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TANZANIA

THURSDAY 21 MAY, 2020

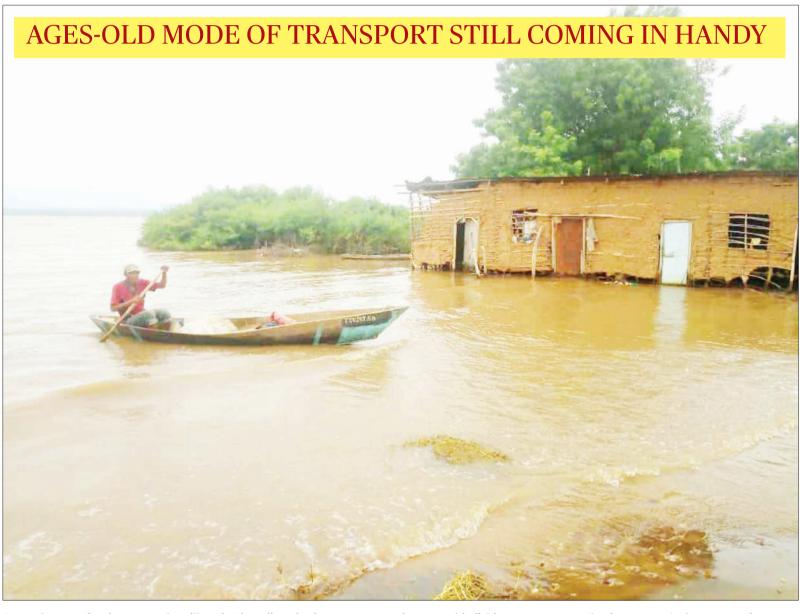
National Pg 3
'Bandit' shot dead in exchange of fire



National Pg 4Katavi park urged on domestic tourism

National Pg 5 WMA cautions dishonest businesspeople





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

'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

TURN TO PAGE 2



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,

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

TURN TO PAGE 2

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

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.

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

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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

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

TURN TO PAGE 2

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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



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.



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

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.



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.



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
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stav home when you are sick.

preparing food.

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



You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs

and symptoms:

 Cough · Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

Develop symptoms

AND

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19



Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition coordinator Onesmo ole Ngurumwa (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to Ummy 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

Health Organisation (WHO) that its efficacy is unproven.

Research (NIMR) recently partnered of MPs and other opinion makers with the Ministry of Health to develop guidelines on how and what type of traditional medicines can be used for National Assembly. treating Covid-19.

President John Magufuli who argued for the use of traditional remedies The National Institute for Medical against the deadly virus. Scores supported this position during the continuing Budget session of the

NIMR Director General Prof Yunus

were being received from the World came with critical support from 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.

JPM, Uhuru confer over border truck movements

FROM PAGE 1

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

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

TASAF to introduce online money transfers starting July

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Social Action Fund be directed on subsidies to households. (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

"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,

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, Temeke, 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'

avoid a financial crisis.

It is also necessary to support keep education, protect jobs, 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 could socioeconomic impacts smoulder for several years, the report





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 subsector. 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 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

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

fishing, along with port state measures of 20 meters fishing vessels. Japan is on anyone who will be found with a also supporting a number of projects in the sub-sector, he said.

MPs hail new deep sea fishing regulation bill

He said current plans include purchasing three fishing vessels in the 2020/2021 financial year which will be operating in the EEZ. TAFICO will undergo major renovations including construction of cold rooms, a warehouse and installation of ice making machines, he further noted.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water hailed the government for tabling the bill saying this will go a long way to properly facilitating integration of deep sea fishing into the national economy

Dr Christine Ishengoma, the deputy chairperson of the committee, said that MPs were satisfied with the bill as it puts in place legal measures to be taken

shark carcass. This is the norm in most countries with such laws, she said.

The committee said it is persuaded that the law is going to conserve the sea environment when economic activities there are properly regulated.

Last year the legislature passed an international accord on port state measures (PSMA) to protect marine resources in the EEZ. The pact was similarly directed at eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)

It was first adopted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in November 2009 in a session at its Rome headquarters.

The country's fishing sub-sector contributed 2.2 percent of national income in 2017, growing at 2.7 percent annually in the year.



Morogoro regional commissioner Loata ole Sanare (R) issues orders to Ulanga district commissioner Ngollo Malenya and other officials shortly after inspecting

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

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

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

Suspected gangster shot dead in exchange of fire

into the house police who were on at Brac offices in Usagara area after patrol and surrounded the house and which they broke into the office but 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 committed in various areas. bandits had also killed a watchman

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

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

'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.

Ummy 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: **'Iiongeze** Tuwavushe Salama' aiming 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"

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

Mwangonde,

Dodoma

THE Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL), Halotel and the Vodacom Tanzania have signed Memorandum 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 that had won the tender for installation of telecom efforts in four wards of Urambo Communication Minister Eng Kamwelwe 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 only telecom operators National Assembly here yesterday despite government towers benefiting 12 villages access and coverage of telecommunication services district, Works, Transport across the country "some areas in Urambo district had Isack challenges of communication (pictured) signals." He named the areas announced yesterday in 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

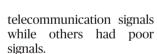
JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA WIZARA YA ARDHI NYUMBA NA MAENDELEO YA MAKAZI SHAURI NA 86 LA 2019 MAWENI LIMESTONE LTD...
DHIDI YA

KWA: LUVI JOHN PATRIC, GODFREY JOHN PATRIC AMIRI MJATA, MAGETA STANLEY, GERAD ALEX MALIGA, OMARY MJATA – POPOTE MLIPO.

FRANCIS THEOPIL NGOWI NA WENGINE 9

Mwombaji aliyetajwa hapo juu amefungua shauri dhidi yak katika Baraza la Ardhi na Nyumba Wilaya ya Tanga. Unaarifiwa kufika mnamo tarehe 21/5/2020 saa tano (05:00) asubuh ambapo shauri hili litakuja kutajwa. Hivyo basi unatakiw kuleta utetezi wako ndani ya siku 21 kuanzia tarehe y tangazo hili kutolewa.Vielelezo vyote vya kesi vinapatikan katika Masijala ya wazi ya Baraza la Ardhi na Nyumba (W

Baraza hili leo tarehe 18 Mei, 2020.



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 Msasani 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

- Sticky tape
- Tape measures
- Thin strong pointers Boxes of Pens

- 5. Audiograms (sheets)
- Box file and ream paper
- 7. Staplers, staple pin, punching machine. 8. Adjustable noise cancelling headphones.
- **B: MEDICAL SUPPLIES: TENDER No:** PR-DAR-20-214
- 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 clusive Education Activity.

Head office, Plot #1131 B Msasani road, Masaki P.O. Box 369 Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.





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-bas eline-southern-highlands

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

NATIONAL.NEWS

Guardian

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

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

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 Wo

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 of 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

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

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.

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

COMMERCIAL CASE NO. 32 OF 2019 STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

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 Forty 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
- Costs of the suit iv.
- 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 DOTH 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 Forty 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.



JUDGE on this 38th day of May 2020.

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 face masks as preventive measures lot of money to transport water to save as grasslands.

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

against the disease's infections and all them. 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 all public servants in Katavi region to the lives of animals like hippos and come and visit the park while wearing crocodiles; hence they had to spend a Miombo forests, riverine forests as well

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,



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

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.

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

Speaking on the issue, Mbeya Region

and Sanitation Authority (MUWSA) is the one dillydallying in rectifying the sewage system.

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 Menege 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 semiindustrialised nation by 2025.

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

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.



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: I 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
- · 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
- · 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
- 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, 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

Pact Tanzania is looking for anindividualConsultant to Document children in the mining communities service delivery model for future

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

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 minersaffected 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

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

Specifically, the Consultant is expected;

- I. 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
- 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

future replication. Qualification and Experience

Master's Degree in the field(s) relevant to fulfill the duties and responsibilities as described above

comprehensive HIV related services and recommendations for

- 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

Interested candidates should request for the full Terms of Reference through the Reference through the full Terms of Reference through the Referenemailto 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 toconsultanttz@pactworld.org

Deadline is 2pm EAT Wednesday June 3, 2020;

Please note:

- I. 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 Pact may cancel solicitation and not award.
- Pact may reject any or all responses received.
- 5. Issuance of request for proposal/application does not constitute a contract commitment by Pact.

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

Guardian

NATIONAL.NEWS

47 schoolgirls rescued from early marriage, FGM in Mara

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

FORTY-SEVEN primary 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 nonorganisation–Hope governmental for Girls and Women Tanzania in collaboration with the Tanzania Police

Organisation's Executive Director, Rhobi Samwelly 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 vesterday 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 require 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

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

Speaking to Mtupale 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 Nang'ombo 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.

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

Meanwhile, the Ruvuma RC who is

She said feasibility studies on Kitai, 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 Pete

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

"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

MINISTER of State in the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG) Seleman 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

Jafo unhappy with pace of Chalinze District headquarters construction

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 at all, there are areas you have

Jafo issued the directives early this contractor to finish the project," Jafo your are letting us down, I am not 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 District Council should find another done good work, but in this project availability of water.

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 Muyanza said the reasons for the delay include the rising cost of building materials and the challenge on the

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

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

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 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 protect themselves from the pandemic. 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

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 Lubeleje who wanted to know when the government will implement promised to construct wells three years projects in villages of Gulwe, Godegode,

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

its promise to construct a water well in ago but the promise has not been met Ng'hambi, Mangaliza, Nyabu, Nana, that water scarcity becomes history in villages of Chamanda, Chitemo, Nana, and residents are now being forced to (Mwenzele) Kiegea, Kazania, Ng'hambi, travel up to 10 kilometres in search of Kisisi, Godegode and Gulwe in his constituency.

In response, the ministry said it was The MP said the government already implementing some water

Kiegea, Mgoma Kitati and Wota. "In the the district, it is set to implement other 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

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.

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.



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

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.



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

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THURSDAY 21 MAY 2020

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

Investing in the agricultural sector key in eradicating poverty, hunger

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

N politics, humanitarian aid, 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.

the effects Combining 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 channeled 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

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 'The World We Want: A document. 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.

decades, world several 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

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, knowledgesharing 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".

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By Erna Solberg and Nana Addo Dankwa

THILE 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

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

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

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

we are only as strong as the weakest dealing with global health risks and 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

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

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 delinked from the SDGs. Indeed, achieving the SDGs will put us on a firm path to

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

Emerging evidence of the broader impact of the crisis on our quest to achieve the SDGs is troubling. UNESCO 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

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 estimates that some 1.25 billion 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.

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

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

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.

By Special Correspondents

East Africa has hundreds of older people who should be protected from Covid-19 dangerously exposed to the pandemic in crowded, confined places or out in the open air after their homes were destroyed, HelpAge International has said.

Heavy rains have triggered devastating floods in recent weeks, in Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda, killing hundreds of people and forcing tens of thousands from their

Older people have been forced to live in crowded schools, displaced people's camps or out in the open, exposed to Covid-19 and other diseases, such as malaria and pneumonia.

A HelpAge partner in Kenya has also raised the alarm about older people living with HIV and AIDS who are unable to access vital life-saving anti-retrovirals after being displaced from their homes.

"Urgent support is needed for the older people who have been left stranded and exposed to the potentially fatal Covid-19," said Carole Ageng'o, HelpAge's Africa director.

She elaborated: "Physical distancing and hygiene practices are being universally endorsed particularly for older people who face the highest risk of serious illness or death if they contract Covid-19. But these cannot be done when people are forced to flee their homes and live in emergency conditions."

Hundreds of older people risking hunger, Covid-19 following floods in East Africa



"While attention is focused on the very real danger of Covid-19, this is not an excuse to ignore broader humanitarian crises triggered by climate disasters. The floods create a very real risk of malaria, pneumonia and malnutrition, which can be just as deadly as the virus," Ageng'o warned.

People living with HIV and AIDS have no access to vital life-saving anti-retrovirals following heavy floods in Siaya County in Western Kenya that led to the displacement of over 5,000 families.

The floods, which began last month, made River Nzoia burst its banks and engulfing people's homes and fields.

Daniel Odipo of the Kenyan Society of People Living with HIV/ AIDS (KESPA) says that older people living with HIV/AIDS can no longer access the anti-retrovirals and services that they need to keep alive. "These people, whose immune

system is already compromised, are now living in very precarious conditions in empty school classrooms, many of which have no doors or windows," Odipo said.

He added: "They are exposed to the cold as well as mosquitoes, which leaves them exposed to malaria. They are also at risk of Covid-19 as they are living in crowded and cramped conditions, with no access to masks, gloves or hygiene facilities to protect them from the virus."

According to Odipo: "It's very concerning as the rains are continuing today; latrines have been submerged and there is very little food available."

He further explained: "These floods happen every year and the authorities should have been better prepared to help those affected.

People urgently need food and bedding. I know there is the added challenge of Covid-19, but even without that, people don't get the support they need."

He appealed for "a comprehensive plan that includes supporting those who have been displaced to resume their normal lives after the floods", adding: "Many have lost their homes and all their belongings. Older people in particular will need help as it is very dangerous for them in crowded displaced people's camps where they are at risk of contracting Covid-19."

Older people meanwhile also reported to be among those facing hunger and disease following flooding and torrential rain in Somalia's Iowahar District along the Shebelle River that have destroyed people's homes, businesses, livestock and

The floods began a month ago and are continuing, already having led to a massive displacement of people who had to leave their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They are now living in the open air with no access to food, clean water and toilets, health care or mosquito nets.

Abdikariim Ibrahim of Human Life Development Initiative, a partner of the global HelpAge network, hard for older people as they were forced to walk through floodwaters, fearing that they may drown, and then had to climb up to higher

ground.

He said many of them have health conditions, such as heart disease, and this left them exhausted and very stressed. They are now living in crowded displaced people's camps and are afraid of contracting Covid-19 and other diseases. Their immune systems are very low, largely owing to exhaustion and lack of food.

The Somali Water and Land Information Management estimates that the floods in Middle Shebelle have damaged more than 10,000 hectares of cropland in Jowahar and MahadayWevne.

Ibrahim explained: "It's difficult for these vulnerable people to guard against contracting Covid-19 as there are water shortages in the camps. Many are forced to use contaminated water and there are no facilities for hand washing."

Human Life Development Initiative is reported to be working closely with local authorities to relocate older people to schools and to identify those most at risk. Emergency teams have identified the most important needs of the people in question including, shelter, food, mosquito nets, blankets, water treatment said: "This was particularly tabs, toilets and emergency

medical services.

Hundreds of were meanwhile reported crowded into empty schools or living out in the open in Uganda following floods in Entebbe which destroyed houses and crops. More flooding was expected with the continuing rains.

Several places in and around Entebbe were submerged by the rising water levels of Lake Victoria. Hundreds of people lost their homes and crops, including the staple crops of maize and cassava, which people depend on for their diet. Arthur Namara of Health

Nest Uganda, a member of Global HelpAge Network in Entebbe, spoke to several older people who had been affected. He met one woman who was hiding from her seven orphaned grandchildren as she had nothing to give them, after all her crops had been destroyed.

Namara reported: "It's a terrible situation for the older people as they are now crowded into empty schools, completely flouting Covid-19 isolation guidelines, or they are living out in the open, exposed to the elements and other health hazards. And there are no humanitarian organisations to help them out as they have been grounded owing to the Covid-19-induced lockdown." He added: "I am con-

cerned that the older people are at particular risk of contracting Covid-19 or other water-borne diseases as the toilets have been submerged and people are having to defecate out in the open. And this is only going to get worse as more and more people arrive in Entebbe."

Namara said Rwamunyu, an island in Lake Victoria, was submerged by the lake and its 4,000-plus residents were flocking to Entebbe.

Thousands of other people were said to be vulnerable to malaria and other diseases as they were living out in the open after several rivers burst their banks in Kasese in eastern Uganda.

Four rivers burst their banks and stones fell off the mountains, destroying bridges, primary schools, a hospital, homes and farmland. More than 170,000 people were reported to have been affected and over 24,000 homes to have been damaged or destroyed.

Magret Masika, an older woman said to have fled her home after River Nyamwamba burst its banks was now living out in the open with her family. She was on record as having explained how they had lost everything in the floods: "The flooding took our food crops, clothes, kitchen items and the children's school books."

Richard Asiimwe, an older pastoralist, meanwhile explained that over 280 hectares of farmlands had been destroyed by the floods alongside a number of animals. He said he feared that the livestock that have survived would also die "as they have nothing to eat or drink".

Agencies

Climate change forum engages stakeholders to push for more use of renewable energies

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

ne of the main contributors of Green House Gases in the world are non-renewable sources of energy including coal, crude oil and natural gas that emits high levels of carbon dioxide CO2 in the sky.

Wood and charcoal, which are the main sources of energy for households in rural areas accounts for 85 percent of total final energy consumption, according to National Energy Policy 2015 (NEP, 2015).

Without appropriate interventions to control emission from non-renewable energies, it is projected that, demand for charcoal will double by 2030 from the approximate of 2.3 million tonnes of charcoal per year.

The government, which has been investing a lot in the use of non-renewable energy for economic purposes, is currently working to replace wood and charcoal consumption with more supply of electric power, gas and petroleum products.

The decision is important as it helps to reduce heavy dependence on biomass that contributes to deforestation. Already, there is a huge development in the application for the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as a source of heating and cooking energy for households.

In an effort to support government's interventions in reducing and eliminating the use of non-renewables as source of energy, the Forum for Climate Change (Forum CC) in the country is executing a project designed to encourage the government and communities to make use of renewable energy by introducing non-carbon or alternative charcoal which is safe from the environment and clean to protect the health of consumers.

The project implemented by HIVOS East Africa, under the strategic partnership on energy (SP-E) is focused on reducing and eventually make an end to the use of carbon-based charcoal that increases green-house gases.

Dubbed green and inclusive energy (GIE), it is co-implemented in strong partnership with Tanzania gender and sustainable energy network (TANG-SEN), TGNP-Mtandao, climate action network Tanzania (CAN Tanzania) and environmental journalists in Tanzania (JET).



Green Conservers director general Baraka Machumu (3rd R) holds an alternative charcoal-making machine during training for women entrepreneurs on how energy is produced. The training took place in Dar es Salaam.

In an exclusive interview, director of at Ilala district, Getruda Augustine said program for Forum CC Angela Damas they were introduced in the project said the forum is working to advocate and encouraging the use and development of renewable energy, as it has been confirmed as a safe and clean source of energy for domestic purpos-

"The project also engage stakeholders through meetings and dialogue which will come up with a joint message to push for changes by encouraging the use of renewable energy," she

The primary objective of the project is to provide capacity building to civil society organisations (CSOs) working to develop energy sources, in order to advocate for and defend the use of renewable energy for development and control the increase rate of climate

Through the initiative, several women who are entrepreneurs from Ilala, Kinondoni and Temeke districts were given chance to receive capacity building on how to make non-carbon charcoal. The idea is to empower them to be able to share and distribute the technology to other women, to adopt it for

beneficiaries of the project, stationed

of making the non-carbon charcoal as part of efforts to control climate change. She added that the organisation re-

cruited them for a one-day training on how to go about the technology. "I was much interested with the

project, after the training, I shared the skills with my colleagues on how the technology helps to overcome several health and environmental problems. Augustine said they were taught on

how to make alternative charcoal by using local raw materials including coconut shells, and mixture of dry wastes, where they are burned to produce a powder which is then condensed to produce a charcoal in solid type.

She said the idea of the programme is good because it provides alternative means for generating income through sustainable energy.

"Our only challenge is lack of machines with advanced technology to process materials in order to produce at large quantity to accommodate the entire demand.

Another beneficiary of the project Rose Amandus who operates around Speaking to reporters, one of the Gongolamboto area, Ilala district, applauded the organisation for extending

the opportunities that benefits every individual.

She said, the initiative is important as it provides the best and alternative means of energy, safer for environment, far from carbon-based charcoal which pollutes the environment and risk the health of user.

"Me and my fellow entrepreneurs in our group called 'Tupelame', are among the beneficiaries of the project who received a one-day training on how to make the resource," she said.

"What we need now is a machine with high technology, enough to process and to produce charcoal in abundance, so that we can accommodate the public demand of the precious source of energy," she detailed.

According to her, they are organising themselves in a group to purchase their own machine in order to expand the production for the lucrative alternative charcoal.

According to the Tanzania policy road map the structure of the charcoal business chain is complex, comprising of many different stakeholders with different objectives and economical potential.

Revenues along the charcoal value chain are distributed unevenly. The producer can earn as little as 20 perpaid by the urban consumer, whereas traders generally earn a considerable include large supply of unskilled labor, continues to create deforestation. producers have little negotiation lev-

Although there is no comprehensive, targeted policy or strategy or legal framework in Tanzania addressing the charcoal sector, there is an existing set of policies, legislation, and regulations which influence on how charcoal production and consumption is managed.

Trade in charcoal is conducted by formal and informal actors. One commercialisation chain begins with government-issued licences for the exploitation of the forest resources the product is transported.

For his part, director general for Green Conserver Baraka Machumu said, we are working close with Forum CC and other stakeholders to encourage women entrepreneurs to make use of the alternative charcoal in order to boost their daily income.

He added that the Green Conserver is much concerned with the growing demand of charcoal for domestic purpose that contributes to the increase of deforestation.

"We have established that, there is no need for people to continue using nonclean charcoal as a source of energy, while there is another mechanism of making safer charcoal for sustainable development," said Machumu.

"We are working hard to change the mindset of the community who uses polluted charcoal, by informing them on the danger of cutting down trees to get charcoal," the director explained.

The ground scenario shows that, the use of polluted or carbon-based charcoal, contributes up to 60 percent to increase of climate change.

"We have created a learning alliance to provide training to various groups on how to use waste to produce charcoal. So far, we have offered training to 100 women entrepreneurs from Ilala, Temeke and Kinondoni districts since we commence the programme on January this year," Machumu noted.

"We also do evaluation and monitoring to know their progress, challenges and the achievements reached," he insisted.

According to Machumu the type of

cent of the final price of charcoal energy we produce is of low price and affordable to all people compared to non-clean charcoal. This will help to rehigher percentage. The reasons for this duce the rate of cutting down trees that

"We target women entrepreneurs erage and lack of market influence for who already has the business, in order to empower them in their business, so that they can contribute to reduce deforestation and climate change."

"We have managed to form a group of women who at the end, established the alliance with the purpose of bringing together women from entrepreneurship groups working to produce renewable energy and waste recycling to make energy," he said.

Through the alliance, we have been able to join forces with them in setting out different plans, and to select what type of topic they need for training including innovation, production, and operations of their business, the understanding of different opportunities and their position to improve the plans of their areas and to search for markets for their produce. Currently , the alliance has covered 12 groups in Dar es Salaam city.

According to the policy road map for Tanzania there are several challenges that the country is facing to make access to renewable energy become active, some include:

Financial barriers, which is associated with the lack of clear long-term financing mechanism with over-dependence on donors and public funding, high perceived risks and up-front capital costs and long payback time.

Currently, the main financing mechanism in the renewable energy sector is Public Private Partnership (PPP). This essentially means that there is private investment in production, backed with a purchase guarantee by the govern-

Policy barrier, there is no dedicated renewable energy legislation or institution. This is further compounded by the limited inter-ministerial coordination. Limited coherence and coordination among key ministries causes un-sustainability of renewable projects and difficulties in renewable energy governance in Tanzania.

Lack of renewable energy law and institutional body leads to the fact that tasks are divided with different responsibilities.

FEATURES

To understand privilege, look at the way it has built up over centuries

By Ismail Lagardien

Steenhuisen, Zille, Helen Cliff, Dean Gareth Macpherson. These among key figures in the last stand of white dominance and control in South Africa, and they have the South African Institute of Race Relations, and for the most-part, AfriForum, in their corner. I don't say that lightly. Let me be clear: I do not advocate pogroms, rapine and the politics of revenge. I will never prevent people from speaking their mind, or place any limits on press freedom. Some arriviste journalists may well look at what we endured when fighting for a free press in the 1980s, while they were going to private or whitesonly schools in Pinelands or Rosebank, in Johannesburg. But some things need to be

One of the things I avoid when writing commentary, opinion or analyses is getting personal with individuals - unless of course, they are windbag politicians. When I do criticise public intellectuals, I tend to focus on the substance of what individuals may say. One exception that comes to mind was a somewhat personal criticism of Peter Bruce I wrote four or five years ago. It was probably wrong, and I may have apologised to him (I haven't seen Bruce in



Helen Zille

a number of years, but I'm sure he will forgive the Roy Keane-esque red mist that descended on me), but the issues of inequality, poverty and privilege are fairly central to what inspired me as a journalist, as well as my journeys in and out of academia.

One of the things I do in fact do when I write, is follow the age-old essayist method, where you weave your own or subjective stories in and out of the subject you are writing about. Even the most junior of reporters may be forgiven for doing it. For instance, a reporter can write that "there was a horrific crash on the corner of Fifth and Vermouth". By inserting "horrific" the reporter is being subjective because the crash may not have been "horrific" to other

purely by Anyway, accident, while I was in New York City in December 1982, I was "allowed" into

an apartment and dinner, and later a famous watering hole, with a group of writers who represented what was referred to as the New Journalism. This is one of those occasions when I will not tell you who was there, because you will not believe me. Looking back, I can barely believe it myself. I was terribly young, and working at two or three jobs while learning the basics of reporting. Nonetheless, I promised myself all those years ago that someday, I would write like Joan Didion, Tom Wolfe, Joseph

Heller, Truman Capote, Breslin, Norman James Mailer.... Alas, it never came to be. I would grind away at journalism and photojournalism for almost 15 years, and then went out into the world to keep a promise I made myself when I was 14 years old, living in Eldorado Park, and seeing grown men working as labourers, piece workers, or being unemployed and "unemployable". Now let us

fast forward to the present. horrors of race The identity notwithstanding...

Set aside everything I wrote above. It has to do with method. The politics of race, racial politics - especially identity politics - is difficult to avoid in South Africa. Into this has slipped concepts of privilege - especially white privilege. I tend to avoid



Gareth Cliff

writing directly about these things because it serves as kindling for a fire that can wreak untold destruction on society. We need to look, only, at Nazi Germany, the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda or apartheid to get a sense of the degrees of horror that identity politics can cause.

I do, however, want to address three things in this essay. The first is the rubbish called "reverse racism". Being called out for enjoying centuries of vertically segmented privilege is not racism, nor is it bullying. The following would be "reverse racism": Africans go to Europe, destroy or supplant all indigenous cultures, on the basis that they are inferior, force Europeans to adopt African cultures, and create a sliding scale of savagery. Africans are at the top, they're civilised, and as you go down the scale, Greeks, Italians, French and Germans etc are increasingly barbaric, savage, and need to be controlled for, say, 500 years. That would be "reverse racism".

"white The second is privilege". This is the privilege that the likes of Steenhuisen, Zille and fellow travellers of the altright don't or won't get. It is what may be described as vertically segmented privilege. Consider what scientists call an "ice core" drill. It drills into, say, an ice bed, and emerges as a cylinder that shows how snow, soil or volcanic ash (among others) is lavered over time. Each layer accumulated over time provides chemical signatures, one on top of the other, and provides insight into how the Earth's crust, or a glacier has built up over

I will refrain from using abstruse sociological terms, but if, for instance, you want to know how something, like a language, came to be at a given time, you would benefit from knowing how it built up over time. The "ice core" example is adequate as an analogy. So, the way I see it, the concern is not with Zille's current forms of privilege, it is - as an "ice core" of South Africa society may show - the way that social changes, positions dominance, control, destruction, building and rebuilding have occurred over time, and how privilege has been piled up, one layer after the other over



John Steenhuisen

hundreds of years. This may help explain what privilege looks like today. Importantly,

significantly different from the privilege that I have, today. After working for four decades, I saved enough to buy a piece of land in a secluded seaside village, and built a house. As far as I know, there are very few people (if any) in my immediate family who have achieved that. I also worked for 15 years to save money. got scholarships, and went to university. Again, nobody else in my family, going back 350 years, managed that. Remember, "non-whites" were restricted from going to university. I studied abroad. What we do have in our "ice core" is slavery, misery, poverty, forced removals. oppression, injustice apartheid, and now the ANC's reproduction of apartheid's racial preference scheme built up. That, in my mind, is what it means to be (deeply) under-privileged.

Sure, there are exceptions. Consider this example. A fair-skinned kid, his father is a multi-millionaire, and the boy gets to go to a good school, is sent to Oxbridge, he works hard, and emerges from it all a well-rounded fellow with a PhD. Now that, you may agree, dear reader, is privilege. The kid's name is Sizwe Mpofu-Walsh. (I am sure, that with a name like "Sizwe," and with "Mpofu" in his name means he is not a second-class citizen like the rest of us coloureds). But as a general proposition, there is no evidence of embedded privilege in the "ice-core" of his father, Christopher Mpofu's family. Right here, right now, we have to work

damn hard to build up privilege over generations. The third thing is something akin to a defence of John Steenhuisen. There is a vile attempt to smear Steenhuisen because he did not go to university. This is cheap and petty. Those who criticise Steenhuisen for his "lack of education" may want to visit the backbenches of the ANC, and look at the lack of education of people who earn about R1-million as members of Parliament, and maybe another R1-million for constituency work. Very many of those people have no university education, have never participated in debates or committee work, and you would be hardpressed to find evidence of



Dean Macpherson

"constituency work". But I guess that would be asking for honesty, integrity, and large measures of cogitation.

I conclude then, with the admission that "race" and "white privilege" are things I try not to discuss or write about. There are people who are better qualified at it. But there are some things that ought to be said. I just figured that I would raise my head above the parapet, and take the criticism - it can't be worse than what we went through in the 1980s, when some of the most vocal types - from Gareth Cliff to his acolytes in the media were reaping the benefits of three centuries of privilege stacked in layers, one upon the other, all of which can be seen in the analogue of the ice core of vertically segmented privilege. Did I mention that I hate the politics of race, rapine, and

Agencies

How well prepared is US for the war on Covid-19 towards reopening? - 2

here's good reason to reopen the US slowly and methodically. When the Covid-19 pandemic first hit, a wide range of social-distancing measures - closing offices, shutting schools, banning mass gatherings, implementing stay-at-home orders - were rolled out in a sudden panic.

The rushed deployment was necessary, but it made it hard to know which measures actually mattered. The next few months offer opportunities to find out.

Communities could relax restrictions gradually, and see if the coronavirus remains at a simmer or returns to a boil. When the virus returns, political leaders should be able to make more informed decisions about which levers to flip.

"We should absolutely be throwing everything we can to figure that out," said Jessica Metcalf, an infectious disease ecologist at Princeton University in New Jersey.

The most crucial piece of missing information, and the one that most dramatically shapes the options for the US, is what proportion of people have actually been infected. So far, the country has more than 576,000 confirmed cases. But between the lack of testing and the unknown proportion of people who experience mild or nonexistent symptoms, the true number of cases is anyone's guess.

There's an easy way to find out. When someone is infected, their immune system produces defensive molecules called antibodies - which recognise (and, with hope, neutralise) the virus. These antibodies endure after the infection is cleared, and should theoretically provide some degree of lasting immunity.

By detecting such antibodies through what are known as serological tests, scientists can deduce how many people have been infected in these past months. It's however worth noting that serological tests differ from diagnostic tests, which search for pieces of the coronavirus's genetic material to work out who is infected right now.

Such "serosurveys" are ongoing and, while preliminary data have emerged, they don't paint a clear picture yet. In a German town that became a hot spot of the country's Covid-19 outbreak in February, about 15 per cent of people have been infected; in a Colorado (US) county, the figure stands between 0.4 and 1.5 per cent.

If it turns out that, say, 20 per cent of the US has been infected, that would mean the coronavirus is more transmissible but less deadly than scientists think. It would



also mean that a reasonable proportion of the country has some immunity.

If that proportion could be slowly and safely raised to the level necessary for herd immunity - 60 to 80 per cent, depending on the virus's transmissibility - the US might not need to wait for a vaccine.

However, if just 1 to 5 per cent of the population has been infected - the range that many researchers think is likelier - that would mean "this is a truly devastating virus, and we have built up no real population immunity". His is according to Michael Mina, an epidemiologist and immunologist at Harvard, who adds: "Then we're in dire straits in terms of how to move forward."

Even in the optimistic scenario, a quick and complete return to normalcy would be ill-advised. And even in the pessimistic scenario, controlling future outbreaks should still be possible, but only through an immense public health effort.

Epidemiologists would need to run diagnostic tests on anyone with Covid-19-like symptoms, quarantine infected people, trace everyone those people had contact with in the previous week or so, and either quarantine those contacts or test them too.

These are the standard pillars of public health, but they're complicated by the coronavirus's ability to spread for days before causing symptoms. Every infected person has a lot of potential contacts, and may have unknowingly infected many of them.

Tracking such a pathogen requires a lot of people, but owing to chronic underfunding, local US health departments lost more than 55,000 workers from 2008 to 2017. In their absence, a corps of volunteers could be quickly trained in the basics of contact tracing, as Massachusetts Governor Char-

lie Baker is planning to do.

"It might be an opportunity to bring in people who are recently unemployed - a wartime effort where people aren't doing their normal jobs," said Crystal Watson of the Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Secu-

If there aren't enough tests, as seems likely in the near term, health officials could focus their attention on looking for spikes in flu-like symptoms, or for less orthodox indicators such as crowded hospital park-

ing lots and restaurant cancellations. More controversially, they could quickly track an infected person's contacts by comparing their cellphone activity with that of others in the same area.

As South Korea and Singapore demonstrated, such methods clearly work. They undoubtedly raise privacy concerns but, as my colleague Derek Thompson argues: "Compared with our present nightmare, strategically sacrificing our privacy might be the best way to protect other freedoms."

Once the US gets better at tracking the coronavirus, it could use social distancing more flexibly and precisely. Covid-19 counts could feature on the nightly weather report, said Stephen Kissler, an infectious-disease modeler at Harvard.

"In the same way that cities issue evacuation orders a few days before a hurricane hits, they could issue distancing orders a few days before we reach the threshold that would threaten to overwhelm our ICUs," he said.

There's a risk in trying to be too clever, though. Dylan Morris of Princeton, who also models infectious diseases, notes that exponentially growing epidemics are not just harder, but riskier, to control. Slight delays in action can have huge consequences, as the United Kingdom learned last month.

Relying too heavily on models, the British government believed that it could precisely control the spread of Covid-19 by rolling out social restrictions at carefully chosen moments. Its excessive selfconfidence led to a substantial spike in cases.

Morris argues that now that the US is slowing the pandemic, gently easing back on social distancing would be safer than snapping back to business as usual when small missteps could be catastrophic.

"If we're judicious about how we lift restrictions, we might never have to go back into lockdown," he

Stay-at-home orders might be lifted first, allowing friends and family to reunite. Small businesses could reopen with limitations: offices might run on shifts and still rely heavily on teleworking, while restaurants and bars could create more space between tables. Schools could restart once researchers determine if children actually spread the virus.

This process might take several weeks to unfold, and even at the end of it, none of the experts I spoke with was comfortable with the return of crowded public spac-

Gottlieb's road map, for example, recommends that until a vaccine or an effective treatment is

available, social gatherings should be limited to 50 people or fewer.

That will be especially challenging in large cities: an average Manhattan street or subway car is the equivalent of a mass gathering. summer camps, political rallies, to clear. large weddings and major sporting events may all have to be suspended for at least this year.

"It's hard for me to imagine anyone going to Fenway Park and sitting with 30,000 fans - that will almost surely be a bad idea. This isn't going to look like a normal summer in America," said Ashish Jha, an internist and public-health expert at Harvard.

Reinforcements

During the long wait for a vaccine, other countermeasures could conceivably dampen the threat of Covid-19. The simplest of these is the face mask.

Medical masks are still in short supply, and must be reserved for healthcare workers. But homemade alternatives might help slow the spread of the coronavirus, less by preventing healthy wearers from getting infected and more by stopping unknowingly sick wearers from infecting others.

As I wrote earlier this month, masks are symbols as well as shields. In East Asian countries, where they are widely worn, they signify civic-mindedness and conscientiousness. As their use grows in Western nations, they could send the message that society is collectively acting against a serious threat.

Effective treatments for the new coronavirus could also blunt the sting of future outbreaks. As my colleague Sarah Zhang reports: "More than 100 existing and experimental drugs are being tested against Covid-19."

It's however unlikely that any of these would be an outright cure in the way that antibiotics can be for bacterial infections. Incidentally, antibiotics do not work against viruses. That's partly because viruses are simpler than bacteria, with fewer vulnerabilities to exploit.

Viruses are also more likely than bacteria to actually destroy our cells; by the time symptoms ap-

pear, viruses have caused a lot of tissue damage that isn't easily reversed. And they are more likely to trigger cytokine storms - massive overreactions from the immune system that cause more damage Elsewhere, concerts, conferences, than the infections they are trying

> "It's likely that treatment would only provide incremental benefit over the backbone of supportive medical care," said Luciana Borio, a physician who served in the National Security Council's pandemic-preparedness office, which was largely disbanded in 2018.

> Tamiflu, for example, shortens flu infections by just a day or two and works best if taken before symptoms appear or shortly after. A similar drug would not obviate the need for a vaccine, or fully negate the coronavirus threat.

> More realistically, treatments might give critically ill patients a better chance of survival, or prevent some people with early symptoms from ever needing critical care at all. Either would be an important win.

"If people are feeling bad at home, and an anti-Covid-19 drug can reduce their risk of progressing to hospitalisation from 20 per cent to 10 per cent, that would feel like a massive home run," Jha said.

Even without antivirals, many Covid-19 patients will recover on their own. If they retain antibodies that confer lasting immunity against the coronavirus, they could conceivably be free to work, support healthcare workers, or care for the elderly and other vulnerable groups.

Several countries, including the US, are now hoping to identify immune individuals with serology tests and affirm their status with "immunity passports", akin to the yellow card that's issued following a yellow fever vaccination. But such a system faces many substantial problems.

• Ed Yong is a science writer at The Atlantic and author of I Contain Multitudes, a **New York Times bestseller** on animal-microbe partnerships. This is the second piece of a three-part article. The first appeared in yesterday's issue of The Guardian.

Guardian

NEW YORK

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 freetrade area agreement.

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

pandemic African progress".

the coronavirus' potential to aggravate long-standing inequalities and heighten hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability to disease, supplies, avoid a financial balance".

commodities, together with afloat, and cushion the

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

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 But, he added: "The and humanitarian workers threatens continue to provide support, "a spectrum of The UN chief elaborated urgent challenges", require more urgent assistance.

"We are calling for international action to strengthen Africa's health systems, maintain food protect jobs, Demand for Africa's households and businesses spelled out.



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

saying "much hangs in the crisis, support education, continent against lost income and keep export earnings", the UN chief

for a global response package and advocated for "across-theamounting to some 10 per cent of board debt standstill", followed by

Guterres echoed his call the world's gross domestic product 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 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 panion in order to survive, say Makatapola villages in Iringa

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 sur-

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

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, cultivativation 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 for breeding.

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 lives of so many families who the Iringa District Council, depend on their trusted com- 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



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 codesigned 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 wPere 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 beyond 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

ecuring 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.

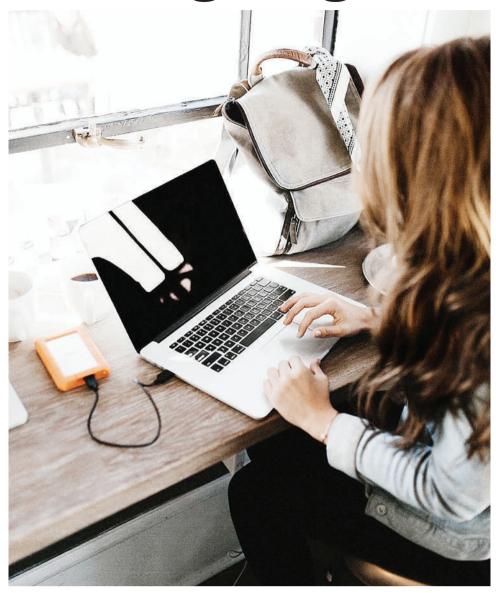
Some students could not complete their internships in some organizations due to the effects of the pandemic.

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.Dont 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 acquitance 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.

THE CAREER MIRROR

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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

Use this time effectively.

eventually.

Migration is a safety net during climate change disasters

BY AIMÉE-NOËL MBIYOZO

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 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 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 country is facing its worst the world's largest populations hunger crisis with almost half 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 supressed rains across Southern Africa. Since late 2018, South- or a lack of safe and regular pas-

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 macroeconomic mismanagement. 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 ern Africa has been subjected sage 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 S●●low 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 armed violence. And 195%

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 hurricanes are 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

to a location where they can 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 climaterelated 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 im-

mobile 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 COV-ID-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 ir-

regular 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.

Agencies





MARKET TRENDS

Tanzanian banks building capacity to fund economic transformation

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Thursday 21 May 2020

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

By Francis Kajubi

NVESTMENT 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

"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

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

As a result of the good deposits mobilization, loans and advances made by banks to various sectors of the economy grewby2.2 percent to 14.51trn/- compared to 14.2trn/- extended in the last quarter of 2018.

 $\hbox{``The highest growth of bank loans was recorded'}\\$

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

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 57.06bn/- from 53.64bn/-, 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

KCB boss fouryear 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 highestpaid 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

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 wellplaced to fight financial risks, says Mastercard

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

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

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

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,

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

which will provide children with remote 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

Guardian

Bänker

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

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 t 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,"

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.

Nyasia 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**

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

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 \$1 955.85. 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

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

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

The National Institute of Social Security (INSS) will establish a 600 million meticais 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 meticais [around US\$8.7 million 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 at current exchange rates] financing of services, as well as safeguarding jobs.

Tanzanian banks building capacity to fund economic transformation

By Dr Joe Masawe

ınzania is among 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 amindustrialization drive, which includes the construction of a new rail line, revival of the national airline and a mega hydropower 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 middleincome 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 befitting middle-income country status.

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

An increase in private sector borrowing

port 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

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 sta-

Time to think outside

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

the sector to innovate to

Traditionally, banks sup- 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 forwardthinking people, who challenge the norm, think outside the box, and invent the world they see inside rather than submitting to the limi-

tations of current dilemmas. Excitingly, we are beginning to witness a growing appetite for infrastructure financing as seen in April last vear 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 Makutupora 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.

Ioin 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

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 Rweyemamu (R), presents Covid-19 awareness materials to Mohamed Khalifa, a representative of the Tanga Regional Medical Officer's office. Photo courtesy of SBL.

mankind 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 virus, the disease is known to be

est challenge to the survival of huthat the Covid-19 outbreak has severely disrupted the global econo-

Almost all the nations are struggling to slow down the transmission of the disease by testing and treating patients, quarantining suspected cases through contacttracing, 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 Director added while pointing out 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, Ummy 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 in the 1970s as the Reserve Bank seeks my. 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

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 Schüssler.

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 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

week to levels close to those last seen Masondo made waves in early May when he suggested at an ANC discussion to bolster South Africa's ailing econo- 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 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 worse-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 level4 shutdown will remain in place in metropolitan areas, where economic activity is most concentrated," Khan said.

Guardian www.ippmedia.com

WORLD

President Trump takes unproven medication

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that he has been taking the malaria and lupus drug hydroxychloroquine, unproven for fighting COVID-19, to lessen symptoms if he gets the novel

In the weeks before telling reporters he was taking the drug, Trump has touted it as a potential cure for COV-ID-19, even though the Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, cautioned last month that it could cause significant side effects in some patients, including heart rhythm problems, and should be used only on hospitalized patients or as part of clinical trials.

Trump made the revelation during a roundtable with restaurant executives at the White House.

He then told reporters that he has been taking hydroxychloroquine and a zinc supplement daily "for about a week and a half now and I'm still here, I'm still here".

Trump said his doctor did not rec-

ommend the drug to him but that he requested it from the White House physician.

"I started taking it, because I think it's good. I've heard a lot of good stories," he said, suggesting that many medical workers were also taking the drug.

"You'd be surprised at how many people are taking it, especially the front-line workers before you catch it... many, many are taking it," he said.

The president said he does not know if it works, but "if it doesn't, you're not going to get sick and die", he added, seeming to brush aside FDA warnings.

The number of COVID-19 cases in the United States topped 1.5 million on Monday, reaching 1,500,753, according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. The national death toll rose to

New York remains the hardest-hit state with 351,371 cases and 28,339 fatalities. Other states with over 50,000 cases include New Jersey, Illinois, Massachusetts, California, Pennsylvania



and Michigan. Over 40 states have restarted or partially restarted their economies, although the country in general has not seen a downward trend in COVID-19 infection.

On Monday, more states lifted restrictions, including Michigan, where Governor Gretchen Whitmer has stayed firm with one of the nation's toughest lockdowns despite protests from Republican opponents and armed demonstrations at the statehouse.

Whitmer signed an order that will allow businesses and restaurants in northern Michigan to reopen by the Memorial Day weekend. The order affects the sparsely populated Upper Peninsula and 17 counties in the tourism-heavy northern tip of the Lower Peninsula.

Push for wider reopening

New York, California and Massachusetts on Monday also eased restrictions, and Trump continued his push for a wider reopening: "REOPEN OUR COUNTRY! TRANSITION TO GREATNESS," Trump wrote in a Twitter post on Monday.

Most states reported a drop in new cases for the week ended on May 17, with only 13 states seeing a rise in infections compared with the previous week, Reuters reported. Tennessee had the biggest weekly increase at 33 percent.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said the western corner of the state, which includes Niagara Falls, would become the sixth of New York's 10 regions to start reopening on Tuesday.

New York, which has the most deaths of any state, is showing more signs of containing the spread. The three-day rolling average of hospitalizations is declining, and the number of fatalities

dropped to 106 on Sunday versus 139 on Saturday. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Monday that the city may meet the thresholds set by the state to reopen in the first half of June.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, health directors in five counties said manufacturing and retail with curbside pickup and warehouse distribution could reopen.

Russian ambassador confirms plans to open consulate general in Wuhan

BEIJING

RUSSIA'S Foreign Ministry plans to open a consulate general in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province, Russian Ambassador to Beijing Andrei Denisov told an online briefing yesterday.



"The city of Wuhan has been well-known to us for a long time. Before Wuhan, there was the city of Hankou. Our country was present in Hankou in the late 19th century, there was a consulate general.

Now the Russian Foreign Ministry has decided to reopen the consulate general in Wuhan. We hope that when the budget allows, we will restore our presence in Wuhan," the envoy emphasized.

"I am very pleased to see that life in the Hubei province and the city of Wuhan is returning to normal. Doctors are back home, there are no hospitalized coronavirus patients," Denisov (pictured) said.

Russia and China agreed in September 2015 to open consulate generals in the Russian cities of Vladivostok and Kazan and the Chinese cities of Harbin and Wuhan. Russia has a consular department at the embassy in Beijing, as well as consulate generals in Guangzhou, Harbin, Shanghai, Shenyang and Hong Kong.

Experts slam Trump's letter to WHO

WASHINGTON

MANY experts have blasted U.S. President Donald Trump's letter to World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

In the letter, a copy of which was published by Trump on Twitter Monday, the president threatened that the United States will permanently cut off its funding to the WHO if the latter does not commit to what he called "substantive improvements within the next 30 days.'

Lawrence Gostin, a professor of global health law and director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, tweeted on Tuesday that the letter to Tedros "is like a bully making a threat" and "factually it's wrong."

Gostin, also the director of the WHO collaborating center on national and global health law, questioned Trump's ability to carry out the threats, arguing that the U.S. "Congress won't support leaving" the organization.

Trump announced in mid-April that his administration would halt U.S. funding to the WHO, a roundly-criticized move that many experts have said was trying to shift blames and would be counterproductive to addressing the public health crisis.

The United States alone has reported more than 1.5 million infections and over 90,000 deaths, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University. Both figures are far higher than those in any other country or region.

Max Boot, a senior fellow for national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. think tank, said that "it is hard to imagine a more unconvincing and counterproductive document" in an op-ed published on The Washington Post on Tuesday in response to Trump's letter.

"Threatening to leave the WHO during a global health crisis is the geopolitical equivalent of injecting Clorox as a coronavirus remedy," Boot wrote. "The United States chose to go it alone and fell hopelessly behind in fighting the pandemic. That's Trump's fault, not the WHO's."

The Lancet, a leading British medical journal, rebuked Trump after he incorrectly cited research it published on the coronavirus outbreak, saying that "this statement is factually incorrect."

"The allegations levelled against WHO in President Trump's letter are serious and damaging to efforts to strengthen international cooperation to control this pandemic," the journal said in a statement.

The Trump administration has aggressively defended its handling of the public health crisis, while critics have pointed out that its leaders and officials ignored early warnings, were slow to act and tried to politicize the situation to shift blame. Xinhua



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

UN chief calls for help for Africa in COVID-19 response

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday called for international action to help Africa deal with the COVID-19 pandem-

"These are still early days for the pandemic in Africa, and disruption could escalate quickly. Global solidarity with Africa is an imperative -- now and for recovering better," said Guterres in a video message for the launch of a policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on Africa.

Ending the pandemic in Africa is essential for ending it across the world, he said.

"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 conti-



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

nent against lost income and export earnings," said Guterres.

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

He repeated his call for a global response package amounting to at least 10 percent of the world's gross domestic product. For Africa, that means more than 200 billion U.S. dollars as additional support from the international community, he said.

Guterres reiterated his call for a comprehensive debt framework, starting with an acrosscountries unable to service their relief and a comprehensive apinternational debt architecture ness are critical, he said. to prevent defaults.

African countries should work to silence the guns and address violent extremism.

Political processes and elections in the coming months offer potential milestones for stability and peace. Women and youth must be empowered, said the UN chief.He warned that the pandemic threatens African pro-

"It will aggravate long-standing inequalities and heighten hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability to disease.

Already, demand for Africa's commodities, tourism and remittances are declining.

The opening of the trade zone the-board debt standstill for has been pushed back, and millions could be pushed into exdebt, followed by targeted debt treme poverty."The virus has taken more than 2,500 African proach to structural issues in the lives. Vigilance and prepared-

Xinhua

Worst drought in a century hits EU region already reeling from virus

FIRST the virus lockdown shuttered the two dairies where farmer Gavrila Tuchilus sells the milk from his 1,500 cows. Then his fields dried up, forcing him to abandon his barley crop for the first time in 39 years.

"A double war is taking place," said Tuchilus, from Matca, a village in southeastRomania. "It's a war against the invisible COVID-19 and a war with the drought." The dry spell that's scorching

parts of the European Union's eastern wing is devastating harvests and exacerbating what's expected to be the region's deepest economic

In parts of Romania and Poland, the drought is the worst in a century. In the Czech Republic it's the

worst in five. It's raising questions of how to ensure food security in a region with painful memories of both food shortages under totalitarian regimes and the more recent scramble for medicine and protective gear to fight against the coronavirus.

This will become a huge topic," said Martin Pycha, the head of the Agricultural Association of the Czech Republic. "No one will instantly produce food if there's an emergency."

Panic Buying

With memories still fresh of starvation under late Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, people swept grocery store shelves clean of staples when the government locked down the economy and told people to stay at home.

Then the drought hit, and the EU's second-biggest wheat exporter -- where agriculture makes up about 5 percent of output -- forecast the wheat harvest could plunge to half of the average 9 million tons a year.

That prompted the government to briefly ban exports to destinations outside the European Union in March, sending ripples across global commodities markets and bringing a rebuke from the European Commission.

It didn't trigger a major impact on trade, with Bucharest ending the ban a week later and large harvests in many nations are expected to push global stockpiles to new records this year and next. Still, the double drought-virus punch has brought agriculture again to the fore in European politics.

Eastern EU states have avoided the high Covid-19 death tolls with early and strict quarantine measures, a development that prompted Czech President Milos Zeman to declare the drought a worse crisis than coronavirus. He called on Prime Minister Andrej Babis's government to build new reservoirs.

In Poland, the bloc's largest eastern member and home to more than 2 million farmers, the grain crop is expected to drop more than 8 percent this year, according to the Warsaw-based Institute of Agriculture and Food Economics.

That may prompt Warsaw to demand more go to farming in the EU's 2021-2027 budget -- a proposition that will face an uphill struggle to gain support given that agriculture is already the biggest single item in

the spending plan.

"I've just sent a letter to Ursula von der Leyen and 26 EU leaders advocating a boost in spending on common agriculture policy during the next seven years," Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said last week, referring to the president of the European Commission. "We should support local, ecological food production and agriculture."

Morawiecki's administration has also asked the anti-monopoly watchdog to look into a spike in food prices, which are expected to rise 15 percent this year. That's a worry in developing European countries, where people are forced to spend a bigger portion of their disposable income on food than in the richer West.

New York state to allow small festival gatherings as more regions reopen

NEW YORK

THE U.S. state of New York will allow celebrations for the upcoming Memorial Day to happen with up to 10 people, as more regions in the state are restarting the economy.

Governor Andrew Cuomo said at Tuesday's briefing that gatherings of no more than 10 people will be allowed on May 25, when this year's Memorial day falls, but final decisions are

left to local governments. Under the current "PAUSE" order which is still in effect in much of the downstate region, public gatherings of any size for any purpose are banned and would be dispersed by police, but

Cuomo (pictured) said the tradition of honoring the country's military members is very important.

Nearly two months into the statewide shutdown, New York has seen a downward trend in some key indicators, including new COVID-19 cases and net change in total hospitalizations. Daily deaths fell to 105 on Monday, "dramatically down than where it was in the first place but is still painfully high," said Cuomo.

Yesterday, one more region of the state's ten regions, the Capital Region, has met all seven requirements for reopening and will step into the first

phase of reopening. The three regions that will remain



in a shutdown till May 28 include New York City (NYC), Long Island, and Mid-

Hudson, all in the downstate area and account for over 60 percent of the state's total population. The governor urged people to stay vigilant as more regions and business-

es are eligible for reopening. "If you look at the curve in New York

compared to the rest of the nation, we're going down while the curve is still going up in many other regions," said the governor. "We must continue to do everything we've been doing even as we begin to reopen and remember the lessons we've learned through all of this."

Some COVID-19 patients in the state can be visited by their families soon as the state is launching a two-week

hospitals.

Visits will be time-limited. Visitors will be provided with personal protective equipment to wear, and are subject to symptom and temperature checks, said Cuomo.

NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Wednesday that he expected the city to meet all seven benchmarks for reopening in June.

"We're going to watch carefully in each phase to make sure things work and don't go in the wrong direction. We're all very devoted to avoiding that boomerang," said de Blasio at his daily

briefing. The mayor said the city will work

hospital visitation pilot program in 16 with the state's lawmakers to pass legislation that provides line-of-duty death benefits to the families of municipal employees who died of COV-ID-19.

> He said 270 city employees in New York City have died of the virus so far. "Our public servants have gone above and beyond during this crisis, and the loved ones of those we've lost deserve our full support," said de Blasio.

New York City has reported more than 190,000 COVID-19 cases by Tuesday night as the state's total rose to over 352,000. Over 28,000 deaths occurred in New York state, with over 20,000 in New York City, according to state and city data.

Palestinian president

announces withdrawal

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 com-

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.

Ouestions 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

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

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 hap-

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 efforts of so many scientists around the

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.

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

MOSCOW

Kiev's line towards confrontation and whipping up a statement on Wednesday

mains unchanged, the Rus- lensky's first year of presi- up tensions in relations ing against everything that culture, distort common his-

"Kiev's line towards con- changed,"

with Russia has been un- somehow connects our na- tory, glorify Nazism and des-

from all deals with Israel, US – agency

MOSCOW

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas announced on Tuesday that his country withdraws from all agreements with Israel and the United States, the



WAFA news agency reported.

"The Palestine Liberation Organization and the State of Palestine today are freed from all deals and agreements with the government of the United States and Israel, and from all obligations that stem from those deals and agreements, including in the security sphere," the agency quoted the Palestinian leader as saying.

Abbas went on to say that Israel must bear responsibility for its attempts to annex the occupied Palestinian territories. He also accused the US of abetting Israel.

On May 17, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that the time has come to annex a section of Palestinian territories on the West Bank for the construction of Jewish settlements. The statement was made when he presented his cabinet of ministers, formed as a result of the March 2 elections, to the country's unicameral parliament.

In December 2016, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 2334 demanding Israel immediately stop settlement activities on the occupied Palestinian territories. Israel said back then it would not implement this resolution.

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 overwhelm-

ing 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 vam 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

sian Foreign Ministry said in

dency.

tensions with Moscow re- on occasion of Vladimir Ze- frontation and whipping said. "Ukraine keeps fight- on the Russian language and soldiers." Agencies

the ministry tions. They continue attacks ecrate memorials to Soviet



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

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 pro-

pose specific dates for holding

the videoconference to dis-

cuss 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 "superduper 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 de-

"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.

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

for poverty alleviation.

ers, including 120,000 purchasing

agents of bulk commodities, and

witnessed 26,000 orders placed

with a total value of 860,000 yuan.

the popularity of local agricultural

products and broaden sales chan-

nels," said Shu Chang, secretary of

the leading Party members' group

and deputy director of the bureau

of commerce and industry infor-

This year, the county will con-

tinue to make use of live streaming

platforms to advertise livestock

and poultry products, while focus-

ing on cultivating local influencers

People's Daily

matization of Moyu county.

"The Internet could increase

THE latest statistics released by Johns Hopkins University revealed that the U.S. is the mostaffected 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 Ameri-

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 U.S. 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.

jujube garden. Photo by People's Daily Online

consumption structure of ur-

ban and rural residents and got

through the "last mile" in poverty

alleviation from various channels.

creating a broader market for local

In the first quarter of 2020, the

Xinjiang society bought 326 mil-

lion 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 of-

Products from impoverished

regions worth 29.41 million yuan

were sold by stimulating consump-

tion, and 176 million yuan worth of

farm products were sold with the

specialties.

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

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.

Mahmut Omerjan, head of Moyu county, Hotan advertises local dried fruit in front of a mobile phone camera in a

help of the whole society in Xinji-

Besides carrying out poverty al-

leviation work through consump-

tion and matching agricultural

products with targeted markets,

Xinjiang has made full use of of live

streaming to advertise local spe-

On April 12, Mahmut Omerian.

head of Moyu county, Hotan ad-

vertised dried fruit for local farm-

ers in front of a mobile phone

camera in a jujube garden cover-

ing more than 6.67 hectares. The

livestream aroused the interest of

purchasing agents and net users in

The two-hour long show at-

tracted a total of 400,000 view-

Xinjiang dried fruit.

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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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 U.S. politicians would only destroy the global efforts

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

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

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

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

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 danger-

People's Daily

Guardian www.ippmedia.com



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, they 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 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 67page 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 fullscale 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 Queenland'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

- 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

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 multibillion-dollar business that reportedly notched more than 700,000 pay-per-view buys for UFC 249 – generating as much as and it comes down to how much risk are \$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

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-

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

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

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

cooperation supervisors of a new live music streaming platform, dubbed '#BeApp', 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

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

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



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.

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

encourage fans to invite connection through a shared love pandemic, and Coca-Cola remains friends and family to join them of live music, and people need that committed to uplifting the human

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

"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, Kaskade, DJ Khaled, among others, and kicked off on May 15 at 2HOOam EAT.

Re-Runs of live content aired at Fans will moreover have the 6.00pm the same day. Additional musicians will be announced across Coca-Cola and #BeApp social media channels.

"We know that people may feel "#BeApp was designed for digital lonely or isolated as a result of the

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

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

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 "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)

with an 84.

to qualify.

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

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

thought quitting would set a bad

example for his son. So he played

the afternoon round. He shot 59

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

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

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

following year.

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

"It goes against the grain of the

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. was about to withdraw until he 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.

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

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

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 abandoned.

"Some of the players at the lower the players and the club." division clubs are on short-term contracts that are up and some of them are living from paycheck Professional paycheck," 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 and the third division might also be to pay staff and pay players and it's kind of a snowball impact among

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

"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."

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

BERLIN

GERMAN FA president Fritz added. Keller and Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge want to propose a salary cap to UEFA president Aleksander

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

caps. I am glad that I agree with England's big spending Premier Karl-Heinz Rummenigge on this

"Therefore we will write a letter to UEFA president Aleksander

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 resolved. clubs in Europe. However, we were told from the outset that this

could not be brought into line with competition laws," Rummenigge

Now Keller wants to write a combined letter to persuade

The restricting of wages, which Ceferin, it was revealed on Tuesday. are currently "partly from another world", can only be achieved with UEFA's help, he added.

"The end result must be a European law and also applies to "We have to talk about salary Britain," Keller said, referring to 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 Rummenigge are joining forces means their recent spat has been

AFP

Newcastle want Pochettino, but would he want them?

BY JAMES OLLEYSENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

NEWCASTLE United have made Mauricio Pochettino 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.

top managers, Like many Pochettino isn't particularly prone standard requirements, and so it was particularly telling that as far back as November 2017, he began he was interested in the Real aspirations of scaling the summit. 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

his enduring love for Tottenham. Regarding the latter, there's no reason to doubt his sincerity.

His affection for the club is genuine and is not sullied by the manner of his departure. But one senior figure at Tottenham who worked with Pochettino told ESPN they interpreted that interview as "paving the way for taking another job in England by squaring it with the Spurs

For a long time, it seemed likely that Pochettino's next destination in England would be Manchester United. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's transition from panacea to pariah at Old Trafford made the Spurs manager's pedigree stand out even to giving interviews beyond the more. Pochettino is an admirer of Sir Alex Ferguson's -- the pair have previously dined together -- and the prospect of both United's status and subtly courting the Madrid press. financial might would obviously Publicly, there were 100% denials appeal to a manager with palpable sum of its parts.

> Levy knew United's pull as early as 2016. Around the time Pochettino was reflecting on that thumping defeat at Newcastle, United sounded him out over replacing then-manager Louis van Gaal. After the Argentine chose to stay at Spurs, Levy rewarded him by delivering a £156,000 Bentley Bentayga to his house.

Pochettino has similarly been earmarked as a possible successor to Pep Guardiola at Manchester City when his deal expires in 2021. Yet while Solskjaer continues to cling on, City are hopeful Guardiola could yet commit beyond next year.

If England is his preferred choice, a financially supercharged Newcastle might appeal, but Pochettino has to believe there is substance to the challenge.

Pochettino ranks the Netflix drama "House of Cards" among his favourite boxsets. He claims to have learned much from the show's Machiavellian male lead, Frank Underwood, but is far less cynical by nature.

"I take pleasure in the journey," Pochettino wrote in "Brave New World," the 2017 book about his work coronavirus pandemic allows, while at Tottenham. "I only know of one simultaneously expressing path to the top of this profession:

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 firstteam 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

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 postcoronavirus 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

by David Chikoko



Guardian www.ippmedia.com

Yanga set to unveil new business partner

Newcastle want Pochettino, but would he want them?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



By Correspondent Joseph

ANGA have said they are set to announce their 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 will



Yanga midfielder, Papy Tshishimbi (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

commercialization expertise to Yanga in terms of technical, bussiness 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.

are 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

"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.

Yanga members should embrace club transformation, says Mwansasu

By Corespondent Adam Fungamwango

FORMER Yanga defender, John Mwansasu, is admant 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 web-

site, 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 del with challenges the outfit faces and ultimately live up to expetations," 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

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 transforma-

"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

"I call on Yanga members to unite, they should cooperate with their officials and sponsors in an effort to

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

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 a 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

issues, his second letter disclosed.

the first letter seeking res- has stated the same thing, ignation becaue of health that is what I know," Peter

"Should there be citizenshp claims, the relevant eventually come out." authority will perform its

duty and the truth will 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 TP-BRC income and expendi-

Flexibles by David Chikoko

