara who has cemented his position among the highest-paid executives in the region. The bank's shareholders are also happy. In the past four years, KCB has paid a collective dividend of Sh40.2 billion, accounting for 45.4 percent of its total earnings over the period.

At the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), shareholders have seen the worth of their holding jump by Sh90.2 billion in the four years to December, more than doubling its capitalisation from Sh83.1 billion in 2016 to Sh173.3 billion at the end of last year. Kenya in December 2015 changed the company law that requires public listed companies to publish an exhaustive account of directors' benefits, including that of chief executive officers. This was meant to offer deeper insights into executive pay and improve accountability as investors get a better feel of how directors are rewarded against their performance.

The previous Act limited directors' benefits disclosures to salaries, pensions and fees for serving on the boards of directors and retrenchment compensation. This allowed companies to aggregate directors' compensation under the reporting lines, offering little insight into how the top executives were remunerated.

Economies prioritising payment digitisation well-placed to fight financial risks, says Mastercard

CAIRO

Countries adopting digitised payment solutions are well-positioned to fight risks related to financial exclusion, unemployment and the cost of cash and corruption, a Mastercard study found.

"Early adoption and the use of digital technology allow for higher productivity levels through more efficient use of capital and labour ... such as the benefits of real-time data in logistics used by e-commerce giants," the global payments firm said in its report on Tuesday.

A 10 per cent increase in internet use in an exporting country, for example, can increase the number of products traded between two companies by 1.5 per cent as a result of buyers and sellers being able to communicate directly.

"And the very speed, at which digital technologies boost innovation, often requires new regulation to avoid unfair competitive advantage," Mastercard said. Digital payments and online transactions have been surging as consumers opt for contactless transactions amid the coronavirus pandemic. In the UAE, one in four transactions is now digital, Mastercard estimates.

A higher usage of cards in 70 countries - representing 90 per cent of the world's gross domestic product - contributed an additional \$296 billion to consumption, according to a Mastercard study conducted between 2011 and 2015.

"A 1 per cent increase in the use of digital payments produced an average annual increase of \$104bn in the consumption of goods and services ... representing a 0.04 per cent GDP increase in developed markets and 0.02 per cent in developing ones," the study found.

Countries are recognising digitised payment economies as an effective way to contain challenges, grow GDP and attain financial inclusion, said Khalid Elgibali, division president at Mastercard in the Middle East and North Africa region. The pandemic has further expedited the use of contactless payments across the region, which has traditionally favoured the use of cash.

Last month, Mastercard increased contactless payment limits across the region to help customers avoid touching keypads during the coronavirus outbreak. Currently, almost one in nine Mastercard transactions at point-of-sale terminals in the Mea region are contactless - a payment method that does not require a user enter a personal identification number or provide a signature. have signed the letter. Many desperate pleas and comments have also been received in support of the motion; many businesses will need to retrench employees, most do not have any form of income, and others may need to shut down completely, the businesses say. "We can play a vital part in not only preventing the spread of the virus but ensuring the well-being of South Africans - please allow us to do this," it adds.



Airtel Africa's CEO, Raghunath Mandava.

UNICEF-Airtel Africa deal targets online learning for Covid-19 lockdown children

By The Banker Reporter

LOCKDOWN children in Sub-Saharan Africa, which includes Tanzania, will now be able to access online learning and improved cash transfers for their families thanks to an agreement entered between Airtel Africa and Unicef.

Airtel and Unicef announced their partnership this week through which use of mobile technology will benefit an estimated 133 million school age children currently affected by school closures in 13 countries across sub-Saharan Africa due to the coronavirus.

In a statement, the duo said education experts warn that gains made in increasing access to learning in the previous decade are at risk of being lost, or even reversed completely by the pandemic especially for poor households around the world.

Remote learning, supported by digital tools, is a core part of Unicef's response to ensure continuity of learning for those children with access to technology at home. Airtel Africa will zero-rate select websites hosting educational content,

which will provide children with remote access to digital content at no cost.

"COVID-19 is affecting access to information and education at an unprecedented scale," said Fayaz King, Unicef's Deputy Executive Director for Field Results and Innovation. "Worldwide, most children are not in school, which we know can lead to a number of increased vulnerabilities and setbacks. Unicef is partnering with Airtel Africa to deliver better outcomes for children and families affected by widespread closures," King said.

The partnership will also provide the UN specialised agency a means to facilitate vital cash assistance to alleviate financial barriers for some of the most vulnerable families across the region, including many affected by the growing socio-economic hardships resulting from suspension of income earning activities. This will help ensure families have additional resources to cope with the ongoing health and economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Some effective ways to cushion families from the effects of this crisis is through providing free Internet access

to selected educational websites to help children keep up with their learning during the school closures and direct cash transfer programmes to reduce physical presence requirements for cash in hand exchanges," said Raghunath Mandava, Airtel Africa's CEO. "Alongside various other COVID-19 related initiatives and support that we are providing to Governments and the community, we are glad to also collaborate with UNICEF to support children," Mandava added.

The partnership with Airtel Africa supports Unicef's global agenda for Action for Children. The plan outlines global actions which private and public sector partners can take to keep millions of girls and boys - including those who have been uprooted by conflict, children living with disabilities, and girls at risk of violence - healthy, safe and learning.

Unicef and Airtel Africa's partnership aims to benefit children and families in 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa which include: Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.

Stanbic reschedules repayment of 37bn/- by clients due to Covid-19



Stanbic Bank Tanzania's Head of Personal and Business Banking, Brian Ndadzungira.

By The Banker Reporter

A record 265 clients of Stanbic Bank Tanzania Limited have been given debt relief which include a grace period of between 3-6 months to repay a whopping 37bn/- debt thanks to the coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam earlier this week, Stanbic Bank's Head of Personal and Business Banking, Brian Ndadzungira said the bank recognizes the importance of its customers to continue to operate amid COVID-19 outbreak hence the decision to grant the grace period for loan repayment.

"We understand that due to measures taken by countries in the region and the rest of the world to combat the spread of coronavirus, businesses in Tanzania have also been affected," said Ndadzungira adding that the bank's actions are meant to alleviate some of the financial impacts facing customers.

"This will not only assist our clients with managing their loan repayments but also enable them to honour payments to their staff and suppliers," he noted while pointing out that the relief commenced in April for the tourism sector and has now expanded to the energy, transport and small and medium size enterprises (SMEs).

He further stated that the initiative is

part of the bank's continued efforts to support its customers by taking measures to cushion them from the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, Stanbic Bank continues to provide financial advisory to its clients to ensure that they have effective business continuity plans.

"We are urging all customers who are facing financial difficulty resulting from Covid-19 to contact us immediately because together we can find a workable solution. As a bank, we remain committed to making a positive impact in the communities we operate and support the government in addressing the economic impacts of the pandemic," Stanbic Bank's Head of Personal and Business Banking, promised.

Stanbic Bank Tanzania provides the full spectrum of financial services with its Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB) division serving a wide range of requirements for banking, finance, trading, investment, risk management and advisory services.

Stanbic Bank Tanzania's Personal and Business Banking unit (PBB) offers banking and other financial services to individuals and small-to-medium enterprises. PBB serves the increasing need among Africa's small business and individual customers for banking products that can meet their shifting expectations and growing wealth.

Mafinga goes digital in business registration with Brela-sponsored ICT equipment



Brela CEO, Godfrey Nyaisa.

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

MAFINGA District Council in Iringa Region will soon start to provide business licences electronically after received Information Communication and Technology facilities (ICT).

The ICT facilities were handed over this week to the District Executive Director, Saada Mwaruka by Business Registration and Licensing Agency (Brela) CEO, Godfrey Nyaisa at ceremony held in Dar es Salaam. The ICT facilities include three computers, one lap top, scanner printer, modem and three mobile phones.

Speaking during the handover ceremony yesterday, Nyaisa said the aim of engaging district councils in providing business licences electronically is to create enabling environment to the business community.

"This system is very simple and enables business owners get registration and licenses wherever they are. This system simply requires business owners to put upload required documents on the system and get their licenses immediately," Nyaisa said.

He further noted that, to begin with, the system may pose many challenges to the business community because of some technical procedures but in the long run when they get assisted, it becomes simple and familiar and will find the system very efficient," the Brela chief noted.

Nyaisa requested the Mafinga district officials to strictly supervise use of the ICT system so that other districts in Iringa region can learn when they also introduce a similar digital registration system in the future which the agency will present.

Brela's acting Head of Licensing, Tawi Kilumile said for the business people to register and get their licenses electronically, they need to visit the agency website at: www.business.go.tz where they will create an account proceed to register their businesses.

"In order to qualify for registration, one needs to have memorandum of understanding or articles of association and particulars and identification of directors, among other documents," Kilumile said.

In remarks after receiving the ICT equipment, Mafinda DED, Saada Mwaruka thanked Brela for the equipment which will help simplify the process of registering businesses in her district. "I assure you that this equipment will be used for the intended purpose," Mwaruka promised

Gold climbs to 7-year high after US Federal Reserve's comment

NEW YORK

Gold rose to the highest in more than seven years after the US Federal Reserve said stocks and asset prices could suffer a significant hit from coronavirus, and warned the process of economic recovery may stretch through until the end of next year. Palladium surged more than \$100 in 20 minutes.

Commercial real estate could be among the hardest-hit industries should the health crisis deepen, the US central bank said in its twice-yearly financial stability report Friday. Separately, Chairman Jerome Powell said in an interview with CBS that a full recovery of the US economy could drag through 2021 and depends on the delivery of a vaccine.

Bullion has surged 16% this year as the spread of the virus curbed economic growth, roiled markets, and prompted vast amounts of stimulus to be unleashed by governments and central banks. Further bolstering the case for the metal has been recent speculation US interest rates could go negative, while holdings in gold-backed exchange-traded funds are at a record. Spot gold climbed as much as 1.2% to \$1763.70 an ounce, the highest since October 2012.

"Financial markets can best be described as factoring in the best-case scenario, with economic stimulus leading to a rapid recovery," said Gavin Wendt, senior resource analyst at MineLife. "The reality is likely to be quite different and there is the prospect that no vaccine will be developed. The recovery is probably set to be more problematic than the optimists think, with gold set to benefit from the enormous boost to money supply that is going to ensue."

Monday's gain in gold comes after data released Friday underscored how hard virus-related shutdowns have hit the world's largest economy. US retail sales and factory output registered the steepest declines on record in April.

Powell is due to appear along with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin before the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday. Fed officials including Powell have consistently batted the idea of negative interest rates away, and he did so again on Sunday, saying that it's probably not an appropriate or useful policy for the US, according to a transcript of the full interview.

In other precious metals, silver climbed as much as 4% and platinum advanced 3%. Palladium jumped as much as 8.3%, the most since March 25, before trading 3.9% higher at \$1955.85. The surge comes even after MMC Norilsk Nickel PJSC said last week demand may drop 16% this year, the most in almost two decades. The metal, alongside platinum, has found some recent support from operational curbs in South Africa.



Local gold bars heading for the export market.

Egypt's lenders to remain stable despite coronavirus headwinds

CAIRO

Egypt's lenders will maintain their overall financial stability despite the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the country's economy and the banking system being affected by slowing consumption and a decline in tourism revenue.

The country's residents and businesses have shown resilience to upheavals, having lived through the 2011 upheaval, Moody's Investors Service said. The country's economy is stronger as a result of critical reforms instituted during the International Monetary Fund programme, the ratings agency said.

Banks are heavily exposed to the Egyptian government through large holdings of sovereign bonds, which amount to 36 per cent of their

combined assets. However, lenders in the most populous Arab country have maintained strong and stable deposit base and their funding structures are highly liquid, Moody's said.

"Loan performance will deteriorate, but two-thirds of banks' investments are in government securities and other liquid assets whose outlook is stable," the agency said. "Banks' high exposure to government debt links their creditworthiness to that of the sovereign."

Earlier in the week Moody's affirmed Egypt's B2 rating on the resilience of the country's credit profile, as the IMF approved \$2.77 billion of emergency funding to help it cope with the financial and economic fallout of Covid-19. The affirmation of the rating and stable outlook reflect Moody's view that the most populous

Arab country's credit strength is not expected to change materially, relative to similarly-rated sovereigns, due to the global shock posed by the pandemic.

Egypt's government has "acted swiftly" in responding to the crisis, allocating resources to tackle the health emergency and providing targeted support to the areas most affected, Geoffrey Okamoto, first deputy managing director and acting chairman of the IMF's executive board, said on Monday.

Egypt's central bank has cut interest rates and postponed repayments of existing credit facilities to allow banks to keep lending. However, the \$2.77bn funding through the IMF's Rapid Financing Instrument, was still needed to "correct large external and domestic imbalances", he said.

INSS set to fund 600 million credit line for SMEs affected by Covid-19

MAPUTO

The National Institute of Social Security (INSS) will establish a 600 million meticals fund to alleviate the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The pandemic has closed more than 1,175 companies, liquidating more than 12,160 jobs - the INSS's main asset - mainly from the hotel and restaurant sector. The ongoing mothballing of companies and consequent layoffs have led entrepreneurs to urge the INSS to be more proactive, since its primary resource is at risk, which could imperil the institution itself.

In response to these calls, Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário announced last Friday (15) that the government would provide a 600 million meticals [around US\$8.7 million at current exchange rates] financing

line from the National Institute of Social Security (INSS) via the commercial banking sector.

Without specifying the date the fund would become available or how financing would be obtained, Carlos Agostinho do Rosário explained that the financing was intended for SMEs in the tourism area, and others affected by the state of emergency.

"This is an effort that it is possible for the government to make at this moment, taking into account the capacity of our economy, and that we continue to work within the limitations that Stage 3 of the State of Emergency impose on us," do Rosário said.

Speaking in the Assembly of the Republic, the prime minister said he believed that this measure, along with other initiatives, would mitigate the impact of the new coronavirus on the business sector, so that it could maintain production and the provision of services, as well as safeguarding jobs.

Tanzanian banks building capacity to fund economic transformation

By Dr Joe Masawe

Tanzania is among East Africa's fastest-growing economies with an estimated population of more than 50 million people. Economic growth projections put the country among the region's stable economies with Gross Domestic Product growth averaging 6.7 percent over the last couple of years.

The current administration of President John Pombe Magufuli, has accelerated the development agenda by investing billions of shillings in an ambitious industrialization drive, which includes the construction of a new rail line, revival of the national airline and a mega hydro-power plant.

President Magufuli, who is widely seen as a 'bold reformer,' continues to tout the industrialization agenda as the surest approach to the economic emancipation of the largest East African country. The country's development aspirations are outlined in the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 (TDV 2025), which was developed in the late 90s to guide economic and social development efforts.

In summary, the TDV 2025 targets to transform the country into a middle-income economy, imbued with five main national attributes: high-quality liveli-

hoods, peace, stability and unity; good governance; a well-educated and skilled society; and lastly a competitive economy capable of producing sustainable growth and shared benefits.

The economic transformation for Tanzania means moving from a predominantly agricultural one to a diversified and semi-industrialized economy with a vibrant industrial sector benefiting middle-income country status.

The government's efforts are paying off, even as the country continues to harness its natural endowments including a resilient climate and a growing middle class. With increased investment in infrastructure, agriculture, construction and manufacturing, the country's prospects are increasing even as the Small and Medium Enterprises sector emerges.

A key contributor to this exponential growth is the banking industry, which plays a pivotal role in mobilizing financial resources from savers and passing them on to investors.

Rapid growth of financial sector

The financial sector has undergone substantial structural change since its liberalization in 1991. The financial landscape in the country, which mainly comprises banks, pension funds and insurance companies,



Dr Joe Masawe is Head of Research and Policy at the Tanzania Bankers Association.

has expanded significantly since liberalization. Today, the country has a well-developed and diverse financial services sector, with large domestic and multinational lenders present, and a rate of financial inclusion that exceeds that of most other large economies in Africa.

Based on available data, financial sector assets have expanded rapidly over the past decade, mainly driven by growth in private credit. Current estimates indicate a 17 percent growth in total industry assets from 26.3trn/- in 2015 to 30.8trn/-

in 2019. This growth is not only good for the economy but also provides avenues for diversification.

"The fundamental stability indicators of the sector remain sound, and the industry is well-positioned to take advantage of opportunities arising from the government's development programme," says Abdulmajid Nsekela - Chairman of the Tanzania Bankers' Association (TBA) - an umbrella body for banks in the country.

An increase in private sector borrowing

Traditionally, banks support economic growth through financing the private sector, which is the engine for growth. As far as this role is concerned, recent Bank of Tanzania reports show that during the year ending February 2020, credit to the private sector increased by over 1.477trn/- to 19.904trn/-, equivalent to an annual growth rate of 8.0 percent.

The strong growth of credit to the private sector, reflects efforts by commercial banks to increase the availability of investment resources at reasonable interest rates. Of course, these efforts are facilitated by the regulator through an accommodative monetary policy and government's efforts to improve the overall business environment.

According to a recent BoT report, growth of credit was mostly absorbed by five sectors namely: building and construction, agriculture, transport and communication and personal loans. Private sector borrowing has important implications for policy because it influences the monetary transmission mechanism and is a major determinant of financial stability.

Time to think outside the box?

But as banks continue to grow, it is increasingly becoming imperative for the sector to innovate to

increase competitiveness. With the advent of digital banking solutions, banks are now able to mobilize more capital from a larger pool of customers, thanks to mobile money networks. Availability of capital means the increased capability to fund growth and this is what is critical for economic growth.

But supporting economic growth also means providing capital to the government through lending to finance mega infrastructure projects within the country. As noted earlier, the government is pushing an industrialization drive that focuses on infrastructure and the agricultural value chain. Infrastructure projects are integral to a country's economic development and poverty alleviation.

Yes, it is true that traditionally, our banks have focused more on providing credit to the private sector and not governments, often because of lack of capacity in terms of capital. Infrastructure is capital intensive and requires heavy funding, which in most cases is unavailable locally. This is what has created a reliance on foreign banks and other financial institutions, which have more resources for long-term investments and are perceived to have "deeper pockets." But foreign lenders come with stringent conditions, which makes the loans expensive.

To realize the full potential of our economy, therefore, there is need for local banks to think outside the box and find ways to mobilize enough capital and lend to the government. Steve Jobs, who was chief executive officer and co-founder of Apple Inc., once said "What is Apple, after all? Apple is about people who think 'outside the box,' people who want to use computers to help them change the world, to help them create things that make a difference, and not just to get a job done."

Dream big

The industry has come of age and I believe it's about time that Tanzanian Banks started to dream big to take on projects that are transformative in nature. Big ideas come from forward-thinking people, who challenge the norm, think outside the box, and invent the world they see inside rather than submitting to the limitations of current dilemmas.

Excitingly, we are beginning to witness a growing appetite for infrastructure financing as seen in April last year where CRDB Bank Plc and United Bank for Africa (UBA) (Tanzania) Ltd partnered in a historic financial syndication to provide the \$737.5m bank guarantees required by the joint venture of Arab Contractors and Elsewedy of Egypt for the execution of the \$2.95

billion 558 trn/- Nyerere Hydroelectric Power Project contract awarded to the joint venture by the government in December 2018.

More recently, in February 2020, Standard Chartered Tanzania (SCB) Tanzania, signed another facility with the government through Ministry of Finance for a US\$ 1.46 billion term loan financing to fund the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway project from Dar es Salaam to Makutupura in Dodoma. Sanjay Rughani, Managing Director for SCB Tanzania and also Vice-Chair of TBA, emphasized the need to build local capacity to finance infrastructure, as a key to accelerated growth. Other domestic banks have also collaborated on syndication deals to provide budget support where required including a recent transaction involving Absa and Stanbic bank among others.

Join the music

While we commend these banks for pioneering increased local banks financing of Government projects through syndications, it is important that other local banks join the efforts, to ensure that the banking sector in Tanzania plays a more pivotal role in driving forward the national economic transformation agenda, as spearheaded by the Head of State.

Serengeti Breweries joins war against coronavirus pandemic

By The Banker Reporter

ONE of the domestic market's leading brewer, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), has joined the war to fight against the spreading of the novel coronavirus pandemic by making donations, equipping its staff and clients with personal protective equipment worth millions of shillings.

SBL is one of the stakeholders that have waged a war against the coronavirus by supporting government efforts through Ministry of Health and other institutions through provision of an assortment of items and materials.

In March this year SBL partnered with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in sensitizing the public about the scourge by donating and distributing educative materials across the country.

In this endeavor, the brewer assisted the government to distribute the posters and fliers with health tips that facilitate the raising of public awareness and sensitization on the pandemic countrywide. In April, SBL boosted government's efforts to stop the spreading of Covid-19 in the country by donating 1,250 litres of hand-sanitizers which were handed over to Ministry of Health in Dar es Salaam.

The brewer's Corporate Affairs Director, John Wanyancha said the company's gesture was in line with its corporate social responsibility policy of contributing to the society's social wellbeing. "The Covid-19 pandemic currently poses as the most catastrophic global health calamity of the century and the great-



Serengeti Breweries Limited's sales representative in Tanga region, George Rweyamamu (R), presents Covid-19 awareness materials to Mohamed Khalifa, a representative of the Tanga Regional Medical Officer's office. Photo courtesy of SBL.

est challenge to the survival of humankind since the second World War," Wanyancha said.

He pointed out that the pandemic whose source is Chinese town of Wuhan in Hubei Province where the virus first surfaced in December 2019, has caused a lot of damage both socially and economically to Tanzanians some of who have lost jobs and lives.

"The World Health Organization (WHO) code-named this new infectious respiratory disease Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019)," Wanyancha noted adding that till now there is no report of any clinically approved antiviral drugs or vaccines proven to be effective against the novel Covid-19.

"It has rapidly spread around the world, posing enormous health, economic, environmental and social challenges to the entire human population," the SBL Corporate Director added while pointing out

that the Covid-19 outbreak has severely disrupted the global economy.

Almost all the nations are struggling to slow down the transmission of the disease by testing and treating patients, quarantining suspected cases through contact tracing, restricting large gatherings, and maintaining complete or partial lockdown in areas that are adversely affected.

Terrifyingly, the disease continues to spread at an alarming speed globally, resulting in significant health impacts on countries and communities in many parts of the world. In Tanzania, although not as widely spread as many other African countries, the government has worked hard in close collaboration with other stakeholders to fight the killer virus.

While little is known about the virus, the disease is known to be transmitted through direct contact

with respiratory droplets of an infected person generated through coughing and sneezing. Individuals can also be infected from touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their faces with their hands.

"The war against coronavirus is a challenging one for everyone, everywhere. It is also a very expensive war and as a result people need to work together," said Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa recently. Majaliwa is leading a national COVID-19 Relief Committee which is tasked with mobilizing resources to curb the virus spreading.

Wanyancha who also commended the PM for his exemplary leadership, said SBL appreciates the fact that the government has strengthened its collaboration with the private sector to scale up the acquisition of essential materials for use by the general public and health workers in managing the spread of Covid-19 in the country.

"We understand the importance of playing our role as much as we can to increase public awareness in order to combat this infectious disease that poses an unpredictable danger to mankind, a cause that we are committed to," he pledged.

The corporate relations director also notes that apart from the donation to the Ministry, the brewer has also provided sanitizers and masks to its field and factory staff as well as its distributors across the country to keep them safe from contracting the virus. SBL has about 800 employees and works with dozens of distributors in the country.

For its role in helping government stop the pandemic, Minister for Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu, thanked the brewer's management for complementing state efforts against the pandemic.

"The war against Covid-19 is a challenge that all of us are facing hence need to come together because it is equally expensive. Let's all come together to save lives," Mwalimu said after receiving SBL's donation of sanitizers.

SA Reserve Bank might cut interest rate to near 50-year low this week

JOHANNESBURG

Interest rates may drop further this week to levels close to those last seen in the 1970s as the Reserve Bank seeks to bolster South Africa's ailing economy. Economists expect a cut in borrowing costs of between 25-basis and 50 basis points this Thursday following a meeting of the bank's monetary policy committee.

SA's economy, which already slipped into a recession at the end of 2019, could contract by double digits this year due to the sudden halt in economy activity brought about by the nationwide lockdown to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

The Reserve Bank has already joined the world's leading central banks in aggressively cutting interest rates and increasing bond purchases in an attempt to shore up liquidity. The Lesetja Kganyago-led bank has cut interest rates by 225 basis points so far this year, having slashed rates by 100 bps at each of the previous two meetings, taking the repurchase rate to 4.25%, its lowest level since 1973. During April it bought R11.4 billion worth of government bonds and relaxed regulations to allow banks to loan more.

A cut of 25 basis points, or 0.25% on Thursday would take SA's repo rate to 4%, while a cut of 50 basis points would mean a rate of 3.75%. The repo rate is the benchmark interest rate at which the Reserve Bank lends money to other banks. But to bring SA's interest rate down to 3.14% - last seen in October 1973 as a response to the oil crisis and slowing global growth at the time - it would take a cut bigger than 100 basis points, notes economist Mike Schussler.

Coordination

Central bankers have acted in a coordinated manner in their response to the current economic crisis, following a similar course to that adopted after the 2008 global recession. The extra liquidity has served to shore up global stock markets, with the JSE All Share some 2% firmer over the past month, and the rand managing to make some gains against the US dollar. Kganyago has previously said that the bank would use its monetary policy tools appropriately, and within the bank's

mandate, to support SA's economy.

Deputy Finance Minister David Masedo made waves in early May when he suggested at an ANC discussion the Reserve Bank could do more to help fund Covid-19 interventions and bolster the economy for growth by directly buying government bonds. The Reserve Bank currently buys bonds from the secondary market, and says it only does so to remedy any market dysfunction.

The Bureau of Economic Research, in a market update, said the central bank may comment further on its bond-buying activities at this week's MPC statement. "The bank stepped up its purchases of government bonds in April, but the MPC has so far stressed this should not be seen as quantitative easing but merely to ensure a well-functioning market," the note read.

The BER expects a rate cut of 50 basis points on Thursday. Inflation is likely hovering near the lower end of the bank's 3% to 6% target band, it said. At the last MPC meeting the Reserve Bank estimated it would tick in to 3.6% for April. While the central bank has predicted the domestic economy will likely contract by 6.1% this year, Treasury has projected a contraction of up to 16.1% in a worst-case scenario under a protracted lockdown. Under this scenario, the employment rate would be pushed to over 50%.

Shallow rate cut

Standard Chartered expects a rate cut of 50 basis points on Thursday, bringing the repo rate to 3.75%, and a further cut of 25 basis points at the July meeting, said Razia Khan, the bank's chief economist for Africa and the Middle East. Standard Chartered also revised its GDP outlook to a contraction of 6.5%.

Khan noted that most of the country would shift from lockdown level 4 to level 3 near the end of the month, but expects a slow recovery in economic activity in metropolitan areas, including Cape Town, which are the "epicentres" of the outbreak. "Metropolitan areas still account for a disproportionate share of South Africa's economy. The risk is that a restrictive level 4 shutdown will remain in place in metropolitan areas, where economic activity is most concentrated," Khan said.

Why is coronavirus origin tracing a challenging task for scientists?

BEIJING

AS the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the world, the puzzle of where the virus originated is attracting global attention from science community.

To identify the origin of an unknown virus, scientists need to find out the pathogen that caused the disease and the animal carrier, that is, the natural host of the virus, according to Zhao Guoping, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Since the outbreak of SARS, global scientists have been searching for its source. They identified SARS-CoV as the pathogen. But it was not until 2015, 13 years after the outbreak, that the natural host of SARS-CoV, *Rhinolophus sinicus*, was revealed.

Questions are still waiting to be answered including whether *Rhinolophus sinicus* is the only natural host of SARS-CoV and how the virus varied when it encountered its intermediate host, civet cats.

Tracing the origin of the virus pathogen requires scientific evidence, including the biological evidence provided by etiology, clinical medicine and epidemiology and the molecular biological evidence provided by genetic sequencing and antibody detec-

tion, according to Zhao.

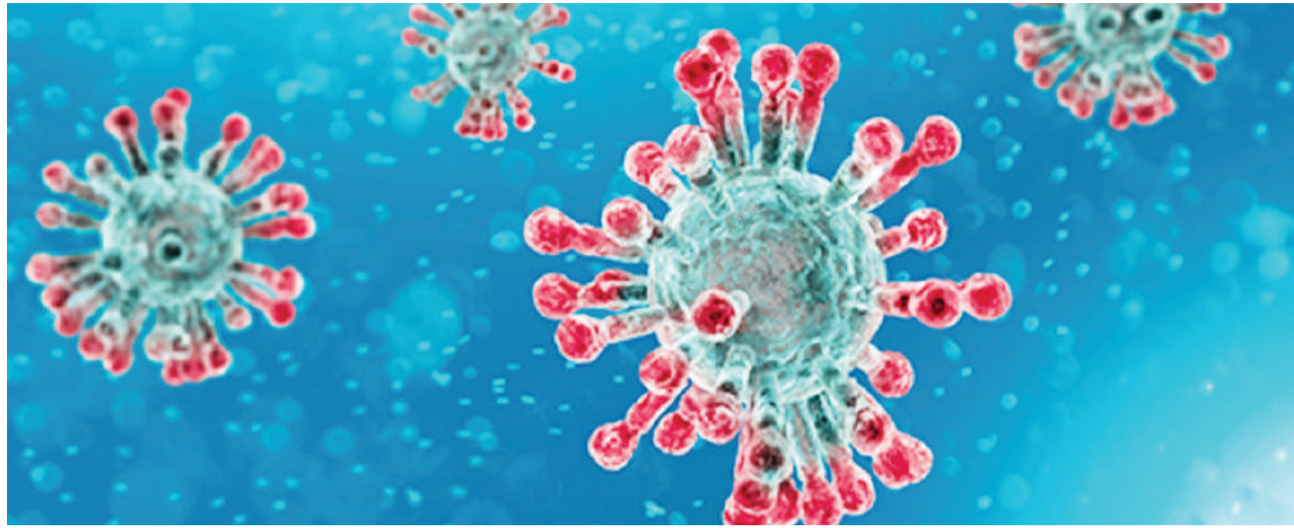
Scientists need to establish the connection between the two types of evidence, which is not easy, to confirm both findings before they can finally make the issue clear, he said.

The epidemiological investigation of the origin of an infectious disease usually starts from the contact history of the first infected patient, or "patient zero," which is even more difficult to confirm.

It is challenging to trace COVID-19 patient zero as it involves a large volume of complicated data, and the early cases might include asymptomatic infections short of medical records, said Liu Peipei, an expert at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Jin Qi, head of the Institute of Medical Biology at the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, said patient zero has not been confirmed for the 1918 influenza pandemic, AIDS or the H1N1 flu that broke out in 2009. Tracing patient zero is a multi-disciplinary problem that requires a great deal of work from the medical and scientific circles.

The novel coronavirus spread extensively around the world since late 2019 and the single "patient zeroes" is absent in most countries, the latest study by the University College Lon-



don Genetics Institute has shown.

"The results add to a growing body of evidence that SARS-CoV-2 (novel coronavirus) viruses share a common ancestor from late 2019, suggesting that this was when the virus jumped from a previous animal host, into people," the university said in a statement early this month.

The molecular biological evidence is also difficult to obtain. Viruses are tricky, especially those whose genomes are made up of RNA rather than DNA.

They mutate more and faster. Zhao said coronavirus is an RNA virus,

which is more tricky. Its genome is three times the size of the HIV genome and mutations including deletion and recombination are more likely to happen.

In the process of cross-species transmission, the virus will accumulate mutations to adapt to the human body, its new host, and spread in the population, he said. He also mentioned that most of the mutations in the early stage might show no obvious manifestation in the infected, therefore this key evidence is hard to collect.

That is why the origin of COVID-19 remains a mystery despite the ef-

forts of so many scientists around the world.

The search for the pathogenic origin of many diseases in human history, such as AIDS and SARS, has never stopped and is full of uncertainty due to its complexity, Zhao said.

"Some evidence, once lost, may never be found, and some facts may not be revealed even after long-term studies," he said, suggesting people should have reasonable expectations for the results of the search for the natural origin of the novel coronavirus.

Xinhua

Moscow views Kiev's confrontation policy unchanged during Zelensky's first year in office

MOSCOW

Kiev's line towards confrontation and whipping up tensions with Moscow re-

mains unchanged, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday on occasion of Vladimir Ze-

lensky's first year of presidency.

"Kiev's line towards confrontation and whipping

up tensions in relations with Russia has been unchanged," the ministry said. "Ukraine keeps fight-

ing against everything that somehow connects our nations. They continue attacks on the Russian language and

culture, distort common history, glorify Nazism and desecrate memorials to Soviet soldiers." **Agencies**

Xinjiang alleviates poverty through boosting consumption

NORTHWEST China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has helped impoverished people shake off poverty by unleashing consumption potential.

Memetturdi Abliz is a farmer from Wukadi village, Cele township, Cele county of Hotan prefecture. Last year, the impoverished man planted 0.87 hectares of Chinese yam.

However, due to an overwhelming supply taking place after the expansion of planting area of Chinese yam in the town, the price of the product fell and the sales were bad. As a result, Memetturdi had to store the unsold products in a cold refrigerator.

When Memetturdi worrying about his business, He Hongxing, first Party chief of the village, head of the work team sent by the State Grid Xinjiang Electric Power Co., Ltd. to Wukadi village, offered assistance to him.

He reported Memetturdi's situation to his company, which then asked all of its affiliated companies in Xinjiang to buy Chinese yam directly from the village. He and his colleagues also helped villagers sort their products before having them delivered.

Last year, the affiliated companies of State Grid Xinjiang Electric Power Co., Ltd. purchased 1/3 of Chinese yam from the village. This year, the company has ramped up poverty alleviation efforts by planning to buy 20 million yuan worth of agricultural products from 12 villages in Cele county.

To help expand sales channels of agricultural produce, Xinjiang has released consumption potential for poverty alleviation in recent years. It has also adjusted



Mahmut Omerjan, head of Moyu county, Hotan advertises local dried fruit in front of a mobile phone camera in a jujube garden. Photo by People's Daily Online

consumption structure of urban and rural residents and got through the "last mile" in poverty alleviation from various channels, creating a broader market for local specialties.

In the first quarter of 2020, the Xinjiang society bought 326 million yuan worth of farm products from poverty-stricken regions, helped sell 479 million yuan worth of agricultural products, according to director of the regional poverty alleviation and development office.

Products from impoverished regions worth 29.41 million yuan were sold by stimulating consumption, and 176 million yuan worth of farm products were sold with the

help of the whole society in Xinjiang.

Besides carrying out poverty alleviation work through consumption and matching agricultural products with targeted markets, Xinjiang has made full use of live streaming to advertise local specialties.

On April 12, Mahmut Omerjan, head of Moyu county, Hotan advertised dried fruit for local farmers in front of a mobile phone camera in a jujube garden covering more than 6.67 hectares. The livestream aroused the interest of purchasing agents and net users in Xinjiang dried fruit.

The two-hour long show attracted a total of 400,000 view-

ers, including 120,000 purchasing agents of bulk commodities, and witnessed 26,000 orders placed with a total value of 860,000 yuan.

"The Internet could increase the popularity of local agricultural products and broaden sales channels," said Shu Chang, secretary of the leading Party members' group and deputy director of the bureau of commerce and industry informatization of Moyu county.

This year, the county will continue to make use of live streaming platforms to advertise livestock and poultry products, while focusing on cultivating local influencers for poverty alleviation.

People's Daily

US administration is shaping great power standoff concept, says Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE US administration is replacing the stabilization of international relations by strategic rivalry among great powers, thus forming a standoff concept, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told TASS when asked about the development of a "super-duper" missile in the United States.

"The current US administration is phasing out the term 'strategic stability' from its vocabulary.

Instead of strategic stability as a goal to be sought in relations between our countries and relations among all leading powers of the world a new notion, a new term has begun to be used: strategic great power rivalry.

In other words, it is standoff, and not stabilization of the situation that is used as the conceptual basis," he said.

Lavrov believes that for understanding the reasons behind such transformation of fundamental terms "there must be a direct dialogue, which regrettably does not exist yet."

He announced that Russia and the United States were going to hold a video conference on strategic stability.

Lavrov and US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo earlier agreed to establish contacts between the US Special Presidential Representative for Arms Control Marshall Billingsley and Russia's Deputy Foreign



Minister Sergey Ryabkov.

"They held a telephone conversation on May 8. A rather preliminary one. The Americans promised that as soon as they are ready, they will propose specific dates for holding the videoconference to discuss strategic stability issues - all those 'supers' and 'dupers' (earlier, US President Donald Trump declared the development of a "super-duper missile" - TASS) and everything else that concerns nuclear arms control, with officials from the ministries of defense and security services taking part.

We are now waiting for such a proposal regarding the date of our video consultations," Lavrov said.

Asked for a comment on Trump's statement the "super-duper missile" the United

States was working on was capable of flying 17 times faster than any other missile existing at the moment, Lavrov said he would prefer not to go into details.

"I do not possess special technical knowledge that would let me measure the speed of sound and the number of speeds of sound this or that piece of military hardware is capable of developing... I would not enter into this discussion.

My job is to ensure our relations with the United States should not be overshadowed by new problems," he explained, adding that the strategic stability dialogue was one of the fields where Russian-US relations needed considerable improvement.

Agencies

COVID-19-related stigmatisation a dangerous 'political virus'

THE latest statistics released by Johns Hopkins University revealed that the US is the most-affected country by the COVID-19 pandemic around the world. The situation strikes a chord with the Chinese people half a world away as they can feel the misery currently being felt by the Americans.

They expressed their willing to offer as much help as possible on the internet, saying the world is a "small village" where insecurity for one is insecurity for all. Such warmth reflects the genuine bond that binds people together.

However, some US politicians are acting on the opposite side, which angers many. Life is invaluable, but they never see the urgency to address the health

crisis, even with people crying, body bags being transferred in trucks, and people dying at home. What they are interested in is to shift their due responsibilities through political games.

US media commented that some US politicians focused on two things when the virus was rampant - blaming media and blaming China. Boston Globe said they have "blood" on their hands.

The stigmatization of China damages international justice. China has made open and arduous efforts in the fight against the epidemic, which is obvious to all and will never be denied by the few who smear the country's contribution.

Secretary-General of the Unit-

ed Nations António Guterres expressed his gratitude to all the people in China who are sacrificing many aspects of their normal lives to prevent the virus from spreading to others. Chief of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also hailed that the high speed and massive scale of China's moves are rarely seen in the world. The quick containment of COVID-19 in China is impressive and "sets an encouraging example for other countries," said The Lancet in a recent editorial.

China's efforts at all costs have successfully curbed the spread of the virus and saved numerous lives. However, such efforts are slandered by irresponsible politicians who only shift blames.

Where is the justice?

The stigmatization of China won't save lives. The novel coronavirus challenges people's right to life and health. At present, it's crystal clear that saving lives is more important than shifting responsibilities, and cooperation remains more significant than groundless accusation. However, it is not what happens with the US politicians who believe making incantations like wizards can help people survive, rather than proper treatment.

The Atlantic said in an article that the White House did not take forceful containment measures at the beginning, which was a major reason for the current explosive spread.

"China did a lot of things right

at the beginning, like any country where a virus first shows up," said Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. "It's sad that even the US, where you would expect to do this well, did this poorly," he added.

The stigmatization of China impedes global efforts to contain the pandemic. As the world's top power of economy and science, the US boasts abundant economic resources, strong R&D capability and leading medical science. It should have taken more international responsibilities and helped vulnerable countries and regions while taking effective control measures at home. However, the awkward practices of some US politicians would only destroy the global efforts

to fight the pandemic, the consensus of building a community with a shared future, and mutual assistance.

China has always adhered to the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, offering assistance for other countries within its capability.

Russian President Vladimir Putin pointed out that China has set a good example for the international community by lending a helping hand to other epidemic-hit countries in a timely manner.

What lies behind the stigmatizing tricks is vicious political manipulation, and this is conspicuous for both the US and the international community. New York Times said that in the US,

the response to the coronavirus is "heavily overlaid with political calculations."

Jim O'Neill, the chair of U.K. think tank Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs recently published an article titled Blaming China Is a Dangerous Distraction. "For many governments, naming and shaming China appears to be a ploy to divert attention from their own lack of preparedness. At a time when the top global priority should be to organize a comprehensive coordinated response to the dual health and economic crises unleashed by the coronavirus, this blame game is not just unhelpful but dangerous."

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



In this Saturday, May 9, 2020 photo, photographer Jason Vinlove, right, gets tested for COVID-19 antibodies before covering UFC 249 mixed martial arts event in Jacksonville, Fla. (AP Photo)

No universal playbook for virus testing in pro sports

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

THERE is no universal playbook for coronavirus testing in professional sports.

Protocols and procedures, guidelines and handbooks -- they could be as different as rulebooks. There's plenty of common ground, though, which explains why executives and doctors from various leagues have consulted with each other while moving closer to at least a partial return to competition amid a pandemic.

League officials essentially are choosing the best option from a list of bad choices, and it comes down to how much risk they are willing to take.

"When you look at the people that run these other sports, these are all really smart guys," UFC President Dana White said. "And nobody knows their business better than they do."

"They have to literally sit down and break through item by item on what they need to do and how they need to make it as safe as they possibly can. And they'll figure it out."

There already have been several approaches in the United States:

- UFC took blood (antibody test) or swabbed nostrils (viral test) for roughly 1,200 people during its weeklong stay in Jacksonville, Florida, this month -- part of the mixed martial arts behemoth's health and safety protocols. It took minutes for antibody results and as little as a few hours for viral test results.

- NASCAR logged temperatures of about 900 people Sunday at its return race in Darlington, South Carolina.

- Major League Baseball delivered a 67-page proposal of a 2020 operations manual last week, still subject to negotiation with the players' association. Proposed details include temperature checks twice a day and multiple fluid swabs weekly. Blood samples to detect COVID-19 antibodies will be collected less frequently.

- The NBA hasn't implemented a full-scale testing program for its 30 teams; a little more than half have reopened practice facilities for voluntary workouts. The NFL, NHL, tennis, golf and other sports are working on their procedures.

Options differ internationally, too:

- South Korea's top soccer league, the K-League, tested 1,100 players and staff at the end of April, and all came back negative, clearing the way to begin its season. South Korean baseball, the KBO, screens players and coaches for fevers.

- Australia's National Rugby League will mandate vaccines -- not for the coronavirus, but for the seasonal flu. It's part of Queensland's contentious "no-jab, no-play" policy that means players who skip an annual flu shot won't be permitted to play north of the Queensland-New South Wales border.

- The English Premier League conducted its first wave of COVID-19 testing this week and found six of 748 people infected. Those six have to self-isolate for a week.

UFC tested each of its employees before reopening its headquarters Monday. White said UFC will again test everyone before its next fights, May 30 in either Las Vegas or Arizona.

The UFC spent, on average, \$125 per test; that added up to around \$150,000 in Jacksonville. White was tested three times partly because he walked around without a mask and was in close contact with fighters.

That price tag is peanuts for a multi-billion-dollar business that reportedly notched more than 700,000 pay-per-view buys for UFC 249 -- generating as much as \$45 million in revenue for the first major sporting event in the United States during the pandemic.

UFC has far fewer competitors than other leagues, which means more manageable testing and contact tracing and easier social-distancing.

NASCAR would have to spend more than \$2 million to test everyone it deems essential before each of its 20 races over the next month, but decided it didn't need to because drivers are isolated and pit crews already wear protective equipment.

Other sports have difficult decisions to make.

Tennis and golf tournaments often involve more than 100 entrants from around the globe. NFL teams head to training camp with 90 players, plus about 20 coaches and dozens more support personnel. MLB suggested 50-man rosters for its season.

Leagues seem hesitant to adopt constant testing measures outside of temperature checks, especially if it creates the perception they are taking supplies that could be earmarked for healthcare workers or the general public.

Still, television revenue -- no one is expecting full stands anytime soon -- is the driving force to return to competition. And most agree that some level of testing is key.

"The overall picture is that there's a lot to be desired from testing to use it as a definitive indicator that everybody's safe," said Stuart Miller, the senior executive director of the International Tennis Federation, who is overseeing its COVID-19 advisory group and return-to-tennis efforts. "There's a number of risks from just the testing side," Miller added.

In UFC, fighter Jacaré Souza and two of his cornermen tested positive for COVID-19 a day before a bout. They were sent home.

The UFC, which said three trio were the only ones who tested positive, barely blinked. And the show went on.

How sports leagues respond to a positive test is a key component to resuming competition. Will they continue play if a superstar tests positive? What if several teammates are infected? Will there be a threshold that prompts another league-wide shutdown?

"You just have to be willing to work hard enough, spend some money and come up with solutions," White said.

AP

Coca-Cola partners with #BeApp to launch Coke Studio sessions

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

COCA-COLA Company in cooperation with supervisors of a new live music streaming platform, dubbed '#BeApp', have announced the launch of Coke Studio Sessions, an exclusive collaboration featuring a diverse line-up of musical performances for fans to enjoy over 60 consecutive days.

Live performances from more than 100 musicians across the globe, including Katy Perry, Anitta, DJ Khaled, Bebe Rexha, Miguel, Cast of Hamilton and Steve Aoki, will begin streaming today to refresh fans one virtual performance at a time and support the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Coke Studio Sessions mark the official debut of #BeApp, the social live music streaming platform from tech industry veterans, Ray Smith and Ross Mason.

The collaboration organizers revealed the #BeApp is an immersive, digital destination for fans to enjoy live music in a new way.

Unlike other virtual concert platforms, they said, #BeApp will offer a variety of interactive features, including in-app sharing, currency/points, prizes and upgrades, the '#BeApp swag's Front Row Seats', and donations.

Sharing feature will encourage fans to invite friends and family to join them



DJ Khaled

during the livestream.

By continuously interacting and sharing through the app, fans will earn in-app points and currency that can be redeemed for prizes, functionality upgrades and more.

Prizes include upgraded access to 'front row seats', musicians shout-outs during the livestream.

The 'front row seats' offer fans a greater digital presence during the livestream, including having the user's photo and name visible to all viewers.

Fans will moreover have the ability to make a donation to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to support Covid-19 relief efforts.

"#BeApp was designed for digital connection through a shared love of live music, and people need that

connection now more than ever," Ray Smith, founder of #BeApp, said.

"We're thrilled to have Coca-Cola as our exclusive launch partner as we introduce #BeApp to fans around the world through unique new experiences."

The first weekend of streaming included performances from Diplo, Kaskadee, DJ Khaled, among others, and kicked off on May 15 at 2H00am EAT.

Re-Runs of live content aired at 6:00pm the same day. Additional musicians will be announced across Coca-Cola and #BeApp social media channels.

"We know that people may feel lonely or isolated as a result of the pandemic, and Coca-Cola remains committed to uplifting the human

spirit and fostering connection while we're apart," Ricardo Fort, Vice President for the Coca-Cola Company's Global Sports & Entertainment, said.

"By providing 60 days of live, interactive music content that fans can share and enjoy with others, we hope that Coke Studio Sessions will provide small, daily moments of entertainment for those adjusting to their new normal."

Throughout the 60-day program, fans will have the opportunity to contribute directly to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to support Covid-19 efforts.

The Coca-Cola Foundation has donated over \$14 million to individual Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world in response to Covid-19.

The firm will additionally match up to a collective total of \$3 million in consumer donations made through this program.

"The American Red Cross is grateful for partners like The Coca-Cola Foundation for stepping up during this difficult and uncertain time," Koby Langley, Senior Vice President of International Services for the American Red Cross, said.

"The Coca-Cola Foundation's contribution supports the global Red Cross and Red Crescent network's efforts to slow the spread of this disease and alleviate suffering that the pandemic will cause. We are deeply grateful for their generous support during this challenging time."

US Open loses part of identity without qualifying

BY DOUG FERGUSON

THE U.S. Open lost a big part of its identity.

And it has nothing to do with par.

For years, the USGA has boasted -- and rightly so -- that it was the most democratic of all majors. Half of the 156-man field had to go through some form of qualifying just to get a tee time.

Max Homa won at Quail Hollow last year in a Sunday that featured Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose. A month later, he had to go through 36-hole qualifying for a spot at Pebble Beach and didn't make it. The year before, Adam Scott narrowly qualified for the U.S. Open, five years and two months after he won the Masters.

Major champions. Amateurs. PGA Tour winners. Teenagers. Only the score mattered.

The USGA really had no choice but to cancel qualifying this year for the U.S. Open and the other three championships it will try to run while operating amid a pandemic.

The numbers didn't allow for it. For the better part of a decade, at least 9,000 players signed up for the U.S. Open. A majority of them would have had to go through 18 holes of local qualifying at 108 golf courses in 45 states and Canada. What followed was 36 holes of sectional qualifying at nine courses in the U.S., one each in Canada, Japan and England.

John Bodenhamer, who's in charge of USGA championships, called qualifying the "cornerstone."

But in losing the identity of being "open," at least the U.S. Open won't gain an asterisk.

Assuming the 120th edition can be played this year -- it already has been postponed from June to Sept. 17-20 at Winged Foot in New York -- the field will be stronger than ever. The winner will have passed golf's most thorough examination, unofficially known as the "toughest test in golf."

Even so, the greatest loss is hope.



In this June 22, 2009, file photo, Lucas Glover holds his trophy after winning the U.S. Open Golf Championship at Bethpage State Park's Black Course in Farmingdale, N.Y. The COVID-19 pandemic, which already has postponed the U.S. Open from June to September, has forced the USGA to do away with qualifying for the first time since 1924. (AP Photo)

Never mind that only four U.S. Open champions have had to go through qualifying over the last 50 years, the most recent being Lucas Glover in 2009.

The word "qualifier" these days conjures up images of guys rolling into a parking lot on Monday to try to get into a PGA Tour event. Glover was a PGA Tour winner who was No. 71 in the world.

Glover reached the Tour Championship last year, making him exempt for this U.S. Open. He still felt for the players who won't get a chance to qualify, his path 11 years ago.

"It takes away a little from the flavor of the true Open," Glover said Tuesday. "If I was on the outside looking in, I'd be upset. But I'm not. It's what we have to do. It stinks for the guys who won't have an opportunity."

Jason Gore, who now works

for the USGA, had to go through both stages of qualifying in 2005. He made it to the final group at Pinehurst No. 2 as the No. 818 player in the world, only to close with an 84.

Even more remarkable might have been Olin Browne. He opened with a 73 in sectional qualifying in 2005 -- a score that felt like 80 at Woodmont Country Club in Maryland -- and was about to withdraw until he thought quitting would set a bad example for his son. So he played the afternoon round. He shot 59 to qualify.

Twelve days later, he was tied with Gore going into the last round, playing in the penultimate group with Michael Campbell, who won that day (Campbell also had to qualify). Browne had one of nine scores in the 80s that day, a group that included Retief

Goosen and Graeme McDowell, who would win the U.S. Open the following year.

"It goes against the grain of the declared," Browne said. "It's the U.S. Open. Half the field every year is qualifiers, and there's some great stories."

Andy Zhang got into Olympic Club in 2012 when he was 14. Tadd Fujikawa went through two stages of qualifying for Winged Foot in 2006. Michelle Wie even tried that year at age 16, missing by five shots.

Rocco Mediate was 45 when he qualified for Torrey Pines in 2008 and was one clutch from Tiger Woods on the 72nd hole from being a U.S. Open champion.

Browne questioned why the USGA would proceed without qualifying to stage four events -- U.S. Open for men and women, U.S. Amateur for men and women -- while canceling mid-amateur, junior and senior championships.

Everyone has bills to pay.

Still to be determined is how the USGA decides who will be exempt beyond the 50 who already are.

Most intriguing, of course, is Phil Mickelson. He has been among the most critical of the USGA with words and actions, such as swatting a moving ball on the 13th green at Shinnecock Hills two years ago.

Mickelson was at No. 61 when the world ranking was frozen in March because of COVID-19. The top 60 a month before the U.S. Open are exempt from qualifying. A player of Mickelson's stature -- a five-time major champion -- typically gets a special exemption. He said in February he wouldn't accept one.

Wiping out qualifying leaves nearly 100 spots to fill, and it would be hard to imagine Lefty being left out. Winged Foot in 2006 was where Mickelson made double bogey on the final hole to finish one shot behind in the only major he hasn't won.

It's already been a year hard to fathom in so many ways.

AP

Premier League confirm six positive coronavirus tests

LONDON

THE Premier League has confirmed on Tuesday there were six positives from three clubs for coronavirus after tests were carried out on 748 players and staff.

On Monday, the league announced that clubs would be allowed to restart training in small groups within the next 24 hours with no date set for league fixtures to restart.

Watford announced late Tuesday that three people, including one player, had tested positive for the virus and all three would self-isolate for seven days in line with league guidelines.

Burnley also confirmed in a statement earlier that day that assistant manager Ian Woan had tested positive.

"Ian is asymptomatic and is currently safe and well at home," the club said.

Each Premier League club has submitted 40 staff -- players, coaches, medical staff -- for testing prior to the start of group training.

As part of the Premier League's strict protocol, no player can train without being tested and any players or staff who test positive must quarantine themselves for a

period of seven days. Testing will be conducting at each club twice a week.

Professional football has been suspended in England since March 13 because of the coronavirus pandemic. League Two called a halt to their season last week, with League One expected to follow in the coming days.

Football returned in Germany over the weekend with a full round of Bundesliga fixtures, where there had been 10 positive tests on May 5. However, this was from 1,724 coronavirus tests after the clubs had returned to training on April 6.

Premier League clubs remain unable to agree on a date to resume their season because of a range of disagreements including venues for games, safety issues and the prospect of relegation being decided by average points per game if a return date cannot be finalised by a 14-6 majority of the 20 clubs.

But with hopes of games being played again from mid-June, the Premier League has now confirmed training in small groups will be allowed from the afternoon of May 19.

(Agencies)

Union study finds footballers in England anxious over future

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

THE coronavirus lockdown is having an impact on the mental health of footballers in England, according to a study by their union.

Around 70% of Professional Footballers' Association members who responded to a survey over the last month said they were worried about their futures in the sport or their livelihood.

Clubs in League Two, the professional fourth tier, have backed plans to curtail the season and the third division might also be abandoned.

"Some of the players at the lower division clubs are on short-term contracts that are up and some of them are living from paycheck to paycheck," Professional Footballers' Association welfare director Michael Bennett told The Associated Press. "This is having an impact on them financially."

The PFA heard from 262 members between mid-April and mid-May, 111 of whom are current players.

Some 72% of respondents - 188 out of 262 members - also said they were regularly aware of feelings of nervousness or anxiety during the

pandemic which has seen all sport shut down in England. Players also said they have concerns about the ability of clubs to survive without fans being allowed into stadiums when football resumes.

"You have got clubs that are reliant on fans and income the fans bring in," Bennett said. "My concern long term is going to be the impact it has six to nine to 12 months down the line because obviously money that would usually come in, it isn't there."

"Obviously then you can't afford to pay staff and pay players and it's kind of a snowball impact among the players and the club."

The Premier League is trying to resume the season next month, but some players are concerned about the health risks of even resuming training.

"Some players that may be questioning whether it is right to go back or not," Bennett said. "Some of them have young families, some of them have got partners who are pregnant, some of them are looking after elderly family members. So they are concerned about what happened or what could happen if the virus is transmitted."

AP

German FA, Bayern want salary cap for 'credible' football

BERLIN

GERMAN FA president Fritz Keller and Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge want to propose a salary cap to UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin, it was revealed on Tuesday.

"There are absurd salaries and transfer fees that are no longer credible," Keller, boss of the German Football Association (DFB), told reporters.

"We have to talk about salary caps. I am glad that I agree with Karl-Heinz Rummenigge on this point."

"Therefore we will write a letter to UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin."

Rummenigge touted the idea at the weekend in an interview with broadcaster Sky.

"(Former UEFA president) Michel Platini had the idea years ago to introduce a salary cap in Europe based on the American model," Rummenigge said.

While the Frenchman allegedly had the support "of all the big clubs in Europe. However, we were told from the outset that this

could not be brought into line with competition laws," Rummenigge added.

Now Keller wants to write a combined letter to persuade Ceferin.

The restricting of wages, which are currently "partly from another world", can only be achieved with UEFA's help, he added.

"The end result must be a regulation that conforms to European law and also applies to Britain," Keller said, referring to England's big spending Premier League clubs.

The DFB boss also wants a reform of the Financial Fair Play rules.

"We must bring professional football closer to the people again," said Keller.

"The current crisis (coronavirus pandemic) has brought to light problems in football that were previously overshadowed by ever new (transfer) records."

News that Keller and Rummenigge are joining forces means their recent spat has been resolved.

News that Keller and Rummenigge are joining forces means their recent spat has been resolved.

AFP

Newcastle want Pochettino, but would he want them?

BY JAMES OLLEY SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

NEWCASTLE United have made Mauricio Pochettino question himself before.

Tottenham's now-infamous 5-1 defeat at St James' Park on the final day of the 2015-16 campaign cost them second place in the Premier League and launched a period of deep introspection for their manager. It was a moment of such desolation that Spanish journalist Guillem Balague chose it as the inauspicious starting point for his book "Brave New World," chronicling Pochettino in his own words as he began a journey that would take Spurs to a Champions League final just three years later.

In doing so, through a mixture of innovative high-energy football and powerful team spirit, all on a modest budget, the 48-year-old became one of the most sought-after managers. And yet, after counting Real Madrid and Manchester United among his potential suitors, Newcastle now looks his most likely destination, with the club's £300 million Saudi-backed takeover only requiring ratification from the league.

As revealed by ESPN, Pochettino is their first choice to replace Steve Bruce. Appointing Pochettino -- on a contract worth a reported \$23m (£19m) per year -- would be a remarkable coup and a statement of intent from controversial would-be owners aiming to jolt a sleeping giant to life.

Opposition to the deal persists within the British Parliament, with calls growing this week to block the deal due to the involvement of the Saudi Arabia Public Investment Fund. The country's poor human rights record has been cited, while there are demands from members of Parliament to hold an evidence session on Saudi-based piracy of British sport. However, the government has so far suggested it will not intervene, suggesting Pochettino could soon have a big decision to make.

Pochettino is sufficiently attuned to the wider world to factor these issues of morality into his thinking. In pure football terms, would trying to revive the fortunes of a mid-table club in disarray -- albeit on a limitless budget -- really be the right step for a man who had the world at his feet just 12 months earlier?

Pochettino famously keeps a tray of lemons in his office because he was once told by a friend that they absorb negative energy. Now ruminating on his future in his north London home, it might feel as if he is comparing apples and oranges.

There was a period where it felt almost inevitable that Pochettino would land an elite job, even after his five-year Tottenham tenure unravelled to such an extent that he was sacked in November and replaced by Jose Mourinho in less than 12 hours. Few sacked managers emerge from such situations with as much credit as Pochettino. That is a testament to the work he did in defying conventional sporting wisdom that inextricably links financial expenditure with results.

There was no trophy to show for it, but everything else: a squad with no signings throughout the 2018-19 campaign, compromised further by injury and playing most of the season away from home, reached Europe's biggest game against all the odds. They also secured a fourth consecutive top-four finish in the Premier League, the club's best run since 1964.

Pochettino enjoyed a close working relationship with chairman Daniel Levy, but tensions that grew near the end provide pointers as to why he might be tempted by a project like Newcastle.

Despite public denials, Pochettino and Levy had significant disagreements over the lack of investment in players. The former hinted at such in a series of news conference utterances, decreasingly coded as the frustration grew, about "thinking big" and going to the next level as a club. The inference was



Mauricio Pochettino

clear: Pochettino had bought into Levy's financial prudent model but that could only ever take a club so far against the largesse of Manchester City, Chelsea and the rest.

Liverpool, who defeated Spurs in that European final, had already recognised that reality by sanctioning big-money moves for Alisson and Virgil Van Dijk. Tottenham would either have to match that ambition or a faltering club historically operating at that level would sense an opportunity to prise him away. Manchester United and Real Madrid were -- and indeed, remain -- two such examples.

Like many top managers, Pochettino isn't particularly prone to giving interviews beyond the standard requirements, and so it was particularly telling that as far back as November 2017, he began subtly courting the Madrid press. Publicly, there were 100% denials he was interested in the Real job; it can be taken at face value contemporaneously, but Pochettino might well have had one eye on the future.

Managers are obliged to hold prematch and postmatch news conferences around Champions League games. They are "all-in" affairs, meaning only broadcast rights-holders speak to them in addition to this main briefing. Yet in both London and Madrid, Pochettino willingly held court in an impromptu huddle with Spanish journalists, conducting a series of additional, unplanned interviews with locals only too willing to link him with a move to Spain.

Nothing untoward was said, and Pochettino remained respectful of his employers, but there were figures at Spurs who privately noted the voluntary exposure as something that would, at the very least, do his reputation no harm in the Spanish capital.

Fast forward to last month, and a BT Sport interview in which Pochettino reiterated his desire to return to management when the coronavirus pandemic allows, while also simultaneously expressing

enjoying your work, being flexible and willing to evolve, and finding time to be alone and think creatively ... although it is getting increasingly difficult. But we all play to win.

"Anyone who says otherwise is lying. I hope I don't change my tune when I win trophies. If I do, I'll be a successful coach, but I'll have lost moral authority."

There is an inevitable appeal of a seemingly unlimited transfer budget, but Pochettino has always been somewhat ambivalent to success achieved through those means. In May, he said: "Would I like to be a [Manchester] City or a Liverpool? To some extent yes and to some extent no. I prefer to fight for something historical, unique."

Newcastle does have a rich history of its own with a loyal and fervent fanbase. Pochettino would find a kindred spirit in the region's devotion to football, but taking the job would also require an explanation of his moral compass and an ongoing public relations role defending the owners' background. (The mooted £19m salary would provide ample compensation.)

According to French publication L'Equipe, it would be a wage bettered only by Diego Simeone at Atletico Madrid and Guardiola, but money with autonomy would tempt him even more.

There's no suggestion Levy ever infringed upon Pochettino's authority on football operations at Tottenham, but his strict budget controls and tough negotiating positions had a significant impact on the head coach. For example, sources have told ESPN that 12 Spurs first-team players were made available for sale last summer in a list circulated among select agents. The move was part of a plan to generate income, but also streamline a squad Pochettino wanted to take to that "next level."

However, less than half of those ended up leaving the club as Levy failed to follow through, creating ill feelings and resentment within a group that had, for so long, pulled together to become more than the sum of its parts.

There was also a widely held belief that opting not to sign new players allowed those already at the club to lax into a comfort zone, thus making Pochettino's job harder still and reneging on an agreement that convinced him to commit his own future to the club.

"The models at Liverpool and City involve giving the respective managers the autonomy to manage the sporting side of the game whichever way they like," Pochettino wrote in his book. "Coaches aren't given that freedom at Chelsea, Spurs, Arsenal."

It remains to be seen whether he would get that at Newcastle, but a large budget with minimal oversight is the antithesis of how conditions were at Tottenham. The post-coronavirus world will stretch even the top clubs.

In "House of Cards," Underwood highlighted the difference between money and power. "Money is the McMansion in Sarasota that starts falling apart after 10 years," he began. "Power is the old stone building that stands for centuries."

If Pochettino is given both at Newcastle, the combination could be irresistible.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga set to unveil new business partner

SPORT

Newcastle want Pochettino, but would he want them?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

YANGA have said they are set to announce their new partner who is one of Spanish football giants.

The new business partner is as well Yanga's partner in the club's commercialization drive.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Yanga information officer Hassan Bumbuli said all is set for the drive to make the club commercial.

He said Yanga are serious in the drive to turn the club commercial.

Bumbuli, who said the Spanish football giants are among the top four Spanish La Liga clubs, stopped short of disclosing the name of the side saying it will be announced any day this month.

He said the Spanish club will offer



Yanga midfielder, Papy Tshishimi (R), challenges KMC FC fullback, Ramadhan, when the squads locked horns in this season's Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

commercialization expertise to Yanga in terms of technical, business and management, a development he believes will help in the development of local clubs commercially.

The current top four Spanish soccer sides are Barcelona, Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid and Valencia.

"We are about to announce our partner in commercialization, the aim is to see Yanga turn professional, for now we cannot name the club but just watch

this space," he said.

He further said the Jangwani Street based side is ready to embrace anything which is focused on bringing development to the club.

"We are set for commercialization, this will be one of the best in Africa and beyond, we really thank our sponsors, GSM Group, for being in the forefront of this noble movement which will help club and of course many Tanzanian soccer sides," he stated.

If Yanga will successfully implement the initiative, the club will be the second Mainland Premier League side owned by the community to turn commercial after Simba SC.

Yanga had, in 1994, closed in on implementing the initiative, based on an idea floated by the late IPP Limited Chairman, Reginald Mengi, who was the side's respected member.

A section of Yanga members, though, strongly contested the initiative which was supervised

by the side's leadership which consisted of, among others, George Mpondela.

Yanga, through Bumbuli, had recently disclosed they are inching closer to fulfilling Mengi's idea.

Mengi had wanted to see the club become economically self-reliant.

Bumbuli said Mengi's idea was good for the development of the club.

"Yes, the idea which Mengi and others had for Yanga and football in the country was good, in those days it did not work due to many things which include conflicts in soccer," he noted.

"The side's supporters were as well not ready, but now we are in the process of turning commercial, which is good," he said.

He also said Mengi contributed a lot to the club and described him as a man who loved the team.

"Apart from wanting to turn the club commercial, he contributed a lot to the club, he was there when the club needed him the most," Bumbuli said.

Mengi passed away last year, but his contribution to sports in the country is still remembered.

He was the patron of the national U-17 boys soccer team 'Serengeti Boys', which competed at last year's AFCON U-17 finals that was played in Dar es Salaam.

He was moreover one of the members of a special committee for motivating Tanzanians to put their weight behind senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars'.

The committee included, among others, entrepreneurs and other prominent people who have been financially backing the team as well as other sports projects.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president Wallace Karia had told the domestic media that Mengi's dream was to see the senior national team qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup finals.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

SALAMA NA

EATV THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
13:30 Bongo Hits
13:30 Msosi Kilaani (r)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Waganga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 KURASA
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

"SalamaNa" is our new show in which Salama has a chat with interesting people from different spheres of influence in our society. You will be entertained, educated and amazed.

Every Thursday at 9pm

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Yanga members should embrace club transformation, says Mwansasu

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

FORMER Yanga defender, John Mwansasu, is adamant the club's members should join forces with their leaders to make the side's transformation a success.

Mwansasu, who also played for senior national soccer team during his heyday, issued the statement a day after Yanga chairman, Mshindo Msolla, had launched a campaign for seeing to it the squad, which is the oldest soccer club in Tanzania, turns into a business entity.

The former player, in an interview with Yanga website, said he faced plenty of challenges during his stint at the club, which were frustrating the outfit's attempts to achieve success.

He was one of the club's players who helped the outfit book a place in the group stage of the 1998 CAF Champions League.

Yanga were, in the process, Tanzania's first club to participate in the group stage of the Champions League era of the first tier of the continental club competitions.

"This is the ideal moment for Yanga to opt for transformation in an effort to successfully deal with challenges the outfit faces and ultimately live up to expectations," he disclosed.

"Yanga members and fans should therefore cooperate with the outfit's leaders to embrace the transformation which will bring forth efficiency at the side."

Msolla disclosed a committee, which will oversee Yanga's transformation procedures, will be under Alex Mgongolwa.

The procedure, he pointed out, will be financed by Yanga main sponsors, GSM Group.

Msolla stated this is the beginning of Yanga's efforts to officially validate the agreement for the transformation.

"When I was contesting for leadership at Yanga, changing the side into a business entity was one of my ambitions, I think the ambition will be fulfilled," he stated.

"I call on Yanga members to unite, they should cooperate with their officials and sponsors in an effort to reach the target."

Yanga are looking to emulate their rivals, Simba SC, that have already become a business entity.

Boxing stakeholders seek for TPBRC president reinstatement

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

A few days after the Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC) president Joe Anea had officially confirmed to have resigned, scores of the game's followers in the country have come out to express their discontent over the move.

Anea said he has opted to leave the post as he is not in healthy state.

There has also been reports that he has left the post given there have been speculations over his citizenship.

A section of domestic boxing enthusiasts had earlier claimed Anea is not a Tanzania citizen and thus he does not merit occupying the TPBRC president's post.

The TPBRC acting president, Aga Peter, has nevertheless stated the said stakeholders' statements are mere rumours and are targeting to tarnish Joe's image.

"All I know is Anea wrote



Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC)'s president, Joe Anea (seated), poses for picture with (L-R) boxing coach and promoter, Jaffary Ndame, and boxers, Iddi Mkwela, Adam Mbega and Haidari Mchanjo, at the TPBRC offices in Dar es Salaam recently. Anea has opted to resign from the post. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TPBRC

the first letter seeking resignation because of health issues, his second letter

has stated the same thing, that is what I know," Peter disclosed.

"Should there be citizenship claims, the relevant authority will perform its

duty and the truth will eventually come out."

Yassin Abdallah 'Usta-

dhi', a prominent domestic boxing stakeholder, pointed out he is surprised the then Tanzania Professional Boxing Commission (TPBC) officials are saying Anea is not a Tanzania citizen, whereas they had worked with him in the TPBC.

"These are mere gossips, people who say Anea is not a Tanzania citizen had first of all handed him the TPBC treasurer post," Abdallah stated.

"He thereafter went on to hold the president post at TPBC and TPBRC, a post he has left because of personal reasons, entertaining gossips in boxing administration is totally unacceptable."

Former TPBC official, Chaurembo Palasa, noted much as Anea is said to have resigned because of controversy over his citizenship, he also exited the post for what the former termed as failure by Anea to issue statement on TPBRC income and expenditure.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

