



### National Pg 3



JPM to dissolve Parliament in June

### National Pg 4



Mara eyes higher coffee production

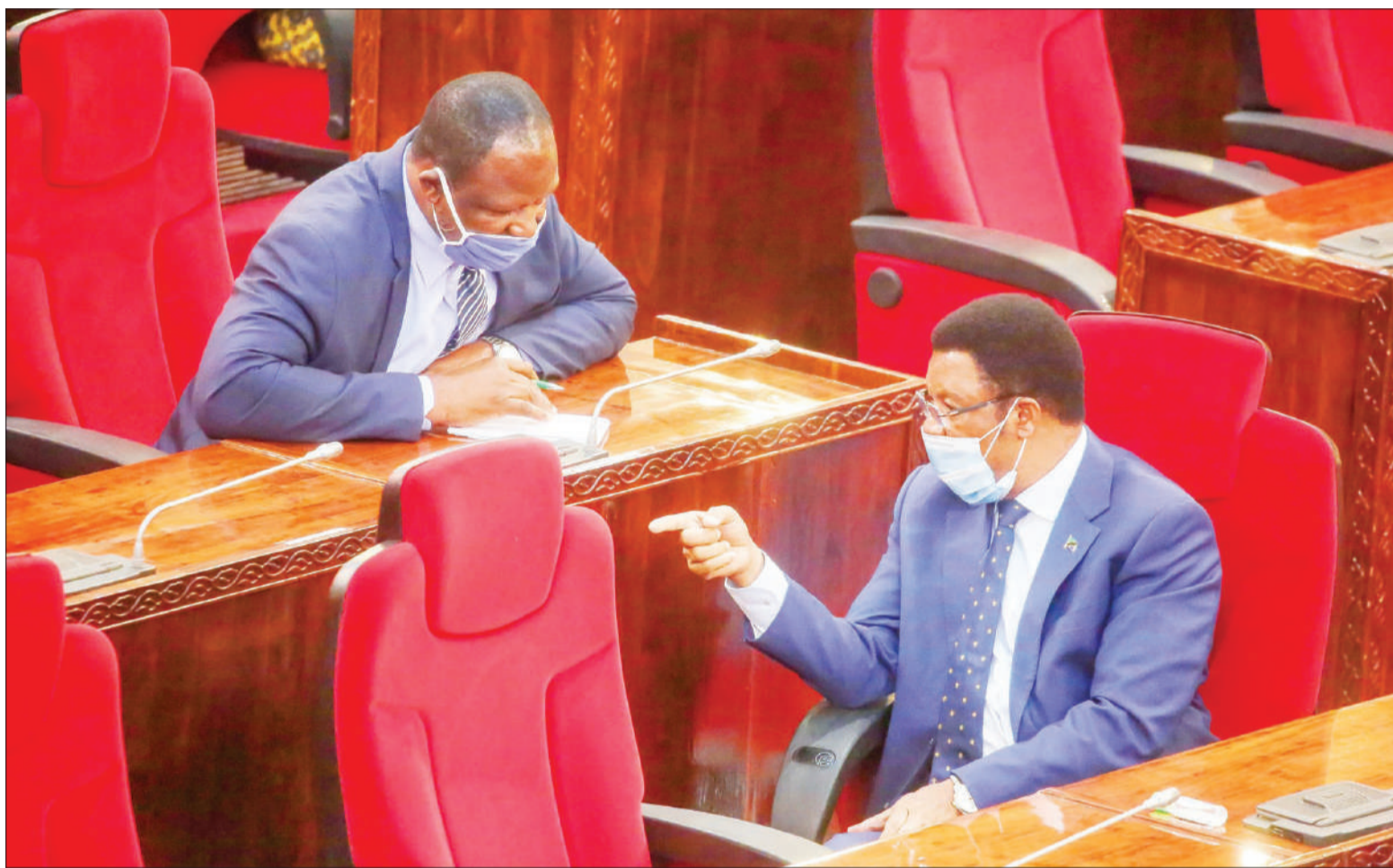
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Govt lists 182 learning centres



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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a quick word with Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga (L) in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo courtesy of PMO

# 'Tourists to need medical proof of testing, negative COVID-19 status'

By Guardian Reporters

FOREIGNERS coming to Tanzania as tourists will from now on be required to present medical proof on their Covid-19 status, as per newly announced Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The SOPs will also be applied by players in the tourism sector during the Covid-19 outbreak as the government moves to officially resume tourism activities.

According to the SOPs, players in the sector including tour guides, service providers and airport attendants will be undergoing regular Covid-19 test to ensure only those testing negative attend to visitors.

The Natural Resources and Tourism minister, Dr Hamis Kigwangalla told journalists in Dodoma that these measures are meant to ensure arriving tourists leave the country without being infected.

"We have reopened the tourism sector; we are now ready to receive tourists from across the world provided that they are not infected with the novel coronavirus," said Dr Kigwangalla.

He commended President John Magufuli's decision to resume aviation services, allowing local and international passenger flights.

Dr Kigwangalla said the president has also lifted the 14 days mandatory quarantine

for tourists, allowed visiting various tourist attractions to continue but tourists should present medical proof on their Covid-19 status.

The minister affirmed that the government will issue special recognition certificates to tourism sector entities appointed to provide services to tourists, and making sure staff interacting with guests protect themselves by applying sanitisers and wearing gloves.

"Service providers will be working on shift basis. Operators will be required to change workers after every 30 days. They will also be subjected to the 14-day quarantine before and after completing their shifts," he said.

The new SOPs will be circulated to Tanzanian embassies as well as tour operators and agents inside and outside the country, he stated.

Explaining, he said the new SOPs for the tourism sector were prepared in collaboration with industry players taking into consideration the safety of service providers and tourists.

Isack Kamwelwe, the minister for Works, Transport and Communications, has meanwhile announced opening up aviation services, including regular passenger and tourist flights.

Speaking in Dodoma yesterday, the minister directed Air Tanzania Co. Ltd (ATCL) to prepare for resuming suspended flights.

The tourism sector has for some years

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## New WMA zone crosses wildlife in Tarangire, Lake Manyara parks ecology

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TROUBLE is brewing in the wildlife corridor which links Tarangire and Lake Manyara national parks as a number of people are slowly but surely moving into the important ecological passage, setting up residential structures and farms.

Furthermore, they have driven in herds of cattle and other livestock, blocking the wild animals that usually move across the two parks, depending on the season, breeding patterns or water availability.

Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu (pictured), who visited the precinct recently, has warned against this encroachment. He said it threatens the eco-system of the area and also posed a danger to the invaders as they are pitting themselves against ferocious beasts that would not take it kindly to have their paths blocked.

The Burunge Wildlife Management Area (WMA) has been formed in the location with members of the new entity needing to ensure that the wildlife corridor cutting

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## Cautious optimism greets JPM remarks

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRESIDENT John Magufuli's Sunday speech has been received with mixed reactions, with some commending the idea of reopening colleges and resuming tourism activities and others saying it's too early to do so - and recommending stricter protective measures to contain the pandemic.

The reactions came a day after the president announced plans to reopen colleges and allow the resumption of sports and international flights if the situation on confirmed cases of the coronavirus remains unchanged.

Dr Magufuli was speaking after Sunday prayers at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) in Chato Diocese, Geita Region.

In separate interviews with 'The Guardian' yesterday, Moses John, who is executive director of the Centre for Information, Peace and Security in Africa, commended the move, noting

however that it should be accompanied by strict protection measures given by health experts.

"Our president has shown integrity in handling the coronavirus pandemic in his own way, instead of bending to cut and paste western methodologies," he said, noting that decisions by the president indicate that he has good advisers.

He described President Magufuli as exemplary, calling upon Tanzanians to abide by experts' prevention directives as Covid-19 is in the community.

City commentator Nyanjura Kalindo commended the decision to restart tourism activities, a sector that has been greatly affected by the pandemic.

The analyst urged the government to continue with educational campaigns on Covid-19 as well as ensuring Tanzanians get the right information on how to enhance protection

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## 'M-Kilimo set to link farmers, extension staff, crop markets

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has unveiled an online system for provision of marketing and extension services dubbed 'M-Kilimo' to link farmers and buyers of agricultural crops, livestock and fisheries.

Launching the system here yesterday, Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga said the first part will cover extension services that will help farmers to get expert advice via mobile phones without having to meet with extension officers.

He said the service aims to solve challenges arising from inadequacy of extension officers that has reduced the chance for many farmers to get extension services.

The second part covers marketing services that will enable farmers to get market information including prices and where there are ready markets at the material time, he said.

It will also enable sellers to seek buyers of his crops in the market as well as enabling farmers

and experts to communicate by messages via mobile phones.

Hasunga said M-Kilimo has been created by the ministry in collaboration with the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), district councils as well as the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF).

Trials will be conducted on the system starting Tuesday May 19 in Bahi, Kongwa and Chamwino districts in Dodoma region for a week.

In the trial about 35 extension officers and 45 farmers selected from two wards of each district be trained on how to use the system, so that they may enable other farmers in their various wards to use the system as well.

When the trials are successful, M-Kilimo will be referred to farmers countrywide to enable them make use of extension services, he stated.

In order to get services via M-Kilimo a farmer will have to incur the cost for the sms for every

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## SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

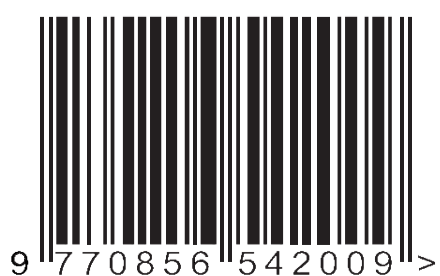
**FACT 5** You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms
- AND
- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.



03/15/20 03/19/2020

cdc.gov/COVID-19



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## 'Tourists to need medical proof of testing, negative COVID-19 status'

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contributed up to 25 percent of the nation's foreign currency earnings and 17 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

In April this year, the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) announced the suspension of international passenger flights due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Cargo flights were exempted from the suspension.

Recently, when tabling Budget estimates for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Kigwangalla said the outbreak of Covid-19 has affected government revenues and resulted into vast job losses.

He projected that if the pandemic is not controlled, the number of direct jobs will drop to 146,000 from the

current 623,000.

The number of tourists is also expected to decrease to 437,000 by October from 1,867,000 in the year ending March 2020, affecting revenue collections from the projected 2.6trn/- to 598bn/-.

Covid-19, which emerged in China late last year, has spread to 188 countries on six continents, with the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring the outbreak a pandemic by mid-February.

At least 315,000 people have died from the virus worldwide and the number of reported cases stands at more than 4.7 million, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. At least 1.7 million people have so far recovered.



As usual for Mondays, yesterday was an open-air mixed-goods market day for residents of Muheza town - this time with some added significance, with Eid el Fitr just days away. However, there was scanty evidence of the taking of precautions against Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## New WMA zone crosses wildlife in Tarangire, Lake Manyara parks ecology

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across the precinct is protected as it is the lifeline of the two national parks, he stated.

"The Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and the Burunge Wildlife Management Area should device better ways of protecting the corridor for mutual benefit of all parties," he further declared.

Encroachment has yielded negative cases of poaching such as recent incidents where some illegal hunters killed zebras and giraffe, with the deputy minister pointing a finger as some WMA officials as colluding with offenders.

Babati District Commissioner

Elizabeth Kitundu (pictured) said the ministry has already issued directives on how to manage wildlife corridors, while the WMA chairman Marceli Yeno said the community was earning over two billion shillings from concession fees.

The Burunge Wildlife Management Area has 10 villages, with the WMA encompassing 283 square kilometres. It was endorsed in 2003 but only recently resumed operation, officials noted.



## Secret plan to push Ruto into Opposition wing?

NAIROBI

Deputy President William Ruto could be surviving on borrowed time in government - and his survival within Jubilee Party is now in doubt - if fresh details of a plot to cut him to size by 2022 are anything to go by.

As the divorce in the ruling party gets noisy and messy, a source has learnt of secret plans to block him from ascending to power and force him into Opposition come 2022.

At the moment, the Ruto camp is on tenterhooks after President Uhuru Kenyatta took over the shaping and running of the party in a calculated move to push his deputy's supporters

into a political lockdown. Slowly, President Kenyatta's men are deflating the Ruto camp.

In the grand scheme, multiple sources say, the current Opposition, led by ODM's Raila Odinga, Gideon Moi (Kanu), Kalonzo Musyoka (Wiper) and others, will first join or work with President Kenyatta's government ahead of 2022 and as part of Kenyatta's succession plan.

Within this plan is the support of the planned referendum, which is fronted as part of the changes championed by the Building Bridges Initiative.

In this position, according to multiple sources within the government, Odinga and his colleagues will go to

poll as "insiders in government", with State machinery at their disposal during campaigns, thus locking out Dr Ruto.

With the DP as an 'outsider' in his own government, he will finish his race for State House at a disadvantage, effectively becoming the leader of Opposition, according to sources close to the scheme.

The first step, according to our sources, is to stage the DP out and keep him in the dark in day-to-day running of government over alleged "open defiance against the Head of State and being overambitious".

The DP has been absent during key State House meetings and has not been

attending Security Council talks.

More so, his allies in government, those in the Senate National Assembly and parastatals, are targeted.

But Jubilee Secretary-General Raphael Tuju said their working with other parties is not meant to exclude anybody but premised on "uniting the country".

"When the President shook hands with the ODM leader, his sole purpose was to bring this country together. We all know the problem that has bedevilled us and we cannot afford to be disunited going forward," Mr Tuju said.

AGENCIES



Estim's Sadock Kisura (L) surveys land at the site of the construction of a commuter bus stand at Palm Beach in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

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service he will need but during the piloting period the cost will be borne by the ministry, he elaborated.

M-Kilimo has many benefits, chiefly to take extension and marketing services close to farmers even during periods of difficult communication such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, due to the pandemic, the ministry is mobilizing officials to implement the service, underlining observance of essential precautions given by health experts, he said.

## 'M-Kilimo set to link farmers, extension staff, crop markets

In order to ensure the warehouse receipt and product markets bring benefits to the people, the government has decided to start two types of markets - primary and secondary markets - the minister intoned.

In order to enable the implementation of the parallel systems there must be fully registered Agricultural Marketing

Cooperative Societies (AMCOS), registered warehouses, identifying types of crops to be stored and education on the systems to the people, he said.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe said M-Kilimo shall propel implementation of President John Magufuli's directives requiring

people to transport crops as much as they can without paying levies for loads not exceeding one ton.

Omary Mgumba, also Deputy Minister for Agriculture, stressed the importance of the primary markets while cautioning farmers against mixing their crops with impurities to add load size.

## Cautious optimism greets JPM remarks

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from infection.

"We welcome the move to resume tourist activities for the government to collect revenues from tourists and service providers," he affirmed.

A stakeholder in the tourism industry who preferred anonymity advised the government to come up with good strategies that will ensure safety of service providers and tourists.

He commended St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) and a public relations firm for coming up with a plan to provide training to players in the tourism sector on how they can professionally conduct their activities amid this outbreak.

Another stakeholder in the sector who did not want his name published, said that the Covid-19 is a global pandemic that requires similar approaches to contain.

He suggested that the government improves hygiene infrastructures in colleges to facilitate frequent hand washing to protect students from contracting the virus.

He said improvements should also be done in lecture rooms, laboratories, dormitories and cafeterias to facilitate social distancing.

"It is difficult to control students since they interact closely, in groups. We would have waited until the situation normalizes before reopening the colleges," he emphasized.

Zitto Kabwe, leader of ACT Wazalendo said that while he share the view that COVID-19 infections and deaths in Tanzania are dropping, "we will not simply assume that the president is right in saying we are winning the battle against the coronavirus, just because he says so."

"Broadcasting a few selected statistics to support his assertion that Tanzania has turned the tide is simply not good enough. It is now almost three weeks since the government last released a set of data on the number of Covid-19 infections and deaths in the country."

He said that an elaborate set of

data relating to Covid-19 is required before the country can support the reopening of schools and resumption of sports events. "Our people cannot afford a dangerous spike in infections to result from any irresponsible moves on the part of the government. Full transparency is required and on a daily basis," he said in a statement.

"While we would welcome the ability of children to return to school, sports events to resume and tourists to flock back to our country, we need to be assured that the environment is safe enough to allow this," he stated.

"We also need to know what plans there will be for continued testing and tracing together with initiatives that will be put in place to ensure a new normal of responsible social distancing," he further observed.

"ACT Wazalendo agrees with President Magufuli that we should be working together with our regional partners," he said, elaborating that transparency is now essential, thus "President Magufuli must commit this core principle of (good) governance."

Tanzania has faced criticism from various health experts including the World Health Organization (WHO) for being slow in imposing social distancing measures and lacking transparency in its approach to the pandemic.

Unlike most other African countries the government has gone for days without publicly releasing COVID-19 updates, and totally refused a lockdown of major cities to the dismay of 'cut and paste' Covid-19 publicists in Africa and abroad.



**It is difficult to control students since they interact closely, in groups. We would have waited until the situation normalizes before reopening the colleges**





Kivamba Brandmiles Company official Geoffrey Kivamba (R) presents to Mwananyamala Hospital representative Hiltruda Patrick a specially fitted water tank for use in the washing of hands as part of a strategy to fight off Covid-19 infections. The tank is one of eight donated by Commercial Bank of Africa Tanzania in Dar es Salaam at the weekend to four hospitals. Looking on (C) is a pharmacist with the hospital, Simon Mbise. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Chief Medical Officer: Reports about night-time burials in Morogoro false

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

CHIEF Medical Officer (CMO) Prof Abel Makubi has refuted reports that said 92 people have died in Morogoro Region from Covid-19 infections and were buried during the night at Kola cemetery in Morogoro municipality.

Prof Makubi refuted the report at the weekend when he visited the region, saying they were false reports meant to mislead the public and tarnish the government's image.

"Personally I am irked by the reports as they are false, people should disregard them and continue with their activities," he said.

In order to verify the reports Prof Makubi visited the Kola cemetery proving the reports be false.

He also called on the people not to believe the social networks as many of them have the intention to mislead the public and added that all reports on Covid-19 are issued by the Health Ministry.

He also called on Tanzania to be united in the fight against the pandemic in the country "and not by spreading propaganda that does not benefit anyone in the society."

He congratulated all doctors, nurses and other stakeholders in the country who have been

serving Covid-19 patients in various areas.

An official of the Kola cemetery in Morogoro municipality Ally Nassoro said he was also saddened by the reports from social networks saying he had never witnessed people being buried at night.

Morogoro Regional Medical Officer Dr Kusirye Ukio called on Tanzanians not to be afraid to go to the regional hospital to visit their sick relatives on excuse to be infected with Covid-19 viruses.

He also called Morogoro region residents to continue taking preventive measures against Covid-19 infections by following guidelines from health experts.

## Zanzibar to refurbish key tourist sites in Stone Town

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR is implementing various measures to improve and promote tourism activities including renovation of the popular House of Wonders—Beit-al-Jaib in Stone town.

Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, the Zanzibar's Minister for Information, Tourism and Heritage made the remarks yesterday when tabling in the House of Representatives budget estimates for the ministry's recurrent and development expenditure during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Minister Kombo noted that innovation of the Beit-al-Jaib building has started under the Italian construction firm. He said the job is financed by the government of Oman to a tune of 14bn/-.

He said the repair work is estimated to be completed in next three years as contractors are also replacing poles and the roofing.

Kombo said the building also known as Palace of Wonders is Zanzibar's landmark building and the largest and tallest building of Stone Town.

He was optimistic that renovation of the building will attract more tourists especially those interested to know the history of Zanzibar and its different administrations.

"We have started to renovate the Beit-Al-Jaib building to further promote the tourism sector. We have considered all the conditions provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

According to Kombo, the government has surpassed the government set target whereas the number of tourists has increased from 133,000 in 2010 to 538,264 in 2019, an increase of 38,664 tourists.

He noted that the sector also provided a total of 33,000 direct employments in 2019 compared to 11,500 jobs created in 2011.

Indirect employment from the sector increased from 46,000 in 2011 to 115,000 last year, making a total of 148,000 indirect employments within the period.

The minister requested the House of Representative to approve 20,389,800,000/- for the ministry's coming fiscal year budget. Of the amount, 14,289,800,000/- will be spent on recurrent expenditure and 6,100,000,000/- on development projects.

## JPM to dissolve Parliament in June

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

President Dr John Magufuli is expected to address and dissolve the 11th Parliament on June 19th this year. Speaker Job Ndogai announced yesterday.

Ndogai told a press conference in Dodoma that the Parliamentary Steering Committee which sat yesterday decided to have this year's national budget tabled on 11th June to match with other East African countries as it is the practice.

Earlier, it was anticipated that Tanzania's national budget for 2020-2021 would be tabled on May 20 but given the EAC protocol all member states have to table their budget on the same day.

"There are several things going on, for example Burundi will hold elections, Uganda's Parliament is set to resume on June 4, Kenya's Parliament too will not resume until June," he said.

According to the Speaker the date was set after the finance ministers of the member states met and agreed on June 11 as the most suitable date for all the five countries.

Burundi will not read their budget because of the current campaigns for the upcoming elections.

In another development, Speaker Ndogai

announced that most of the opposition MPs from Chadema who were ordered by his office to return upkeep allowances paid to them have done so.

"Most of them have done so there are just or three remaining including their chairman himself but I know they will return the monies," said Ndogai.

The MPs entered into a wrangle with Speaker Ndogai after the main opposition party Chadema on May 1, directed its MPs to immediately stay away from the House and not to attend par-parliamentary committee meetings after three of their colleagues died in a span of 11 days.

Chadema MPs remained vigilant about the developments, saying their decision would help in preventing a possible spread of the coronavirus.

Instead the party directed that the MPs should go on self-quarantine for 14 days and urged all the MPs in Dodoma not to visit their constituencies or other regions during the time they would be in quarantine.

*"There are several things going on, for example Burundi will hold elections, Uganda's Parliament is set to resume on June 4, Kenya's Parliament too will not resume until June"*



### COPS AUCTION MART & COURT BROKERS LTD.

#### SALE OF PRIME LANDED PROPERTIES IN DAR ES SALAAM BY TENDER

Pursuant to instruction given to us by CRDB BANK PLC, WE HEREBY NOTIFY the general public that, we shall sell by tender the Bank defaulters' mortgage

LOTS	REGISTRATION DETAILS	OWNERSHIP DETAILS	LOCATION
LOT 1	Certificate of Title Number 137481, Land Office No. 483808	Payas Reuben Moremi	Plot No.14, Block "E", Majohe Area, Ilala Municipality, <b>DAR ES SALAAM</b>
LOT 2	Certificate of Title Number 97973, Land Office No. 411169	Francis Semali Mambo	Plot Number 183, Block "I", Hananasif Area, Kinondoni Municipality, <b>DAR ES SALAAM</b>
LOT 3	Certificate of Title Number 61512, Land Office No. 210672	Victor Mutahangarwa Mpaka	Plot Number 101, Block "II", Mbweni Mpiji Area, Kinondoni Municipality, <b>DAR ES SALAAM</b>

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF TENDER:-

- Interested are advised to obtain further information of the security/Properties through the office of COPS AUCTION MART & COURT BROKERS LTD or by contacting the Managing Director, Cell: +255 753 885 050, +255 788 899 099
- Valuation, Inspection and search reports of the securities/properties are to be conducted by the interested tenders before submission of the bids for purchase of the securities/properties.
- Tenderers are allowed to bid for more than one lot. If a tenderer is bidding for more than one lot, then each lot should have different tender documents.
- Bids in sealed envelope clearly marked "LOT No...../COPS/2020 FOR PURCHASE OF LANDED PROPERTY"
- Deadline for submission of the bid documents shall be on Friday 5th June, 2020 at 14:30 Hours.
- The tender documents for all LOTS shall be opened on Friday 5th June, 2020 at 15:00 Hours in Dar es salaam at Cops Auction Mart & Court Brokers Ltd Office, Buguruni Malapa, Uhuru Street, Anglican Kichwera Women Centre Building 1st Floor, Room No 14.
- The successful bidder shall be bound to make a 25% advance on the price after being announced and the remaining balance shall be paid within 14 days thereafter. If the 75% will not be paid within 14 days, the seller shall forfeit the advance payment and the next highest bidder shall be awarded the option of purchase.
- Members and or bidders who desirous of viewing and or inspecting the property may do so subject to appointment and prior consent of the seller/agent on the address below:-

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#### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



#### IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL AT DAR ES SALAAM

APPEAL NO. 12 OF 2019

BETWEEN

PASCHAL MUSHI ..... 1ST APPELLANT

SABINA SUNGURA ..... 2ND APPELLANT

AND

TANZANIA ELECTIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED ..... 1ST RESPONDENT

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY ..... 2ND RESPONDENT

**(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)**

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) given on the 7th August, 2019 in which EWURA held that the source of fire that destroyed the premises and domestic appliances was not established and dismissed the claim for payment of 200M being compensation for the premises and appliances destroyed by the fire.

The appeal is based on, among others, grounds that the 2nd respondent erred in law and fact by failing to consider the evidence on the source of fire and the evidence on negligence of the 1st respondent. Thus, the Appellants pray for orders to quash and set aside the decision of the 2nd respondent with costs.

**BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE** any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 18th May, 2020.

REGISTRAR

#### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



#### IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL AT DAR ES SALAAM

APPEAL NO. 03 OF 2020

BETWEEN

ADRIAN MUGISHAGWE SHUMBUSHO ..... APPELLANT

AND

TANZANIA ELECTIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED ..... 1ST RESPONDENT

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY ..... 2ND RESPONDENT

**(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)**

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) given on the 30th January, 2020 in which EWURA held that the fire that destroyed the Appellant's house was caused by a faulty in the 1st Respondent's infrastructure and awarded the Appellant TZS 5,000,000 (Five million shillings) as general damages.

The appeal is based on the grounds that the 2nd respondent erred in law and fact in failing to award the prayed amount as specific damages and holding that the Appellant had contributed to the cause of loss. Thus, the Appellant prays for orders to reverse the decision of the 2nd respondent and award the prayed amount of TZS 91,000,000 (Ninety one million shillings).

**BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE** any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 18th May, 2020.

REGISTRAR





Land reclamation efforts well in progress yesterday along the Aga Khan Hospital stretch of Dar es Salaam's Indian Ocean coastline as the construction of a modern Selander Bridge to connect the area to Coco Beach continues. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

## Lulindi MP raises concern over delay in mobile network rollout

LULINDI MP, Jerome Bwanausi (CCM) has raised concerns over delays in mobile network rollout in uncovered villages of Sindano and Lipumburu while four more villages in the area had no installation plan for a mobile tower. The lawmaker said there is no communication network coverage in the villages bordering Tanzania and Mozambique. He said a contractor who was awarded the job to install the telecom tower in Sindano and Lipumburu villages had not completed work.

He requested the government to highlight the timeframe in which the project will be completed.

Bwanausi, also asked the government to explain when Nanyoyo, Chikolopolo,

Mapili and Mnaviva villages will also receive a telecom tower installation.

Minister for Works, Transport and Communication Isack Kamwewe responding yesterday told the MP that the government is implementing various projects targeting to improve access to communication services.

The minister announced that on July 2019, the state-owned firm Universal Communication Access Service Fund (UCSAF) offloaded tender for improving telecom signals in Chikolopolo ward benefiting Chikolopolo, Mapili, Mkachima, Mkaliwata and Namyomyo

villages.

"It's unfortunate that we couldn't get a bidder," the minister said emphasising the project be among the projects that await budgets to be implemented by UCSAF during the 2019/20 financial year.

Kamwewe says UCSAF has been working to improve communication coverage across the country, implementing projects in collaboration with service providers.

Records show that UCSAF signed an agreement with the Tanzania Telecommunication Corporation

(TTCL) on the first project to improve services at Lipumburu ward. However, not all village in the ward had a quality signal.

The minister attributed the problem to topological factors as well as the size of the ward. "UCSAF signed a third agreement with TTCL and has so far released the initial funding," he said.

Regarding Sindano project, the minister said UCSAF inked MoU with Tigo during the third phase in June 2018. Tigo had completed the installation of the telecom tower in the village last year.

## Mara eyes higher coffee production

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

PRODUCTION of coffee in Mara region is expected to see a significant increase, thanks to a new strategic plan launched by Regional Commissioner (RC) Adam Malima recently.

The target is to increase production of the cash crop produced in the region from the current 1,500 tonnes to 15,000 tonnes in three years.

"We want to move from 1,500 tonnes to 15,000 tones, almost 10 times," the RC said.

Coffee farmers in the region will be supported to produce improved new coffee seedlings that produce high yields under the new plan.

As a strategic crop grows well in Tarime district is considered of the best quality in Africa making its residents proud of it.

Tarime district executive director (DED) Apoo Castro Tindwa made the remarks over the weekend when speaking to officials of the Ministry of information.

He said that the crop has greatly benefited Tarime residents, noting that efforts to develop farming; in particular coffee growing included the mobilizing of experts in all levels, allocation of 55m/- for farming, looking for markets and the construction of coffee curing plant.

According to him, Tarime district targets to produce 5,000 tons of coffee per year.

A farming instructor Petro Mwita Burungo said the coffee cultivated through modern methods had increased his income enabling him educate his children, build a modern house and saving money.

Mwita said through modern farming methods he gets five kilos of coffee from one coffee seedling whereas traditional methods gave him only two kilos.

He also thanked President John Magufuli for reviving Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) that buys the crop and pays us in time.

He said the government has lifted the farmer from the low level and hoisted them up higher than they were before

when some people started uprooting coffee trees and plant other crops as it was no longer beneficial.

A Nyarero village resident in Tarime district Joyce Mwita said the fifth phase government has been caring for small farmers by providing them with farming experts who trained them on modern coffee farming methods.

Another coffee farmer who said he has benefited from coffee growing, Boniface who apart from growing coffee also grows coffee seedlings said the crop has increased his income that enabled him to send his children to school.

"We produce coffee seedlings that we sell to other farmers, we have currently grown 350,000 seedlings which we distributed to other people, I thank President Magufuli's government for caring for us," he said.

Coffee is among cash crops that earns foreign currency for the country as its market is both in the country and foreign.

The government has revived the crop by establishing agricultural research institutes for strengthening the coffee sector.

Tanzania Agricultural Coffee Research Institute (TACRI) at Maruku conducts research on coffee as well as producing quality seeds, provides training to farmers on quality seeds and proper use of fertilizers and pesticides.

In Tanzania coffee is mainly grown in Kagera, Kilimanjaro, Mara and Ruvuma regions as well as other areas.



**We produce coffee seedlings that we sell to other farmers, we have currently grown 350,000 seedlings which we distributed to other people, I thank President Magufuli's government for caring for us**

## Report any banana disease, TARI-Uyole advises farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

BANANA growers in Rungwe district, Mbeya region have been called upon to report to experts whenever they discover and disease infecting the crop so as to increase production.

The advice was issued by a researcher on fruits and vegetables from Tanzania Agricultural research Institute Uyole centre (TARI-Uyole) Daud Mbongo when speaking to farmers in Kisonolea Ward in Rungwe district.

He said the crop that depends by about 30 per cent of Tanzania for food and fruit needs extra care for it to grow well.

He said there have been challenges in caring for the banana crop because many growers there lack knowledge for better banana growing.

"Banana trees often get infected by various diseases including weevils, mealy bugs and even monkeys that eat the fruit that ripen in the fields, hence growers have to seek experts advice to fight the diseases," Mbongo said.

He said weevils are organism that cannot be seen by human eye and live in the soil and attack the roots, making it to take up water and nutrients from the soil to the stem.

Mbongo said there are various ways to tackle the weevils including clearing the field at all times and by not uprooting wet stumps for planting elsewhere.

The director of TARI-Uyole Dr Tulole Bucheyeki told farmers that the centre is creating various farming technologies for the improvement of their incomes and called on them to continue visiting the centre for better farming methods.

The banana plant is one of the cash crops in the country though its survival in farm fields is now being threatened by pests and diseases which keep emerging due to climate change challenges.

This is driving some of the varieties off farmer's list since it is becoming less

profitable due to low yields.

The plant is a staple food in East and Central Africa and provides approximately 20 per cent of the total calorie consumed per capita.

Uganda and Tanzania are the two main producers of bananas in the region, mainly through the cultivation of the East African Highland bananas (EAHB).

Production of bananas in the region however has declined since the 1970s and now yields a fraction of its potential.

According to the World Bank 2010 data collection, while low yields are partly due to poor soil fertility in the region, pests and diseases have played a significant role in reducing banana yields.

Apart from the previous reported diseases including banana bacterial wilt which is the most deadly, a new disease has emerged in fields in western Uganda where the plant is grown most.

The disease believed to be in the anthracnose fungal category shows symptoms of blackening the banana fingers but does not affect the entire plant.

Jerome Kubiriba, an entomologist at the National Agriculture Research Laboratories (NaRL), explains that this disease is not a major challenge because the blackened banana fingers occurs on the out part of the peel.



**Banana trees often get infected by various diseases including weevils, mealy bugs and even monkeys that eat the fruit that ripen in the fields, hence growers have to seek experts advice to fight the diseases**



Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (gesturing) has a word at the weekend in Karagwe, Kagera Region, with coffee curing factory owner Amri Amir Al-Habssy (R). The factory is said to have been destroyed by fire resulting from an electric fault some 12 days ago. Photo courtesy of Industry & Trade ministry

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT Secretary to the Ministry of Industry and Trade Prof Riziki Shemdoe has called on all local councils countrywide to set aside special areas for investment for the establishment of industries in their areas.

Prof. Shemdoe issued the call in Kahama district when he was being presented with 62 acres of land by Kahama town council to the ministry to establish a centre of excellency to be used by the ministry's research institutes and other institutes for research work that aims to add value to the cotton crop.

He said: "I am very pleased on how

## Set aside areas for industrial investment, Industry and Trade PS tells local councils

Kahama town council has implemented President John Magufuli's directives in making Tanzania an industrial nation by allocating areas for industrial investment."

He advised other local councils to come to Kahama to learn how the district was able to develop the allocated areas including putting in place road, power, water and communication infrastructures.

Prof Shemdoe said the ministry will establish a research centre for adding value to the cotton crop.

Earlier, during his visit, Prof Shemdoe toured the area given by the council to a local investor - the KOM group of companies who has built a factory to produce various goods including mineral water, soft drinks and items for packaging.

He also visited Zongomela small industries area which the council has allocated to 1,500 small entrepreneurs producing various items including furniture, grinding machines for gold ore and foundry works.

Shinyanga Regional Commissioner Zainab Telack said she was happy with visit from Ministry of Industry and Trade delegation to see the activities undertaken in the region.

"We in the region sat down and discussed on how to implement President Magufuli's directives on how to make Tanzania an industrial nation, hence we decided to implement them in deeds," she said.

She also thanked Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) for their cooperation shown to the council.





**ANYTHING GOES?:** Dar es Salaam residents go about their various activities wearing all manner of face masks as protection against Covid-19 infections, as captured along Msimbazi Street yesterday. Experts have, however, issued guidelines with respect to the quality of masks and other personal protective equipment to use. Photo: Guardian Photographer

# 'Govt listed 182 learning centres across the country in 2020/2021'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has registered 182 primary school learning centres aimed at facilitating provision of education services in various places across the country in the ending financial year.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology said in a written response to a question by Iramba East MP, Allan Kiula who wanted to know the government's plan to help school

beginners not to walk long distances.

The ministry said in the response that it was aware of the availability of learning centres as temporary schools for areas with geographical challenges to reach schools.

"Students under this category are those from nursery to standard three, the government supports initiatives by parents to develop these centres and later register them to primary schools upon qualifications," reads the

response in part.

The MP asked if the ministry was ready to register Mnkola, Ilangida and Tanganyika learning centres in his constituency as schools to support efforts by residents. "Iramba constituency has established learning centres to help school beginners from walking long distances, when will the government be ready to support them by registering these centres," he asked.

In response, the ministry said out

of the registered number of learning centres two were from Iramba.

The ministry said further that the centres will continue to be registered upon reaching the qualifications.

The ministry said however that it has not received requests to register Iramba, Mnkola and Ilangida learning centres so far and urged those involved to communicate with evaluators from the ministry to conduct an evaluation for the mentioned centres.

# Ikengele village in dire need of health facilities

By Guardian Correspondent, Magu

THOUSANDS of villagers in Ikengele, Magu District, have appealed to the government and other stakeholders to assist them with a dispensary to boost health service delivery in the area.

In separate interviews, villagers said they are in dire need of improved health services as health facilities are very far, the situation that force them to spend a lot of money to get services.

"Health services are hard to come by in this village. The situation becomes more worse when a pregnant woman wants to get access to maternal and child health clinics (MCH)," Getrude Magembe said.

A mother of three, Getrude acknowledged the role of the government in improving healthcare services in the country, "as Ikengele villagers, we're appealing to the government to assist us by building a health centre in this village. Expectant mothers are the victims of this challenge. The nearby health facility is at Welamasonga village about 12km from here.

"And when you reach at Welamasonga Dispensary there is long queue, you can arrive early but to get the service is another story because it serves a large number of people. That's why we're appealing to the government to build a health center at our village," she said.

Another villager, Joseph Kazimili appealed to the government to take this issue seriously by taking health services nearer to the people in the area.

For his part, Ikengele village chairman, Elisha Kandege said that more than 500 villagers trek 12kms to get healthcare services, the situation that cause some expectant mothers and newborns to die on their way to health facilities as there is no ambulance around. Without giving details, Kandege said that his village is one of the villages which are in need of health facilities in the district.

Worse enough, the village leader said that some of the expectant

mothers deliver at home and without attending maternity clinics because of the distance.

Bukandwe Ward Councilor, Marco Minze admitted on the challenge, saying: "We're currently completing construction of a dispensary at Isangijo village and after that we're going to the Ikengele village to do the same so I appeal to villagers to remain calm when we're responding to the challenge."

Regional Medical Officer, Dr Thomas Rutachunzibwa was once quoted as saying authorities in Mwanza are determined to trim down maternal and child deaths to two digits in the next three years as part of efforts to meet the global target of reducing the mortality to fewer than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.

John Mongella, Mwanza Regional Commissioner also said that so far, the government has built 14 new health centres and renovation of 24 others in a new drive to address maternal health problems and curb deaths in the region. "In every district, two health centres provide surgery services. This reduces distances for expectant mothers earlier having to reach district health facilities for delivery," he said.

"To us, this is a big achievement in our campaign to reduce maternal deaths to a single digit in the near future," the RC underlined.

"In the past the challenge was availability and accessibility of healthcare services but now this is no longer an issue. And we want to see these health facilities provide all the services needed for expectant mothers," he emphasised.



**To us, this is a big achievement in our campaign to reduce maternal deaths to a single digit in the near future**



**ADVERTISEMENT**

**INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)**

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organization funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. TMEA is supporting several initiatives aimed at improving regional prosperity through reduced barriers to trade and improved business competitiveness. Through its long-term technical support to various institutions and agencies in Tanzania, TMEA invites bids from eligible bidders for:


- SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC DISPLAYS FOR THE TANZANIA MERCANTILE EXCHANGE (TMX) PLC [TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20180757].
- SCOPING STUDY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CROSS BORDER MARKETS (CBM) AT HOLILI, TUNDUMA AND MUTUKULA BORDERS [TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20191121]; AND,
- BASELINE SURVEY CONSULTANCY FOR DAR ES SALAAM CORRIDOR'S PERFORMANCE [TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20191182].

The tender documents for each tender can be obtained at <https://www.trademarka.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting each tender title and number in the email subject should be emailed to [procurement@trademarka.com](mailto:procurement@trademarka.com).

Interested bidders MUST submit separate technical and financial proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address [procurement@trademarka.com](mailto:procurement@trademarka.com). The closing date for submission of bids is stipulated in the tender documents. Only applications from firms/consortiums shall be accepted.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline





**TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF RHINO SECURITY AND MONITORING EQUIPMENTS**

1. WWF Tanzania Country Office is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Freshwater, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity;
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

2. WWF Tanzania partners with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) to ensure effective and long-term conservation for the African black rhino population in Tanzania. WWF Tanzania supported the MNRT to review the National Rhino Management Plan for 2019 – 2023, which was launched in June, 2019. As a result, a National Rhino Coordination office is overseeing the implementation of the national Rhino strategy to achieve its intended goal. Therefore, one of the main activity described by the strategy is to develop a robust National rhino monitoring plan which will ensure proper and accurate rhino data capture, security and effective monitoring of the rhino as a meta-population as per the IUCN Standards. In order to fulfil this, WWF Tanzania is keen to support the Mkomazi Rhino Project to procure various equipment as listed below;

**BATCH # 1**

S/no	Item(s) description	Quantity
1	Rhino Horns implant	12
2	Suntech solar panel	2
3	Victron blue solar charge controller	2
4	Roll Battery	2

**BATCH # 2**

12VHF GPS Digital Portable Radios- handheld as follows;

s/no	Items description	specifications	qnty
1	Motorola handheld DP4801e	With high capacity lithium battery	06
2	Motorola handheld DP4401e		06

Interested candidates are encouraged to obtain the full technical specifications from WWF Tanzania through WWF Procurement e mail provided in # 6 below for further guidance.

3. All registered, eligible and reputable firms are advised to apply and submit quotation full on the e mail provided in para # 6 below with heading "TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF RHINO SECURITY AND MONITORING EQUIPMENTS".

4. The Application prepared by the Applicant, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the Application exchanged by the Applicant and WWF shall be written in English and the currency used shall be in Tanzanian Shilling – TZS and not any other. Supporting documents and printed literature provided by the Applicant may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages in English, in which case, for purposes of Interpretation of the Application, the translation shall govern.

6. Submission of Applications:  
Interested applicants are requested to submit their bids to the following e mail addressing to Secretary, Procurement Committee, WWF Tanzania Country Offices located at the address below:

**Kiko Street, Mikochoeni – Off Mwai Kibaki Road Plot 252,  
P. O. Box 63117  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org;**

7. Evaluation of the tenders will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines and that.

8. WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest bid.

9. All applications should reach us by or before Friday, 31st May 2020 at 1000hrs Tanzania Local Time, all applications will be opened thereafter in presence of all applicants or their representatives who choose to attend as it has been indicated in the bid document.

Only successful applicant will be contacted.



## Maasai elders endorse by-law to protect local water sources

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjiro

MAASAI traditional elders in Terati village in Simanjiro District Manyara Region have passed a law that permits 70 strokes punishment to residents who will graze their herds, cut trees or dump waste on water sources.

The law was endorsed by the traditional elders following destruction on Terati River that often dries up during dry seasons as opposed to the past.

Speaking to this paper on behalf of the Maasai elders, Lesira Sambore

said they have banned tree cutting in water sources and have allocated special areas for human settlement and grazing.

"We have passed a law of 70 strokes for all those who contravene our resolutions," said Lesira.

He added: "We are in this together with the government which recognises our by-laws to help us protect water sources that are in danger of disappearing."

He said Terati River is among natural rivers in Simanjiro district and serve more than seven villages.



Blacksmiths in business at their 'factory' - near Dar es Salaam's Temeke Veterinary market yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## World Vision offers PPE to Tanga Region as it joins war on Covid-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

WORLD Vision Tanzania has joined the fight against Covid-19 by donating protective gear worth 82m/- to five districts in Tanga Region.

The WVT Eastern Cluster Project Manager, Pudenciana Rwezaula handed over the donation to Tanga Regional Commissioner, Martin Shigella for the five districts of Korogwe, Mkinga, Muheza, Handeni and Kilindi.

The donated items include 65 gallons of sanitisers, 16,800 N95 and surgical face masks, 13,000 tablets of chlorine, 20 hand speakers, 95 gallons of hand-washing soap and 75 gallons of spirit.

Speaking soon after handing over the donation, Rwezaula said that the eastern cluster office expects to receive more equipment worth 18.95m/- including 30 infrared thermometers, 750 pairs of examination gloves and 15 dispensers that would be distributed to District Medical Officers offices across the region.

Rwezaula said that apart from donating protective gear WVT has empowered people in the five districts with awareness on Covid-19.

"We managed to reach a total of 1,024 people in project areas who include community health service providers, religious leaders, extension officers, food vendors, children's caretakers and all the WVT staff," she said, adding: "Those who have been trained are expected to educate others in their respective areas."

She further said that the awareness was part of the response to the requests made by DMOs in the five districts to help them empowering people with education on Covid-19.

Korogwe District Administrative Secretary, Rahel Mhando thanked the WVT for the assistance and suggested the need for people to be free from fears on the disease and instead people should stick to preventive measures. For his part, RC Shigella directed agricultural officers to visit farmers regularly and advise them accordingly to increase productivity.

"We must increase production because we never know when the disease will come to an end," he said encouraging farmers to seriously stick to farming and extension officers to assist them for better results.

## Babati sunflower growers worry over scanty harvests due to prolonged rains

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

SUNFLOWER farmers in Babati District, Manyara Region are worrying over scanty harvests of the crop due to prolonged rains in the current farming season.

This worry was expressed yesterday by farmers when speaking to this paper at different times.

Chemchem village resident Paul Faustine said much rains reduces sunflower production hence they get little quantity of sunflower oil.

He said if the rains continue they will incur great losses as the crop does not need much rains.

The Executive Secretary of Manyara Sunflower Processors Association (MASUPA) Julian Khambayta said

the crop produces less oil if there are excessive rains.

Head of Babati District Agricultural, Irrigation and Cooperatives Daniel Luther said all seasonal crops get affected by excessive rains.

He advised farmers that in case of much rains they should put fertilisers for growth and added that "the sunflower plant grows in much rains

and develops the heads with a large quantity of water than oil as water takes in more space." He said in order for the farmers to reap benefits they should use agricultural experts.

Sunflower crop in Manyara Region is much depended upon by many people as it produces edible oil that is used in the country's northern and central regions.

### TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED "We light Up Your Life"



#### TENDER No. PA/001/2019-20/HQ/W/27 FOR

#### ENGINEERING DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF 400kV TRANSMISSION LINE FROM JULIUS NYERERE HYDROPOWER PLANT TO CHALINZE IN PWANI REGION, TANZANIA

#### INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Date: 12th May, 2020

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has set aside funds for the operation of the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) during the financial year 2019/20. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Engineering Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 400kV Transmission Line from Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant to Chalinze
- TANESCO now invites Tenders from eligible tenderers for the Engineering Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 400kV Transmission Line from Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant to Chalinze
- Tendering will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013  
- Government Notice No. 446 as amended in 2016.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents online through Tanzania National electronic Procurement System (TANePS) ([www.taneps.go.tz](http://www.taneps.go.tz))
- All Tenders must be accompanied by original Tender Security of TZS. 3,500,000,000.00 (Tanzanian Shillings Three Billion Five Hundred million) or USD 1,500,000 (United States Dollars One Million Five Hundred Thousand) in the form of bank guarantee or banker's cheque from reputable local commercial bank and counter guaranteed by reputable local commercial Bank - for (International Bank) and shall be valid up to twenty-eight (28) days from expiration of bid validity period. The original tender security must be submitted physically to Secretary of the Tender Board, Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited, P.O. Box 9024 Dar Es Salaam, on or before submission deadline from 08:30 to 15:30 hours' East African time on Mondays to Fridays except on Public holidays.
- All Tenders must be electronically submitted online through TANePS in the proper format, on or before 8th June, 2020 14:30 Pm. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter online through TANePS.
- Portion of Tenders and tender not received through TANePS shall not be accepted for evaluation

MANAGING DIRECTOR  
TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY  
COMPANY LTD

### TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED "We light Up Your Life"



#### TENDER No. PA/001/2019-20/HQ/W/64 FOR

#### ENGINEERING DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF NEW 250MVA, 400/220/132/33kV SUBSTATION AT CHALINZE IN PWANI REGION, TANZANIA

#### INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Date: 12th May, 2020

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has set aside funds for the operation of the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) during the financial year 2019/20. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of New 250MVA, 400/220/132/33kV Substation at Chalinze for Power Evacuation from Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project.
- TANESCO now invites Tenders from eligible tenderers for the Engineering Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of New 250MVA, 400/220/132/33kV Substation at Chalinze for Power Evacuation from Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project.
- Tendering will be conducted through International Competitive Tendering procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 - Government Notice No. 446 as amended in 2016.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information about Tendering Documents online through Tanzania National electronic Procurement System (TANePS) ([www.taneps.go.tz](http://www.taneps.go.tz))
- All Tenders must be accompanied by original Tender Security of TZS. 3,500,000,000.00 (Tanzanian Shillings Three Billion Five Hundred million) or USD 1,500,000 (United States Dollars One Million Five Hundred Thousand) in the form of bank guarantee or banker's cheque from reputable local commercial bank or from foreign/International Bank which must be counter guaranteed by reputable local commercial Bank and shall be valid up to twenty-eight (28) days from expiration of tender validity period. The original Tender Security must be submitted physically to Secretary of the Tender Board, Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited, P.O. Box 9024 Dar Es Salaam, on or before submission deadline from 08:00 to 15:30 hours' East African time on Mondays to Fridays except on Public holidays.
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MANAGING DIRECTOR  
TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY  
COMPANY LTD





Yohana Mwalimu, a smallholder farmer from Hombolo village in Dodoma Region, prepares his millet for storage yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Simanjiro DC 'offers' free land plots to 300 households affected by floods

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

SIMANJIRO District Commissioner, Zephania Chaula has given ward and village executive officers seven days to allocate free land plots to more than 300 households that were swept away by floods in valley areas they were living in.

Speaking at the weekend at Magadini village, DC Chaula said the directive was to be complied with immediate effect to assist those who were affected by floods.

He said people living in the flood prone areas must move out of those areas and will be allocated free land plots.

"I believe if these households get new plots in high ground areas they will do away with undergoing hardships from repeated floods," he said.

He said the directive covers the whole district, hence the Lands Department should supervise the issue in making sure all flood victims get land

plots.

Simanjiro District Executive Director (DED) Yefred Myenzi said many areas have been affected by floods due to prolonged rains.

He mentioned some of the areas that were affected by floods as Gunge village in Ruvu Remit Ward and Kilombero, Shambarai and Orbil villages in Shambarai ward.

He cited Msitu wa Tembo, Endiamtu and Mirerani Wards as areas that had also been flooded.

One of the flood victims at Magadini village in Msitu wa Tembo ward Lucas John hailed the DC's decision for being offered new land plots in higher ground areas.

He said prolonged rains had caused water to overflow in Nyumba ya Mungu Dam that caused flooding of many households surrounding the dam.

"I have lived around the dam for many years but I have never witnessed the dam overflowing with water and flood houses around it," he said.

## '150m/- set aside to improve health service facilities in Hanang District'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

HANANG District Council has received 1.3bn/- from the government for construction and renovation works of various health centres around the district between 2017/18 and 2019/20 financial years, the National Assembly was told here yesterday.

The Ministry of State, President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) said in a written response to a question by special seats Member of Parliament Rose Kamili (Chadema) that another 150m/- has been set aside for

improvement of health services provision in the district.

The ministry named the health centres to be renovated and expanded as Simbay, Hirbadaw and Mogitu.

In her question, the MP wanted to know when the government will promote Bossotu dispensary to a health centre.

She asked "Bossotu dispensary serves more than 33,502 people and has out patients department and wards but has never been promoted to a health centre despite being established in 1953, when will the government promote it?"

In response the ministry said, the

government aim is not to promote dispensaries to health centers or hospitals but to enable them through facilitation so that they offer quality services.

Data shows the government has spent about 59bn/- to build new referral hospitals countrywide and over 300 other new health centres since the fifth government entered into power.

In 2019, President John Magufuli revealed that the government has spent 184bn/- on the construction and maintenance of 352 health centres across the country. This brought the total number of such facilities across the country to 7,284.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MWANZA Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (MWAUWASA) in collaboration with defence and security organs have arrested two people in Nyamagana District in Mwanza City alleged to have been drawing water illegally.

Their arrest followed a special operation conducted on the night of May 16 this year led by MWAUWASA managing director, Leonard Msenyele.

Speaking soon after the duo's arrest Eng Msenyele said in the operation that began 7:00pm to 3:00am in Nyegezi areas near the bus stand they arrested the owner of 'You Never Know' car wash who had illegally connected water to his premises from the MWAUWASA main pipe.

Msenyele said the second water thief identified as Juma, a resident of Buhongwa area was stealing water by bypassing the water meter during night

periods, filling up his tanks and then sell the water to other people.

He said: "We have started this operation today and I have personally supervised it and succeeded to nab customers who have not been faithful. We have taken them to the police station."

He said the operation aims to put to an end water theft in Mwanza City as people have been stealing water at night without paying and then sell it to other people.

He warned all other people with similar practices to stop as the operation is sustainable and those who will be nabbed stealing water stern legal steps will be taken against them.

"Our customers and other residents take notice- avoid such criminal acts which to a large extent adversely affect the capability of the water authority in improving water supply service in Mwanza City, and we shall continue with the operation to nab other water thieves," he said.

## Mbeya embarks on operation to enforce usage of masks in buses

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA District's Defence and Security Committee has embarked on a special operation of inspecting and taking steps against all commuters who do not wear masks as a preventive measure against Covid-19 infections.

The operation, led by District Commissioner William Ntinika began at the weekend when committee members visited various commuter bus stops and along roads to enforce wearing of masks.

Ntinika said due to coronavirus threat they have put up a procedure for every bus and tricycle (bajaj) passenger to wear masks and those who will be found not wearing them will be pulled off the vehicles and steps taken against

them.

He said sufficient education has been provided by health experts but some people have resorted to non-compliance of their directives.

He said the government made it easier to the people as even cloth masks can be used as they are cheap hence he said there is no reason for not wearing them.

Mbeya regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei said the operation will be sustainable until when all the people start abiding by the directive.

He said during the exercise they found the response to be good for some people with the exception of a few who he said they will continue to deal with them without mercy.

"Many are complying but we shall

act on those few who do not," warned Matei.

Some of commuter bus drivers and conductors thanked the Defense and Security Committee for starting the operation claiming that some passengers have been stubborn whenever they tell them to wear masks.

One among the drivers, Said Mussa said the government has tried its best to educate the people through various channels but some have been difficult to understand, they continue boarding buses without wearing masks.

He said in other areas including shops and at state institutions, people have been following directives in washing their hands and wearing masks but in vehicles they elect to be stubborn.



Munanta Med Ltd director Dr Juma Muna (2nd-L, foreground) sensitises residents of Engarainbor ward in Longido District, Arusha Region, at the weekend on ways to put Covid-19 in check. He had shortly earlier presented to them over 100 face masks, hand sanitiser and 13 buckets for use in the war on the pandemic. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey



### DAR ES SALAAM STOCK EXCHANGE PLC

#### NOTICE OF THE 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shareholders of the Dar Es Salaam Stock Exchange PLC (DSE PLC) will be held on Friday 12th June 2020 on a hybrid of both physical attendance at the DSE Offices, 3rd Floor, Kambarage House, Ufukoni Street, Dar-es-Salaam and online through Zoom Video Conferencing at 9.30 a.m.

The Agenda for the meeting will be:

1. Adoption of the Agenda;
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting of the DSE PLC;
3. Matters Arising from the 4th Annual General Meeting of the DSE PLC;
4. To Receive and Adopt:
  - 5.1 The Board's Report for the year ended 31st December 2019;
  - 5.2 The DSE Group Audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the year ended 31st December 2019;
  - 5.3 Fidelity Fund Audited Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for the year ended 31st December 2019;
5. To Ratify Auditors' Fees;
6. Appointment of External Auditors for the year 2020;
7. To Approve Directors' Fees for the year ending 31st December 2020;
8. To Approve Proposed Dividends for the year ended 31st December 2019; and
9. Any Other Business.

Notes:

1. In view of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and the related Public Health Directives issued by the Government regarding public gatherings, Shareholders are encouraged to participate at the meeting online

through Zoom via a link to be shared w.e.f. 8th June 2020.

- ii. Shareholders wishing to participate at the meeting online, you are required to notify the Company Secretary from 8th June 2020 onwards, through telephone no. +255747536696 or the following email addresses so that you may be availed with a link to the meeting: [info@dse.co.tz](mailto:info@dse.co.tz) or [msmniwasa@dse.co.tz](mailto:msmniwasa@dse.co.tz)
- iii. A Shareholder wishing to attend the meeting physically will do so at their own costs, must observe the COVID-19 preventive procedures like wearing of masks, checking temperature, and observing social distancing. A member must also come with a copy of his/her Depository Receipt together with an identification card like voter's card or employment card or passport, for identification.
- iv. A Shareholder entitled to attend/participate and vote at the meeting and is unable to attend, can appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her behalf by submitting his/her proxy form to the Company Secretary at the DSE Offices not later than 14:00 hours on Wednesday 9th June 2020. In case of corporate body, the proxy must be under its common seal.
- v. Apart from individuals, a Shareholder may appoint his/her Stockbroker, a DSE Non-Executive Director, a Custodian Bank, or any of the Shares Registrars (i.e., NMB, CRDB, CAD Securities Ltd and/or CSD & Registry Co. Ltd) as his/her proxy. Shareholders are encouraged to use proxies.
- vi. Annual Reports for the year 2020 and copies of the proxy forms will be available at the DSE Offices situated at 3rd Floor, Kambarage House, Ufukoni Street, Dar es Salaam as well as the Licensed Dealing Members of the DSE (Stockbrokers) effectively from Monday 1st June 2020.
- vii. The Register Closing date for determining shareholders entitled to vote will be Wednesday 9th June 2020.

Mary Stephen Mniwasa  
Company Secretary  
19th May 2020



# The Guardian

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TUESDAY 19 MAY 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Let's fight fistula now more than ever before

**T**HE fight to end obstetric fistula, one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth, could be threatened by the current pandemic of COVID-19.

Women with fistula are often shunned by their communities. The United Nations has observed the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula since 2013. The day, 23 May, is meant to raise awareness of this issue and mobilise support around the globe. Hundreds of thousands of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, the Arab region, and Latin America and the Caribbean are living with this injury. Women who experience this preventable condition suffer constant urinary incontinence, which often leads to social isolation, skin infections, kidney disorders and even death if left untreated. A surgery can repair the injury with success rates as high as 90 per cent for less complex cases.

Obstetric fistula is preventable; it can largely be avoided by delaying the age of first pregnancy; the cessation of harmful traditional practices; and timely access to obstetric care. Unfortunately, the current pandemic affects all these preventive measures in developing countries where obstetric fistula still exists - countries in which health care systems, even before the coronavirus outbreak, failed to provide accessible, quality maternal health care.

Due to COVID-19, it is expected that 13 million more child marriages could take place by 2030 than would have otherwise. Families are more likely to marry off daughters to alleviate the perceived burden of caring for them, especially in the anticipated economic fallout of the pandemic.

The pandemic is also expected to cause significant delays in programmes to end female genital mutilation (FGM) - something that could lead to a spike in FGM cases, according to UNFPA, which is a contributing factor for obstetric fistula.

As the virus advances in these countries, health services become overloaded, or provide a limited set of the services that women need. At the same time, many women and girls also skip

important medical check-ups for fear of contracting the virus.

With this possible future scenario of preventive measures in danger, now more than ever, it is important to call on the international community to use the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula, as well as urging post-surgery follow-up and tracking of fistula patients.

Maternal health indicators have been improving in Tanzania, but there is still a long way to go. In cities, nearly all women deliver in hospitals - but over 70 per cent of the Tanzanian population lives in rural areas, where health care remains difficult to access.

In Tanzania women with fistula suffer for eight years on average before finding help. During that time, they experience significant emotional trauma - too often, fistula survivors are shunned by their communities and abandoned by their husbands. Due to the isolating nature of fistula, many Tanzanian survivors do not know that their condition is treatable, and blame themselves for their misfortune or believe that they are cursed.

As many as 3,000 Tanzanian women develop obstetric fistula each year, a condition that leaves them incontinent, leaking urine and/or faeces uncontrollably. As a result, they are often excluded from their families and communities.

Obstetric fistula is a childbirth injury caused by prolonged, obstructed labour. It occurs when pressure from the baby's head compresses the mother's soft tissue in the birth canal, which obstructs blood flow. Without blood, the tissues die and a hole forms between the bladder and the vagina or the rectum and the vagina.

To help remove barriers to treatment, CCBRT covers the cost of all obstetric fistula patients' treatment, accommodation and meals throughout their course of care. CCBRT also supports 6 partner hospitals in Tanzania to provide treatment, making fistula care more accessible for all Tanzanian women. In 2016, CCBRT and its partner facilities performed 1,012 fistula surgeries.

## Cultural diversity still as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature

**T**HE World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is a United Nations sanctioned international holiday for the promotion of diversity issues. It is currently held on May 21. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this holiday due to UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in November 2001.

Diversity Day, officially known as 'The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development', is an opportunity to help communities understand the value of cultural diversity and learn how to live together in harmony. This day was created as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.

Cultural diversity is the quality of diverse or different cultures, as opposed to monoculture, the global monoculture, or a homogenisation of cultures, akin to cultural decay. The phrase cultural diversity can also refer to having different cultures respect each other's differences. The phrase 'cultural diversity' is also sometimes used to mean the variety of human societies or cultures in a specific region, or in the world as a whole. Globalisation is often said to have a negative effect on the world's cultural diversity.

Diversity refers to the attributes that people use to confirm themselves with respect to others, "that person is different from me." These attributes include demographic factors (such as race, gender, and age) as well as values and cultural norms. The many separate societies that emerged around the globe differ markedly from each other, and many of these differences persist

to this day. The more obvious cultural differences that exist between people are language, dress, and traditions, there are also significant variations in the way societies organise themselves, such as in their shared conception of morality, religious belief, and in the ways, they interact with their environment. Cultural diversity can be seen as analogous to biodiversity.

By analogy with biodiversity, which is thought to be essential to the long-term survival of life on earth, it can be argued that cultural diversity may be vital for the long-term survival of humanity; and that the conservation of indigenous cultures may be as important to humankind as the conservation of species and ecosystems is to life in general. This position is rejected by some people, on several grounds. Firstly, like most evolutionary accounts of human nature, the importance of cultural diversity for survival may be an un-testable hypothesis, which can neither be proved nor disproved. Secondly, it can be argued that it is unethical deliberately to conserve "less developed" societies because this will deny people within those societies the benefits of technological and medical advances enjoyed by those in the "developed" world.

In the same manner that the promotion of poverty in underdeveloped nations as "cultural diversity" is unethical. It is unethical to promote all religious practices simply because they are seen to contribute to cultural diversity. Particular religious practices are recognised by the WHO and UN as unethical, including female genital mutilation, polygamy, child brides, and human sacrifice.

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By Afzal Moolla

**T**HE system is rotten to the very core and the Covid-19 pandemic has, again, made this truth apparent to all of us.

The sudden onset of the Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare the fissures that govern our world and the societies we live in. It has, in one fell swoop, put to horrific rest the notion that capitalism is the foundation that the global economic system must be based on.

The wealthiest countries in the world are today staring death in the face. The narrative that "the markets will steady themselves" has been shattered.

Today, in the bastion of capitalism, the United States, we see governors and mayors, and other individuals in positions of power and influence calling for the "socialisation" of key medical facilities as well as of the medical supply chain.

What we are witnessing today is the toxicity of capitalism, which is as virulent as Covid-19, and in the long term, far more dangerous to billions of those with whom we share this pale blue dot, our home, Earth.

The world's largest economies whose defence budgets are in the trillions of dollars are faced with

## The capitalist emperor has no clothes as COVID-19 pandemic strips it bare

having stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, while the very basic needs of hospitals and clinics have health workers pleading for protective masks and gloves, for ventilators and nebulisers, for they are a part of the essential arsenal of tools that are now so desperately needed.

Let us contrast this with the socialist island of Cuba, just 90 miles off the coast of Miami. A socialist country that has endured an enforced trade embargo for over half a century by the US.

Today, we see Cuba offering supplies at no cost and doctors as volunteers to some of the world's most prosperous nations. The US, as it stands, has refused to accept any assistance from Cuba even as their own citizens are dying from a lack of medical equipment and resources.

The private medical sector in Britain, when asked by the National Health Service (NHS) for assistance with hospital beds, agreed to supply beds to the government subsidised NHS at

£1.4 million or thereabouts a day.

There is something terribly wrong here.

The poorest of the poor, the 99% of the world's population, are facing an apocalyptic future, with scientifically modelled projections of deaths due to Covid-19 in the millions. This is also the "worst-case scenario" that US medical experts and epidemiologists are projecting for the United States.

There is something grotesque about this.

When a tiny island nation like Cuba volunteers and offers medical professionals, and assistance to the large capitalist nations of Europe, it is reason enough for us all to rethink how capitalism has failed, and continues to fail, and will fail to save the lives of countless human beings.

This is the stark, naked face of the economics of the Covid-19 pandemic.

If we are to survive this terrifying pandemic, it will be folly not to rethink how our world's economic system operates and who it benefits and at what cost to the 99% of our Earth's

population.

"Socialism", the word that has been derided so much and for so long, may offer a more viable solution.

Socialisation of public amenities, of medical and other critical areas which all people need to live healthily as human beings, and with dignity, must be at the very least, considered as an alternative to the capitalist system where so many starve and die and so few live and prosper.

Our leaders today and the leaders who are yet to come will be callously guilty of not, at the very least, acknowledging that "business as usual" does not work, and is not working. The system is rotten to the very core and the Covid-19 pandemic has, again, made this truth apparent to all of us.

It has taken and is taking countless lives to make that clear.

Our inaction in the coming years will doom future generations to the horrors we are witnessing today.

Our decisive action will, at the very least, give the world a fighting chance. It is up to us.

By Foluso Ladeinde

## The silver lining to the COVID-19 pandemic

or universe. By "disruption of the balance" in our solar system or universe, I mean the effects that human activities could have on the environment - global warming, ozone layer depletion, and the like; as well as the possible "natural" disruption in the balance that normally exists among the components of our galaxy or universe, about which we know very little. Imagine, for example, that the relation between the earth and the other planets in the solar system is somehow disrupted, for example, if the magnitude of the earth's gravitational acceleration (pull) of a body, which, currently, is approximately equal to 9.8 meters per second-squared, is changed for some reasons, only God can predict where the earth, and therefore, humans, will end up.

However, this aspect of human existence is really not a problem since it is beyond the control of humans, meaning that it is not something that you or I can do anything about, even though its occurrence could lead to the end of human life on earth! That leaves hunger, disease pandemic, and our treatment of the earth's atmosphere as the areas where we humans can intervene.

Regarding hunger, I am hopeful that humans can resolve this if they can continue to inhabit the earth without the other issues. This leaves disease pandemic and atmospheric pollution as the areas where we need to place our focus and obtain results that are

more relevant to our lives than most of the current products of Internet technology (Social Media, and the like).

To be sure, COVID-19 has a bright side and has brought certain opportunities. On the bright side, we have more time on our hands to spend on developing useful things. With the lockdown, the time that would have normally been spent going to the theater, restaurant, bar, sports, festivals, concerts, birthdays, and attending "street-blocking" Nigerian parties, can now be spent on more useful undertakings. We also are more able to reflect on what is truly important in our lives. I have written about this in connection with COVID-19 in a recent article in Daily Trust.

The lockdown resulting from the pandemic has exposed the vanity in our lives - especially in the US, where people place too much importance on their skin color and appearance! For a change, it is nice to see how people look without heavy cosmetics!

The lockdown also means fewer, useless meetings at work. Time together with family is also not a bad thing, especially when young children are involved. The pandemic has also encouraged speed and alacrity in our pace to innovate. Procrastination-be-gone, that is.

Another interesting benefit of COVID-19 is the acceptance of science. When COVID-19 first surfaced, the president of the US, Mr. Donald J.

Trump, called the event a hoax, not unlike his disposition toward global warming. Now with so many fatalities from the pandemic, the science is real! Also, on the bright side of COVID-19 is the emergence of numerous scientific and technological, research-focused funding opportunities, that have opened, which were not available before.

Professor Adesina Sodiga, the president of NCS, has alluded to the opportunities brought about by COVID-19 in his address in the May 2020 issue of e-Voice, the monthly magazine of NCS. According to Professor Sodiga: "The current development has opened our eyes to information technology-based platforms such as teleworking (e-working), e-learning, and crowdsourcing." Dr. Sodiga also advises you to avoid going to places that expose you to human contact, such as open markets, malls, banks, ATM spots, and so on. "Alternatives to carrying out these day-to-day activities without human contact are highly sought after, and the good news is that we can leverage ICT."

The COVID-19 inspired opportunities include new developments in the health technology industry, telemedicine, and improved videoconferencing tools and technologies for tracing the spread of a pandemic. Being forced to be comfortable and more proficient in using e-learning tools is certainly an advantage.



# Wildlife guide readies 30-part series Serengeti Live Show

By Beatrice Philemon

**I**N what could be the most spectacular wildlife viewing season ever, an innovative wildlife show from the Serengeti National Park will be aired starting this month with a mission to conserve the Serengeti National Park during Covid-19.

For those dreaming of the world and its wonders during lockdown, the Serengeti Show Live team in conjunction with the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) has set out on a mission to bring positive news, beautiful views, natural spaces and the wildlife of Africa to screens across the world.

The Serengeti Show Live was created by wildlife guide, Carel Verhoef, during the Covid-19 lockdown to help bring tourism back to the Serengeti National Park and Tanzania, whilst conserving the habitat and biodiversity of the region he is so passionate about.

Tracking animals, he leads the videography team to the wildlife on game drives to bring Africa to the world. In lockdown with a film and support crew, the small crew are producing 30 episodes of incredible wildlife content for broadcast.

Their mission is to entertain wildlife and safari lovers during Covid-19. Stand-alone episodes with a narrative take the viewer on a wildlife journey, teaching the audience about the natural world.

TTB Managing Director Devota Mdachi said in Dar es Salaam lately that "as we wait for a time when the world will open up again for travel, we are putting in place recovery strategies to ensure Destination Tanzania remains a preferred choice in the minds of prospective tourists."

With this in mind, TTB, in collaboration with Tanzania National Parks and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority have partnered with the Serengeti Show Live team to bring a highly visual wildlife show to the world to entertain and educate viewers.

The show features unique scenes from the Serengeti National Park, some emotional journeys and what takes place behind the scenes.

Each show will feature game drives with wildlife sightings, updates of the great migration and interesting facts about Tanzania and life in the bush.

The Kids Corner is a fun and interactive segment to entertain the little ones, who stand to win a family holiday, and in doing so hopefully create a generation of naturalists and conservations to care for our planet.

The Serengeti Show Live can be viewed on <https://serengetishowlive.com/> from 01 May 2020 with three episodes broadcast every weekend in a 30 part series.



Complementing the show, TTB will share news from the highest point in Africa - Mt Kilimanjaro, where mountain crews will capture views from the Uhuru Peak, Africa's summit. The Spice Islands of Zanzibar will share visuals from the beautiful tropical islands.

"This extraordinary wildlife needs tourism, which supports conservation efforts and extended communities. We wish to assure tourists that after this crisis we will be waiting to welcome them to Tanzania for an Unforgettable Experience - join us on this journey and enjoy the Serengeti Show," concludes Mdachi.

For his part, wildlife guide and host of the Serengeti Show Live, Carel Verhoef noted that the Serengeti National Park, the great migration of wildebeest and iconic African animals like lions and elephants are a draw card for tourists

visiting the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

There have been reports from around the world about the benefits to wildlife and the environment as a result of the ongoing lockdown due to the global coronavirus pandemic - but what is happening in the vast space of the Serengeti?

"We're concerned about the devastating impact the reduction of travel and tourism is having on the revenue generated for conservation agencies.

"This could result in job losses and more broadly the livelihoods of people

working in and living around protected areas.

"It also impacts the operations in the wilderness areas," says Verhoef, the wildlife guide and host of the Serengeti Show Live.

"It does however provide an opportunity to showcase the animals in their natural habitat, undisturbed by vehicles and tourists, in what could be the most spectacular wildlife viewing season in recent years.

"As the only people in the Serengeti National Park, we have a unique chance to capture and share this ex-

traordinary park to a wider audience and to remind you to return to Tanzania as soon as possible."

Ordinarily about 17.2 per cent of GDP in Tanzania is generated by tourism and the national parks rely heavily on income generated from tourism.

Parks are struggling to operate with reduced revenue and the wildlife economy is bound to be affected - including protecting biodiversity from illegal bushmeat harvesting which may rise as poverty increases and food becomes scarcer.

# Nobel Laureates and world leaders plead for the needy amid Covid-19 epidemic

By Special Correspondent in New Delhi

**A** total of 88 Nobel Laureates and World Leaders, as part of Laureates and Leaders for Children, yesterday issued a joint statement calling for the world's governments to unite and prioritise the world's children during Covid-19-induced lockdowns and in the aftermath. They pleaded for \$1 trillion to protect the world's children in the Covid-19 era.

Founded by India's 2014 Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, who has fought tirelessly for decades against child labour, slavery and trafficking, Laureates and Leaders for Children highlights challenges faced by the world's most vulnerable children and advocates for solutions. Below is the full text of the statement:

WE, the 88 Nobel Laureates and World Leaders for Children, call upon the world's Heads of Government to demonstrate wise leadership and to urgently care for the impoverished and the marginalised.

Decisions made by our leaders, actions taken by us and the discourses that ensue in the next few weeks will be crucial. They are going to shape the future of polity, economy, culture and morality.

Development priorities will be recalibrated, individual freedom, privacy and human rights will be redefined. We must take this opportunity to transform traditional diplomacy and politics into compassionate politics.

Covid-19 has exposed and exacerbated pre-existing inequalities in our world. While this virus does not differentiate between nationalities, religions or cultures, it is most adversely impacting those who are already marginalised - the poor, women and girls, daily wage earners, migrant labourers, indigenous peoples, victims of trafficking and slavery, child labourers, people on the move (refugees, internally displaced and others), the homeless, differently abled people, among others.

The virus, restrictions placed on the majority of the world's population, and the aftermath will have a devastating impact on the most vulnerable amongst us.

The pandemic's public health emergency is set to exacerbate the abuse and exploitation of children. Trapped



in homes to escape the virus, children are at greater risk of sexual abuse (offline and online) and domestic violence.

Online child pornography is already growing, while traffickers are planning to exploit families once lockdowns are lifted.

Beyond the impact of the public health crisis on marginalised communities, the economic impact is likely to trap more girls and boys in child labour.

For example, school closures during the outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa from 2014 to 2016, contributed to spikes in child labour, neglect, sexual abuse and teenage pregnancies.

The 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 2009 global economic crisis have shown that more children are likely to be forced into child labour and trafficking, particularly in countries that have little or no social protection.

As restrictions are lifted in countries, children will be trafficked, forced

out of school and into labour, bearing the burden of sustaining their families.

In addition, the World Bank has found that, for every additional year of secondary school, the likelihood of marrying before age 18 decreases by five percentage points or more.

With more than 90 per cent of the world's student population out of school owing to school closures (as of April 22, 2020), child marriage rates are also anticipated to increase.

Over the last several weeks, policy makers released more than US\$5 trillion in emergency support for the companies and people in the richest countries. That funding is needed and is important, but we also need to see the governments of the world come together and announce a rescue package for the most marginalised children.

If, for once, our world gave the most marginalised children and their families their fair share - 20 per cent of the Covid-19 response for the poorest 20 per cent of humanity - the results

would be transformative.

One trillion dollars would fund all outstanding UN and charity

Covid-19 appeals, cancel two years of all debt repayments from low-income countries, and fund two years of the global gap to meet the 17 global SDGs on health, water and sanitation, and education - a vital step, as quality education is the most powerful way to end exclusion and change the future for marginalised children.

There would still be enough left to fund social protection safety nets which are crucial in the fight against child labour. More than ten million lives would be saved; a positive response by humanity to the tragedy of Covid-19.

We urge that the necessary resources be made available through national governments and international and regional financial institutions.

While we acknowledge initial measures taken by the G20, as Laureates and Leaders for Children fighting for the most vulnerable children in the

world's poorest countries, we call on leaders of the G20 to take additional action beyond their own borders for those who urgently need coordinated international aid.

We also call on all G20 leaders to honour existing global health commitments, including quickly working together and with stakeholders to close the financing gap in the World Health Organisation (WHO) Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan.

The WHO has played a vital role in supporting basic healthcare in less developed regions of the world. Regional institutions, such as the Organisation of American States, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Economic Community of West African States, the Arab League and others must also step up in this space.

Currently, nearly one in every five children worldwide lives on under \$2 a day. The World Bank announced on April 20 that it estimates that Covid-19 will push 40 to 60 million people into

extreme poverty this year.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has reported that tens of millions of informal workers have already become unemployed, with widespread problems with the food supply in poorer communities across the world.

Governments need to do more to prevent devastating nutrition and health consequence for the 370 million children missing out on school meals amid school closures. These compounding factors mean that marginalised children are already going hungry and could starve.

We anticipate that the numbers of the most marginalised will grow. We must prevent the fallout of Covid-19 being borne by the world's children.

Poverty and hunger, child labour, child marriages, child slavery, child trafficking and children on the move will likely increase during and after Covid-19.

We need to ensure that the most marginalised do not fall off the world's radar. Post-Covid-19, we must strengthen institutional responses to such future catastrophes, and improve the existing child protection infrastructure.

Cash transfers and ensuring food security for the marginalised, improving hygiene and sanitation, a robust healthcare system and promoting a free and equitable education system with free school meals will be critical.

All nations must unite in this effort to protect the most vulnerable and globalise compassion by taking this moment as an opportunity to innovate and develop new, transformative and sustainable solutions to eradicate child labour, trafficking and slavery, and ensure education for all. If we do not do this, we will lose a generation of children. If children are not safeguarded everywhere, then our global response to this crisis and beyond will have failed everywhere.

The signatories to the joint statement include 1984 Nobel Peace Laureate Most Reverend Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 1993 Nobel Peace Laureate F. W. de Klerk, 1989 Nobel Peace Laureate the 14th Dalai Lama, former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, 1969 Nobel Peace Laureate ILO Director General Guy Ryder, 2005 Nobel Peace Laureate Dr Mohamed ElBaradei, and UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Director Prof Jeffrey D. Sachs.



# How Covid-19 affects the brain during and after sickness

By Kate Morgan

ONCE Katie Swanson's lips and eyelids turned blue, she stopped being able to sleep. The 28-year-old has always been "great at sleeping", she says - an early-to-bed and early-to-rise type of person - but the coronavirus had her oxygen levels cratering, and she knew they might drop more as she slept.

"I was too afraid because I thought I wasn't going to wake up," Swanson says, adding: "I was fully convinced I would die in my sleep."

Weeks after the peak of her illness, she's still restless. "Every single night I have to take melatonin now," she says, and that doesn't always work.

A profound anxiety around sleep is one of a long list of mental symptoms that Swanson says she experienced alongside the physical ones as she battled a case of the Covid-19 severe enough to hospitalise her twice. And while her breathing has improved considerably - and her face is now a normal shade - the mental recovery has been much slower.

"My memory is really bad. For a while, I couldn't think of really basic words or definitions," the California native says, adding: "I went weeks without talking to anybody because it was too much work."

It's much more than the "brain fog" that can often accompany a bad cold or flu: She compares it to having a severe concussion.

Swanson's experience isn't exceptional: It's become clear that the virus that causes Covid-19 affects more than the lungs. A team of Chinese doctors recently wrote that nearly 40 per cent of people infected "develop neurological symptoms, including headache, disturbed consciousness, and paresthesia". People with Covid-19 receiving critical care are at high risk of delirium, extreme confusion or hallucinations. And severe illness, treatment and recovery can leave lingering emotional trauma, raising the odds that a person will go on to develop anxiety, depression or related conditions.

But on top of all that, scientists are also beginning to understand that coronaviruses, particularly this one, have neurotropic properties - meaning that the bug can attack the nervous system, entering the brain or the cerebrospinal fluid. The result may be neurological symptoms that accompany the infection, linger after recovery, or show up weeks, months, or even years later.

Last month, a trio of researchers in the department of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego, published a paper that examined the long-term mental health

consequences of past epidemics.

They wrote: "Reports from the 18th and 19th centuries suggest that influenza pandemics, in particular, have been marked by increased incidences of various neuropsychiatric symptoms, such as insomnia, anxiety, depression, mania, psychosis, suicidality, and delirium."

"We get people with depression, excitability, people who are too sleepy, people who don't sleep. There are delusions, hallucinations, psychosis," they noted.

Emily A. Troyer, one of the study's co-authors, warns that in the wake of Covid-19, scientists need to "do a better job of looking at the brain."

With nearly half of severely ill people developing some type of neurological symptom, there could be a second epidemic mounting around mental health. She says that it has likely already begun.

Troyer points to Lorna Breen, the medical director of a New York City hospital's emergency department who, after contracting and recovering from the virus herself, died by suicide late last month.

Breen had no known history of mental illness, but battling Covid-19 had "altered her brain", Breen's sister later told hosts on the Today show.

"We've asked the doctors to do some research on my sister's brain to tell us if this was the case, but I'm certain. And then she went back to work in the most horrific, unimaginable conditions. The combination was just untenable," noted the Breen sister.

For Troyer, the tragedy is a harbinger of the crisis to come - one that can be prevented by devoting resources to tracking patients' mental health, working to understand exactly what the virus does to the brain, and encouraging survivors to speak up about the lasting effects, and seek help when they need it.

After three weeks in a medically induced coma, Charlotte Ralph was overwhelmed by delirium and fear. As doctors reduced her sedation, the stylist from the UK began having "very real and frightening hallucinations, which I can still remember vividly", she says.

The delusions ranged from being convinced that her nurses were trying to poison her to "thinking that I had run over a baby with my car and had to go into witness protection".

The critical care team put a whiteboard in Ralph's line of sight, "telling me where I was, that I was not in trouble, and what day it was", she says, adding: "I couldn't remember things from day to day; the team would have to reintroduce themselves."

Ralph's doctors have since realised that the crippling res-



piratory virus that landed her on a ventilator was Covid-19, but her illness struck before the pandemic was widespread, so family members were able to sit at her bedside. It was the only time she felt safe.

"I can't imagine what it must be like now for all the people who can't have visitors," Ralph says.

The delirium Ralph experienced is a common side-effect of critical care, often called ICU confusion. Troyer says it may be especially prevalent in the Covid-19 patients, with respiratory issues preventing enough oxygen from reaching the brain.

"We see such a broad array of neuropsychiatric symptoms," says Troyer, adding: "We get people with depression, excitability, people who are too sleepy, people who don't sleep. There are delusions, hallucinations, psychosis."

Jordan Kohn, a co-author of the UCSD paper, explains that in addition to the effects of low oxygen levels, some of the deleterious symptoms are related to the virus itself. Cells infected with the coronavirus can breach the blood-brain barrier, causing inflammation in the brain and central nervous system.

"We're just catching up to understanding," he says, adding: "However, it seems to be a hallmark of severe cases of Covid-19. In something like 40 per cent of patients it can cause encephalopathies - or brain diseases - as mild as headaches to much more severe incidences of hallucinations."

ICU confusion can happen to people receiving treatment for any condition - not just the Covid-19 - and it typically fades as people recover. For some, that can take a while.

"A recent meta-analysis of delirium among intensive care patients," the UCSD co-authors

Medical workers transport a COVID-19 patient to the CT room at the Zhongfaxincheng campus of Tongji Hospital affiliated to Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, March 6, 2020. (Xinhua)

wrote, "reported evidence of persistent neurocognitive deficits up to 18 months post-discharge".

Anecdotally, Troyer and Kohn say, doctors are reporting that the neurological symptoms of the coronavirus seem particularly grave in that its survivors face a mental recovery that may take years.

Two months after being taken off her ventilator, Ralph is still dealing with graphic nightmares and insomnia. "I was put on a hefty dose of sleeping tablets to get my body clock normalised," she says, adding: "Weaning myself off them has been hard."

In the last few years, Ralph has been through chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy, and received a stem cell transplant to treat Hodgkin lymphoma, but this was very different.

"I have never been so ill or so dependent, and the doctors didn't expect me to survive," she says, adding: "Recovery has involved relearning to breathe, walk, talk, eat, go to the toilet... all of which had become lost to me." "I feel infectious. I feel like I could hurt somebody. I'm afraid of myself," notes Ralph.

Even without an attack on the nervous system, the virus exacts a psychological toll. When Beverly Rollins first contracted the coronavirus, she felt a sense of shame.

"I had a hard time telling people," she says, adding: "I felt like, 'how did this happen to me? What's wrong with me? Am I so weak that it got me?'"

Rollins, a freelance translator in Montreal, felt "a profound aloneness", isolated in her apartment. "When you're sick, you should be allowed comfort," she says.

As she recovers physically, Rollins is trying to deal with obstacles in the way of mental recovery. Getting the virus felt like an invasion, she says - "something insidious that had entered my body" - and that's been haunting.

Continued closures and social distancing measures have made it hard to start chipping away at another mental hurdle: getting out into the world again. The virus's physical scars may make it more difficult to cure the emotional ones. In many people who

recover from Covid-19, doctors are seeing lung scarring and heart damage that may heal very slowly or not at all, leaving some people unable to cope with stress the way they did before their illness. Swanson, a triathlete who loves taking long training runs on secluded mountain trails, has no idea if she'll ever run like that again.

"There's a high probability I'll come out of this with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or asthma," she says a lung specialist recently explained, adding: "I could be on inhalers for the rest of my life. My lungs and heart might never be the same, and that's hard to accept. It's hard to even say out loud."

Running, biking and swimming have always been a major part of Swanson's self-care routine, and she hasn't quite figured out a replacement anxiety-reliever yet.

There are still more unknowns than certainties about the long-term impact of having Covid-19. Many of the neurological effects may not have begun appearing yet. For survivors of past epidemics, "there's a much higher incidence of obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and depression three to five years post-infection", Kohn says.

Rollins, who has been in therapy for years to treat PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder), is trying to head off lasting traumas she knows could develop out of her experience with the coronavirus. She's avoiding news stories that act as triggers, and is attending virtual therapy sessions and support groups.

"On the one hand, I feel optimistic because I've got the tools and I don't feel like I'm starting from scratch," she says, adding: "But I also feel like I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop. Is it really going to wallop me later? I'm trying to talk it out and get over it and process it."

When Swanson shared a candid, emotional letter about her illness on Facebook at the end of March, the post was shared a few thousand times, and she received hundreds of messages.

"People were asking questions and looking for support," she says, add-

ing: "I'm not a Covid-19 guru, and my experience isn't any more valid than anyone else's, so I started a Facebook group."

People were invited to share their stories with the group, called "Covid Symptom Support. It's a place for people to check in," Swanson says, adding: "How are you physically? How are you mentally?"

That's exactly what needs to happen if there's any hope of preparing for the pandemic's mental health fallout, says Troyer, adding: "I know it can be scary to hear that we're going to have potentially large swaths of society with long-term psychiatric complications."

"But it just means that the medical community has to be on the lookout, and the public needs to know that these are things we can talk about openly," she noted.

Lingering stigma surrounding mental health can keep people from sharing psychiatric symptoms with their doctors, and lead medical professionals to develop a dangerous "don't ask, don't tell" type of policy.

"I think part of the problem is that it's easy to talk about respiratory and gut symptoms, and it's not easy to talk about the fact that you're depressed or hallucinating or thinking about suicide," Troyer says.

"But there is no shame in telling your doctor, 'Hey, I'm having this weird thing happening to me that wasn't happening before,' she says.

Swanson thinks it'll take time for her own fear to fade. "I think I'll be afraid to get sick again," she says, adding: "But I look at it this way: A few years ago, I was stung by a jellyfish. It was a freak accident, but it made me terrified of the ocean for a long time."

Swanson knows that the road to emotional recovery will be long, but she's also deeply optimistic about the future, quipping: "Eventually, I went back into the ocean."

**A dispatch published in *Element*, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Kate Morgan is a freelance journalist who's been published by *Popular Science*, *The Washington Post*, *USA***

## Coronavirus isn't the only virus spreading, various other infectious diseases may surge

By Yasmin Tayag

AS the Covid-19 pandemic grinds the world to a halt, it may be easy to forget the other dangerous infectious diseases that plague humans across the globe. But today, we're reminded that they haven't gone anywhere.

In a media briefing on Friday, World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus announced a new case of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The agency was just two days away from declaring the end of the Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo, which began in 2018. And just over two weeks ago, Reuters reported that measles was also surging through DR Congo, where it has been spreading since January 2019.

The resurgence of established infectious diseases like Ebola and measles is likely to intensify as the Covid-19 pandemic wears on. Not only are health resources being diverted to dealing with Covid-19 but routine vaccinations for deadly, vaccine-preventable diseases like polio, measles, meningitis, cholera, and yellow fever have also stopped.

Vaccination campaigns are crucial for containing outbreaks of these diseases, especially in developing countries.

Journalist Leslie Roberts describes what the head of the Vaccine Alliance called "A devil's choice": "In the past month, the World Health Organisation had to choose whether to protect communities and front-



line health care workers from becoming infected or to continue mass vaccination campaigns in poor countries.

"It chose suspension, halting polio vaccinations first. Then, on March 26, a WHO committee of im-

munisation experts recommended suspending all campaigns against vaccine-preventable diseases."

"Any mass campaigns would go against the idea of social distancing," said the chair of the WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunisation.

In addition to creating opportunities for other diseases to spread, the Covid-19 pandemic also complicates how to treat them. Some physicians in Africa have raised concerns that people with HIV risk infection with Covid-19 when coming to facilities for treatment.

Others have warned that the symptoms of malaria and Covid-19 could be easily confused, creating even more opportunities for infection as people head to clinics. People with tuberculosis, meanwhile, are expected to be at higher risk of severe Covid-19.

Writing about the DRC's ongoing measles outbreak for *Nature*, Roberts noted: "Health workers are stretched thin at the best of times, and the DRC has been battling Ebola, outbreaks of cholera and yellow fever - and now the coronavirus."

Suspending mass vaccinations to preserve these health workers and their communities was a devil's choice indeed, one where there's only one grim guarantee: protecting everyone is simply not possible.

**Yasmin Tayag is senior editor (science) at *OneZero* at *Medium*.**



# AGF announces response to economic impact of Covid-19

**By Special Correspondent, Nairobi**

AFRICAN Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (AGF) yesterday announced its Covid-19 response aimed at reducing the uncertainties facing financial institutions in Africa as a result of the global coronavirus pandemic.

AGF's Covid-19 response is built on the imperative need for

commercial solutions over and above the regulatory efforts already provided by the various central banks and governments in the continent.

African Guarantee Fund's response sets the platform for economic stabilization, followed by an economic revival through AGF's newly developed Covid-19 Guarantee Facility that will, firstly, provide more comfort to financial institutions to restructure

facilities that become non-performing because of COVID-19 and, secondly, provide commercial stimulus to the financial sector with the aim of mitigating the deterioration of SMEs' perceived risk.

Commenting on the announcement, AGF CEO, Felix Bikpo said: "The consequences of Covid-19 pandemic will continue to have escalating negative effects on SMEs in Africa

both on the supply and demand sides. Consequently, we must assume that there follows a deterioration of these SMEs' creditworthiness. This is likely to increase the cost of credit for the financial sector which will surely increase their reluctance to finance the SME sector if there is no external stimulus. It is because of this that we must develop a commercial response in addition to the regulatory re-

sponses given by the different central banks and governments in the continent. Therefore, in line with our mandate we have launched the Covid-19 Guarantee Facility."

AGF will also continue to use its technical assistance support to increase the capacity of financial institutions in their risk assessment of SMEs during the crisis period. This will allow analyzing the impact of the

pandemic on the financial institutions, so as to forge the best possible responses to adapt effectively.

The African Guarantee Fund recently received a third time AA- Rating by Fitch, which was first assigned in November 2017, a first for a guarantee fund in Africa.

"This exceptional rating is a sign of confidence and trust in AGF's operational excellence,

particularly now that financial institutions are in need of cushioning to continue lending to SMEs, who hold the key to the economic recovery of their respective countries," concluded AGF CEO, Felix Bikpo.

Since inception, AGF has boosted SME lending in Africa by issuing guarantees to financial institutions thereby unlocking loans worth US\$ 2.5 billion.

## Mastercard reads to connect one billion people, businesses right to the digital economy by 2025

**By Guardian Reporter**

A Global payments and a technology firm—Mastercard has expressed its commitment of connecting 1 billion people, 50 million small businesses, and 25 million women entrepreneurs to the digital economy by 2025.

In a statement, Raghav Prasad, Mastercard's division president for sub-Saharan Africa said that the extended commitment builds on Mastercard's ongoing efforts to address the Covid-19 related health and economic challenges facing individuals all over the world, including in sub-Saharan Africa.

"Financial inclusion remains key to unlocking the potential of sub-Saharan Africa, and will become crucial as we support governments in driving long-term, sustainable economic recovery.

Digital transactions are both safe and efficient and giving access to these for as many people as possible is an important part of supporting the most vulnerable parts of the population through the current situation. Our focus right now - beyond philanthropy - is to steadfastly continue collaborating with governments and private sector partners on

solutions that are safe, viable, and most importantly, socially impactful for communities across the region," said Prasad.

At the 2015 spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank group, Mastercard committed to bring 500 million excluded individuals into the financial system. It achieved that goal through more than 350 innovative programs across 80 countries.

The Mastercard lab for financial inclusion - the technology company's first lab focused on financial inclusion - is committed to empowering millions of Africans through the use of public-private partnerships, and the innovation of locally relevant technology solutions. One such solution is the Mastercard Farmer Network, a mobile platform that improves market access, increases price transparency and digitizes payments to connect small farmers in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

East Africa is also served by Kasha, an e-commerce platform optimized for women's health and personal care. It offers confidential and convenient service, online/offline digital ordering and delivery to both urban and low-income



**Digital Economy: Mastercard to help unbanked make receive payments**

rural areas. In Uganda, Mastercard launched Kupaa in partnership with UNICEF Uganda and the country's Ministry of Education. It enables parents and caregivers to pay school fees and other school expenses with their mobile phones securely, easily, and in small payments when they are able, easing the burden of lump sum payments.

Mastercard also expanded its partnership with Unilever to create Jaza Duka—a digital programme for micro-merchants in Kenya with more than 18,000 duka owners already registered. The program provides a micro-credit eligibility recommendation to Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), which can then assess a retailer's credit worthiness and extend credit for stock purchases.

Additional efforts include ongoing work on government disbursement solutions, wage digitization of private sector workers, solutions for gig workers, scaling efforts with fintechs,

digital platforms and digital wallets/apps, solutions addressing needs of the financially vulnerable and the expansion of CityKey and Community Pass programmes.

This announcement builds on Mastercard's ongoing efforts to support an inclusive recovery by leveraging the company's technology, capabilities and reach. That work includes in the first weeks of the global health crisis, Mastercard committed up to \$25 million in seed funding to establish the Covid-19 Therapeutics Accelerator in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and others to help speed up the response to the Covid-19 epidemic by discovering, developing and scaling-up treatments for deployment around the world.

Mastercard has committed \$250 million in financial, technology, product and services support over the next five years to small businesses in many markets where it operates, sup-

porting the vitality of businesses and the financial security of their workers. The firm is also leveraging its network to provide support to governments around the world in a range of areas. This includes providing data insights to inform policymakers about the economic impact of the pandemic; increasing the speed and efficacy of aid disbursements to communities and business segments that need it most; developing donation platforms to enable emergency fundraising; and working with governments to assist business owners and consumers with cyber vulnerability assessments.

## Mbeya has no database for small traders, says RC

**By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya**

AUTHORITIES in Mbeya region have admitted that it had not prepared database for small traders who were given entrepreneurs identity cards issued by President John Magufuli last year, hence failed to assess entrepreneurs' growth in the re-

gion. Mbeya Regional commissioner, Albert Chalamila, announced when he was presented with 15,000 new identity cards from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) manager Eunice Mhaluka.

Chalamila said the situation has made it difficult to identify entrepreneurs who had devel-

oped economically so as not qualify for the new IDs and instead they are supposed to be registered as tax payers under TRA.

He also called on all district commissioners to use their own means to make follow up on all those who will be given the IDs so as to identify those who do not qualify to be in

the system that exempts them from paying taxes.

He also called on the DC to continue educating the entrepreneurs on the taxes that have been exempted on them due to their IDs on reasons that they have been wrongly accorded with tax exemptions.

He said some of them have been refusing to pay house

rent, sewage removal charges and other contributions as agreed by members of the community.

Speaking about the new IDs Mhaluka said last year the region was given 100,000 IDs, but this year the number has been reduced to 86,000 which will be provided in phases.

She said will ensure they are

distributed to qualified small entrepreneurs whose gross sales do not exceed 4m/- per year and said some people were giving wrong interpretation in regard to the IDs distributed during the first phase.

"The current IDs were different from those of last year, the current ones have serial numbers and cannot be forged,

hence we should all cooperate in educating our entrepreneurs on their use," said Mhaluka.

Mbeya region Assistant Regional Administrative Officer (RAS), Said Madito said in order to tackle challenges that came up last year, the government has laid down special procedures for their distribution.

## Eastern African countries expect warmer and wetter than average rainy season

**By Guardian Reporter**

A warmer than usual season is expected in eastern Africa starting next month with some few areas experiencing much colder than usual season.

The June to -September weather forecast by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) indicates that warmer than usual season will be experienced in coastal parts of the region from Eritrea to Tanzania, central Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, northern and central Sudan, and western South Sudan.

While a colder than usual season is expected for the central parts of the region, including central and eastern South Sudan, western Ethio-

pia, and Lake Victoria basin.

A wetter than usual rainy season is expected over western and central Sudan, southwestern Ethiopia, southeastern South Sudan, western Kenya, eastern and central Uganda.

The season is expected to start early in most farming areas of the region.

Considering the ongoing simultaneous emergencies affecting the region, including floods, the desert locust invasion and the Covid-19 pandemic, governments are encouraged to use the seasonal forecast to adjust contingency plans.

Regional weather forecast authorities are also advised to update governments with ten days and monthly forecasts.

June to September is an

important season for Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, and Uganda. A wetter than usual season is forecasted for western and central Sudan, southwestern Ethiopia, southeastern South Sudan, western Kenya, eastern and central Uganda.

The rest of the region is expected to receive the usual rainfall, except for a limited area of coastal of Somalia, where less than usual rain is expected.

An early start of the rains is expected over central and southern Sudan, central and southeastern Ethiopia, South Sudan, southern Eritrea and western Kenya. A delayed start of the rains is expected in eastern Somalia and Ethiopia, Djibouti, northern Eritrea, northern Sudan and Uganda.





# United States leads the world in Covid-19 deaths

NEW YORK

IT'S an indisputable fact: the United States leads the world in the number of Covid-19 deaths. As of 15 May, three months after the country's first confirmed coronavirus death, the US death toll from the pandemic has reached a remarkable 88,000 deaths. That rising figure is more than double the number of coronavirus deaths of the next highest country, the United Kingdom at 34,000 deaths.

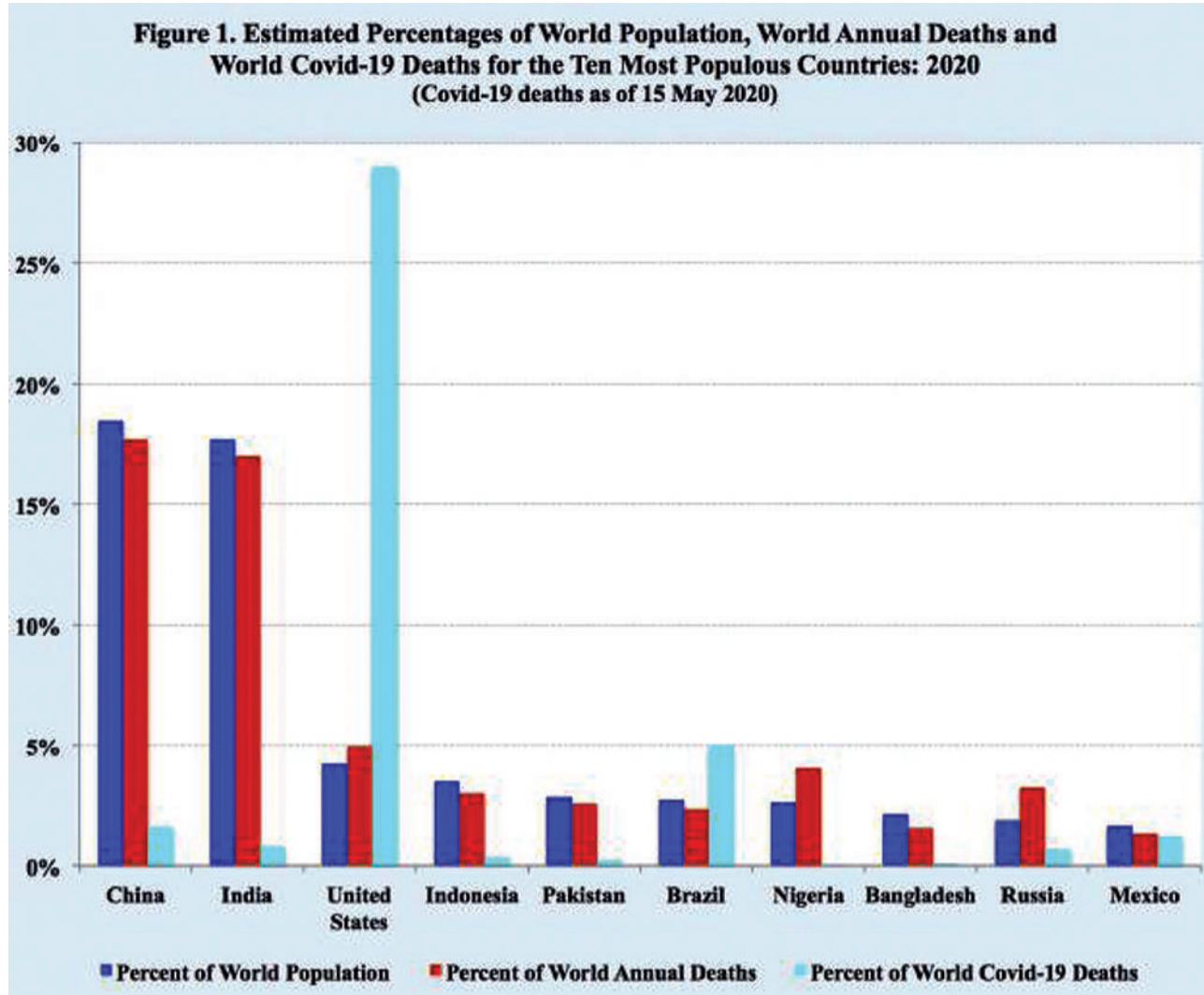
The pandemic is still in its early stages and many fear the worst is yet to come. Today's coronavirus mortality picture will no doubt change over time, continuing to evolve and remaining a long-term threat, as the coronavirus spreads death and suffering to populations across the planet.

Among the world's ten most populous countries, representing 58 per cent of the world's population, a strong correlation exists between population size and the total number of annual deaths from all causes.

China and India, for example, represent 18 per cent of the world's population and about 18 per cent of the world's total number of annual deaths. Similarly, the United States population is 4 per cent of the world's population and has about 5 per cent of the world's annual number of deaths.

However, the distribution of deaths from the coronavirus pandemic differs greatly from the distribution of the world's total annual deaths. Whereas the US accounts for 5 per cent of the world's number of annual deaths, the country now has 29 per cent of the world's total Covid-19 deaths. In contrast, China, which accounts for 18 per cent of the world's total number of annual deaths, now has about 2 per cent of the world's total Covid-19 deaths.

If Covid-19 deaths were distributed proportionate to a country's share of world total annual deaths, a very different picture would emerge. The United States death toll from the pandemic would plummet to a fraction of its current level, from 88,000 to 15,000 and China's coronavirus



deaths would be many times larger than its current level, from 4,600 to 55,000.

If the coronavirus had first emerged in New York City rather than Wuhan, then perhaps one might expect the United States to have experienced a disproportionate share of all pandemic deaths. However, the virus first appeared in China and that country has a comparatively low number of Covid-19 deaths.

So what then is the likely explanation for why America leads the world in Covid-19 deaths?

The high numbers of American Covid-19 deaths appear basically to be the result of Washington's peculiar response to the pandemic. That response differs markedly from those of countries that have achieved relatively low numbers and rates of coronavirus deaths.

Some observers have chosen to dismiss this question at the outset by discrediting and denying the statistics relating to the pandemic. Those data, they maintain, are unre-

liable and should be ignored.

Cause of death data, they contend, are flawed with deaths, especially of the elderly, coming from other causes that are often attributed to Covid-19 and at other times Covid-19 deaths are mistakenly attributed to other deaths or missed entirely. Also, they believe that political considerations are greatly influencing the reported numbers of Covid-19 deaths.

Most observers recognize the statistical shortcomings of pandemic mortality data and believe that the reported numbers are likely to be undercounts of coronavirus deaths. However, they do not find the statistical limitations sufficiently compelling to explain away why the United States leads the world in coronavirus deaths.

The high numbers of American Covid-19 deaths appear basically to be the result of Washington's peculiar response to the pandemic. That response differs markedly from those of countries that have achieved relatively low num-

bers and rates of coronavirus deaths.

At the start of the year, the Washington response began by dismissing early warnings, denials of likely trends and eschewing expert advice regarding the expected staggering consequences of a pandemic. It was followed by assurances by the American president that every thing was under control, the country was in far better shape than other countries, claims minimizing the impact of the coronavirus, including it is not as perilous as seasonal flu, predictions of an early resolution and a vaccine by the year's end.

This initial phase of the White House response was later followed by the politicization of the pandemic and its reported consequences. Health, medical and mortality concerns and recommendations to address the pandemic became highly divisive partisan issues.

The pandemic turned to a political battle of "us vs. them". Some declared that the pandemic was being used as a new hoax to bludgeon the president.

Angry protests, some armed military-style, and threats of violence erupted across the country against recommended pandemic mitigation guidelines, including shutdowns, shelter-in-place, quarantines, testing, social distancing and face masking. This was further complicated by rising distrust and growing resentment that were worsened by conflicting messages coming out of Washington and many state capitals.

When the global pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020, the number of American deaths was relatively small, slightly below 40. However, the number of Covid-19 deaths grew rapidly, reaching 4,000 by 30 March, 40,000 by 19 April and 80,000 by 9 May. Further complicating matters, the 88,000 coronavirus deaths have been unevenly distributed across the American population. Covid-19 has disproportionately hit the poor, low-income workers, minority communities and elderly men.

Many have called for dramatic and speedy changes in the government's

strategies, programs, health infrastructure, finances, testing, contact tracing, case isolation and surveillance to confront the continuing spread of the coronavirus. In their view, the government's policies and programs to confront the pandemic, which is considered far from contained, have been plagued by incompetence, callousness, duplicity, disorganization and unpreparedness.

Others consider the calls for changes in strategies and programs as unjustified attacks aimed at undermining the current Administration for purposes of political gain, especially with the presidential election on the horizon. Media and other inquiries questioning the merits of Washington's response to the pandemic and challenging the president's claims of achievements and successes are often viewed as nasty and reflections of personal contempt for the country's head of state.

While America leads the world with Covid-19 deaths, it does not lead the world in the Covid-19 death rate. To date, approximately eight European countries have higher rates than the United States. For example, the coronavirus death rate of Italy and Spain is double the rate of the United States.

However, many countries have achieved Covid-19 fatality rates that are a fraction of America's rate. In Germany and Japan, for example, the Covid-19 death rates per million population are 96 and 6, respectively, versus 268 in the United States. Other countries with low coronavirus death rates include: Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Israel, Hungary, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Singapore and South Korea.

The total number of coronavirus deaths in the United States will soon hit 100,000, eventually exceeding 200,000 and is projected to reach more than 3,000 deaths each day by early June 2020. The American president has said that those numbers of death indicate that the government's response to the pandemic has been successful and he's done a good job.

Agencies

## What China has done to boost international cooperation against COVID-19

BEIJING

ACROSS the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic is causing significant loss of life, disrupting livelihoods, and threatening the development and prosperity of the world.

As solidarity and cooperation are the most powerful weapons to fight the pandemic, China has been boosting international cooperation in an open, transparent and responsible manner since the onset of the unprecedented health crisis.

By upholding the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity, China has been providing updates on COVID-19 in a timely manner, unreservedly sharing its experiences in epidemic response and medical treatment with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the

international community, strengthening cooperation on scientific research, and providing assistance to all parties to the best of its ability.

### UNPRECEDENTED, EFFECTIVE MOVE

In the face of a ballooning epidemic, the Communist Party of China Central Committee on Jan. 22 ordered Hubei province, the center of the outbreak at the time, to impose comprehensive and strict control over the outbound population flow, an unprecedented but effective move in modern Chinese history.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that the serious lockdown measures not only protected the Chinese people, but also prevented the spread of the virus to other countries.

"China has rolled out perhaps the

most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history," said a report released in late February by the WHO-China Joint Mission on COVID-19, consisting of 25 experts from eight countries and the WHO itself.

"Because of this strategy, if it weren't for China's efforts, the number of cases outside China would have been very much higher," he said at a WHO Executive Board meeting in Geneva.

After a nine-day field trip in Beijing and other Chinese provinces, the China-WHO expert team concluded that China's unprecedented responses to the COVID-19 outbreak have yielded notable results in blocking human-to-human transmissions of the virus, preventing or at least delaying hundreds of thousands of cases.

The Chinese people stand on the frontline of defense in the fight against



World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus speaks at a daily briefing in Geneva, Switzerland, March 9, 2020. (Xinhua)

the pandemic, and have made huge contributions and sacrifices in order to safeguard the health and safety of people around the world, which deserves the respect of all countries worldwide, said Ivica Dacic, president of the Socialist Party of Serbia.

### CHAMPION OF MULTILATERALISM

Chinese President Xi Jinping, in his address to the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit in March, proposed that a Group of 20 (G20) health ministers' meeting be convened as soon as possible to improve information-sharing, strengthen cooperation on drugs, vaccines and epidemic control, and cut off cross-border infections.

He also proposed a G20 COVID-19 assistance initiative for better information-sharing and policy and action coordination with the support of the WHO.

In a phone conversation with Hun-

garian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday, Xi said that China firmly supports the United Nations and the WHO in playing their due roles in international cooperation against the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the same day, he urged the international community to step up support for Africa's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. There are currently 75,498 cumulative COVID-19 cases in 53 African countries, with 2,561 deaths, according to WHO data.

China, on top of paying its assessed contributions to the WHO on time and in full, has recently donated a total of 50 million U.S. dollars to the WHO to support its response to the pandemic. Besides, Chinese medical teams have conducted some 400 training sessions in Africa to share its anti-epidemic experiences and have trained 20,000 local medical workers, said Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday.

As of mid-May, the Chinese government has provided anti-epidemic

supplies to more than 150 countries and international organizations, held over 120 video conferences with more than 160 countries and international organizations, and sent 21 teams of medical experts to 19 countries.

### TECHNICAL EXCHANGE

Since the beginning of the outbreak, China has not only promptly shared with the world such critical information as the whole genome sequence of the virus, but also its diagnostic and therapeutic experiences.

It has also established close technical-level communication mechanisms with international organizations such as the WHO, the European Union, the African Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Starting from Jan. 3, China has begun to inform the United States of the novel coronavirus outbreak and response measures on a regular basis. When an expert evaluation team from China's National Health Commission identified a novel coronavirus on Jan. 8, heads of Chinese and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention talked over the phone to discuss technical exchanges and cooperation.

By carrying out timely technical exchanges with the international community, such as the WHO, the United States, and countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America, Chinese scientists and health experts worked with their global peers to share their knowledge about the virus to help countries develop testing kits and adopt response measures.

Chinese scientists and political leaders have made efforts to help the world understand the virus and contain its spread, said Fabrizio Pregliasco, a researcher at the Department of Biomedical Sciences for Health at the University of Milan.

China sets "an excellent example of 'peer to peer' experience-sharing," said Maria van Kerkhove, technical lead for the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, adding that the WHO looks forward to seeing more direct interaction of that kind. **Xinhua**

### THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 86 00--

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

3 LETTERS: ART, APE, RID  
4 LETTERS: MOOT, DIET, SURE, OVEN, NETA, WAGE, PAID  
5 LETTERS: AROMA, TEASE, DAILY, ASANA, EVADE  
6 LETTERS: ASMARA, ASCEND, KARATE, DENTAL, TYRIAN  
7 LETTERS: FARANGA,  
8 LETTERS: AGRARIAN  
10 LETTERS: MADAGASCAR

CLUES: Across  
1 Selling of black Africans  
5 one of the two branches of Islam  
7 consumed  
8 a male honey-bee  
10 a pen for pigs  
11 Masai warrior  
13 greater, further  
15 total number of points made in a game  
17 slaughterhouse  
19 a way of acting  
20 citrus fruit

Down:  
1 neither very good nor very bad  
2 sharp-tasting or sour  
3 a thick cord made of twisted fibres  
4 to give as a gift to charity  
6 an expanse of land  
7 molluscs having wormlike bodies and spiral protective shell  
9 Chief city of Sri Lanka  
12 soft, delicate  
14 to go or come in  
16 to adhere, to be attached  
17 short for amplifier  
18 fuss or difficulty

WORD-FIT

BOUNDARIES  
ALLEN  
KABODE  
PLUNGE  
SOUND  
LEGALESE  
DEMS  
TABOOS

CROSSWORD

SOUTH  
CROW  
KNEPAL  
CHORE  
SNAPE  
GESTURE  
USER  
WONDER

SOLUTIONS

1. SELLING OF BLACK AFRICANS  
5. ISLAM  
7. CONSUMED  
8. BEE  
10. QUILL  
11. MAJID  
13. MORE  
15. POINTS  
17. SLAUGHTERHOUSE  
19. MANNER  
20. CITRUS





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## CAG urges TRA, TCRA coordination to make sure telecom firms do pay taxes

By Smart Money Reporter

**P**oor coordination and lack of qualified personnel at Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority is denying Treasury billions of shillings in taxes.

Controller and Auditor General, Charles Kichere said in his 2019 audit report that there had been inadequate usage of Telecommunication Revenue Assurance System (TRAS) by TRA to verify the completeness of revenue and tax from telecommunication service providers.

"Whenever TRAS was not used, revenue amounts from telecommunication service providers were not objectively verified," the CAG report stated noting that there has been a contradiction of information between the TRAS and electronic Revenue Collection System (eRCS).

"TRA did not effectively use eRCS to verify the tax. In the financial year 2018/2019 there was no confirmation that 681.33bn/- was verified through eRCS," the CAG stated.

The CAG further noted that the two electronic systems used to verify the correctness of tax returns submitted by telecommunica-



Controller and Auditor General Charles Kichere.

tion service providers differed.

"Because of the aforesaid situation, the process of verifying tax return submitted by TSPs (telcos) was difficult to identify true information. Up to the time of writing this audit report there was no reconcilia-

tion after comparing the two systems," the 2019 audit report added.

The report noted that TRA tax audit plans did not cover all six telecommunication service providers in every financial year and that even in those years in

which the telcos were included in the plan for audit, the plan was not implemented as approved.

"The effects of the tax audit are very positive, in one of the conducted tax audits, to one TSP, TRA was able to identify about 208bn/- as a variance between VAT returns submitted and actual taxes paid," the report stated.

The CAG report also censured TCRA for not being able to monitor the revenue generated from over the top services because the existing Telecommunications Traffic Monitoring System (TTMS) did not have a module for, specifically, monitoring the OTT services.

In conclusion, the CAG said despite government efforts through TRA toward improving revenue collection from telecommunication service providers, more interventions were needed for further improvement.

"The findings presented in this report endorse that, there were still some loopholes that would lead to loss of government revenue from

the existing telecommunication companies. Both Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority have not adequately worked together to ensure that revenues from Telcos are effectively being collected," the CAG observed.



**Whenever TRAS was not used, revenue amounts from telecommunication service providers were not objectively verified," the CAG report stated noting that there has been a contradiction of information between the TRAS and electronic Revenue Collection System (eRCS).**

### Agency training women entrepreneurs in Dar es Salaam on bettering of livelihoods

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

AS the race against family poverty gathers steam, hundreds of women small business owners in Dar es Salaam are receiving training on entrepreneurship and better management from Women in Social Entrepreneurship (WISE) organization.

WISE's Executive Director Dr Astronaut Bagile said in Dar es Salaam last week that the training is part of a three-year project dubbed, 'Improvement of Social Welfare of Underprivileged Families and Children in Temeke municipality's Keko Mwanga area with funding from South Korean based Holt Children Service Incorporation.

The project which runs through 2019/22 targets poor households where women are trained on how to set up business, keep records properly and how to market their products in order to graduate and become medium size business owners.

"The training officially started in January this year with 25 single mothers from Keko Mwanga ward who have been equipped with skills to engage in

'Mama lische' food vending business, ice cream business, selling groundnuts and biscuits business," said Dr Bagile

She said after the training, WISE has assisted them form a group known as 'Mwanamke Malengo' which has since received formal registration and Village Community Banks (Vicoba) has since been established as an affiliate institution.

"WISE decided to come up with this project after discovering that women from poor households are suffering a lot to get food to feed their families because they have no income generating activities," said the WISE Executive Director.

The three year program is part of WISE's strategic plan and agenda for 2019/22 which targets to empower under-privileged women who are struggling to survive with families especially single mothers.

Formed in 2003 with official registered attained in 2005, WISE seeks to address growing concern on social inequalities and increasing abject poverty among women and youths in the country.



WISE executive director, Dr Astronaut Bagile addresses Keko Mwanga women small business owners during entrepreneurship training held in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon.

### US throws down gauntlet to China with Mozambique gas mega-loan

WASHINGTON

US. President Donald Trump's sparring with China is playing out in an unlikely new arena: the sandy turf of northern Mozambique, one of the world's poorest countries.

The US. Export-Import Bank on Thursday approved the broadened scope of a \$4.7 billion loan to back American suppliers to a liquefied-natural-gas development that could transform the southeastern African nation's economy. The lender said China and Russia had both been considering helping finance it.

"We were told that China and Russia were slated to finance this deal," Kimberly A. Reed, the bank's president, said in a statement. "This is a great example of how a revitalised Exim, thanks to President Trump's leadership and bipartisan support from Congress, can help ensure the use of 'Made in the U.S.A.' products and services, without ceding ground to countries like China and Russia."

The Exim Bank helps foreign companies buy American products when private lenders won't provide financing, with one of its goals being to "advance the U.S.'s comparative leadership in the world with respect to China."

## China says targeting Huawei threatens global supply chain

BEIJING

CHINA said new US export restrictions targeting companies including Huawei Technologies may threaten the global supply chain.

Beijing opposes the new US rules and will take all necessary measures to defend the rights and interests of Chinese companies, the ministry of commerce said in a statement on Sunday. It urged Washington to help create conditions for normal trade and cooperation between enterprises.

The US on Friday moved to prevent sales to Shenzhen-based Huawei by chip makers using American technology. The commerce department said it would require licences before allowing US equipment to be used by the Chinese company or its 114 subsidiaries, including its chip design unit HiSilicon.

The move is designed to inhibit Huawei from producing and designing its own chips, a senior department official said. US officials accused Huawei of being a security threat tied to the Beijing government, an allegation the company denies.

The new rules require any foreign chip maker that uses American gear to get a licence before they can sell to companies on a US blacklist, a roster that includes Huawei and other prominent Chinese tech giants such as SenseTime Group and Megvii Technology.

Meanwhile restrictions introduced by Washington on Friday that ostensibly aim to allay US cybersecurity concerns are really designed to safeguard American dominance of global tech, a Huawei Technologies senior executive said on Monday.

"The so-called cybersecurity reasons are merely an excuse," Richard Yu, head of the Chinese tech giant's consumer electronics unit wrote in a post to his account on messaging app WeChat. "The key is the threat to the technology hegemony of the US" posed by Huawei, he added.

Yu also posted a link to a Chinese article circulating on social media with part of its headline asking, "Why does America want to kill Huawei?" On Friday, the US commerce department announced rules that prohibit any



Richard Yu, head of Huawei's consumer electronics unit.

chip maker using American equipment from supplying Huawei without special approval. The Trump administration sees Huawei as

a dire security threat, an allegation the company denies. Washington already blacklisted Huawei last year. The latest move tightens

those restrictions to prevent chip makers – US or foreign – from working with Huawei and its in-house chip-design unit HiSilicon.



## Koica, South Korean-trained locals donate 33.2m/- anti COVID kitty

By Francis Kajubi

**A**N assortment of personal protective equipment against the novel coronavirus worth 33.2m/- have been donated to Ilala, Kinondoni and Temeke municipalities of Dar es Salaam by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) through Koica Alumni Association Tanzania (KAAT).

The personal protective gear which included face masks and sanitizer bottles are targeted to benefit health workers who are the forefront of the fight against the pandemic and they include doctors, nurses and midwives serving in public dispensaries and health centers.

Kyuchoel Eo, Koica Country Director, Kyuchoel Eo said in Dar es Salaam this week during a handing over ceremony that the donation was provided in support of the government's initiatives to fight the global pandemic which has already killed thousands.

"The personal protective equipment consists of 8,000 face masks and 5,000 hand sanitizer's bottle to be provided to the tree districts of Dar es Salaam. I hope that this donation will reach its intended recipients," Eo said.

According to him, Koica is donating similar consignments in four regions of Arusha, Dodoma, Mbeya and Mwanza but also Zanzibar will get a share of the kitty. He said in efforts to sensitize the public, his office is running an online campaign against the pandemic through various social media platforms.

"We are very happy that both Koica and Koica Alumni Association in Tanzania agreed on donating personal protective equipment at this critical time. We are committed to ensure that we play our role in the fight against the deadly virus," he added.

A representative from KAAT who also serves as the Senior Agriculture Officer at Kinondoni municipality, Beatrice Banzi said the donation is going to guarantee protection of health workers who are vulnerable to



Koica Country Director, Kyuchoel Eo (L) handing over one of the boxes of face masks and sanitizers to Beatrice Banzi, Senior Agriculture Officer from Kinondoni Municipality in Dar es Salaam during a donation to support COVID-19 crackdown. Photo: Francis Kajubi.

the disease.

"I take this opportunity to thank Koica who always think about providing the best for our country which is why they took 50 percent of KAAT annual operational budget to support government efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19," Banzi said.

Accepting the donation on behalf of Kinondoni Municipal Health Officer, John Kijumbe said that there are almost 27 public dispensa-

ries and health centers in the district which are facing acute shortage of PPEs hence the donation means a lot to health workers at the front line in taking care of COVID-19 patients.

"Medical doctors, nurses and midwives are at high risk of being infected hence these personal protective materials are important for their safety and that of patients who they attend to," Kijumbe said.

## Letshego Bank Tanzania announces 3-month grace period for borrowers



Letshego Bank Tanzania CEO Andrew Tarimo (R) attending to a customer during this year's customer service week in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

By Smart Money Reporter

In a bid to give its borrowing customers relief as they struggle with the impact of the coronavirus, Letshego Bank Tanzania has announced a three-month grace period for loan holders.

Letshego Bank Tanzania CEO, Andrew Tarimo said in Dar es Salaam this week that the grace period too effect on April 1 this year and will run through end June.

"This decision has been made to help our customers cushion against the impact of

the disruption caused by Covid-19 pandemic that continues to wreak havoc to businesses and life patterns globally," Tarimo said.

He advised the bank's clients to contact branch manager and other officials to learn more about the relief as well as to assess and restructure the loan repayment schedules accordingly. "COVID-19 is a global crisis that has hit businesses hard without being any fault by the business community. It is therefore our obligation to ensure we continue to coexist with our partners dur-

ing this difficult time of doing business," the Letshego Bank CEO added.

He explained that hardest hit by the pandemic are small and medium size businesses especially those in tourism, education and travel sectors due to lack of customers as planes have been grounded while schools and colleges close down. "As a bank, we felt that we needed to deliver this benefit in order to allow businesses to continue operating efficiently," Tarimo noted.

He reiterated his management's commitment to continue

providing retail and business financial services through physical presence, strategic alliances and digital platforms. Tarimo further noted that customers can still apply for loans through the bank's call centre, WhatsApp for business and Web applications but also on Instagram and Facebook where the bank remains active.

"The same platforms too have more information on the bank's business continuity programmes during this shaky period," the Letshego Bank Tanzania CEO noted.

## Oserian sends 800 on unpaid leave after 50 pct pay cut snub

NAIROBI

Oserian flower firm has placed more than 800 workers on unpaid leave after the staff declined a 50 percent pay after the coronavirus hit flower exports.

The workers declined the offer to defer half of their salaries until the end of coronavirus to ease the financial impact of the pandemic. The deadlock forced the firm to place the workers on unpaid leave in line with recent legal changes that discourage pay cuts and layoffs due to effects of the infectious disease.

With almost 4.35 million cases of coronavirus globally and nearly 300,000 deaths, countries have been reluctant to fully open shut borders and businesses. Few people are thinking about flowers, especially in Europe – which accounts for 70 percent of Kenya's cut-flower exports.

"We have been facing financial difficulties since the emergence of Covid-19, which has impacted negatively on our cash flow, what we have been asking of our employees is to accept a 50 percent deferral on their pay, which would be paid back when things get back to normal, but they refused," said Mary Kinyua, human resource director at Oserian flowers.

"When they refused we did not have an alternative but to send 800 of them on unpaid leave," she added, pointing out that the firm has 1,200 employees. Kenya Flower Council says restrictions to movements have slashed daily orders by half, forcing firms to mull layoffs and salary cuts.

The decline in exports will be a blow for Kenya where flower exports are one of the top three foreign exchange-earners. They generated Sh104 billion in sales in 2019. Other sectors like tourism and agriculture are also being battered.

The firm was hit last weekend during Mother's Day when orders for flowers went up amid a shortage of experienced labour in the firm to pluck and park the roses, a move that saw the company lose about 30 percent of what they would have sold on that day.

The HR director, however, said the production had reduced to where it was before the Mother's Day. Ms Kinyua said the management staff at Oserian have already taken a 50 percent deferred salary since February.



Workers at Oserian flower farm doing their job during better days.

## The Seychelles bans cruise ships until end of next year

VICTORIA

AS part of efforts to prevent a second wave of coronavirus infections, the country will close its Port Victoria to cruise liners until the end of 2021, says Didier Dogley, Minister for Tourism, Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine.

The move has been met with acceptance from tourism stakeholders, even if it is understood that it will affect the country's already struggling tourism industry. The cruise industry has been a major catalyst by which the Covid-19 has spread throughout the world.

"The Seychelles Ports Authority appreciates the fact that the government has made a prudent decision to mitigate the impact that Covid-19 may have in the medium term. It is to be noted that the cruise industry has been a major catalyst by which the Covid-19 has spread throughout the world," Ronny Brutus, chief executive of the authority told the Seychelles News Agency. "It is important to recognise the fact that the risk factor of a resurgence of the Covid-19 in Seychelles far outweighs the opportunity cost of not having cruise port calls for the next two years."

At the same time, Dogley outlined a series of measures to support the tourism industry, including salary guarantees until June, favourable loan agreements and tax holidays for those in the industry. The island nation has announced plans to reopen its airport to commercial flights on Monday, June 1, but stressed that strict control measures and travel advisories would be put in place.

According to the Seychelles News Agency, the country's public health commissioner, Jude Gedeon, has said that the country would gradually lift restrictions and does not expect tourism to rebound immediately. "We are thinking that with the current situation, we will not see tourism re-launched in a fast manner in June. We are looking at maybe July or August. "This is why the opening of commercial operations of the airport does not necessarily mean there will be a lot of movement of people. Control measures that were put in place will be reinforced," he said.

## East Africa Fruits based in Tanzania closes \$2 million equity round deal

DAR ES SALAAM

EAST AFRICA Fruits, a B2B social enterprise based in Tanzania landed an impressive \$2.05 million Serie A funding.

This was followed by an extra \$950,000 credit line. This enables the company to invest in creating a supply chain network and enable smooth transport of food from farmers to the market. Other investors that pat in the seed round were Elea and FINCA ventures.

The combined capital injection of \$3.1 million will assist the company to expand its operations and serve 6,000 small and medium-sized vendors and over 10,000 farmers. The company will buy machinery for its distribution centers and invest in technology to enhance efficiency.

East Africa Fruits Founder and CEO, Elia Timotheo, explained how the new venture opens up "incredible opportunities" for fruits in the region. He emphasized the company's desire to "scale" operations and achieve a "real impact" in the lives of the informal food vendors and local farmers.

Joel Wanjohi, Goodwill Investments' Associate Partner & Lead Investment Manager, East Africa, pointed out Tanzania as being "no exception" when it comes to tackling food security. Food wastage means a lot of food never reaches the market at all.



## LSF chief: Our paralegal services go digital with Covid-19 changing lives

By Smart Money Reporter

LEGAL aid services being given to vulnerable groups such as women who are denied access to wealth and property in the country by Legal Services Facility backed paralegals will now be offered through digital outlets.

Addressing thousands of LSF backed paralegals through an online platform last week, its Chief Executive Officer, Lulu Ng'wanakilala said her institution's Access to Justice campaign has been affected by the outbreak of COVID-19 worldwide.

Ng'wanakilala said the pandemic has meant that necessary measures to prevent its spreading infections be taken by the government and general public which include social distancing hence the need to come up with new creative and innovative solutions to offer legal aid services.

"Access to justice and specifically legal aid services should continue during this difficult period," she said noting that LSF is taking on the pandemic as a challenge which needs an innovative solution such as technology use as a way to creatively address such a hurdle.

Further, she added that it is high time for stakeholders to adapt to other innovative ways of implementing their scheduled activities so as to continue assisting vulnerable groups of Tanzanians get access to justice.

The LSF which has been financing over 3,700 paralegals in the country who assist millions of Tanzanians in need of legal aid across all districts nationally, also offers legal education and sensitization on access to justice through the formal system.

Under normal circumstances, the paralegals have been delivering legal aid services through community meetings at large gatherings, bonanzas, Vicoba groups, at schools and places of worship, which currently have been minimized curtailed.

Since March when the government announced several restrictions including closure of schools to curb the COVID-19 outbreak, paralegals have



Legal Services Facility CEO, Lulu Ng'wanakilala speaks at a past event.

been using alternative ways in reaching out to Tanzanians.

Such means of communication includes community radios, social media, mobile phones, YouTube channels, among others. In addition, the paralegals have also been sensitizing communities on the COVID-19 pandemic and safety measures as per government guidelines, to avoid contracting the virus.

Such measures include wearing of masks, avoiding unnecessary gatherings, physical distancing and regular hand washing with soap and running water or use sanitizers. "All of our paralegals are out there sensitizing the public on how to keep safe from the coronavirus," noted the LSF CEO.

Ng'wanakilala's remarks were backed by Morogoro Paralegal Centre (MPLC)'s Executive Director Flora Masoy who said, MPLC sent a letter to the COVID-19 Regional Committee which is being headed by the Regional Administrative Secretary so that paralegals should get training on the virus' preventative measures so that they sensitize the public in turn.

"The aim was to educate the society on how to prevent themselves from contracting the coronavirus. The training was conducted successfully and now our paralegals are partnering with municipals and community health workers in educating the public," Masoy said.

Masoy said that, stakeholders have expressed concerns on how workers are spending few hours at offices with some working on a rotational basis while many others are working from home which has impacted on delivery of services except where digital platforms have been utilised.

"Paralegals have also been putting measures including wearing protective gears and masks while offering sensitization to the society and ensuring that our offices remain open but equipped with clean water and soap at all times," she noted.

During the partial lockdown announced by the government in March when schools and colleges closed down, there is a potential to see an increase in teen pregnancies associated with a spike in cases of gender-based violence (GBV).

## Private creditors pushing back against blanket debt relief for African nations

ADDIS ABABA

PROMINENT emerging market creditors have set up a new group to help heavily-indebted African nations coordinate responses to the economic impact of Covid-19, but have also criticised recent calls for blanket debt relief.

The Africa Private Creditor Working Group (AfricaPCWG) will coordinate the views of over 25 asset managers and financial institutions representing total assets under management in excess of \$9 trillion, it said in a statement on Friday.

It will provide African governments, the G20 group of major economies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other multilateral development banks a forum through which all stakeholders "can engage transparently and

constructively" on issues from the coronavirus crisis.

African governments are fighting to manage the fallout from the coronavirus, which the World Health Organisation has warned could infect between 29 million and 44 million on the continent in the first year if not contained. African countries face a combined \$44 billion debt-servicing bill this year alone.

The working group said it "stands ready to buttress efforts being made by the multilateral and bilateral sectors by offering its collective institutional experience to provide guidance and support on a case-by-case basis."

However, it added a one-size-fits-all solution would be counterproductive. The G20 has urged private creditors to match their proposal to allow the poorest nations suspend debt payments for the rest of the year.

It announced on April 15 an agreement with the Paris Club group of major creditor nations to freeze debt payments for the 77 poorest countries from May 1 to the end of the year, as requested, to free up cash for the pandemic.

But the Institute of International Finance (IIF) trade association, which previously issued a rallying call to the private sector to join the initiative, earlier this month flagged creditors' concerns to the IMF, World Bank and Paris Club about their involvement in such a move.

"A rushed, blanket approach developed during a time of crisis will put that crucial long-term access to capital at risk," the AfricaPCWG said. Farallon Capital Europe, Aberdeen Asset Management, Amia Capital, Greylock Capital Management and Pharo Management were among the members of AfricaPCWG. It declined to name the other members.

## Researchers say no proof that smokers, vapers vulnerable to COVID-19

BEIJING

RESEARCHERS from University of West Attica in Greece and New York University in the US have said that there is no proof that people who smoke or engage in vaping are more vulnerable to the coronavirus pandemic.

The researchers, Konstantinos Farsalinos and Anastasia Barbouni from West Attica University and Raymond Niaura from New York University said in their March 2020 study conducted in Wuhan, China that they found that there is a very low percentage of smokers among the Covid-19 patients.

In their report titled, 'Smoking, vaping and hospitalization for COVID-19', the authors who took samples from 2,352 hospitalized COVID-19 patients, established that there is no direct link between smoking or vaping and COVID-19 vulnerability.

"The study presents an analysis of the current smoking prevalence among hospitalized patients with COVID-19 in China, compared to the population smoking prevalence in China (52.1% in males and 2.7% in females)," the authors said in their report.

The trio argued that their preliminary analysis does not support the argument that current

smoking is a risk factor for hospitalization for COVID-19, and might even suggest a protective role. "The latter could be linked to the down-regulation of ACE2 expression that has been previously known to be induced by smoking," they wrote in their report.

The study comes in the wake of medical doctors and anti-smoking activists who argue that governments should tighten restrictions against smoking or vaping to contain the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Smoking increases susceptibility to respiratory infections and media reports suggest that it may increase the risk of being infected with acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus responsible for COVID-19. SARS-CoV-2 is known to use the angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) as a receptor for cell entry, and there is evidence that smoking down-regulates ACE2 expression in the lung and other tissues.

"China has a high prevalence of smoking (27.7%), much higher among males (52.1%) than females (2.7%). It was recently suggested that there is no strong evidence between smoking and prevalence of COVID-19 due to the low prevalence of smoking among COVID-19 patients in two studies compared to the population smoking prevalence in China.

"If you have a 50% prevalence of smoking among



males, you would expect at least a 60%-70% of male smokers among the COVID-19; on the other hand the studies show only a prevalence of 1.4% to 12.6% smokers among COVID-19 patients," the three authors stated.

An unusually low prevalence of current smoking among hospitalized COVID-19 cases in China was observed when considering the population smoking prevalence. The prevalence observed in the seven studies analyzed was less than one-third

VIEW FROM THE TOP

## Food security concerns highlight opportunity for African agriculture

JOHANNESBURG

HUNGER stalks Africa again, and at a time when the world's capacity to help is greatly diminished. For the continent's long-neglected agriculture sector, this may be a blessing in disguise.

Africa has about 60 per cent of the world's available but unused farmland, according to World Bank figures. It also has around 80 million people that need emergency food aid right now. While food poverty has long been an issue, many governments have neglected their farming potential, instead investing their energy in high value mineral or oil and gas production.

Food is mostly produced by subsistence farmers while imports of staples such as rice, wheat and maize bolster supply. Any shortfall because of drought or conflict is usually met the global community. With the world's logistic supply chain locked down amid the global pandemic, and many food producers such as India and Vietnam banning rice exports, this is no longer the case.

"Across sub-Saharan Africa, we see a trend for governments to want to move away from food imports," says Liz Whitehouse, managing director of research company Africa House in Johannesburg. "Countries are beginning to introduce incentives to improve agriculture, agro-processing and food, and to encourage beverage manufacturing locally."

Cameroon and Nigeria are among those who have an expanding list of import restricted foods, while others such as Uganda continue to explore free trade zones for agriculture that provide tax-free access for outside agro-investors.

Angola, meanwhile, recently said that the UAE is investing \$200 million in agriculture technology centres across the country. Even Zimbabwe, where more than seven million people need food assistance, wants to rebuild a modern agriculture economy. The country's experiment with land reforms, centred around the eviction of white commercial farmers, has been a disaster, leading to the destruction of the once productive industry.

Ever since the ousting of former president Robert Mugabe in late 2017, the incumbent administration under Emmerson Mnangagwa has tried to lure back skilled farmers, technicians and even financiers.

"The president personally asked me if I'd take the job, so I said yes," says

Marc Holtzman, a US banker appointed chairman of the country's largest private lending institution, the Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe, late last year.

Mr Mnangagwa has been recruiting skilled technocrats to help restore the country to nutritional independence and eventually once again become a net exporter of food. CBZ has assets of around \$1 billion, and will partner with the government to provide finance for machinery, fertiliser and other essential inputs.

For instance, the bank is backing the return of US tractor manufacturer John Deere to Zimbabwe, after a 20-year absence. A \$50m loan facility will pay for 1,800 tractors to be imported and assigned to emerging farmers.

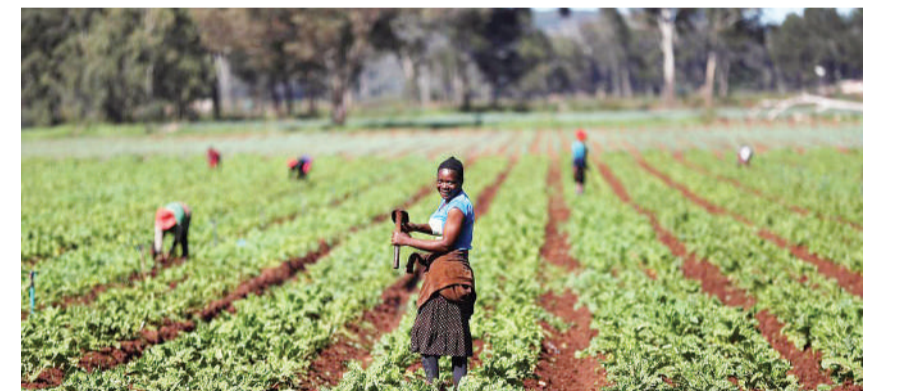
"After being economically shackled for 40 years, the economy is now ready to finally achieve its full potential," Mr Holtzman says. Nigeria, Africa's most populated country and its largest economy, has begun enforcing restrictions on food imports and the use of precious foreign exchange to pay for it. It is on track to be the world's second-largest consumer of rice behind China. In spite of a large sector of subsistence farmers growing rice, the country still depends on imports to meet demand.

"Why doesn't Nigeria mill rice at an industrial scale? Because it's cheaper to import," says Kalu Aja, chief executive of AfriSwiss Capital Assets in Abuja. "This is because power supply is weak, infrastructure non-existent and the local currency is still too strong."

Right now, supermarkets in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi stock butter from Belgium and chicken eggs from France can be found in Accra, Ghana. Canned tomatoes from China and Italy are commonplace across the continent.

Growing these products would be entirely possible in Africa's fertile soil but agriculture is every bit as dependent on roads, ports and electricity supply as mining, oil and gas - Africa's primary source of foreign exchange. Without a reliable way to store and move fresh produce, commercial farming for export becomes impossible.

Likewise, the vague laws many African countries have around land title also make long-term investment difficult. Until recently, African governments have been reluctant to address these issues, which require money, and the political will to subvert traditional tribal land ownership laws.



the effect of smoking status on disease progression, complications and death among hospitalized COVID-19 patients. Smokers are more likely than non-smokers to suffer from comorbidities, such as cardiovascular disease, which are risk factors for adverse COVID-19 outcomes.

"It has been reported that medications such as ACE-inhibitors, which are commonly used in patients with hypertension and cardiovascular disease, up-regulate ACE2. It remains unclear whether smoking per se or other factors related to comorbidities may be responsible for an adverse outcome," the Chinese study established.

Considering the above-mentioned uncertainties, the generalized advice on quitting smoking as a measure to improve health risk remains valid but no recommendation can be currently made concerning the effects of smoking on the risk of hospitalization for COVID-19.

An important issue that also needs to be addressed is the effect of e-cigarette use on COVID-19 risk, particularly for Europe and the US where prevalence of use is higher compared to China. "No studies recording e-cigarette use status among hospitalized COVID-19 patients in China were identified. Thus, no recommendation can be made for e-cigarette users," the researchers alerted.

the expected prevalence, the Greece and US based researchers noted.

"Only two of the studies reported the proportion of former smokers among patients, which was particularly low (1.9% and 5.0%). Another limitation is that differences in smoking prevalence exist between age groups, particularly considering that hospitalization for COVID-19 may be more likely for older people," the authors observed.

The study also has implications when examining



## WORLD

# Vatican, Italy start return to religious normal as public Masses resume

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis inaugurated the full reopening of St. Peter's Basilica yesterday and Catholic churches held public Masses for the first time in two months in the latest easing of Italy's coronavirus restrictions.

Francis said a private Mass in a side chapel where St. John Paul II is buried to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the late Polish pope's birth.

The basilica, which on Friday underwent a sanitising to make it as coronavirus-free as possible, later opened

to the public for Masses by priests on other side altars after the pope had left.

Signs in English and Italian told those entering that they had to keep at least 1.5 metres (five feet) apart, wear masks and sanitize their hands.

Churches throughout Italy began holding Masses under strict new guidelines worked out between the country's bishops and government.

The faithful will have to wear masks. Priests can celebrate most of the Mass without masks but they will have to wear one, as well as gloves, when they



Pope Francis walks inside St. Peter's Basilica to lead a private Mass in a side chapel where St. John Paul II is buried, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the late pope's birth, on the day of the full reopening of the basilica as the Vatican eases measures put in place during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, at the Vatican yesterday. Vatican Media/Handout via REUTERS

distribute the communion wafer. The communion is to be given in the hand and not the mouth.

On Sunday, the pope urged Italian to observe the new norms "in order to defend each other's health and the health of the people".

But, according to an Italian reporter inside the basilica on Monday morning, at least one priest at a side altar did not wear gloves or a mask while giving communion.

Technically, St. Peter's has remained open during the Italian lockdown which began in early March, although only for private prayer. Only very few people have entered because of increased security to avoid gatherings in the square outside.

The Vatican has not yet announced when the pope will say a Mass from the main altar before the public. His services since early March have been held in an almost empty chapel in his residence and streamed live on the internet or on television.

The Vatican has said that when St. Peter's is open for large Masses on Sundays and holy days, thermal scanners will be used to check the temperatures of those going inside.

Agencies

## Xi replies to letter from Pakistani students studying in Beijing

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping extended welcome to excellent youth from all countries in the world to study in China in his Sunday reply to a letter from all Pakistani students studying in the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB).

In his letter, Xi (pictured) encouraged the students to communicate more with their Chinese peers and join hands with youth from all countries to contribute to promoting people-to-people

connectivity and building a community with a shared future for humanity.

Learning that the students have enriched their knowledge and made quite a few Chinese friends while studying in China, Xi said he felt happy for the achievements they have made.

"As you have felt, since the COVID-19 epidemic broke out, the Chinese government and schools have always cared for the lives and health of foreign students studying in China, providing all-round help for them," Xi noted.



The Chinese government and people put people's lives first and treat foreigners in the country the same as Chinese nationals, making

no exception in offering them care, Xi wrote. Xi said he learned that many foreign students have expressed their support to the Chinese people in various ways during China's fight against COVID-19.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed," he said, adding that China will continue providing various help to all foreign students studying in the country.

While welcoming excellent youth from other countries to study in China, Xi encouraged them to learn more about the country, communicate more with

their Chinese peers and tell the world more about the China they see. The USTB currently has 52 Pakistani students. They recently wrote about their experiences and feelings of studying in China in a letter to Xi and expressed their gratitude to the university for providing care and help for them after the COVID-19 outbreak.

They also expressed their aspirations to join in building the Belt and Road after graduation and contribute to enhancing China-Pakistan friendship.

Xinhua

## Netanyahu's new govt approved, eyes West Bank annexations

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S parliament approved on Sunday Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new unity government, ending more than a year of political deadlock, but he still faces a trial starting next week for alleged corruption.

His decision to share power with former rival, centrist Blue and White leader Benny Gantz, opens the way for Netanyahu to proceed towards a pledged annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank, land that Palestinians seek for a state.

After three inconclusive elections, the conservative Netanyahu will remain prime minister for 18 months before handing over to his new partner.

Gantz, a former armed forces chief, will be Netanyahu's defence minister and "alternate prime minister", a new position that Netanyahu will hold when Gantz takes the helm.

By assuming that "alternate" premiership once he hands over to Gantz, Netanyahu hopes to avoid having to resign under legal rules that allow a prime minister to remain in office even if charged with

a crime.

Israel's longest-serving leader, Netanyahu, 70, first came to power in 1996 and has served three consecutive terms since 2009. He goes on trial on May 24 on charges of bribery, breach of trust and fraud, which he denies.

"The people wanted unity, and that is what it got," Netanyahu told parliament, citing a desire to steer clear of a fourth election and the need for a national battle against the coronavirus crisis.

Lawmakers ratified the new administration by a vote of 73 to 46.

West Bank

Netanyahu can now push forward his plan to extend Israeli sovereignty to Jewish settlements and the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank, territory Palestinians want for their own independent state.

"These regions are where the Jewish nation was born and rose. It is time to apply Israeli law on them and write another great chapter in the annals of Zionism," he said.

But while Netanyahu has set July 1 as a starting point for cabinet discussions on the highly contentious issue, there is no publicly stated



A handout picture released by the Israeli Knesset (parliament) spokesperson's office on Sunday, shows Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) and alternate PM Benny Gantz during a swearing-in ceremony of the new government in Jerusalem. (AFP)

deadline for annexation of land that Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Palestinians have vehemently opposed such a move, urging international sanctions against Israel in response. It would be certain to heighten tensions in the West Bank

and Gaza.

"These colonial and expansionist positions confirm once again his (Netanyahu's) ideological enmity towards peace," the Palestinian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"Annexation means one thing: Peace will not be possible between

Israelis and Palestinians and cannot be done between Israel and the Arab countries," Secretary General of the Palestine Liberation Organization Saeb Erekat said in a press statement, reports Xinhua.

Gantz, 60, had cited the criminal charges against Netanyahu after the latest election in March when he again pledged to his own voters that he would not serve in a government with the veteran conservative leader.

Angering many of his supporters and splitting his own party, he made a deal in the end, saying the coronavirus crisis made national unity an imperative.

The new cabinet will have a record 36 ministers. Several new posts have been created to ensure both Netanyahu and Gantz can bring loyalists on board.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid ridiculed the public-health rationale behind the coalition, noting the number of Israeli COVID-19 victims on ventilators had fallen so steeply that the new government "could place a minister next to each bed".

Agencies

## Taiwan-related proposal to WHA a futile political show

BEIJING

A HANDFUL of countries have claimed that Taiwan should be invited as an observer in the upcoming session of the World Health Assembly (WHA). Such a show of political maneuvering is nothing but a futile attempt.

The insistence by these countries on discussing the Taiwan-related proposal is not about protecting the health and welfare of the people in Taiwan, but only aimed at pursuing selfish political interests by politicizing the health issue, hijacking the WHA and undermining the joint international response to COVID-19.

Taiwan's participation in the assembly must be dealt with in accordance with the one-China principle.

China's central government has made proper arrangements for Taiwan's participation in global health affairs to ensure its prompt and effective responses to local and global public health emergencies.

In January, the Chinese central government hosted Taiwan epidemic prevention and control experts traveling to the city of Wuhan in Hubei Province to observe epidemic containment efforts. As of May 15, the Chinese central government had sent 152 notifications on COVID-19 to the Taiwan region. Since 2019, following the one-China principle, 16 groups of 24 medical and health experts from Taiwan have taken part in the World Health Organization's technical activities.

The region is by no means a so-called "gap" in global anti-epidemic efforts, as Taiwan has unimpeded access to epidemic information.

The 73rd session of the WHA, scheduled from May 18 to 19, will only cover essential items including COVID-19 response and an executive board election. This shows that the goal of the member states is to focus on international cooperation to battle COVID-19.

The WHA has for many years rejected some countries' Taiwan-related proposals, demonstrating the shared international commitment to the one-China principle, an overriding trend that cannot be challenged.

Since COVID-19 broke out, Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party authorities have been hyping up the so-called "Taiwan's participation in the WHA," exposing their intention to use the epidemic to seek "Taiwan independence." Such an attempt will never succeed.

Xinhua

## Rwanda genocide fugitive lived incognito in Paris for years

PARIS

RWANDAN genocide fugitive Felicien Kabuga, whose arrest on Saturday ended 26 years on the run, was a frail, elderly man who said little to neighbours and who would take a stroll most days outside of his apartment in a well-off suburb of Paris.



Kabuga (pictured), 84, Rwanda's most wanted man with a US\$5 million bounty on his head, had been living under a false name in a five-storey apartment block in Asnieres-sur-Seine with the help of his children, according to France's justice ministry.

Police detained him early on Saturday. "I would see this man going out, maybe once a day, alone or with someone," said Jean-Yves Breneol, 72, a resident in the same block where Kabuga lived. "He wouldn't say a word, nothing." Breneol said he thought Kabuga might have lived in the building for four or five years.

"We didn't know his name, nothing," he continued. It is not known how or when Kabuga entered France.

But neighbours said they were stunned to learn that a man wanted by a United Nations tribunal on seven criminal charges including genocide and incitement to commit genocide, all in relation to the 1994 Rwandan genocide, had been living among them. "What's happened is shocking," said a second resident in the building who identified himself only as Jean-Guillaume, who added that Kabuga appeared weak. "He was an old man, very old. He was sick."

Reuters could not find any public comment made by Kabuga over the years about the charges. It was not immediately known if he has a lawyer in France.

Kabuga is now being held in La Sante prison in central Paris. At the foot of an imposing outer wall made of stone and bristling with security cameras, a coat of arms in the tricolor of the French national flag hangs beside a reception kiosk.

Kabuga's arrest marked the end of a more than two-decade long hunt that spanned Africa and Europe.

A Hutu businessman, he is accused of creating and making contributions to a fund that raised finances to pay the youth militias that would slaughter some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus, as well as importing huge numbers of machetes, according to the UN tribunal's indictment.

Agencies

# How much longer will Pompeo's 'excitement' show last?

THE COVID-19 pandemic spreading worldwide is a crisis for all human beings that needs to be addressed with courage and quick response in solidarity.

However, some U.S. politicians including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo are reacting with inexplicable excitement out of their political motives, totally ignoring the human tragedy happening in their country exacerbated by the spiking death numbers.

Pompeo (pictured) fabricated lies to attack China on multiple occasions, because he just hopes to sell his aggressive and dangerous China policy, even at the price of people's lives, when the pandemic is causing psy-

chological impacts on the American society.

Analysts in the U.S. pointed out that Pompeo did nothing to respond to the pandemic, but spent most of his energy on accusing China, repeatedly using the term "possibility" to spread lies to attack China and confuse the public.

It was commented by the media that the top U.S. diplomat has brought a total disgrace, as well as a loss of international credibility to his country. He made up lies that the virus was leaked from a Wuhan lab, instigated other countries to claim compensations from China, and hyped the so-called non-transparency of China's epidemic data.

Those who tracked Pompeo's open remarks during the COVID-19 pandemic believe that the proportion of lies in his speeches has broken world record.

Scott Ritter, a former U.S. Marine Corps intelligence officer said on news site Russia Today that the U.S. intelligence had been used to support the groundless theory that Iraq housed weapons of mass destruction, and those who have knowledge of this would dread many of Pompeo's remarks.

Facing the health crisis, China has always been open, transparent and



responsible. It takes the most comprehensive, strict and thorough containment measures with all-out efforts to curb the spread of the virus, and is actively engaged in international cooperation. China's efforts and role are conspicuous.

On the contrary, Pompeo's immoral remarks would only cost the international credibility for the U.S. and make his country a butt of joke.

He was opposed by America's allies at a previous G7 foreign ministers' meeting when associating the novel coronavirus with China. Some European diplomats told media that Pompeo's requests had touched the "red line", and Europe would never "agree with this branding of this virus

and trying to communicate this."

Former U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice gave a more explicit comment, saying Pompeo's practices were "shameful". She stressed the reality that viruses can arise in any corner of the globe, then spread to any corner of the globe.

The arrogance that ignores justice, the practices that stir up troubles, as well as the tricks that sow discords are the prominent labels placed by Pompeo on American diplomacy. The typical Pompeo-style diplomatic provocation once again exposed itself when the U.S. high-ranking official groundlessly slandered the World Health Organization (WHO) lately. The international society opposed

the U.S. defunding to the WHO, but Pompeo went farther, saying the organization needs a "fundamental reform" and the U.S. may never restore funding to the UN body.

Such practices conducted when the world is undergoing a global public health crisis are nothing but a heavy blow to international cooperation. Magazine The American Conservative said in an article titled "A Failed Secretary Of State" that the only thing that seems to interest Pompeo is in affixing blame to and scoring points against other states. It noted that his tenure has been defined by issuing lots of unrealistic ultimatums and flinging lots of undiplomatic insults.

People's Daily





## I was not afraid of anything during the epidemic: Moroccan student in Wuhan

I have stayed in Wuhan instead of going back home with the evacuation flight arranged by my country's embassy and have donated 5,000 yuan to help my school fight against the epidemic. The decision was made because China is like my second home.

Currently studying for my PhD degree in E-commerce at Wuhan University, I've been living in this city for six years. As a student from Morocco, I have won several awards in my second home, including the title of Wuhan promotion ambassador 2017 and outstanding African student in China 2018.

Many Chinese people appreciate me standing with them in this crucial time. I even found fight against the epidemic about myself in Baidu. I felt that Chinese people were so delighted because I chose to stay with them.

I also received many messages in WeChat and Weibo from Chinese friends who were so thankful. A comment from a Chinese teacher impressed me a lot - She was telling her students about me and encouraging them to learn from my story.

I was so happy when all Chinese people were saying thanks to me and when I saw various articles saying that I showed my solidarity and love for Chinese people. I will never forget these memorable moments of my life.

I am very grateful for the attitude of the Chinese government and the public toward foreigners in China. They have been working hard to facilitate us in every possible way during this epidemic.

Most foreign students have appreciated the efforts and measures taken by the Chinese government and Wuhan University during the epidemic. I've never seen any foreigner complain of anything amid the epidemic. All are happy about the fact that they are safe here in China due to the country's proper emergency measures.

China has shown the world how to fight against this deadly disease by giving proper instructions and taking efficient containment measures. I

admire the way all doctors and paramedical staff did their duties to fight against this virus.

China took effective measures to control the deadly COVID-19 epidemic, such as lockdown, isolation, testing, tracking, and treatment of infected ones.

China proved to be a fighter. The way the nation fought against this epidemic is indescribable. The Chinese people are hardworking and passionate about every task they hope to achieve.

Some Western politicians have been blaming China for the pandemic. I cannot accept their accusations. In my opinion, all those are not true. The West's attacks were launched only because of their concerns about China's rapid development. Instead of blaming China, all members of the international community should appreciate China and learn from China about how to deal with this deadly virus.

I have full confidence in China's future development. China's successful response to the epidemic has been reflected in various domains including medical, economic, and public relations terms. Although the Chinese economy slowed down in the first quarter of 2020, I don't think it will stay stagnant for any other quarter. In my understanding, the Chinese economy is highly resilient, and the impact of the epidemic on the Chinese economy is likely to be temporary.

In addition to the Chinese authority's proper handling with the epidemic, I was not afraid of anything during this whole situation also thanks to my family, especially my mother who has always supported and encouraged me. It was my mother's suggestion that I should stay in China.

I have been following the latest updates about the virus every day through news and some authentic WeChat groups. People's Daily, CGTN and China Daily were the most followed news reporting platforms. My mother has also followed the CGTN every day.

People's Daily

## Trump fires back after Obama swipes at his coronavirus response

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump fired back on Sunday at his predecessor, Barack Obama, who swiped at how the current administration has handled the coronavirus outbreak.

"Look, he was an incompetent president," Trump said of Obama, after returning to the White House by Marine One. "That's all I can say. Grossly incompetent." In a tweet later, the Republican called the Obama administration "one of the most cor-

rupt and incompetent in U.S. history," claiming that Obama and his deputy, Joe Biden, are the reasons why he's in the White House.

The comments came a day after Obama, a Democrat, issued a thinly veiled criticism of the Trump administration's handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

"More than anything, this pandemic has fully, finally torn back the curtain on the idea that so many of the folks in charge know what they're doing,"

Obama said during a virtual commencement speech on Saturday. "A lot of them aren't even pretending to be in charge."

In a private call with supporters earlier this month, details of which was leaked to media outlets, Obama called the Trump administration's coronavirus response "an absolute chaotic disaster." "It's part of the reason why the response to this global crisis has been so anemic and spotty," Obama reportedly said.

Xinhua

## China plans nucleic acid testing for all overseas arrivals

BEIJING/CHANCHUN/WUHAN/HARBIN/SHANGHAI

NUCLEIC acid testing should cover all inbound personnel and those involved in transferring inbound travelers, a Chinese health official said Monday.

Prevention measures, including closed-loop management, should be strengthened to prevent cases transmitted locally in light of the evolving situation overseas as people-to-people exchanges and economic cooperation may increase, Mi Feng, spokesperson for the National Health Commission, said at a press conference.

China is facing growing pressure to prevent imported cases, Mi said, adding that the number of daily new confirmed cases worldwide exceeded 100,000 for the first time on Sunday, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to more than 4.52 million. Mi's remarks came as the commission said Monday it received reports of seven newly confirmed COVID-19 cases on the Chinese mainland Sunday, of which four were imported cases reported in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

Three cases were transmitted domestically, with two reported in Jilin province and one in Shanghai, the commission said in its daily report.

For the two cases in Jilin, reported in the city of Jilin, the cases were close contacts of earlier confirmed cases, local health authorities said.

As for the other case in Shanghai, the infected patient is a job seeker from the city of Qianjiang, central China's Hubei province, who came to Shanghai on May 14. On May 15, he voluntarily went to a medical institution to apply for a serological test and results showed that he had tested positive for the virus.

He was isolated on the same day and started to show symptoms during the period. On May 17, he was given a nucleic acid test by the Municipal Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the result was positive.

A total of 20 people in close contact with the patient in Shanghai have been tracked and put under isolated observation. All places where the patient had visited have been disinfected.

Meanwhile, the commission said one suspected case from abroad was also reported in Shanghai.

No deaths related to the disease were reported on Sunday, according to the commission. On Sunday, 11 people were discharged from hospitals



A medical worker takes a swab sample from a resident in the city of Shulan, Jilin province, on Sunday. (XINHUA)

after recovery, while the number of severe cases dropped by two to eight.

As of Sunday, the overall confirmed cases on the mainland had reached 82,954, including 82 patients who were still being treated, and 78,238 people who had been discharged after recovery.

Altogether, 4,634 people had died of the disease, the commission said.

By Sunday, the mainland had reported a total of 1,704 imported cases. Among those cases, 1,659 had been discharged from hospitals after recovery, and 45 remained hospitalized with two in severe conditions. No deaths from imported cases had been reported.

The commission said four people, all from overseas, were still suspected of being infected with the virus.

According to the commission, 4,970 close contacts were still under medical observation after 246 people were released from medical observation Sunday.

Also on Sunday, 18 new asymptomatic cases, including two from abroad, were reported on the mainland. No cases were re-categorized as confirmed ones, and 85 asymptomatic cases, including one from overseas, were released from medical observation. The commission said 448 asymptomatic cases, including 31 from overseas, were still under medical observation.

Jilin

Other than the two newly confirmed COVID-19 cases transmitted locally, there were no new reports of asymptomatic cases in Jilin on Sunday, according to the provincial health com-

mission.

Three asymptomatic cases were still under medical observation by Sunday, according to the commission.

By Sunday, the province had reported a total of 127 locally transmitted confirmed cases, including two deaths and 103 recoveries.

There were still 22 patients receiving treatment in hospital, all in the city of Jilin, and 1,117 close contacts of locally transmitted cases under medical observation.

Shanghai

In Shanghai, the municipal health commission said a total of 326 imported cases had been reported in Shanghai by Sunday. Among them, 17 patients remain in hospital for treatment with one in critical condition. Four suspected cases are still under screening. The municipality has so far reported 340 confirmed cases transmitted locally by Sunday, including seven deaths.

Hubei

No new confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported in Hubei Sunday, the provincial health commission said Monday.

By Sunday, Hubei still has six confirmed COVID-19 cases, all in the provincial capital of Wuhan, including one in severe condition and one in critical condition.

The province reported 14 new asymptomatic cases Sunday while 77 were released from quarantine. The total number of such cases under medical observation was 337 by Sunday.

Xinhua

## AU, UN appeal for stable, peaceful environment for Burundi elections

UNITED NATIONS

AHEAD of the presidential and local elections in Burundi on Wednesday, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) on Sunday urged the authorities to provide a safe and secure environment for citizens to cast their votes.

In a joint statement, the partners said that they have been following the electoral campaign and remain concerned about reports of "intimidation and violent clashes between supporters of opposing sides."

"The two organizations encourage all entities involved in organizing the May 20, 2020 elections, the defense and security forces and state-owned media to fully contribute to preserving a stable and peaceful environment, pre-requisite for free, inclusive, fair, transparent and credible elections in Burundi," the statement said.

"They urge all political actors to refrain from all acts of violence and hate speech, and resort to dialogue, to enable the holding of consensual and peaceful elections. They also encourage the Burundian authorities to ensure and facilitate the full participation of women during this electoral process."

The AU Commission and the UN Secretariat also called on political parties to abide by the Code of Conduct they signed in December.

Authorities in the East African country were also urged to implement preventive measures to protect citizens from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, a UN Commission of Inquiry expressed alarm over violence and human rights abuses in the run-up to the vote.

Xinhua

## US seeks to militarise space – Roscosmos head

MOSCOW

THE US seeks to militarize the space, Russian Space Agency head Dmitry Rogozin said, commenting on SpaceX CEO Elon Musk's statement on launching 10,000 missiles to Mars to change the planet's climate.

"Apparently, the US seeks to militarize the space," Rogozin tweeted. "It is unlikely they will blow up Mars, but it is an obvious pretext to put thermonuclear weapons in space."

Earlier, Musk suggested terraforming Mars by conducting a series of thermonuclear explosions at the Mars' poles. According to Musk, this would lead to evaporation of frozen carbon dioxide that the poles' ice caps are made of.

The evaporated gas would make the planet's atmosphere denser and cause a greenhouse effect, which would lead to heightened temperature.

In response, Roscosmos executive director on perspective programs and science Alexander Bloschenko said that this project would take about 10,000 launches of the most powerful carrier missiles. Musk responded by saying that this should not be a problem.

Agencies

## Senior Russian diplomat warns West will pay high price for sanctions during pandemic

MOSCOW

POLITICIANS in Western states should take stock of the price their economies will pay for anti-Russian sanctions during the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told an online lecture for students of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations.

"We don't recognize US sanctions and we largely don't pay heed to them. They are no less detrimental to the economies of the United States and the

European Union countries, which imposed restrictions under Washington's pressure, than to us," Ryabkov said.

Western politicians should mull over whether it is worth worsening business situation in their countries and depriving people of jobs amid the economic crisis, which is obviously inevitable, the senior diplomat said.

According to Ryabkov, although the US is at the epicenter of the pandemic, some politicians there are still focused on the anti-Russian policy. "Even in such conditions, they are thinking how to accuse Russia and invent new sanc-

tions against us instead of how to help their own citizens. This echoes the Cold War thinking and certainly this is the result of the current domestic political struggle and election campaign."

The senior diplomat noted that the fact that Russian-US relations have fallen hostage to internal political rivalry in the United States is a familiar phenomenon. "As the next presidential election in the US due on November 3 is approaching, the new outbursts of anti-Russian manifestations cannot be ruled out. The Americans are unlikely to benefit from this behavior

of their politicians. I want to emphasize that we have never asked and are not requesting to lift sanctions against Russia," he noted, recalling that today some 314 Russians individuals and 496 Russian legal entities have been targeted by US restrictions.

US-China rift

Even when the coronavirus pandemic in the world is over, US-China political tensions will remain high, Sergei Ryabkov believes.

WHO would like to receive invitation from China to investigate the origin of

coronavirus

"I do not think that even when the COVID-19 subsides and the world situation begins to return to normal we will see an easing of political rifts between the United States and China. Regrettably, the US counterparts must have developed the delusion that in the current circumstances, in the current period in history they have laid their hands on extra resources and that certain opportunities have opened up for trying to address certain geopolitical tasks on the terms they find the best," Ryabkov said.

Agencies

## China's internet users reach 900 million, live-streaming ecommerce boosting consumption - report

THE number of people using the internet in China reached 900 million as of March, 2020, an increase of 75 million from the end of 2018. Around 710 million Chinese people shopped online in 2019, and 37 percent of them were live-streaming shoppers, according to a report published on Tuesday by the China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC) on internet development in China.

With 900 million internet users, China now ranks first in the world, followed by India with 560 million and the US with 313 million, according to Internet World Stats. China's internet penetration rate has reached 64.5 percent, up 4.9 percent from 2018. More than 99 percent of users surf the internet via mobile phones, the report said.

Qin An, head of the Beijing-

based Institute of China Cyberspace Strategy, attributed the growth of China's internet usage to the widespread popularity of smartphones and development of the internet industry in the country.

Qin also noted that online applications play an increasingly important role in people's everyday lives.

Short videos, livestreams, ecom-

merce, online payments and other applications have reduced the threshold of internet use and enriched people's entertainment, said Zeng Yu, director of CNNIC.

As of March, 2020, 710 million people shopped online, an increase of 100 million compared to 2018. The transaction volume reached 10.63 trillion yuan (\$1.5 trillion), up 16.5 percent year on year, leading the world's largest

digital consumer market for seven consecutive years.

Among all online shoppers, about 265 million shop through watching live broadcasting on e-commerce platforms, accounting for 47 percent of livestreaming users.

Livestreaming ecommerce has become a new driver for China's online consumption by activating users' perceptual consumption

and making real-time interaction to improve users' experience and stimulate their desire to purchase, said the report.

The report also presents the income structure of Chinese internet users.

About 72 percent of internet users in China (about 650 million people) have a monthly income of around 5,000 yuan (\$715). Meanwhile, 33 percent have an income

ranging from 2001 yuan (\$285) to 5,000 yuan, and 21 percent earn less than 1,000 yuan (\$140) per month, according to the report.

CNNIC said that they conducted the survey via phone interviews with respondents selected among residents aged six or above who have used the internet in the past six months in the Chinese mainland.

Global Times





Melody Gardot

## Jazz singer Melody Gardot seeks digital orchestra to beat coronavirus blues

PARIS

AMERICAN jazz singer Melody Gardot is inviting musicians around the world to play along digitally on her new album to overcome the solitude and financial strain of coronavirus lockdowns.

For the song "From Paris with Love" on her new album, Gardot is asking orchestra musicians worldwide - strings, woodwinds or harp - to contribute remotely by playing along to a score and a backing track.

Producers will assemble the performances into what she calls a "digital global orchestra" to make it sound as if all musicians are playing together in the same room. The chosen musicians will be paid professional studio rates and royalties will be donated to charities benefiting healthcare workers.

Confined in her home in Paris, Gardot had been set to record part of her new album with the London Symphony Orchestra just before a Europe-wide coronavirus lockdown put an end to all music production.

For the video clip of the song, Gardot has invited fans to contribute short video portraits of themselves from wherever they are in the world with a sign "From (their city) with Love".

"We all worry about contagion now, but a smile

is one of the contagious issues that I would like to have," Gardot told Reuters.

"It can make us feel a little more connected despite what is going on. We cannot touch each other, we cannot travel, this is kind of a postcard," she said.

Participating musicians will receive instructions on how to record and film themselves performing the piece at home and can file their contributions till May 18 at midnight.

Gardot, who sells more records in Europe than in the United States and is very popular in France, is one of many musicians worldwide who have tried to break the barriers of lockdown by using social media for live or recorded performances.

The Grammy-nominated singer said the lockdown had knocked her out of her rhythm of constant touring, often playing several days a week, 11 months a year, but she said the isolation had been relatively bearable compared to being in hospital for a year after being knocked off her bike by a car when she was 19.

"(the lockdown) is heartbreaking in a fraternal way, but for myself I have seen rainier days," she said.

REUTERS

## Live music lifts spirits in Burkina Faso's coronavirus curfew

OUAGADOUGOU

ON stage in an empty auditorium, backed by starry lights, Patrick Kabre plucks his electric guitar and sings through a microphone to an audience many miles away.

Kabre is contributing to COVID-Live, a series of sessions by musicians broadcast in real time on Facebook to people across Burkina Faso who have been under curfew for months.

The aim is to bring some relief, in the form of song and dance, to one of the world's least developed countries, where the new coronavirus is spreading fast and a lack of resources means medical facilities are overstretched.

"The idea is to turn all our projects into little joys, which together bring great joy," Kabre said.

"To play in an empty hall is... a real challenge. But at the same time, it is something we have always done because when we compose or when we are creating, we are always imagining

that we are in front of the public."

The sessions, which have been broadcast for the past three weekends, are an extension of music festivals that Kabre and others have put together in recent years to speak out against violence.

Burkina Faso has been overrun by a jihadist insurgency since 2018, which had forced about a million people to flee their homes, many of whom are stuck in crowded camps with few protections while the pandemic rages.

Sitting on her living room sofa, Oumou Compaore watched the whole show live on her phone, singing and dancing along. She said it felt just like being there.

"This was a first for me. It was really interesting... Seeing these dancers writhing like that as well, it made me want to join them," Compaore said.

REUTERS

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Burkina Faso has been overrun by a jihadist insurgency since 2018, which had forced about a million people to flee their homes, many of whom are stuck in crowded camps with few protections while the pandemic rages.

## McIlroy, Johnson triumph as charity match offers 'normalcy'

NEW YORK

A TIE-BREAK win for world number one Rory McIlroy and teammate Dustin Johnson at the Driving Relief two-on-two charity skins match Sunday injected suspense to a course absent of fans and applause in the COVID-19 era.

Wearing microphones that captured their smack talk and frustrations, caddie-less competitors McIlroy and Johnson faced off against Rickie Fowler and Matthew Wolff, carrying their own clubs and adhering to social distancing procedures after undergoing a battery of tests and screenings.

Eager golf fans tuned in for one of the rare few live televised events, and were treated to a bit of mild trash talk early on, as McIlroy teased his 21-year-old opponent Wolff after sinking a putt for par four on the second hole.

"I think you forget I've won two FedEx Cups that totaled at \$25 million," said McIlroy. "Doesn't faze me, youngster."

That bravado was eventually tempered, however, as Fowler's seven birdies put pressure on the world number one and Johnson, the heavily favoured pair who boast five majors titles between them.

The competition came down to a closest-to-the-hole tiebreak, in which McIlroy clinched the victory despite an admirable 120-yard wedge shot from Wolff, letting out a whoop and offering his teammate an "air-five."

"These Seminole greens, the ball can do funny things when you think it's in a good place," said McIlroy, who basked in the "normalcy" of being back in competition.

"It's been awesome and it's nice to get back on the golf course."

Raising more than \$5.5 million through sponsors and donations for COVID-19 relief, the competition quickly trended on social media, as golf-starved fans reveled in seeing



Rory McIlroy of the American Nurses Foundation team, Dustin Johnson of the American Nurses Foundation team, Rickie Fowler of the CDC Foundation team and Matthew Wolff of the CDC Foundation team walk down the first fairway during the TaylorMade Driving Relief Supported By UnitedHealth Group on May 17, 2020 at Seminole Golf Club in Juno Beach, Florida. (Agencies)

their favourite players compete in unique circumstances.

"Does DJ (Dustin Johnson) legitimately not know how to carry a golf bag anymore or something?" tweeted @14Thaddeus14, as images of the 2016 U.S. Open champ's clubs hanging haphazardly from his shoulder prompted good-natured ribbing on Twitter.

Wolff's tie-dyed sneakers and handlebar mustache and Fowler's pantomime gestures to an imaginary crowd proved that the proceedings were anything but business as usual, with comedic actor Bill Murray showing off his quarantine snacks during a Skype dial-in to the telecast.

The competitors swapped out the PGA Tour-mandated slacks for shorts in the 87-degree Fahrenheit heat, as

clouds dotted the otherwise clear blue skies along the Florida coast.

As young Wolff's nerves settled and Fowler visibly reveled in the return to competition, the scene was enough to make anyone a bit jealous - including world number two Jon Rahm.

"I think we're all itching to be out there," said Rahm, dialing in to the broadcast from his Arizona home. "I sure wish I was there."

### GOLF'S RETURN

With professional sports slowly lurching back to life in empty stadiums, arenas and venues across the world, the event marked yet another incremental move forward into a new normal.

The PGA Tour is set to resume

next month in a fanless setting for the Charles Schwab Challenge in Fort Worth, Texas, with players and caddies facing a host of tests and screenings.

NASCAR also resumed Sunday at South Carolina's Darlington Raceway, and Major League Baseball is currently proposing ways in which it could salvage its 2020 season.

U.S. President Donald Trump dialed in to the golf broadcast to applaud the event, saying that live sports are good for the collective "psyche."

"We want to get it back to where it was - we want big, big stadiums loaded with people," Trump said.

REUTERS

## India won't rush cricketers back despite facilities opening



A policeman walks past a logo of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) during a governing council meeting of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at BCCI headquarters in Mumbai April 26, 2020. REUTERS

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S cricketers will not be rushed back into training even after the country gave the green light on Sunday for sports facilities to open, the national cricket board has said.

India has extended a nationwide lockdown to May 31 as it tries to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus, and while stadiums and sports complexes are reopening to allow athletes to train there will be no events staged that would draw spectators.

With travel and other restrictions in place, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said it would wait before scheduling any training camp for its contracted players.

"... the safety and well-being of its athletes and support staff is paramount and (it) will not rush into any decision that can hamper or jeopardize India's efforts in containing the spread of the virus,"

BCCI treasurer Arun Singh Dhumal said in a statement late on Sunday.

India are scheduled to tour Sri Lanka in June for a limited-overs series but that trip is likely to be postponed due to the pandemic.

India's cricketers have been cooling their heels at home during the lockdown, which has seen the Indian Premier League postponed indefinitely.

Dhumal told Reuters last week the BCCI was looking for a new window for the Twenty20 league later in the year to avoid a potential \$530 million loss.

Meanwhile, cricket's return should not be a priority while the country is fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, England fast bowler Mark Wood has said as he questioned whether everyone involved in a match would be safe.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) last month extended the suspension of the professional game until July 1 but England players

will return to individual skills-based training next week in venues across the country. The government said elite sport can return in June without spectators in attendance and the ECB is looking at hosting a three-test series against West Indies in July, possibly at 'bio-secure' venues.

"The nation wants to see sport and we want to play sport, but first and foremost it is safety first," Wood told Reuters.

"Are the players going to be safe, the overseas players, the management, caterers, cameramen, is everybody going to be alright?... Cricket sort of has to be on the back burner while every thing else gets better.

"As much as we would love to play sport and want sport back, I think it has to be about the nation and getting things back together and making sure people's safety and key workers and the NHS (National Health Service) are looked after."

The United Kingdom has over

240,000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus so far and it leads Europe with nearly 34,500 deaths.

Social distancing protocols will prevent fans from attending matches at stadiums and Wood said their absence will be felt by the players who consider them like the 12th man.

"Being a fast bowler, I would go to fine leg on the boundary edge and you are right next to the crowd there and they can give you a bit of motivation or inspiration," Wood said.

"They can make you feel like there is an extra guy in our side. That really does help and not to have that would be pretty weird. We're just going to have to create our own atmosphere out in the middle.

"It might just have to be a little more quiet on the stump cams, but you might get a better idea of what is being said. The only thing from my point of view is that I don't want to hear that ball smacking off the bat too much."

REUTERS



## European season will finish in August, says UEFA president

ZURICH

UEFA has a plan to finish the 2019-20 season by August, including the Champions League and Europa League campaigns, the European soccer governing body's president Aleksander Ceferin has said.

The majority of European league seasons were suspended in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic but a few leagues have announced plans for a restart in the coming weeks.

The French and Dutch top-flight campaigns have been cancelled but the German Bundesliga restarted on Saturday and Ceferin expects at least 80% of national leagues to finish their seasons.

"We have an idea but we have to wait for the executive committee of UEFA to confirm the dates. I can say that the European season will be finished, if everything is as it is now, in August," Ceferin told beIN Sports.

"As things look now, I'm sure... that we can finish the European season and this means UEFA competition."

"I think the majority of leagues will finish the season. The ones who will not, it's their decision. But they will still have to play qualifiers if they want to participate in the European UEFA competition."

Both the Champions League and Europa League are yet to complete their last-16 matches.

Paris St Germain, who were declared Ligue 1 champions, are looking to play their Champions League games abroad after the French government said professional sports would not be allowed to return before September.

"Paris St Germain and Lyon... will have to organise (matches) in France," Ceferin added. "If this is not possible, (they) will have to organise it at a neutral ground."

"If you cannot play in your country, then you have to organise it at a neutral ground... I don't see the reason why French authorities would not allow them to organise a match without spectators, but let's see. It's out of my power."

Euro 2020, scheduled to be hosted in 12 cities across Europe, has been postponed until next year.

"We've had conversations with nine cities and everything is set," Ceferin said. "With three cities, we have some issues. So we will discuss further. In principle, we will do it in 12 cities but if not, we are ready to do it in 10, nine or eight."

REUTERS

## Clubs must respect players' health concerns, says Allardyce

LONDON

PREMIER League clubs must reassure players there will be no repercussions if they are unwilling to risk their health by returning to action during the COVID-19 pandemic, former England manager Sam Allardyce has said.

Several players have expressed concerns about the league's plans to resume amid the novel coronavirus outbreak, which has infected more than 4.6 million people globally, causing over 310,200 deaths.

"Getting the players fit in four weeks could be done, but that's the least of their worries. I think the biggest challenge for players will be dealing with the mental side," Allardyce (pictured) wrote in a column for The Times.

"My first point of call as a manager in this situation would be to speak to all the players... find out whether they want to play or not. I'd reassure them there would be no repercussions if they decided they would find it too difficult to play."

Clubs will hold an emergency meeting later on Monday to vote on a return to group training as part of "Project Restart", which envisages a resumption in June.

"We will all want to play but we'll all want to play under safe conditions," Allardyce added.

"If they're too scared... they won't be able to perform to their best and then they'll start getting criticised. Some players won't want to play and that has to be respected."

Former Chelsea doctor Eva Carneiro said players had to be able to make decisions without fear of upsetting their club, particularly their manager.

"There are pressures on players to deliver. The manager is a boss who has immense power over your next selection," Carneiro, who left the London club after falling out with then manager Jose Mourinho, told the Times.

"We've moved away from that image of the manager being a father figure. I understand why there would be a drive to return and a lot of players will want to follow that."

"Football is high stakes but we need to lose this fear of upsetting individual entities in this COVID-19 crisis," added Carneiro, who in 2015 was reprimanded by Mourinho for running onto the pitch to treat an injured Eden Hazard.

"We need to spread understanding that this is bigger than any single club, manager or player wanting to return."



## South Korean football club sorry for 'X-rated' sex doll controversy

SEOUL

ONE of South Korea's top football clubs apologised for causing "deep concern" Monday after being accused of using sex dolls to fill empty seats at a weekend game.

FC Seoul insisted the mannequins - used in the absence of fans, who are banned because of the coronavirus - had "no connection to sex toys".

But some of the artificial spectators, deployed for Sunday's game against Gwangju FC, wore T-shirts with the logo of SoloS, a sex toy seller.

Other mannequins, which wore facemasks and were separated according to social distancing guidelines, held placards advertising the company and some of its models.

Most of them were female, but some were male.

FC Seoul said the company which provided the mannequins had previously provided them to SoloS, hence the advertising in which they were clad.

"We are sincerely sorry for causing deep concern to fans," FC Seoul said

in a statement, following uproar from fans and media.

"We have confirmed from the very beginning that they had no connection to sex toys," the club said.

But fans were not convinced. "I wonder how they even came up with this bizarre idea. This is an international disgrace," said one online critic.

Another fan added: "FC Seoul turned its stadium into a X-rated zone."

Neither the mannequin distributor nor SoloS could immediately be reached for comment by AFP.

The KLeague's new season kicked off on May 8 after being postponed for more than two months over the coronavirus pandemic, but fans remain barred.

Instead, clubs have used cardboard cutouts, placards and banners to fill up the stands.

FC Seoul won the game, held at the cavernous Seoul World Cup Stadium, 1-0.

AFP

# Bayern wins on Bundesliga return in silent stadium

BERLIN

DEFENDING champion Bayern Munich returned to action Sunday with a 2-0 win at Union Berlin as the restart of German soccer continued in empty stadiums.

Players' shouts echoed off the rows of concrete terracing around Union's stadium as Bayern moved closer to an eighth straight league title.

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge was cautiously optimistic after the league avoided major incidents on its reopening weekend.

"It's important that we are satisfied with it but that we don't ease up now," Rummenigge told broadcaster Sky, adding that soccer should stay "disciplined" to keep German politicians on side. "It allows colleagues in other countries to hope that they will also be allowed to start playing again some time."

As at all games in the Bundesliga this weekend, players wore masks when not on the field and substitutes sat apart from one another in the stands. Police were stationed outside stadiums to deter any gatherings.

Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer said it was "a question of motivation, of attitude" to succeed without fans in the stadium and that the game seemed to take longer than usual. "The minutes are always very long at a game without fans," Neuer said.

Bayern midfielder Thomas Müller wondered if his team had "a small advantage" because Union couldn't play in front of its normally fervent home crowd. Across eight Bundesliga games Saturday and Sunday, only one ended with a win for the home team, Borussia Dortmund, which beat Schalke 4-0 on Saturday.

Robert Lewandowski gave Bayern the lead with a penalty in the 40th minute following a mistimed challenge by Union's Neven Subotic. It was Lewandowski's 40th goal of the season in all club competitions. Union held off Bayern for most of the second half but Benjamin Pavard scored a second in the 80th.

Bayern restored its four-point lead over second-place Dortmund with eight games left. Dortmund hosts Bayern on May 26 in a game which could shape the title race.

Union played without head coach Urs Fischer, who had traveled to be with his family following the death of his father-in-law. The club said Fischer would only take charge of training again after he tests negative for the coronavirus twice.

Earlier, more than 1,000 Cologne fans lent shirts and scarves to a "lucky charm" support display in the stands for their team's 2-2 draw with Mainz. Else-



Karim Onisiwo, center, of FSV Mainz 05 is challenged by Cologne's Noah Katterbach during the German Bundesliga soccer match between 1. FC Cologne and FSV Mainz 05 in Cologne, Germany, Sunday, May 17, 2020. The German Bundesliga becomes the world's first major soccer league to resume after a two-month suspension because of the coronavirus pandemic. (AP Photo)

where in the city, posters were displayed attacking the restart, which some Cologne fan groups have strongly criticized.

Not everyone followed advice on "socially distanced" celebrations.

Cologne and Mainz's players marked their goals with restrained elbow bumps, but second-division Osnabrück's players and substitutes hugged in jubilation after scoring a stoppage-time goal to earn a draw against leader Bielefeld.

It was the first home Bundesliga game in 12 years for Cologne without its traditional live goat mascot. Game regulations ban mascots so Hennes IX was kept at his pen in the zoo, though he was briefly shown on a video screen before kickoff.

Fan groups are split over the restart, much like German society in general.

Many clubs have allowed fans to put banners in the empty stands for games. Some groups have taken the opportunity to call for changes in how German soccer is run.

St. Pauli, a second-division team with a largely left-wing fan base, played Sunday with a large banner along one side of the field reading, "Soccer lives through its fans. Reforms now." On Saturday a banner at Augsburg read, "Soccer will survive, your business is sick!"

Polls conducted by German broadcasters ahead of the restart consistently indicated that more Germans opposed resuming games than supported the plan. Hertha Berlin faced a backlash over its players' hands-on celebrations in its 3-0 win over Hoffenheim on Saturday. The in-

fluent state governor of Bavaria, Markus Söder, suggested the players should have avoided bodily contact as other teams did.

Hertha coach Bruno Labbadia defended his players, saying it was hard to suppress emotions and players couldn't be treated "like a church choir." The league discourages players celebrating together but won't punish them if they do.

Two more top-tier teams play Monday as Werder Bremen hosts Champions League-chasing Bayer Leverkusen.

One game was missing from Sunday's schedule. Dynamo Dresden's visit to Hannover in the second division was postponed after two Dynamo players tested positive for the coronavirus last week. The entire squad and staff must spend 14 days in isolation.

## In rarefied air... mountain villagers to lace up boots for Euro 2020

GSPON, Switzerland

DESPITE the postponement of Euro 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, a small Swiss mountain village - thought to be home to the highest pitch in Europe - is hoping to stage a scaled-down version of the tournament this summer.

The European Mountain Village Championship dates back to 2008, the same year Switzerland co-hosted the conventional tournament with neighbours Austria, and is set to return to its origins in Gspion.

The competition was the brainchild of Fabian Furrer, a Gspion native and sports magazine editor, who splits his time between Bern and this idyllic village of 585 inhabitants, where in the winter "the ski slopes run across the football pitch".

Perched atop the canton of Valais in the Swiss Alps near Zermatt, Gspion sits two kilometres above sea level and is only accessible by cable car. Its football pitch, which bears the name of former Switzerland and Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, lies buried beneath snow each year until May.

After the inaugural event won by a team from Spain, the second edition was held in 2012 in Kleinarl, Austria, at an altitude of just over 1,000 metres. French ski resort Morzine most recently staged the tournament in 2016.

Originally planned for June, much like Euro 2020, the "Bergdorf Euro" was also forced to find new dates and pushed back until August 28-30.

- Isle of Man, Netherlands invited - "When I sent a message on WhatsApp to all the coaches saying that the Euro would be postponed to the end of August, they replied 10 minutes later and they were all very positive," said Furrer.

"Nobody has the guarantee the tournament can be organised as planned, but we are very optimistic and we make sure everything will be ready."

"For this year, we have fingers crossed. I hope we can travel to Switzerland," said Gary Christian, the player-coach of Peel Skelton German, a team from the small seaside town on the Isle of Man.

Nine teams are signed up to take part. Morzine will again represent France, with Kleinarl competing for Austria and Piedimulera, from the Piedmont village in Italy, also set to make the trip.

More surprisingly, the Dutch will be there too, represented by Viljen, a village that claims to be one of the highest points in the country at 200 metres above sea level. Sweden, Germany and Belgium will also send teams.

Participants are required to meet certain criteria. Teams must be strictly amateur and play in leagues



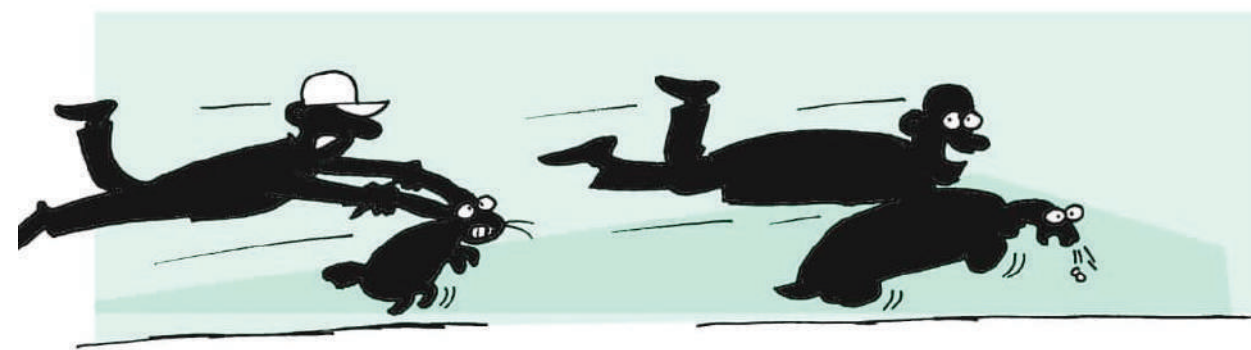
Fabian Furrer developed the idea for the tournament, which was first held in 2008 (AFP Photo)

between the seventh and 11th tiers in their respective countries "to avoid huge differences in the level of play", says Thierry

Marchand, a restaurant owner and coach of Morzine.

- "Out of breath quicker" -

Gwiji by David Chikoko



AFP



# SPORT

Bayern wins on Bundesliga return in silent stadium

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Marcel Kaheza

## Sri Lanka ready to host India, Bangladesh in July

COLOMBO

INTERNATIONAL cricket may begin in Sri Lanka as early as July, if Sri Lanka Cricket's (SLC) plans to go ahead with the forthcoming series against Bangladesh and India work out.

As of now, neither the BCCI nor the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have confirmed the tours, which will have to involve substantial logistical challenges, including having player quarantine measures in place, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, within Sri Lanka itself, curfews have begun easing, and the SLC believes their mid-year series are viable.

There are fewer than 500 active cases of Covid-19 in the island - that number having remained steady for roughly two weeks.

"We have made inquiries from both the India and Bangladesh boards and are awaiting a response from them," SLC CEO Ashley de Silva told ESPNcricinfo.

"As of now, those series haven't been postponed."

It seems likely that beyond approval from the boards themselves, Sri Lanka's government will have to get involved in lifting travel restrictions and providing bio-secure environments for the players, if the series are to go ahead.

There are also serious travel restrictions to negotiate within India and Bangladesh as well. BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal has said that until the Indian government gives teams permission to travel, the board cannot do much.

BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury, meanwhile, told ESPNcricinfo, "We have to look at traveling restrictions in Bangladesh, and the quarantine protocols in both countries. We are in discussion [with the SLC], so all the factors will come into play. We have to be mindful of the players' readiness, too, but that's going to happen. The players will get back to training, but we have to figure out other details about this tour."

India were due to visit Sri Lanka in late June for three ODIs and three T20Is, followed by Bangladesh who were scheduled to play three Tests which are part of the World Test Championship.

Sri Lanka has already postponed two home tours - a two-Test series against England, which may now take place in January next year, according to de Silva, as well as limited-overs series against South Africa.

AGENCIES

**EATV**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

**TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msoi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kofi Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

*Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.*

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM



Azam FC striker, Richard Djodi (R), negotiates his way past Polisi Tanzania defenders in this season's Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Azam FC pleased by President Magufuli's pronouncement

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

DAR ES SALAAM'S Azam FC has been pleased by a pronouncement issued by President John Magufuli, giving green light to resumption of operation at the Julius Nyerere International Airport after it had been closed in an effort to contain Coronavirus disease in Tanzania.

AZAM FC information officer, Thabit Zacharia, said despite Magufuli having recently disclosed he will likely issue permission for restart of sporting activities, the side is much pleased by the President's second pronouncement.

Zacharia disclosed Azam FC will for that matter have their

foreign professionals back.

Azam FC's foreign professionals and other professional players featuring for Tanzania clubs that are now in their respective countries have been prohibited from making their way back to Tanzania because of the government order.

"We have trully been pleased by the President's willingness to let sports activities resume. He had said this recently," the Azam FC official noted.

"What has pleased us the most is his latest pronouncement, you know we have many foreign professionals who are lately in their respective countries and they cannot make their way back to our country."

He mentioned the Azam FC

foreign professionals that are now in their respect countries as Ghanaians Razack Abalora, Yakub Mohamed and Daniel Amoah.

The list also has Uganda's Nicholas Wadada, and Zimbabweans Bruce Kangwa, Never Tegere and Donald Ngoma.

"We also have foreign coaches that can also not make their way back, head coach Aristica stica Cioaba and physio from Romania, and assistant coach from Burundi."

"They were all forced to stay in their respective countries but, after the President's pronouncement we hope to see them get back and we are impressed by that."

Magufuli had, despite ex-

pressing interest in permitting resumption of sports activities, disclosed he will give green light to the restart of flights into the country, which will, among others, bring in tourists.

The pronouncement is good news to not only Azam FC but also such other Mainland Premier League clubs, Simba SC and Yanga.

The two sides' foreign players and coaches are also lately in their respective countries because of the government order.

Simba SC's Meddie Kagere is currently in his home country Rwanda, the squad's midfielder Clatous Chama is in Zambia.

Yanga head coach, Belgian Luc Eymael is in his home country.

## Kaheza says still keen on turning professional

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

POLISI Tanzania winger, Marcel Kaheza, has said he is still thinking of playing professional soccer outside Tanzania, much as he made his way back to the country after his short stint in Kenya.

Kaheza had been on a season-long loan deal at Kenya Premier League outfit, AFC Leopards, from Tanzania's Vodacom Premier League defending champions, Simba, the previous season.

The winger was later loaned to Vodacom Premier League squad, Polisi Tanzania, this season.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Kaheza pointed out the loan deal with Polisi Tanzania is expected to end at the end of this season.

He disclosed he will look for other challenges outside Tanzania, if he will not extend his stay at Polisi Tanzania.

"It is true the loan deal is nearing completion. I have already started communicating with Polisi Tanzania and, if they will manage to extend my stay there, I will keep on playing for the squad," he noted.

The player that had been recruited by Simba from Ruvuma's Majimaji FC has netted six goals this season.

"I'm still young therefore I'm dreaming of plying my trade in various well established outfits in Africa and elsewhere," he disclosed.

"The most important thing is I have already played outside Tanzania. I know the challenges one faces there, therefore I will face them."

Kaheza had earlier turned out for Simba's youth side and thereafter headed to Majimaji FC.

He made his way back to Simba in the 2018/19 season.

He however failed to land a place in Simba's first team, given there were also highly rated foreign professionals in the squad including Meddie Kagere, and Clatous Chama.

Simba had recruited the foreign professionals in an effort to scale great heights in CAF club competitions.

The outfit, for that matter, let Kaheza head to AFC Leopards on season-long loan deal.

The winger made his way back to the country a season later and was loaned to Polisi Tanzania.

He is for that matter free to choose to either feature for any of the domestic clubs or play professional soccer outside the country.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



The most important thing is I have already played outside Tanzania. I know the challenges one faces there, therefore I will face them.