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National Pg 5

Mara police hold villager over FGM

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Police pledge cooperation with tour guides

ISSN 0856 - 5422 ISSUE No. 7930 · PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

**TANZANIA** 

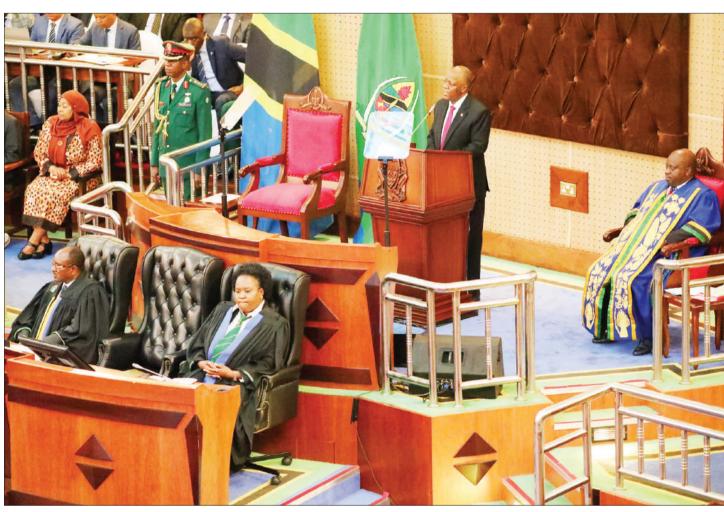
WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE, 2020

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President John Magufuli addresses legislators in Dodoma yesterday shortly before dissolving Parliament in readiness for later this year's General Election, with House Speaker Job Ndugai (R) and Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan visibly attentive. Photo courtes



#### **Uganda: Elections** set for early 2021 but no campaign rallies allowed yet

UGANDA will hold its presidential election between Jan. 10 and Feb. 8, 2021, authorities said on Tuesday, slapping restrictions it said were aimed at slowing the spread of the new coronavirus.

Simon Mugenyi (pictured), chairman of the election commission, said UEC had banned campaign rallies, urging candidates to use media instead to get their messages to voters.

Opposition parties have previously complained about restricted access to broadcast media, especially in rural areas where they say security agents bar them from appearing on political shows.

The commission will set the actual polling day, also for the National Assembly and local governments in the coming months, he said.

Uganda's health ministry has reported 823 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and no deaths. It began easing a 45-day lockdown, one of the strictest on the continent, in mid-May. Incumbent President Yoweri Museveni had said it would have been

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### Magufuli closes **1th Parliament**

**By Guardian Reporter** 

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday outlined achievements recorded in a number of sectors ranging from mining, infrastructure and power to the tourism sector during the past five years.

Dissolving the 11th Parliament in the capital, President Magufuli said his government has approved new mining regulations aimed at ensuring that the benefits of the mining sector were shared more equitably between multinational mining companies and the state.

He said that large reforms have taken place, including restricting smuggling of raw minerals out of the country, establishing mineral markets in each region and increasing the participation of artisanal miners.

He told MPs that since he took office, the government had added 3,500 kms of

tarmac road, with a new 300km standard gauge railway line between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro almost complete, while a 422-km line from Morogoro to Dodoma was a third complete.

The president said the 6.5trn/- Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) was 40 percent complete. The dam is expected to produce 2,115 megawatts of electricity. He told MPs: "This project was highly

protested (against) but we have succeeded." Commenting on wildlife conservation and tourism, Dr Magufuli said that that when he came into office rhinos and elephants were in danger of extinction, but due to a number of interventions including addressing poaching, the number of the

wild animals increased significantly. The number of rhinos has increased from 162 in 2015 to 190 in 2019, elephants increasing from 43,330 in 2014 to 51,299 in

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# JPM: All schools can open June 29

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has ordered that all schools across the country be reopened in two weeks time following a drastic drop in ccoronavirus

Officiating at the dissolution of the 11th Parliament here yesterday, he directed the reopening of all suspended activities including social gatherings

starting June 29.

The decision makes Tanzania the first East African country to open all schools and social gatherings that were closed starting March 17, one day after the country announced its first coronavirus case.

"There is no need to keep schools closed as the Covid-19 cases tally has dropped drastically.

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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.



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

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

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

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



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.



the trash.

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

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,

coughing, or sneezing; going to

preparing food.

especially after blowing your nose,

the bathroom; and before eating or

· Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and

Cover your cough or sneeze with a

tissue, then throw the tissue in

mouth with unwashed hands.

· Stay home when you are sick.

- Fever
- Cough
- · Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms

#### AND

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

cdc.gov/COVID-19

### PCCB collects campaign T-shirts with JPM photo

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Songwe Region has seized T-shirts branded with pictures of President John Magufuli and Songwe legislator, Philip Mulugo that were distributed to residents in the

PCCB said the T-shirts carried messages signifying the commencement of election

Regional PCCB commander Damas Suta told this paper that it was wrong for the MP to start distributing the campaign materials before the dates for election campaigns are announced by the National

Electoral Commission (NEC).

"This is also contrary to the ruling party's election guidelines," said Suta, referring to the CCM election regulations number 16 and 17 of 2017.

He said the seized T-shirts were handed over to the district party secretary, and the legislator will be given back his election materials when the appropriate election campaign schedule is released.

Suta said the T-shirts were written 'Papaa Mulugo Mutu ya watu' and 'JPM 2020 Tena' of which the anti-corruption body interpreted as campaigning for the coming general elections.

He said that PCCB officials are searching

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Zanzibar Health minister Hamad Rashid Mohammed (L) has an audience in Zanzibar yesterday with a delegation from Tanzania's Commission for Human Rights and

### Magufuli closes 11th Parliament

FROM PAGE 1

2019.

For the past five years the government established five new national parks-Nyerere, Chato - Burigi, Ibanda-Kyerwa, and Rumanyika-Karagwe, he pointed out.

government took several measures aimed at promoting tourist attractions in the southern circuit,

like improving roads, airports and accommodation facilities, he added

"The government has been working hard to promote Tanzania as a tourist destination to the international community by introducing a special tourism TV channel on our national television," he said.

The president further said that the number of tourist arrivals in the county also went high in the past five years.

"For example, in 2019 Tanzania received 1,510,151 tourists from 1,137,182 tourists in 2015. Earnings also went high to US\$2.6 billion in 2019 from US\$1.9 billion in 2015," he said.

"If it were not for the coronavirus outbreak, the number of tourists could have been increased even more this

Tabling Budget estimates for the 2020/2021 financial year in the House recently, the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism said the 2019 wildlife census showed an increase of elephants from 59 in 2014 to 1,200 in 2019 in the Mkomazi National Park in north eastern Tanzania.

A total of 9,085 suspected poachers were arrested in the 2019/2020 financial year and various legal measures initiated against them, he

# JPM: All schools can open June 29

Initiatives taken by the government have kept the country safe from the pandemic," said the president.

"Apart from resuming studies for primary and secondary schools, I have officially allowed other communal activities including normal weddings," he declared.

Responding to President Magufuli's order to reopen schools, Prof Joyce Ndalichako, the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, promised to elaborate on the matter today.

Speaking outside the House debating chamber, Prof Ndalichako said she will now announce the procedure for Form Four and Standard Seven examinations.

During her address the minister will provide guidelines on how the schools are supposed to reopen.

University and Form Six students returned to their respective colleges on June 1, followed by sports activities two weeks later.

The president underscored the need for Tanzanians to continue observing protocols of hygiene as instructed by health experts.

The Head of State commend MPs for not suspending its activities due to the outbreak of the coronavirus. He expressed disappointed with some legislators who left the House citing fears over the disease.

On Monday, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said there were 66 active coronavirus cases in the country, with the 66 patients hospitalised in 10 regions and 16 regions did not have an active case.

The president asserted that the country's economy will grow at 5.5 percent in the coming year despite impacts of the pandemic.

He remained optimistic that set economic goals which include transforming Tanzania into a middle income nation will be achieved by

On the October General Elections, the president promised fair and free elections, saying that elections are a crucial element in strengthening democracy, providing a platform for the government in office to measure its performance.

"The government will make sure that we hold free and fair elections. Politicians should ensure clean campaigns and avoid the use of abusive languages," he urged, asking political parties to prioritize nominating women, youth and people with disabilities to vie for various positions.

"The main tools for political parties during election campaigns should be their manifesto and policies," he said.

He applauded Speaker Job Ndugai for transforming parliamentary operations into digital format. He praised the House for properly monitoring the government and ward councilors across the country.

They played their part in supervising development activities in respective wards, he stated.

He said that the country is safe with people living peacefully. The recent global peace index highlighted Tanzania as seventh peaceful country in Sub-Saharan Africa and ranked it number one in the East African region, he pointed out.

Welcoming the president, Speaker Ndugai said the 11th Parliament had 61 legislators from Zanzibar and 287 from the Mainland.

During the past five years, 60 Bills were tabled, along with 38 declarations, 3,376 l questions asked by the lawmakers, of which 172 were directed to the premier, the Speaker elaborated.

Four special committees were formed, namely the tanzanite committee, the gas committee, the diamond committee and a special committee purposely formed to oversee fishing activities in the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) on the seaboard, he added.

### PCCB collects campaigning T-shirts with photo of JPM

FROM PAGE 1

for other T-shirts distributed to the public so as to turn them over to the party's offices.

"We are searching for the shirts in villages and streets. The move also aims to prevent people from starting the election campaigns before time," he said.

After arresting and suspending the distribution exercise, PCCB officials reported the move to partydistrict leaders including the chairman and the secretary, he stated.

Suta noted that the party's secretary general, Dr Bashiru Ally has severally said that this year that the party will not distribute T-shirts. Members will have to buy them on their own "so the act of the MP to distribute the clothes is not in keeping with that directive," he asserted.

The party chairman in Songwe District, Rabbi Hamad Juma admitted to have received information on the arrest and return of the T-shirts but he was yet to see them.

"To be honest I have heard but I have not seen the T-shirts but on the basis of our party's rules, I can say the lawmaker didn't follow the required procedure to take that action. The t-shirts did not pass through the district's party office," he explained.

When contacted for comment, Mulugo declined to speak about the matter saying he was attending parliamentary meetings in Dodoma.



Eliasenya Nnko (R), coordinator of advocacy for the rights of the elderly at the Tanzania Association of Women Leaders in Agriculture and Environment in Shinyanga Region, speaks in Shinyanga municipality yesterday on ways to protect the elderly against cruelty targeting them. Photo: Correspo

### Uganda: Elections set for early 2021 but no campaign rallies allowed yet

"madness" to hold the elections if the

pandemic persisted. In office since 1986, former rebel fighter Museveni has not confirmed

ruling National Resistance Movement Robert Kyagulanyi, also known as Bobi (NRM) party has already asked him to stand.

The strongest opposition presidential

Wine, whose angry, political music has made him a sensation.

On Monday, Wine announced an agreement was unclear, including air Besigye's advertisements during 2018.

whether he would run again, but the aspirant is pop star and lawmaker alliance with veteran opposition leader whether the two opposition parties the 2011 presidential campaign despite Kizza Besigye, who has challenged Museveni for the presidency three

would field joint candidates.

The public broadcaster Uganda times. But the substance of the Broadcasting Corporation refused to bias and won \$21,000 in damages in

being paid for the airtime. Dr Besigve later sued the public broadcaster for





Seif Shariff Hamad, national Chairman of the opposition Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo), hoists the party's flag at the Mwanzange ward

### African children remain under siege from Covid-19 - UNICEF

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

CHILDREN in Africa remain confronted by a host of threats due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said yesterday in commemorating Day of the African Child.

According to a statement issued yesterday, the direct and secondary impacts of the virus threaten to unravel the gains made for the poorest children

The UN body said that while wealthier children are able to continue learning online, barely one in five households in Eastern and Southern Africa have internet access.

the rural population - where the bulk of African learners reside - have no electricity, meaning online learning is not an option.

It further said that up to 16 million children in Africa are no longer accessing critical daily meals at school while violence is increasing, and more African children will fall into poverty.

Prior to Covid-19, it was estimated that around three out of every four children in Africa are affected by multidimensional poverty. These children are covered by social protection are deprived of the most basic things

in life, like access to sufficient food According to UNICEF, 84 per cent of and clean drinking water, going to school, being able to get medical help, sleeping in adequate shelter, going to the bathroom in a safe place, or living in an environment free of physical and emotional abuse.

> The economic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic could push up to 86 million more children into household poverty by the end of 2020, two thirds of these in Africa, according to analysis released by Save the Children and UNICEF.

> Only 16 percent of children in Africa programs, making it impossible for

families to withstand financial shocks caused by COVID-19 and furthering the cycle of intergenerational poverty, said

While the challenges are immense, UNICEF said it is collectively achieving significant regional results, including 71 million people reached with messaging on COVID-19 prevention and how to access services, 10.8 million children supported with distance/home-based learning, more than two million people reached with hand-wash supplies and two million children and women reached with essential healthcare services in UNICEF-supported facilities.

### **Mbowe: Party elders** asked me to stand as candidate in October presidential election

**By Guardian Reporter** 

FREEMAN Mbowe, national Chairman of the opposition Chadema said yesterday that his decision to vie for the Union presidency in the October General Election follows requests from the party's elders.

Mbowe said: "I was not planning to contest the presidential seat, but I have received a number of requests from party elders I should join the race."

Mbowe said he was confident of the three party cadres who have already picked nomination forms, insisting Chadema's executive committee will decide on the right candidate who will carry the party's flag during the election campaigns.

Those who have already picked the nomination forms are former Singida north legislator, Lazaro Nyalandu and Iringa Urban MP, Peter Msigwa and the party's deputy chairperson, Tundu Lissu.

Mbowe said he did not want to vie for the post because he needed enough time to work on strengthening the institution as well as preparing the party's youth to become better future leaders.

"I worked for Chadema for over 30 years, I have spent my adulthood working for the party," he said.

He insisted to ensure fairness during the party primaries so that Chadema remains strong and united even after the election process.

He said there are some party members who have not publicly announced their interest to vie for the position, but they have submitted their credentials to the party secretary general expressing intentions to contest for the Union presidency.

"We will thoroughly analyze all the

candidates to come up with the best aspirant for the higher post," he stated noting the vetting process will be transparent.

He added: "Party elders have suggested that I contest for the post, but the party's nomination procedures including vetting of aspirants must be respected. It my hope that Chadema members will not pick me because of my position in the party"

"We will nominate anyone who we think is capable of leading the nation," he noted.

On June 3, the party's secretary general John Mnyika said the party's process to choose presidential candidate would follow the party's guidelines, which calls on all those who are interested to submit their credentials to the office of the secretary-general.

The interested party members have up to June 15 to submit their papers, he

He said the procedures to be followed would be announced in due course including the election schedule which would include the taking and return of sponsorship forms.

According to him, there will be procedures for the presidential election and the entire nomination process that will run from the executive committee sessions and then be forwarded to the general council.



I worked for Chadema for over 30 years, I have spent my adulthood working for the party

#### **BERLIN**

THE German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has provided US\$5.9million to with having to feed more Nacer Benalleg. can continue to protect 1.2 spread of COVID-19. million vulnerable African farmers with climate risk insurance amid Covid-19.

Gernot Laganda, WFP Chief of Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes said that the donation comes at a crucial time when Covid-19 pandemic keeps colliding with the climate crisis.

"While the immediate priority of many countries is to protect people and prevent the spread of Covid-19, it is essential to have safety nets in place that protect vulnerable people from the double threat of the virus and climate impacts," he said, adding:

"Heatwaves, floods, storms and droughts are compounding the economic and public health effects of the pandemic, putting additional burden on overstretched health services."

"Germany's donation will enable these countries to strengthen their safety nets and manage two hazards at the same time."

With funding from BMZ's COVID-19 emergency response, WFP will be able to purchase policies for Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania and Zimbabwe for the 2020/21 agricultural season.

If these countries experience climate shocks that damage crops this year or the next, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will be compounded and less food will be available in the markets, which could lead to food crises. This will create a situation where countries are faced

## Germany dishes out US\$5.9 million to help vulnerable African farmers

Food Programme (WFP) time trying to control the faster to help our partner health responses." government at a difficult "This is why this insurance time, when the countries of will fund insurance coverage could support 'double the world need to support for around 108,000 people resilience' for vulnerable each other. If a drought in Mauritania; 175,000 people. It is protecting them occurs next season, having people in Burkina Faso; from both hunger and the a payout from our climate 45,000 people in the impacts of COVID-19 on risk insurance policy would market access," said WFP free up budgetary resources Mauritania Country Director that Mauritania would have Zimbabwe.

ensure that the UN World people while at the same "We can act much between food security and

This German donation Gambia; 745,000 people in Mali and 266,000 people in



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP/2020/SUP/028)** 

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FRAME AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF OFFICE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR **UNHCR REPRESENTATION OFFICE DAR ES SALAAM** 

#### Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Dar es Salaam invites qualified Service Provider to make a firm offer for the establishment of Frame Agreement(s) for the provision of Office Repair and Maintenance Services for UNHCR Representation Office Dar es Salaam.

#### 1. Requirement purpose:

UNHCR may award Frame Agreement(s) with initial duration of 2 (two) years, potentially extendable for a further period of 1 (one) year, for supplying its operations in Tanzania. The successful bidders will be requested to maintain their quoted price model for the duration of the Frame Agreement(s).

The complete set of documents can be collected from the following UNHCR Offices:

UNHCR Representation Office Tanzania Plot 1658 Masaki, Rufiji Street P.O Box 2666 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

UNHCR Sub- Office Kibondo Kabigwa (Near TANESCO) P.O. Box 49, **Kibondo** 

P.O. Box 332 - Kasulu, Kigoma

**UNHCR Field Unit Mwanza** Mwanza Airport P.O. Box 2273 - **Mwanza** 

UNHCR Field Office Kigoma Kheri Avenue, Off Bangwe Road UNHCR Field Office Kasulu P O Box 1213, Kigoma Kimobwa (Mlimani Area)

#### CRUCIAL DATE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for RFP clarification	Thursday 2nd July 2020 at 16.00 hrs EAT
Deadline for submission of offers	Thursday 16th July 2020 at 16.00 hrs EAT

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.



#### **ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION UTILITY CUSTOMER CONNECTION SPECIALIST** (SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR 1) **TANZANIA**

RTI International, a non-profit research and international development project execution -was - awarded the East Africa Energy Program (EAEP) Task Order which was the second task order to be released under USAID's Power Africa extension mechanism. It involves regional technical support to Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and Tanzania with possible additional advisory support for Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Somalia, Eritrea, and Djibouti.

The Power Africa East Africa Energy Program is tasked with expanding affordable and reliable electricity services throughout the region with the goal of supporting development priorities including inclusive economic growth, security, and improved health and education outcomes. RTI International is implementing this activity designed to address critical opportunities across the following major program objectives: optimization of the power supply, increased grid-based power connections, strengthened utilities and other power sector entities, and increased regional power trade.

An important part of this project is helping the electrical distribution utilities in Ethiopia and Tanzania connect additional customers across all three customer classes: residential, commercial, and industrial. The project is tasked with characterizing existing processes, procedures, and materials currently used to identify and connect new customers and provide service improvements. Additionally, the project is supporting implementation of these new procedures to facilitate the expeditious connection of 4 million new customers over the life of the project. Power Africa East Africa Energy Program seeks a technical advisor to support TANESCO in Tanzania.

#### Roles and Responsibilities:

The Electrical Distribution Utility Customer Connection Specialist will be responsible for overseeing the characterization and analysis of existing utility processes for connecting new customers and developing improved connection practices. This includes all procedures, practices, and software systems, as well as all mechanisms used to identify new customers and prioritize their connection, i.e. scheduling, performing, inspecting, and managing the supply chain for meters, service drops, and all other required materials.

She/he will be responsible for identifying and rectifying bottlenecks in the current processes and procedures. These bottlenecks may be shortcomings of materials, poorly trained personnel, or inefficient or missing procedures. She/he will identify and characterize changes to be made to existing practices, prioritizing them based on cost, ease of implementation, and expected impact. She/he will identify any training requirements of existing staff and any need for additional staff, if necessary. The candidate will support staff training and provide oversight of utility teams in the implementation of improved procedures.

#### Qualifications and Experience:

- · University degree in engineering, energy or related field
- A Master's Degree will be a significant advantage
- Minimum 10 years of general professional experience, with at least 4 years in electrical distribution systems.
- Experience in Distribution system dispatch operations, network management, smart metering and smart grids Experience in electricity smart management and metering systems, knowledge of energy efficiency policies and regulations
- Experience in customer connections, supply chain management, scheduling, project management and oversight Demonstrated international experience in utilities outside of Tanzania, as well as knowledge of best practices, norms, and standards
- Prior experience with donor project management policies, procedure and reporting requirements, particularly USAID is highly desired.
- Strong writing and communication skills in English are required. Oral and written communication skills in Kiswahili is highly desirable.

The ideal candidate will possess excellent interpersonal, cross-cultural communication skills, and the ability to interact professionally with culturally and linguistically diverse staff, clients and consultants. A demonstrated ability to set and deliver on priorities as well as strong computer skills are required for contributing to written and visual documents, reports, presentations, and project debriefing meetings.

Application process: Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae via

no later than June 22nd, 2020 by 5.00 p.m. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. RTI International is an equal opportunity employer and female candidates are highly encouraged to apply

\*No applicant will ever be asked for any payment either to secure a role with RTI International or as a follow-up to having been awarded a position with RTI International. If anyone ever approaches you asking for any such payment, please immediately email ethics@rti.org

### Guardian

#### **NATIONAL.NEWS**

# Rwanda, Kenya address truck standoff on Tanzania borders

#### By Special Correspondent, Kampala

RWANDA and Kenyan transport officials are expected to hold fresh talks separately with their Tanzanian counterparts over continuing truckers stalemate at their respective borders.

Tanzania cross-border cargo truck owners want unconditional access into Rwanda, protesting the Covid-19 control measures requiring them to terminate their trips at the Rwanda border, with exception of perishables and petroleum products as per the deal reached by the governments on May 15.

According to media reports, the Tanzania Truck Owners Association has requested the government to hold talks with neighbouring countries and review its members claim that their Covid-19 certificates are being rejected at the borders while others have to wait for long to offload cargo at the

Namanga (with Kenya) and Rusumo (Rwanda) borders.

Rwanda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Vincent Biruta confirmed to Press that parties were expected to meet, on a date yet to be set.

He, however, did not reveal the specific demands presented by Tanzania, and whether the talks signal a setback to the previously reached

"It will be a follow up on the implementation of the resolutions of the previous bilateral meeting with Tanzania," he said through the office of the government spokesperson.

On the Tanzania-Kenya borders, the situation is the same, as drivers from the two countries are stranded and cannot enter or exit both sides at the Namanga and Holili/Taveta One Stop Border Posts.

Tanzania's Transport Minister Isaack Kamwelwe told journalists the two countries are making arrangements to have talks to settle the matter.

Kenva and Tanzania had earlier agreed that truck drivers were to be tested in their countries of origin and given clearance certificates to allow them easier crossing. However, last week Kenyan officials rejected Tanzania's certificates, causing the pile up of trucks as Tanzania also



It will be a follow up on the implementation of the resolutions of the previous bilateral meeting with Tanzania

#### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA President's Office

#### TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



#### **REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST** (CONSULTING SERVICES - INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Country:

Name of Project: Productive Social Safety Net Project II (PSSN II) **Assignment Title: Director of Finance and Administration** 

Reference No. TZ-TASAF-174854-CS-INDV

- 1. The Government of the united republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Productive Social Safety Net II. This project will be jointly financed by the Agency for International Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, International Fund for Agriculture Development, The government of NORWAY and OPEC. The Tanzania Social Action Fund the implementing agency for this Project intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
- 2. The consulting services ("the Services") objective is to manage the financial, accounting and administration functions of the Project as specified in the Financing Agreement and the project documents but not limited to the project appraisal document (PAD) and the Operational Manual.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: www.tasaf.go.tz and can be obtained at the address given below.
- The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) now invites eligible Individual Consultant ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide CVs demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The Individual Consultant must have the following qualifications and skills.
  - Holder of Master's Degree in Finance, Accounting, Business Administration, Human Resources Management, Public Administration, or any other related field from recognized university.
  - Must possess internationally recognized accounting professional qualification such as CPA (T), ACCA, CIMA or other related profession.
  - Must be registered with the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) in the category of Associate Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) or Fellow Certified Public Accountant (FCPA). At least ten (10) years' experience in finance, human resource and administration in Public and / or
  - Private Sectors of which seven (7) years must be at senior managerial position.
  - Must have a working knowledge of computerized Accounting systems.
  - Must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of and experience with donor funded project
  - High level of communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work with people at all levels. .
  - Ability to supervise, train and coach staff in relevant skills.
  - Self-motivated with integrity and high level of confidentiality
- 5. The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8.00 to 16.00 Local Time on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on Public Holidays.
- 7. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.
- 8. Expressions of interest enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and curriculum vitae must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail by 9th July, 2020.

The Executive Director, Tanzania Social Action Fund, **Board of Trustee of PSSSF Building,** Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road, P. O. Box 2719, Dodoma, Tanzania Tel: +255 26 2963866 Fax: +255 26 2963871 E-mail: hrm@tasaf.go.tz



Members of staff of NMB Bank Plc's north zone donate blood at the Arusha regional hospital, Mount Meru, yesterday.

### Qatar Airways resumes flights to Tanzania

#### By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

QATAR Airways is reinstating flights to Tanzania's capital Dar es Salaam

from yesterday. The airline will operate three times weekly to Dar es Salaam.

"Qatar Airways is reinstating flights to Tanzania's capital today, operating a three times weekly service. Enjoy its beaches, markets, and historic buildings this summer," the airline said on Twitter.

Last week Qatar Airways had resumed flights to Istanbul, the biggest city in Turkey.

Qatar's national carrier is still operating flights to many cities around the world, helping thousands of passengers get home safely.

Last month, the airline had announced that it would expand its network in phased manner.

By the end of June, the airline aims to have 80 destinations in the schedule including 23 in Europe, four in the Americas, 20 in Middle East/Africa and 33 in Asia-Pacific. The airline had said that the gradual expansion would focus initially on strengthening connections to transport over 200,000 tonnes between the airline's hub in Doha with the global hubs of its partner airlines

around the world.

"We are still operating flights to many cities around the world including Milan, Madrid, Seoul, and Sydney helping thousands of passengers get home safely," said the airline in a tweet. Qatar Airways has continued

to operate a significant schedule operating over 15,000 flights to take over 1.8 million people home. The airline's cargo division has prioritised medical and aid shipments working closely with governments and NGOs of essential supplies to impacted regions.

### Arusha police pledge support to tour guides during expected tourist influx

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

POLICE in Arusha Region say they are mobilised to offer cooperation to tour guides in the region during this period when tourists are expected to flock into the country in big numbers.

Speaking at the opening of the sixday training of tourism stakeholders organised by Tanzania association of tour guides in Arusha, the Region's Police Commander Jonathan Shanna said the force is well mobilised to beef up security during the expected tourism season and will ensure the safety of the visitors.

Earlier, association's chairman Samuel Mbaga said they decided to as one way to prepare themselves to receive tourists expected to flock into the country in the near future.

He congratulated President John Magufuli for his leadership that has seen the reduction of Covid-19 infections by calling on the people to conduct prayers and steam inhaling, hence opening doors to tourists.

"As the pandemic's infection rate is going down we have decided to conduct the six-day training for capacity building to tour guides on how to protect themselves and the tourists against the pandemic," Mbaga added.

He said the association has more

conduct the training to tour guides than 300 members hence they have seen the need to give them training to go in tandem with the basics issued by the Ministry of Health against Covid-19 infections.

Association secretary, James Mazigo said one major challenge facing tour guides in the country is lack of correct information on guidelines in advertising tourism, research knowledge of wildlife and the first aid to tourists in case of accidents.

"My conviction from this seminar is that it will greatly assist the youth by acquiring wide understanding on issues of guiding tourists, and we expect to continue with such training from time to time," said Mazigo.

# Agro ecology better farming model for Africa - UK report

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

ONLY a fraction of agricultural research funding in Africa goes into transforming the food and farming systems, with most of it "still reinforcing damaging industrial models," whereas agroe cology is the better option.

Agro ecology is the study of ecological processes and their application to agricultural production to improve farmers' livelihoods and food availability. Most African farming being subsistence and smallholder, agro ecology is considered a better

According to Money Flows, a report about funding in agricultural development, compiled by Biovision, IPES-Food and the UK-based Institute of Development Studies, agro ecology

building sustainable and resilient food systems. It has the potential to reconcile the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainability. The report was released last week.

Unfortunately, investment in research in agroecology is limited in Africa, says the report, keeping its application and funding marginal.

"Development aid channeled into agricultural research, education and extension has stagnated over the past 10 years, representing only 14 per cent of agricultural aid in sub-Saharan

Africa in 2017," says the report. "Most governments still favour 'green revolution' approaches, with the belief that chemical-intensive, large-scale industrial agriculture is the only way to

These approaches "have failed ecosystems, farming communities, and an entire continent. With the compound challenges of climate change, pressure on land and water, food-induced health problems and pandemics such as Covid-19, we need change now, and this starts with money flowing into agroecology," he added.

"We need to change funding flows and unequal power relations. It's clear that in Africa as elsewhere, vested interests are propping up agricultural practices based on an obsession with technological fixes that is damaging soils and livelihoods, and creating a dependency on the world's biggest agri-businesses. Agroecology offers a way out of that vicious cycle," said produce sufficient food," said Biovision Olivia Yambi, co-chair of IPES-Food.





Ruvuma regional commissioner Christina Mndeme (R) pictured in Songea municipality yesterday presenting to Mbinga district executive director Juma Mnwele a 138m/- ambulance for use at Mapera health centre. P

# Mara Region police arrest fifty-year-old villager over FGM

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

POLICE in Mara Region have arrested Mary Onyango (50) of Kitarungu Village in Serengeti District for allegedly conducting female genital mutilation (FGM) on young girls.

Speaking to this paper, Mara regional police Commander Daniel Shillah said the suspect was nabbed by the police from Serengeti on June 12 this year in Sirari area, Tarime District.

Shillah said the suspect was transported to Mugumu Police Station for interrogation and handed over to legal organs for further steps.

"The suspect, famously known as Mgesi Mwita is alleged to have performed FGM to ten children in collaboration with their parents after which they fled to neighbouring Kenya," said RPC Shillah.

He explained that the suspect has been conducting the cruel acts and then flee to Kenya and that the police set a trap that caught her at Sirari as she was returning to Tanzania.

"As of now there are three cases pending in court that concern her as well as the victims' parents who had already been arrested for being accomplices in the vile acts," he

Region, especially in areas famous for continue with her FGM activities.

FGM acts to offer their cooperation by reporting them to the police whenever they notice such acts have, or are about to take place to enable the arrest of the perpetrators.

Managing Director organisation that defends the rights of women, Hope for Girls and Women, Rhobi Samwelly, said she received the information of the arrest of Mary Onyango with great joy.

"A great number of FGM victims in Serengeti District who were interrogated said she is the culprit, adding that in the period of three months from March to June this year she performed FGM on girls," Rhobi said.

She said Onyango has been conducting business in collaboration with some traditional elders for money uncaring whether the acts were against the law and harmful to victims.

"I ask the government to take stern legal action against some of the elders who have been big promoters of FGM in their areas which has seen the continuation of these acts," she said.

She said a total of 68 girls were rescued from FGM in the past three months as her organisation was on leave due to Covid-19 pandemic.

She said the arrested circumciser, He called upon residents of Mara if pardoned can go back home and

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

ZANZIBAR Minister for Health Hamad Rashid Mohamed has said that the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) was doing a good job in dispensing human rights by issuing reports concerning human rights and called upon it to concentrate on gender based violence which is now a problem in Zanzibar.

Speaking to the visiting CHRAGG reports, issued and read them but justice," Mohamed said.

Zanzibar Health minister urges CHRAGG to focus on GBV delegation in his office in Zanzibar, they were never worked upon, but

Mohamed said in the past implementing human rights especially in respect of gender-based violence was difficult issue of gender based violence is because the commission's reports were receiving much attention due to never worked upon, different to the

as of now your reports have been of help to the community, as the public awareness in looking for justice after you started educating "In the past you wrote your the public where they can go to seek

He said there are areas in Zanzibar to learn about various issues and especially when he received the where people seek for their basic rights especially on gender-based violence as well as the day in dispensing such justice from relevant authorities and institutions.

Commission's chairman Judge (rtd) Mathew Mwaimu said the

seek cooperation from the Zanzibar government and its institutions in dispensing human rights in the

Hesaidinthepasttheimplementation of CHRAGG reports was difficult but now things have changed as everyone visit to Zanzibar in particular aims carries out his duties accordingly

reports issued by the commission over issues of human rights.

He added that the commission has been visiting government offices and its institutions to acquire cooperation from the government to enable all citizens receive justice on various issues

# Sunflower processors striving to increase oil production to 150,000 tonnes by 2025

**By Guardian Correspondent,** want is market reliability.

**Babati** 

MANYARA Sunflower Oil Processors Association (MASUPA) targets to produce 150,000 tonnes of sunflower oil by 2025.

This was revealed by the association's executive secretary Julian Khambatya when speaking to this paper about its production and strategies.

He said they want to increase production to satisfy local demand of edible oil as well as for export.

He said among their strategies include having better factories to enable satisfy foreign markets and for the processors to maintain proper records.

He said another strategy is to unify edible oil processors on how to identify the markets as well as to connect them to financial institutions.

Khambayta said when properly managed these strategies will ensure the country will not import edible oil.

A resident of Chemchem, Sarah Mollel said what they



He said in case of plant pests or any other problem they should inform the experts for assistance

She said the availability face is high prices of the cooperative department at of markets will give them the thrust to grow more sunflower crop to satisfy materials.

Another the crop is their savior even

though the challenge they agriculture, irrigation and modern sunflower seeds.

Bayo advised the government to review the factories with the raw the price of the sunflower experts for their benefit. crop as its current price Chemchem of 30,000/- per bag resident Gallapo Bayo said discourages many farmers.

The head of the

Babati Town Council, Daniel Luther advised farmers to be closer to agricultural

He said in case of plant pests or any other problem they should inform the experts for assistance.



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

#### INVITATION TO BID: No. ITB/2020/KIB/SUPP/002

FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AT NRC NDUTA CAMP, KIBONDO DISTRICT AND NRC MTENDELI CAMP, KAKONKO DISTRICT, IN KIGOMA REGION

#### 1. Background:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub Office, Kibondo invites reputable qualified and eligible Suppliers to submit firm offers for the supply and delivery of construction materials at NRC Nduta camp, Kibondo District and NRC Mtendeli camp, Kakonko District, in Kigoma region.

#### 2. Eliaibility:

Suppliers duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis. relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's requirements are invited to participate in the bidding process.

The tender documents can be collected from the following UNHCR Offices:

**UNHCR Representation Office Tanzania** Plot 1658 Masaki, Rufiji Street

P.O Box 2666 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania UNHCR Sub- Office Kibondo

Kimobwa (Mlimani Area) P.O. Box 332 - Kasulu, Kigoma

UNHCR Field Unit Mwanza

P.O. Box 2273 - **Mwanza** 

Mwanza Airport

UNHCR Field Office Kasulu

Kabigwa (Near TANESCO) P.O. Box 49 Kibondo

**CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** 

Deadline for receiving requests for clarification | Thursday 25th June 2020 at 16:00 hrs EAT Deadline for submission of offers

Thursday 09th July 2020 at 17:00 hrs, EAT

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.



### **U.S. MISSION DAR ES SALAAM SOLICITATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

**Position Title: Supervisory Information Management Specialist** 

Solicitation Number: 72062120R10013

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

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

#### **HOW TO APPLY:**

Effective immediately only online applications will be accepted via usaidtzlesapps@usaid.gov

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the solicitation on the website:

Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application.

**CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: July 01, 2020** 

### **Zanzibar state attorney** says case withdrawals undermine GBV fight

**By Guardian Reporter** 

MORE than 100 people have submitted letters to the office of Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) with the intent of withdrawing cases related to violence against women and children in Zanzibar.

Omar Makungu, state attorney from DPP office in Mjini Magharibi Region revealed this recently when speaking in a meeting at Tamwa-Zanzibar offices in Tunguu, Central District Unguja. The meeting was meant to discuss challenges in executing GBV cases.

He said it's shocking to see all the ongoing efforts to address GBV issues evaporates in thin air, leaving perpetrators roaming around in streets without being tried in courts.

"It demoralizes all people who are behind GBV fight," he said.

According to Makungu, some of the cases have all the evidences, but suddenly, people who filed the cases come up and withdraw the cases in

"This is a challenge, which if left unchecked GBV incidents will continue to affect women and children," he said, suggesting the need for the community to team up and address the situation.

An official from DPP office, Khamis Juma said that bringing all the needed evidences is an important aspect when it comes to proceeding cases.

"It is a normal procedure that every case needs to have substantive evidences for the cases to go on. A case which has no merit is removed from the court as any weakness provides room for advocates to defend their clients. So, it is important for people to have all evidences for their cases to proceed," the officer said.

He also cited witnesses as a challenge hindering GBV fight to proceed, saying: "There is a tendency for witnesses not to appear in court and if they appear

they don't talk anything and sometimes they provide information in favour of the accused."

"Several times I met with such cases, whereby the victim defend the man who abused her and some say that she was her partner and she wasn't ready to put him in trouble," he said.

But, the Zanzibar law is very clear that a witness who fail to appear in court or deny to provide evidence is to be remanded for eight days, he said.

Deputy Registrar of the Zanzibar High Court Salum Hassan suggested the need for the community to change their mindsets on GBV related issues as some families weren't involved in those cases. "In some cases you find the case is taken to court without taking information from the victim, something which is not right," he said, adding that some victims are not well prepared to speak before the court, the situation that end up losing their cases.

The registrar urged legal officials to ensure that victims are well informed and involved in all processes of the case including building their confidences.

He also suggested the need for reviewing the law so that witnesses of GBV cases are protected contrary to the current situation.

Jamila Mahmoud, Director of Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) said that there are people in the society who have been taking GBV incidents as normal issues, something which needs more efforts to pin down perpetrators.

Dr Mzuri Issa TAMWA Zanzibar Director called on the public to change their mindsets and respect women and children by discouraging such uncouth behaviours in Isles.

She said: "It is so sad to see people withdraw cases which are already in court. This demoralises people, organisations and institutions that are in forefront in the fight against GBV."



Tanzania Revenue Authority principal tax officer Maternus Mallya (R) has a word with a Morogoro municipality taxpayer yesterday on the importance of keeping business records. It was part of an ongoing tax compliance sensitisation campaign in Morogoro Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### Kalemani directs EWURA to crack down on fuel hoarders

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for Energy, Dr Medard Kalemani has given seven days to the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (ERWURA) to conduct a crackdown on big fuel dealers who hoard the commodity in order to sell it at higher prices later.

Dr Kalemani also directed EWURA to take stern legal steps, including meting 100m/- fine to offenders or revoking licenses of all netted.

Speaking here yesterday the minister

said as of now oil prices in international market has gone down hence oil dealers are supposed to sell the commodity at government's indicative prices as they are only giving service to the public.

He said small oil dealers have started experiencing difficulties in looking for the commodity after big dealers started hoarding it.

Dr Kalemani said EWURA law exists and oil dealers were merely giving service to the people, they are therefore required to sell the oil at government's indicative prices.

Her however allayed fears from Tanzanians that the government has enough fuel stock for the next three months, hence there was no need of hoarding.

"We have fuel stock of over 386.9 million litres that is enough for the next three months, hence no need to hoard," he said.

He also called on fuel dealers to use all the country's three ports - Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Mtwara to get the oil to avoid congestion of tankers that go to get the oil.

Meanwhile, in the move to increase the availability of oil in rural areas EWURA plans to establish small fuel stations in villages.

"We are embarking on the plan in villages that are not easily accessed due to road infrastructures challenges, and the aim is to assist those who buy fuel in plastic containers," the minister said.

He said the plan slated for implementation in six months time will be coordinated by EWURA and the ministry and will abide by the government's indicative prices.



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



#### NOTICE

THE FOLLOWING ADVERT REPLACES THE ONE THAT WAS PUBLISHED IN THIS NEWSPAPER ON 10TH AND 11TH JUNE 2020. ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED IS HIGHLY REGRETTED.

#### VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT

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

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

1. Director of Coordination 1 post **Director of Knowledge Management and Advocacy** 1 post **Conditional Cash Transfer Manager** 3. 1 post Public Works and Infrastructure Manager 1 post **Human Resources Manager** Internal Audit Manager 6. 1 post **Technical Support Manager** 7. 1 post 8. Procurement Officer 1 post 9. Assistant Procurement Officer 1 post 10. Program Officer Public Works and Infrastructure 1 post 11. Development Communication Officer 1 post 12. Legal Officer 1 post 13. Internal Auditor 2 posts 14. Registry Officer 1 post 15. Driver 2 posts 16. Motor Vehicle Mechanic 2 posts

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

How to apply;

1) a) Applications, enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be sent to the following address:

23 posts

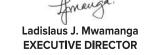
**Executive Director** Tanzania Social Action Fund **Board of Trustees of PSSSF Building** Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road P.O. Box 2719 DODOMA.

17. TASAF Monitoring Officer

OR

b) Applications (In PDF Format), enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be sent through the following email address: <u>hrm@tasaf.go.tz</u>

- 2) Applications made in a way other than the above will not be considered,
- 3) Deadline for receiving applications is 9th July, 2020,
- 4) Those who will not hear from us, 14 days after the deadline, should consider themselves as unsuccessful.





Livestock development officers vaccinate cattle against ticks, as found in Babati District, Manyara Region, on Monday.

### Experts to farmers: Beware rain shortage

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

AGRICULTURAL experts in the country's Eastern Zone - Coast, Morogoro, Tanga and Dar es Salaam regions have called upon farmers to take precautions against climate change brought by the early end of the seasonal rains and instead they should start using seeds that can withstand drought and plant pests.

The caution was given by a panel of researchers from Tanzania Eastern Zone who convened in ensure farmers of adequate harvest. Morogoro for the preparation of the

deliberating on how to assist farmers research centre in Kilombero District to fight against the effects of climate said already they have discovered change to their farming activities.

TARI-Ilonga Research Coordinator as hilly areas especially those with in Kilosa Meshack Makenge said due drought that can assure farmers of to the expected effects from climate change, TARI has produced various seeds through modern technology that withstand drought and other destructive challenges from pests.

Makenge, a renowned researcher on maize and leguminous plants said Agricultural Research Institute when planted at this time, modern (TARI) from its centres in the maize seeds can withstand drought and

A researcher on rice seeds Dr Nanenane Agricultural exhibition and Theodor Kessy from the Ifakara

new types of seeds that can be Speaking about the challenge, cultivated in low lying areas as well adequate harvests.

For his part, researcher on technology and distribution from TARI-Ilonga, Margareth Mchomvu called on farmers in the Easter Zone regions who are challenged by destructive pests to come out to learn on how to deal with the pests.

She said TARI-Ilonga decided to conduct the technology exhibition by taking them directly to farmers for them to learn.



Tulia Trust manager Jacqueline Boaz (R) presents reflective jackets donated by the agency to motorbike taxi riders in Mwansekwa ward, Mbeya Region, on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

## Clergy called on to educate society on GBV, danger of adolescent pregnancy

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

RELIGIOUS leaders have been called upon to educate the society into shunning child pregnancies and gender-based violence (GBV) against girls.

The Bishop of the African Inland Church of Tanzania (AICT) for Mwanza Diocese, Philipo Mafuja, made the call at the weekend when speaking to this paper.

He said scriptures including the Bible requires religious leaders to be involved in helping the society towards better upkeep of the children, hence they have the responsibility to assist the government and the society in the fight against child pregnancies and gender based violence against girls.

Bishop Mafuja said for religious leaders, to educate the society means to urge them to provide better upbringing for their children by following the scriptures and adhering to the country's ethics.

"Religious leaders are involved in the society because during holy days they meet with their followers, the very people the government is dealing with, hence the church's duty is to provide spiritual instructions and as Christians our belief is that the Christ came to the world to serve all human beings, spiritually, bodily and mentally," he said.

Hence he appealed to religious leaders to involve themselves in educating the society about maternal health and better upbringing for their children to guard themselves against child pregnancies.

"We have ample opportunity to serve the children especially during this period with challenges from Covid-19 pandemic, therefore children need to be accorded their basic rights including protection under national and international protocols, and by children we have in mind those less than 18 years of age," he added.

He said children are part of believers in the church; hence the church has to recognize them as such as the scriptures say "let them come to me" hence protecting them is a divine obligation.

Dr George Lugodisha, an independent expert and coordinator in maternal health services said child pregnancies happen because parents are not close to their children in providing for them better education to enable them shun that, and other challenges.

"This is a crosscutting issue, cooperation is needed to fight against and you journalists are supposed to report on maternal health, dangers from GBV by reporting the truth and not misleading information," he said.

He said when a girl is pregnant, her entire life could be spoilt because she has to terminate her education, and all her dreams for her future are lost, she could end up being shunned by parents and may end up in poverty.

### NGO calls for protection of PWA during elections

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has been called to mete out stiff penalties to those who will be found to have killed or cut body parts of persons with albinism, especially during the period towards this year's general elections.

Founder of Foundation for Disabilities Hope Michael Hosea made the call over the weekend when speaking to reporters at the event to mark International Albinism Awareness Day in Dodoma.

The NGO campaigns for the rights of children, youth and people with albinism (PWAs).

Hosea said it is evident that during election period PWAs lives are in extreme danger from the likelihood of being killed for their body parts that are used in superstitious beliefs.

He said superstitious beliefs spur stigma, discrimination and even killings of PWAs.

The ruling CCM parents wing for Dodoma Region Bishop Dr Damas Mukassa, speaking at the event's apex appealed to various institutions and private individuals to provide jobs to PWAs to free themselves from economic hardships.

He said from their working capability PWAs can be employed instead of begging for assistance for their livelihoods.

"Made To Shine" is the theme for this year's International Albinism Awareness Day. The theme was chosen to celebrate the achievements and successes of persons with albinism worldwide. It is also a call to stand in solidarity with people with albinism through their challenges. In this unprecedented time, people with albinism continue to suffer all types of human rights violations. Recently, in some countries, they have been branded "Corona" or "COVID-19" in an attempt to scapegoat them for the pandemic. Killings, attacks, bullying, dehumanizing stigma and discrimination continue against persons with albinism. Yet on this day, we are reminded that in spite of these horrific practices, people with albinism continue to defy odds, overcome hurdles and face up to injustices with resilience.

#### Public institutions advised to step up cooperation with citizenry in service delivery

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PUBLIC institutions in the country have been required to commemorate the 2020 Public Service Week by cementing cooperation with the public and other stakeholders in order to create an enabling environment in exemplary service delivery to the public in accordance to the norms of customer service contracts

The directives were issued here yesterday by the Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) Mary Mwanjelwa.

Mwanjelwa said cooperation among the stakeholders is part of the implementation of the slogan of the Public Service Week this year that stresses the duty of the public service in the maintenance of the existing peace in the society.

"In implementing the slogan, I direct all public institutions to celebrate the week by doing community work in the areas where the public het service such as hospitals, market places and other areas but at the same time taking precautions against the Covid`19 pandemic," she said.

She added that public officials are required to mark the week by meeting with workers at their work places in order to listen to their views and challenges they face in the performance of their duties.

She also called on public officials in the country to mark the week by assessing themselves whether they go in tandem with the pace of the fifth phase government pace that has resolved to improve service accorded to the public.

She however congratulated all public servants by implementing their responsibilities despite the challenges posed by Covid-19 pandemic.

She also assured them that the government values and supports them and called upon them to work hard for the nation's development as President John Magufuli insists in his slogan literally translated "Here Just Work" (Hapa Kazi



### NOTICE OF THE 25TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Reference is made to the Press Release postponing the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") which was scheduled to be held on 16th May, 2020.

NOTICE is hereby given that the TWENTY FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of CRDB BANK PLC will be held on Saturday, 27th June, 2020 at 9.00 a.m. virtually that means that shareholders will be expected to participate via digital means.

The Bank will be holding this year's Annual General meeting by virtual means because of concerns of safety of shareholders given the large number of shareholders and the size of standard meeting venues that do not, in the wake of COVID-19, provide the kind of sitting space per member that meets the social distance guidelines. The safety and wellbeing of our shareholders and other stakeholders is important to us. As a responsible institution, we join hands with the Government in fighting the spread of the corona virus by ensuring that we comply with the advised safety measures including avoidance of mass gatherings and ensuring social distancing.

The Bank will send to all shareholders via their mobile phones ID and password information on how a shareholder can access the virtual meeting and participate. A special resolution will be passed to permit the holding of the Annual General Meeting by virtual means.

The following Agenda will be transacted:

- 1. Opening of the Meeting.
- 2. Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Meeting.
- 3. Special Resolution to amend the Articles of Association to allow the AGM to be held virtually.
- 4. Adoption of the Agenda.
- 5. Introduction of Board Member representing DANIDA Investment Fund (DIF) to shareholders.
- 6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Twenty Fourth Annual General Meeting.
- 7. To discuss Matters Arising.
- 8. Adoption of the Directors' Report and Audited Financial Statements for year 2019.
  - a) Directors' Report.
  - b) Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2019.
- c) Declaration of Year 2019 Dividend.
- 9. Approval of Directors Remuneration.10. Appointment of the External Auditors.

- 11. Election of two Independent Non Executive Directors.
- 12. To deliberate on Proposals received from Shareholders.
- 13. Any other business with leave of the Chair.
- 14. To set the place, date and venue of the next Meeting.
- 15. Closing of the Meeting.

#### NOTE:

- 1. The Shareholders Register will be closed on 26/06/2020 and will be opened on 27/06/2020.
- 2. All proposals to be discussed under Agenda no. 12 must be received by the Secretary not later than **4.00 p.m.** on **Friday**, **12th June**, **2020**.
- 3. The 2019 Annual Report and Papers for the Meeting and proposed resolutions will be available on the Bank's website (https://www.crdbbank.co.tz) and can be collected from CRDB Bank Branches from Friday, 12th June, 2020.
- 4. Shareholders are requested to appoint proxies to attend the Meeting on their behalf. The proxy form is available on the Bank's website (https://www.crdbbank.co.tz).
- 5. Completed proxy forms should be sent to the Company Secretary via email address shareholders@crdbbank.com or delivered to any CRDB Bank branch, or a photo of the completed proxy form sent through WhatsApp no.0767 757215 to reach the Company Secretary not later than 4.00 pm. on Monday, 22nd June, 2020.

All communication should be addressed to:

Company Secretary
CRDB Bank Plc
Office Accommodation Scheme- Azikiwe Street,
4th Floor
P. O. Box 268
DAR-ES-SALAAM.
Tel. no. 022 - 2114237, 2117442 - 7

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

E-mail - shareholders@crdbbank.com

J. B. Rugambo COMPANY SECRETARY

20th May 2020

# Clardan www.ippmedia.com

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2020

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

#### **Sustainable Gastronomy Day:** Do many see any difference?

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the UN General Assembly work to facilitate the observance of Sustainable Gastronomy Day, in collaboration with member states, UN organisations and other international and regional bodies, as well as civil society, to observe the Day on June 18 every year in raising public awareness of its contribution to sustainable development.

The concept of sustainable gastronomy is a relatively new one. Not only are food and gastronomy at the core of human survival, but are being increasingly recognised as potential game changers for the economic, social and environmental sustainability of communities and

Even the United Nations (UN) took note of the significance of gastronomy in its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and three years ago announced the observation of Sustainable Gastronomy Day on June 18 every year.

The concept of sustainable gastronomy is a relatively new one. Not only are food and gastronomy at the core of human survival, but are being increasingly recognised as potential game changers for the economic, social and environmental sustainability of communities and

The UN resolution acknowledges that gastronomy is a cultural expression related to the natural and cultural diversity of the world and reaffirmed that all cultures and civilisations can contribute to and are crucial enablers of sustainable development.

The UN resolution also affirmed the need to focus the world's attention on

Nations the role that sustainable gastronomy can play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including by promoting agricultural development, food security, nutrition, sustainable food production and the conservation of

> biodiversity. Therefore the UN's Sustainable Gastronomy Day is about recognising that sustainable gastronomy has an impact on many different little pillars, the large pillar being societal, environmental and economic pillars. But within this... sustainable gastronomy has a role towards agriculture, towards food security, towards the nutrition of the individuals. It's about food production, biodiversity and the conservation of biodiversity.

> Describing food as the fabric of societies and communities it is important to preserve the heritage and practices related to food. So the way we source food, the way that we prepare food, the way we consume food are shaped by communities [and] by individuals within those communities.

> And it's about the recognition of the importance of gastronomy in particular to communities. But it's also about the greater roles of food which means it's about agriculture, it's about the production of the food, it's about the distribution of it. And so it's not only about the consumption when we think about sustainable gastronomy. he elaborated.

> In other words, gastronomy is the study of the relationship between food and culture, the art of preparing and serving rich or delicate and appetising food, the cooking styles of particular regions, and the science of good eating. One who is well versed in gastronomy is called a gastronome, while a gastronomist is one who unites theory and practice in the study of gastronomy.

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#### **By Michael Dunford**

VER the last four years, (World Food Programme) Tanzania worked side-byside with the government and other partners to develop a better future for vulnerable families through combating malnutrition, supporting smallholder farmers, providing food assistance for refugees and capitalizing on innovation for sustainable, positive change. Work has also included the strengthening of the country's role as a maritime gateway and regional logistics hub.

At the foundation of our work was WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP), launched in 2017. The CSP marked a strategic shift in WFP operations, moving away from direct implementation of projects towards capacity building, strengthening government institutions, and working with other partners and the private sector to unleash untapped potential in the fight against hunger.

WFP has continued to serve those who are most in need including 240,000 refugees - primarily from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo - currently hosted in northwestern Tanzania who are wholly dependent on humanitarian support. Thanks to support from donors, WFP has been able to distribute 100 percent rations since 2018. In addition to maintaining rations, WFP worked to improve delivery of food assistance to refugees including dramatically reducing waiting times during distributions. To improve the nutritional value of the food basket, WFP also invested to upgrade in-house milling facilities and a commercial mill, enabling all distributed maize meal to be fortified with essential micronutrients.

coordinated national Through nutrition efforts, Tanzania's under-

# WFP has made significant progress in driving social, economic development

percent in 2010 to 32 percent in 2018. Although positive, the levels remain unacceptably high and mean there are still around 3 million children at risk of suffering livelong physical and cognitive impairment due to undernutrition. To continue the trend in decreasing stunting, WFP works with the government and local communities to treat and prevent malnutrition through education and nutrition support for mothers and children.

WFP has also adapted its nutrition projects to more broadly fight livelihood and agriculture components enough to fill 6,700 trucks. that can increase access to capital and nutritious foods as well as trainings on as water, sanitation and hygiene.

Also, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre, WFP published agricultural training manuals to feature messaging that enables the user to improve nutrition in the household.

As Tanzania continues to move towards middle income status, WFP's work in agriculture focuses on supporting smallholder farmers in the transition from subsistence farming to farming as a business.

Currently, 66 percent of the population are engaged in the agricultural sector, which currently only contributes about 29 percent to annual gross domestic product. WFP's work with smallholder farmers focuses on addressing challenges throughout the entire growing and marketing cycle. This includes supporting farmers with access to finance for improved seeds and fertilizers, trainings on good and stakeholders.

five stunting rate declined from 42 agriculture practices and post-harvest handling and storage, and access to reliable markets. The early success of WFP's projects across Tanzania, represents a great opportunity for bringing the models to scale and adoption in other countries.

Another major achievement during the last four years was the purchase of more than 220,000 mt of food in Tanzania, providing a market for local farmers and strengthening the nation's supply chain. In last four years, WFP Tanzania has been able to triple the amount of food it transports malnutrition, including its underlying through the country, averaging now causes, through the addition of approximately 200,000 mt per year, or

> Working with the national ports, railways and Maritime Services as well as the private sector, WFP has supported the promotion of Tanzania as a competitive transportation route for the region. These efforts led to the reopening of a ferry service which carries train wagons across Lake Victoria to Uganda. The re-opened route unlocks significant cost and time savings for both WFP and the private sector.

> In 2017, WFP established its first innovation hub in Tanzania, which helps to foster, test, refine and scale up new ways that can contribute to achieving zero hunger. Innovation is the cornerstone that enables WFP to unlock the capacity of new ideas to improve food security for millions of people. Since its launch, the Hub has grown to support eight innovation pilots and six Tanzanian early-stage startups, building the capacity of over 900 local innovators, entrepreneurs

Additionally, WFP supported the Global Learning XPRIZE to conduct a field test in which children in rural communities with difficulties in regularly attending school were able to learn basic math, reading and writing with only tablets loaded with educational software. WFP through its experience providing logistics in the field made it possible for XPRIZE to pilot their learning tablets with 3000 children in rural villages. By the end of the field test, the number of children able to manage the basics of reading auadrupled, and the number who could add single digits almost tripled.

Despite these wide-ranging achievements, Tanzania and its partners still have a long road to travel in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by Complicating development issues are the potential health and economic impacts from the global COVID-19 pandemic. Tanzania should remain vigilant, so as to continue to mitigate the disease's impact on food security in the country.

It is with feelings of achievement, excitement and reservation that I will shortly be leaving Tanzania to begin a new role, leading WFP's Regional Bureau for East and Central Africa based in Nairobi. I leave with many wonderful experiences, both professional and personal. I look forward to witnessing the continued development of Tanzania in line of the vision of the Government's fiveyear plan and in working towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Zero Hunger.

Michael Dunford, outgoing WFP Tanzania Representative

#### Awareness a decisive weapon in war on desertification, droughts globally

HE World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is a United Nations observance each June 17. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, highlighting methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought. Each year's global celebration has a unique, novel emphasis that had not been developed previously.

Desertification is not cheap. It has social, cultural, environmental and of course economic costs to reverse what it destroys. According to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification the scourge of desertification is costing the global economy up to 15 trillion dollars annually, making it urgent to restore degraded land to mitigate climate

This day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution on January 30, 1995, after the day when United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is drafted.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development declares that "we are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations". Specifically, SDG Goal 15: Life on Land states the resolve of the United Nations and the SDG signatory nations to halt and reverse land degradation.

One third of the planet's land surface is under the threat of desertification, impacting over 250 million people. Although Africa remains the most affected continent, we are witnessing an alarming shift globally.

Worldwide, 70 per cent of dry land used for agriculture are already degrading and are increasingly threatened by desertification.

This change is often at the root of political and socio-economic problems, and poses a threat to the environmental

equilibrium in affected regions. 135 million people are at risk of being displaced because of desertification and mass migrations are only just beginning.

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought has been observed since 1995 to promote public awareness relating to the international cooperation to combat desertification and the effects of drought.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. Under the theme "Let's grow the future together" this event provides an opportunity to look back and celebrate the 25 years of progress made by countries on sustainable land management, as well as looking at the broad picture of the next 25 years when hopefully we will achieve land degradation neutrality.

Desertification is a type of land degradation in which a relatively dry area of land becomes a desert, typically losing its bodies of water as well as vegetation and wildlife. It is caused by a variety of factors, such as through climate change (particularly Desertification is a significant global ecological and environmental problem with far reaching consequences on socio-economic and political conditions.

Whereas a drought is an event of prolonged shortages in the water supply, whether atmospheric (below-average precipitation), surface water or ground water. A drought can last for months or years, or may be declared after as few as

It can have a substantial impact on the ecosystem and agriculture of the affected region and harm to the local economy. Drought is a recurring feature of the climate in most parts of the world.

Prolonged droughts have caused mass migrations and humanitarian crisis. Most arid ecosystems have inherently low productivity.Drought affect food production and human society, so they are considered a disaster, of natural, supernatural or human cause (which itself could be supernatural causes, malediction, sin, ...).

#### **By Special Correspondent**

HE Ghanaian government has begun a phased-opening of educational institutions with the re-opening of universities for final year students, as well as final year students of other educational and training institutions, which are managed by ministries,

other than the Ministry of Education. This is to enable them to complete their lectures and write their exit examination, as announced by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in his last broadcast to the nation, on May 31, on the update of the coronavirus containment efforts.

Final year students of Senior High Schools (SHSs), including Gold Track and Junior High Schools (JHSs) will take their turn to return to schools, on June 22 and June 29 respectively, to continue classes towards writing their

Other aspects of schooling will remain closed, till further notice as

### Welcome back to school, but keep safe!

directed by the President in Executive health conditions. Instrument 64, following the passage by Parliament of the Imposition of Restrictions, Act, 2020.

Ghanaian Times is aware that the phased-opening of schools has been informed by empirical evidence, following a wide-range consultations by the President with stakeholders on "strategic, controlled, progressive, easing of restrictions", imposed by the government as a part of measures to check the spread of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus 2(SARS-CoV-2) that is responsible for the deadly disease, coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The world is still grappling with the disease, and of course Ghana, is not out of the woods yet. We still have spikes in the communities across the country with the case load crossing the 11,000 mark, and so far 48 people have succumbed, albeit with pre-existing

The country is recording recoveries, though slower than the infection rates, but we risk a second wave of the

disease, if we let our guard down. It's in light of this that we welcome our final year students back on campus, with the call on them to cooperate with the school authorities and adhere strictly to the specific guidelines, including social distancing arrangement and enhanced hygiene protocol to ensure safety on campus, to prevent further community spikes in infection.

We are certainly not in normal times, and we sympathise with the plight of students, given that online studies come with challenges and also there are some programmes that lectures must certainly be face-to-face.

Undoubtedly, the reopening of universities for the final year students to complete their programme will serve

as litmus test on whether we can have our normal life back, with a complete lifting of ban on public gathering.

Indeed, the outcome of the rereopening of universities will determine whether the government will go ahead to allow SHS and JHS final year students take their turn to go back to school to complete their academic

We recall what the President said in his last broadcast, as a gentle reminder "The introduction of this phased opening up of our country means that each and every one of us must continue to remain vigilant and respect the enhanced hygiene and social distancing protocols that have become part and parcel of our daily routine over the last three months. We can't afford to let our guard down, and ruin the successes we have chalked over the

vears." A word to the wise is enough!

# Overcoming today's challenges using strategic and collaborative innovation

By Tamer Farouk in Johannesburg

HERE is something remarkable about the African continent in that the scarcity and complexity brings light to innovation and invention. Within the challenges of infrastructure resides the potential of technology and organisational agility.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to influence how organisations operate and behave, African businesses need to adapt their workforce and technology considerations to fit the needs of the continent and the customer.

The recent weeks and months have likely been the biggest challenge for all businesses across the continent. With almost no warning, millions of businesses - regardless of size or stature - suddenly went from operating as usual to facing enormous challenges under the weight of

When global uncertainty is coupled with increased scrutiny from the CEO, board, investors, employees and customers, every move they make is critical.

With these challenges to meet and tough decisions to make, the CFO (chief financial officer) is at the centre of a rapidly changing economy. There are four areas where a CFO-led rethink and innovation will be crucial: managing cash flow, investing in the supply chain, working closely with HR, and focusing on customers.

The most immediate challenge faced has been managing cash flow. Many businesses, whilst inherently profitable, found themselves struggling to make ends meet with insufficient working capital readily to stay solvent.

This lack of economic resilience does require shortterm cuts, but it also relies on intelligent decisions that will keep the business healthy in the long-term.

The next focus area is supply chain. For decades 'lean' has been the name of the game. But lean, just-in-time supply chains have struggled in the face of global crisis. To get back on track and plan ahead, spending big to ensure that supply chains are robust and resilient - not lean - will be

Balancing cost-cutting while ensuring that the business can still function effectively is vital, especially when your biggest asset - talent - is also your biggest expense.

To walk this fine line and ensure that every decision made helps safeguard business continuity and survival, the CFO should work closer than ever with HR. Together, they can master their business data to see where skills and resources are needed most in the here and now, while planning for whatever the future may bring.

A people-driven approach is vitally important, and not just when it comes to staff and employees as well as to customers. Delivering good customer experience is one thing, but right now, having CFOs and finance teams get closer than ever to their customers - and indeed their suppliers - is what will set you apart. Showing that you can balance their needs with those of the business will prove through uncertain times, now and in the future.



In building resilience, organisations need to focus on building a buoyant community amongst employees, customers, partners and suppliers. Having issues of cash flow front and centre forces the cost of talent into the limelight - but it doesn't mean putting profit

Relooking their relationship, this is where the CFO and HR team need to come together, working more closely than ever before. Together, the CFO and HR need to evaluate skills and resources, minimise temporary and long-term loss of staff, and look after their people. All of this will build a resilient business.

Focusing on bringing an overarching view of the health of the organisation is decisive; data are crucial in shaping every discussion, aiding in quick decisions and allowing for agility and innovation.

Building resilience is not the responsibility of the finance department alone - this that you are the partner they can trust to guide them could be collaborating with the CIO (chief information officer) and R&D teams, to ensure that any future innovations align with customer strategies as well as the business'

purpose. Or it could mean working more closely with HR to ensure that the business can meet changing customer demands.

Right now, cloud-based applications such as Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Human Capital Management (HCM) are immensely valuable as they help build business resilience and innovation in an extremely complicated market.

These solutions provide insights that can offer improved control over factors such as supply chain management, inventory and purchasing. They integrate systems and data, connecting systems and information so that data become transparent and accessible and relevant.

These applications also help the organisation use business intelligence (BI) to analyse data, to create KPIs (key performance

gets, and measure performance versus targets to meet goals based on current market conditions.

With this strategic approach, companies are able to manage the complex balancing act more deftly between legacy and futureproof without whittling away at the bottom line. It has also stimulated greater interest in how digital applications can benefit the organisation. These applications need to support the balancing act between the business and its potential, between the CFO, CHRO (chief human resources officer), CIO and all lines of business, and ensure that they deliver more value to the organisation.

TamerFarouk filed this dispatch for Oracle South Africa and EWA.

### Consultancy APO joins UNESCO's global Covid-19 response coalition on education

APO Group, a leading pan-African communications and business consultancy, has announced that it has joined the UNESCO Global Education Coalition for COVID-19 Response.

This is according to a video message from APO Group founder and chairman Nicolas Pompigne-Mognard released here on Monday.

Some 1.2 billion students and young people across the globe are affected by school and university closures due to the COVID-19 out-

In response, UNESCO launched the coalition jointly with the private sector, multilateral organisations and civil society in order to facilitate synergies and leverage partners' capacities to help countries deploy remote learning systems so as to minimise educational disruptions and maintain social contact with learners.

Under the coalition's motto of "Learning Never Stops", UNESCO has developed a social media pack around the initiative.

As a group of private sector partners, APO will be donating resources and expertise, increasing the visibility of the global coalition launched by UNESCO.

In this framework, in early April APO Group launched the APO Group Coronavirus Initiative for Africa by donating pro-bono resources and expertise to support African governments, institutions and official organisations in the fight against Covid-19.

"We believe that education, and especially girls' education, is a critical investment in the future. When girls go to school, every development goal set by the international community becomes achievable," Pompigne-Mognard said in yesterday's message.

"Today, we are proud to team up with UN-ESCO and with some of the largest compa-



nies in the world to make sure that children everywhere can continue their education, with special care to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities," added the APO Group founder.

Stefania Giannini, UNESCO's Assistant Director General for Education, meanwhile said that more than 250 million students are still affected by school closures in Africa.

"The longer they last, the greater the risk of educational exclusion. We cannot let this happen. Education represents the future, it is the most powerful development driver for societies," she said.

She elaborated: "We need to join forces to bridge huge connectivity gaps, increase resilience and ensure that education serves all of

the continent's children and youth. I am confident that by joining UNESCO's Global Education Coalition, the APO Group will contribute to raising visibility for inclusive quality educa-

tion and support transformative approaches." Founded in 2007, APO Group assists private and public organisations in sharpening their reputation and increasing their brand equity in target countries across Africa.

Its role is chiefly to leverage the power of the media and build custom-made strategies that enable organisations to produce a real, measurable impact in Africa and beyond.

APO Group clients include Facebook, Dangote Group, Nestle, GE, Uber, Microsoft, Nokia, Canon, PwC, DHL, Siemens, Standard Chartered and Ernst & Young.



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## Collection of non-tax revenue from tourism, forestry sectors likely to affect natural resources management

By Gerald Kitabu

HE government of Гапzania has recommended that, in order to strengthen collection system of non-tax revenues from tourism and forest industry, the collection of non-tax from these industries be managed by the Ministry of Finance and Planning through Tanzania Revenue Authority and be deposited in consolidated fund.

The Minister for Finance and Planning Dr. Philip Mpango said this on 11th June 2020 when presenting the government budget of 2020/21 to the Parliamentary Budget.

He further said that, the implementation of this measure will require amendments of Tanzania Revenue Authority Act, CAP 339, Ngorongoro Conservation Act, CAP 284, National Park Act, CAP 282, and Wildlife Conservation Act, through Finance Bill, 2020.

In doing so, he proposed the following: give powers to Tanzania Revenue Authority to collect non tax revenues which are currently collected by Tanzania National Park Authority (TANAPA), Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA), and Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), to require all non-tax collection from these sources be deposited in consolidated fund instead of current retention system; and to allocate funds to these authorities or agencies through Government budgetary allocation system instead of current practice.

Environment and forest stakeholders have said the recommendation to centralize all revenues from these sectors, will need to be reviewed. Executive Director for Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) Charles Meshark said that "We need to recall what was the reason for decentralizing and retention of revenues in 1990s. It was mainly to improve the management of the reserves and national parks and revenue collection. I believe these institutions have efficiently performed on this.

It is surprisingly that, the government did not provide details on why it is recommending to centralize the revenue because the sectors have been performing their duties of protecting the wildlife and natural forests, he added.

Speaking from experience, he said if the recommendation is implemented as it is, then it will be the matter of time when we will witness the decline of wildlife and forest habitat in the country. It is the taboo to see forest and wildlife sectors not allocated government budget as they are not government development priorities. The lion share of the budget is allocated to social services such as water, education, health and infrastructure which are considered to be pri-

"The only way to rescue these sectors from collapsing is to allow the sectors to retain fund collected that is invested in the management of these



Executive Director for Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) Charles Meshark making a point at one of the stakeholders meeting on how best the environment and forest in particular can be effectively and efficiently managed and conserved. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

the government development cannot continue milking the cow without feeding it, he said

resources. It is the revenues the collection and retention of proximately 80% of around 22 from this sectors that support revenue would need to legally million hectors of forest cover be extended to the local and located within the village land in priorities. There is saying we central government authorities Tanzania. This is important beand other stakeholders to serve cause more than 460,000 hecabout 17.6 million hectares of tares of forest cover are cleared

forest cover within the village land, resulting into emission of over 44 million tonnes CO2/ year into the atmosphere, and hence impact on the global climate. The unreserved forests It is in the same spirit that, unreserved forests which is aperevey year, mostly in unreserved are also exposed to illegal and

unsustainable harvesting, which lead to forest degradation. Consequently, the government revenues from forests continue to decrease due to this alarming forest loss.

Stakeholders' experience, shown that, Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) approach, integrated with forest-based enterprises, provide incentives for communities to manage the forests on the village land sustainably and at the same time enhance rural development. However, CBFM financing has been mostly donor dependent and recent Government Notice (GN) number 417 published in May 2019, has imposed new recentralization models of VLFR enterprises, thus disincentivizes communities to formalize these

Thus, it our appealing to the government and other stakeholders to support village governments to formalize their user rights and manage about 17.6 million hectares of unreserved forests within the village land sustainably.

The stakeholders recommend that the government should maintain favorable policy environment for CBFM, including removal of the policy barrier imposed through GN 417 of 2019. The government need to develop and implement national CBFM strategy. There is also a need to develop partners to support the government of Tanzania and local communities through International climate financing to implement CBFM

Ends 

### 57 years of African Unity: Political dynamics driving leadership

By Gaudensia Mngumi

N 25th May 1963, the Organisation of African Union (OAU) was established in Addis Ababa; later in 2002 the organisation was transformed to become African Union (AU). This May, the OAU marked her 57th anniversary.

As Africans we have all the reasons to celebrate the 57 years of our existence as we consider and meditate upon the long colonial oppressive regimes, how they come to an end and the effort Africans took to start their own path.

We also look back and celebrate historical events like great Samora Machel's death in 1986, MauMau wars against harsher colonial rule over Kenyans, how Ethiopian kings fought an extra ordinary battle against Italians invasion and much more we continue to adore the great and mighty African fathers like Julius Nyerere, Dr Kwame Nkurumah, Nelson Mandela and Patrice Lumumba.

Africa will never forget the young brothers Nzo Ekangaki, Edem Kodjo, Salim Ahmed Salim, some OAU Secretary Generals who walked and talked the liberation walks and talks. We continue to celebrate big jobs done by our great mamas Graca Machel, Maria Nyerere, Helena Fathia Nkrumah, Dr Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf the first African female president and all women that laboured to deliver the Africa we are living in today.

As we cherish and embrace our 57 years of existence we are looking forward to seeing the total unification and full integration of Africa the noblest task that the AU has to accomplish in the coming 55 years. Well, African fathers who fought for our independence and constituted the OAU we owe you much but when it comes to the analysis of your successors Africans feel that most of them

Subsequently, when you analyse the 57 African political situations you find that the major dynamics that have been driving the continents'

leadership for almost all six decades of the OAU existence has remained in power for their own benefits.

That is why the continent has continued to remain a home for cronyism, tyrant and some succession programmes and plans that put into power presidents spouses like what was allegedly was to happen in Zimbabwe. The media in Zimbabwe reported that Grace Mugabe was calling for former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa, removal as the two were fighting to succeed Mugabe who led

Africa for the entire period of more than half a century didn't guarantee democracy, leaders, ignored almost everybody in order to rule for their own interests. Some critics in Uganda are challenging Yoweri Museveni for preparing his own son Muhoozi Kainerugaba to succeed him.

Upholding democracy has been an been bitter and sometimes aloof to their political opponents, opposition leaders, civic organisations, human rights defenders and the media. General elections in many parts of the continent have always been serious apprehensions times, a moment for police attacks and a place for differed

many countries because institutions such as the electoral commissions and authorities as well as the courts are used as platforms to ensure the incumbencies remains on powers for good. The opposition parties always compete and suffer unfair environments. Oppositions' leaders' crackdown, parties deregistration and filing 'false cases 'against the opposition leaders was order of the day.

tire half a century have been always afraid to allow their people to choose their own leaders.

cently happened in Malawi and Burundi, in Burundi the incumbency was alleged to have made a succes-

Zimbabwe since 1980.

issue in the continent. Leaders have party the National Freedom Council.

Credible elections didn't happen in

Indeed. African fathers for the en-

The case in point is what has recourt of law by the major opposition

Likewise in Malawi, massive irregularities forced the constitutional court to nullify presidential election victory won in 2019, and yet the country is to re-do the elections.

Needless to say these fears of leaving state house are originating from the African fathers mindsets particularly when they look back at the periods of their ruler ship and see how they slain their opponents, deregister or ban their parties, crackdown civil sector leaders and muzzling the media in order to nurture their evil interests.

Furthermore, the fears are rooted in the feelings that if leaders allow the voters to follow their hearts particularly to go for the opposition candidates it is most likely that if they come to power they will challenge their wicked deeds, hence the major motivation in the African elections for decades has been the incumbency to reproduce their status quos and ensure that they are not prosecuted as they continue to pursue their

The continent witnessed serious challenges like their leaders allowing wrong interests such as foreign motivated interests to ruin lives of their citizens and the economy, such happened in many economic projects.

For instance, some head of states and their cronies working with unscrupulous officials have been involved in siphoning off African valuables Nigeria, Angola, Togo, Liberia and Congo DRC all

these fuelled conflicts in Africa.

In the past years most of the African leaders have been too busy with their own ambitions and their constant behaviour for 57 years has been working to promote civil wars for instance in CAR, Somalia, Kenya, Sudan, Congo, Togo, Burundi, Ethiopia, Darfur, Rwanda, Libya, Nigeria and many more.

With their wrong interests the leaders have been promoters of corruption, embezzlements of government resources, nepotism and petty tyrant while some use their families to exploit their nation economy accomplished by state house dirty deals.

For example, the richest woman in Africa worth \$2bn, Isabel dos Santos is said to acquire her riches through ripping the poor Angola.

The daughter of the former president of Angola Jose Eduardo dos Santos, got the big and heavy profitable deals which involve land, oil, telecoms and diamonds when her father was the head of

Now as Africans swim in the rains of 57 years of African Union, the continent has done some commendable job in protecting democracy. For AU strategies are available for everyone to follow. The African Union has constituted The Africa We Want Agenda in which the continent has to

let it go, and the past is now called the by-gone. The continental body is moving ahead with Afsion plan which was challenged in the resources particularly from the extractive sector. rican We Want Agenda that intends to make Africa a new heaven which is more peaceful, more economic robust, political stable, a dwelling full of political tolerance and much more a democratic place which accommodates rule of law and respects human rights. The Africa that meets needs of her peoples like healthy health sector, education development and the continent that will get rid of dry Africa by ensuring sufficient taped water for her people.

The road map to attain the Africa We Want Agenda is The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG), the continental instrument which was created and adopted by AU members in Addis Ababa in 2007 and then come into force in 2012, as a tool to set standards for better governance across Africa.

According to the United Nations University, Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies, one notable outcome from the ACDEG contract is the development of the African Governance Architecture (AGA), which is the overall political and institutional framework for promoting and strengthening democracy, good governance and human rights in Africa. AGA provides the platform through which different organs and Institutions of the African Union support the implementation of the provisions of the charter at

the member state level. In order to let the wicked past go, African leaders should now implement and operationalise ACDEG to ensure democracy, rule of law and respect of human rights in all activities, processes and practices in order to have equality to all citizens which will safeguard good governance and African people develop-



### Girls at greatest risk as Covid-19 threatens to leave generation of African children behind

By Special Correspondent, **Addis Ababa** 

A WHOLE generation of children in Africa is at risk of being left behind due to Covid-19 with girls likely to suffer the most, warns child rights and humanitarian organisation Plan International.

As the world commemorates the International Day of the African Child on Tuesday, the organisation has expressed serious concerns that the pandemic might undo decades of progress in child rights in the continent and put millions of girls at great risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

Drawing upon its extensive grassroot presence in 29 countries across Africa, Plan International is warning that besides losing out on education, girls particularly in poor and marginalised communities - are facing heightened risks of hunger, child labour, trafficking, child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation due to the pan-

On a continent already battling food insecurity, climate change, conflicts and economic downturn, the virus is amplifying existing inequalities (including wealth and gender inequalities) and affecting the long-term environment in which African children will grow up.

"African governments responded quickly to the pandemic, but nevertheless COVID-19 continues to have devastating repercussions for the education, health, security and protection of children across Africa, espeInternational's Regional Director for Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa

"In times of crises, we know that girls are hardest hit due to harmful social norms and double discrimination based on age and gender. As a consequence of the virus, some 743 million girls are now out of school. Many of them are unlikely to return, due to challenges such as teenage pregnancy or forced marriage, which often increase during emergencies."

Angelina, 17, from Mozambique, said: "Things have become very uncomfortable for me since the state of emergency began. Being at home all day with my family is dreadful, because they are rushing me to get married.

"Sometimes I try to avoid the issue of marriage by doing extra

cially girls," said Roger Yates, Plan chores or showing interest in my books, so they put less pressure on me or change the subject of marriage in conversations - but it keeps coming up and I don't know how to respond anymore."

Halima, 16, from Niger said: "I am really missing classes. Sometimes I try to study at home but the house chores are so much that I can't revise my notes.

"I take care of my siblings as well as the house and the farm. I start working very early and go to bed very late. I pray the government finds a solution to this disease as soon as possible, so girls like me can go back to school. My dream of becoming a doctor should not be broken, please."

School closures and stay-athome orders have also resulted in a rise in cases of FGM in some African countries

A recent case in Egypt involved three girls, all below the age of 18, undergoing FGM under the pretext of receiving a coronavirus vaccination. According to reports, a doctor went to the girls' house after their father told them they would receive a 'vaccination'. The girls were reportedly

drugged before undergoing FGM.

In Egypt, the practice has been

outlawed since 2008.

In Somalia, the lockdown is being viewed as an opportune time to cut girls for supposed benefit of ample "healing" time. According to Sadia Allin, Plan International's Head of Mission in Somalia, the already bad situation of high FGM rate in the country is being made worse by the economic downturn that's seeing

the cutters more aggressively

market their services to earn an

income. "They are knocking door to door to cut girls."

The pandemic is exposing girls and women to increased risk of violence and abuse, including in their own homes, as stress from the outbreak exacerbates existing gender inequalities.

Those experiencing, or at risk of, violence may have trouble accessing relevant protection services, due to social isolation measures and the diversion or withdrawal of necessary funding and resources, including those for sexual and reproductive health, mental health and psychosocial support.

Kenya, South Sudan, Liberia, and Niger have all recently reported an increase in domestic, child and gender-based violence. As COVID-19 spreads across the continent, it is feared this will only

Rotimy Djossaya, Plan International's Regional Director for West and Central Africa, said: "Regional and national authorities must continue to invest in and prioritise the protection of girls and young women from gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and FGM.

"While the virus continues to circulate and social isolation measures remain in place, current interventions must be adapted to ensure girls and young women can access these essential services."

Plan International is calling on African governments to ensure families are protected from hunger with cash assistance to vulnerable households, distance education for children is made accessible and affordable to all, especially rural girls and/or those unable to access the internet.

### Wanted: Swift measures to boost food production amid Covid-19, Africa told

**By Guardian Reporter** 

AFRICAN governments need to put in place practical measures that will make countries produce enough food as part of responding to Covid-19 crisis, experts have suggested.

They were speaking over the weekend at the virtual meeting organised by ONE and Alliance for Green Revolution for Africa (AGRA). The meeting was meant to discuss a paper titled: 'How to Stop Hunger from Becoming More Deadly than the Virus'. During the meeting experts explored the impact of COVID-19 on food security across the continent.

Edwin Ikhuoria, ONE's Africa Executive Director said that countries in the continent should work on the Malabo Declaration by allocating more financial resources in the agricultural sector to enhance food security at the time when the continent is crippled by the virus.

He said that it's important time for the governments to move to actual build resilience of African farmers, take actions to deal with food crop production amid Covid-19, as

According to him, despite commitments they made in the Malabo Declarations, many African governments haven't invested much on agriculture; their budgets are not in line with improving food production.

In some countries, he said that the progress towards supporting smallholder farmers, who are the main food crop producers, is still at a snail's pace. "This is to show that our governments aren't doing enough to support smallholder farmers," Ikhuoria stressed.

Dr Fader Ndiame, Rural Development Expert and AGRA Deputy President said: "Covid-19 is revealing and amplifying total challenge that we're facing in the African continent."

He said that African leaders recognize the challenge and it is central in most of the agenda that have been articulated in Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Malabo declaration that focuses on improving productivities strengthening systems enabling African producers, consumers and government to strengthen their capacity to absorb the shock to be able to adapt the change and to drive the transformation agenda to account

"This pandemic has revealed as how we're ill prepared as terms of driving productivity increase, provid-



been made in terms of bringing political will, government commitment to prioritize agriculture and some countries are doing well in

continent. For the last 20 years progress has ing a delivery system that enable inputs access to market, finance to SMEs and smallholder farmers.'

> He added: "This crisis has shown that we need to do better and faster in more organized

way, so we need to strengthen the resilient of our health and seeds and food systems at the sometime. Put into account the mitigating factors that preventing you from enhancing

production and productivity, I think we're at

the middle of the crisis which require collective action/'

Dr Ndiame suggested the need for government to adopt a systematic intervention to scale up production as well as ensuring market of what they produce; the idea is to make farmers produce enough to meet their de-

Emma Naluyima, a Ugandan smallscale farmer said: "In Uganda people were allowed to continue with their farming activities, something which was very good to us as farmers.

"But, the challenge is on how African farmers produce quality food as they lack technical know-how."

According to a paper prepared by One and AGRA, Covid-19 could double the number of people living with acute hunger by the end of 2020.

The most vulnerable and at risk are poor urban communities living handto-mouth in informal settlements, and millions of refugees located in densely populated camps across the region.

An estimated 20 million people already faced acute food insecurity in nine countries before COVID-19 arrived in East Africa and the Horn, with numerous food crises, a massive outbreak of desert locusts and extensive flooding threatening millions across the region, which includes Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Djibouti and Eri-

WFP has projected that the number of acutely food insecure people is likely to increase to between 34 and 43 million from May through July due to the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. If the number of hungry reaches 43 million, it would have more than doubled. Among the hungry may be 3.3 million refugees spread across the nine countries.

### Botswana investigates 154 elephant deaths, rules out poisoning, poaching

By Brian Benza

BOTSWANA is investigating the mysterious deaths of at least 154 elephants over two months in the northwest of the country, a wildlife official said recently, although poaching or poisoning have been ruled out.

"We are still awaiting results on the exact cause of death," Regional Wildlife Coordinator Dimakatso Ntshebe told Reuters.

The carcasses were found intact, suggesting they were not poached. Further investigations have also ruled out poisoning by humans and anthrax, which sometimes hits wildlife in this part of Botswana.

Africa's overall elephant population is declining due to poaching, but Botswana, home to almost a third of the continent's elephants, has seen numbers grow to 130,000 from 80,000 in the late 1990s, owing to well managed reserves.

However, they are seen as a growing nuisance by farmers, whose crops have been destroyed by elephants roaming the southern African country.

President Mokgweetsi Masisi

last year lifted a five-year ban on big game hunting, imposed by previous president Ian Khama, but the hunting season failed to take off in April as global travel restrictions meant hunters from many coronavirus-hit countries could not enter Botswana.

Meanwhile, the Wildlife Department has undertaken an operation to relocate and dehorn all rhinos to tackle poaching in Botswana - mirroring efforts elsewhere in the region.

The Okavango Delta rhino population has been the hardest hit, with 25 reported poached between December and the beginning of May, government figures show, as poachers take advantage of the absence of safari tourists during the pandemic.

That compares with a total of 31 rhinos poached from October 2018 to December last year.

"Both white rhino and black rhinos have been severely affected, necessitating the ... relocation of highly endangered black rhinos (and) intensification of surveillance," the Department said.

Chobe National Park is Botswana's first national park, and also the most biologically diverse. Lo-

cated in the north of the country, it is Botswana's third largest park, after Central Kalahari Game Reserve and Gemsbok National Park, and has one of the greatest concentrations of game in all of

This park is noted for having

a population of lions which prey on elephants, mostly calves or juveniles, but even sub adults.

The original inhabitants of this area were the San bushmen (also known as the Basarwa people in Botswana). They were nomadic hunter-gatherers who were constantly moving from place to place to find food sources, namely fruits, water and wild animals. Nowadays one can find San paintings inside rocky hills of

At the beginning of the 20th century, the region that would

become Botswana was divided into different land tenure systems

At that time, a major part of the park's area was classified as crown land. The idea of a national park to protect the varied wildlife found here as well as promote tourism first appeared in 1931. The following year, 24,000 km2 (9,300 sq mi) around Chobe district were officially declared non-hunting area; this area was expanded to 31,600 km2 (12,200 sq mi) two vears later.

In 1943, heavy tsetse infestations occurred throughout the region, delaying the creation of the national park.

By 1953, the project received governmental attention again: 21,000 km2 (8,100 sq mi) were suggested to become a game reserve. Chobe Game Reserve was officially created in 1960, though smaller than initially desired. In 1967, the reserve was declared a national park.

At that time there were several industrial settlements in the region, especially at Serondela, where the timber industry proliferated. These settlements

were gradually moved out of the park, and it was not until 1975 that the whole protected area was exempt from human activity. Nowadays traces of the prior timber industry are still visible at Serondela. Minor expansions of the park took place in 1980 and 1987.

The park is widely known for its large elephant population, estimated to be around 50,000. Elephants living here are Kalahari elephants, the largest in size of all known elephant populations. They are characterized by rather brittle ivory and short tusks, perhaps due to calcium deficiency in the soils.

Damage caused by the high numbers of elephants is rife in some areas. In fact, concentration is so high throughout Chobe that culls have been considered, but are too controversial and have thus far been rejected.

At dry season, these elephants sojourn in Chobe River and the Linyanti River areas. In the rainy season, they make a 200-kilometre migration to the southeastern stretch of the park. Their distribution zone however outreaches the park and spreads to north-western Zimbabwe.

#### **FEATURES**

### A promising coronavirus disease treatment with a dark history

#### **By Douglas Starr**

ONE of the more promising potential therapies in the war against the coronavirus is the use of plasma from people who have recovered from the virus. Convalescent plasma - the liquid part of blood - is rich in antibodies.

Although the treatment is early in the experimental stage, early reports indicate that injecting those antibodies into people with Covid-19 might give their immune system a much-needed advantage, boosting their ability to fight off the virus, preventing the illness from becoming more severe and perhaps hastening their recovery.

This kind of therapy, called passive immunity, has been around for more than a century. Doctors employed it against the 1918 flu and against polio and measles before vaccines for those diseases were developed.

Scores of convalescent plasma clinical trials are taking place in the US and around the world, comparing people with Covid-19 who receive the plasma to patients who don't.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has also approved an "expanded access" programme under which people can receive plasma outside of studies if they've been admitted to an acute care facility and consent to the treatment.

More than 19,000 people have received plasma under that programme, and early data suggest that the treatment is safe. Whether it's effective against Covid-19 remains to be seen, though.

More than any substance, plasma exemplifies the promise and perils of modern medicine. The tea-coloured liquid was first separated from blood more than a century ago. Today it serves as raw material for an international pharmaceutical industry that's worth \$20 billion and growing.

Every year plasma companies in the US collect more than 38 million pints (one pint = 0.473176 litre) for processing into more than 50 therapeutic agents, including antibodies, clotting factors and other useful proteins. They also pay people to obtain it.

Most other countries don't allow such arrangements, but it's always been the norm in the US which has easily become the biggest player in the plasma trade.

#### Plasma easily contaminated by bac-

But there's a dark side to America's dominance of this resource. Although similar in some ways to donating blood, plasma collection is time-consuming and inconvenient.

Giving plasma takes an hour and a half versus the ten minutes for donating can to earn an MD at Columbia Univerblood, and involves inserting a needle into each arm instead of just one. During the process, blood is drawn from the donor, the plasma is separated and the red cells are re-injected.

Because of the added time and discomfort, collectors generally pay donors

for plasma donations - although not in the case of the Covid-19 plasma donations. Even with the incentive of cash (usually \$30 to \$50), most gainfully employed people are not willing to put up with the time and discomfort.

Because of that, most collection takes place among people who need money, in low-income neighbourhoods - a morally ambiguous situation, at best. So while plasma-related therapies have saved countless lives, they've always been shadowed by a sense of exploitation and scandal - and human tragedy.

The story of plasma begins on the eve of World War II, the greatest blood-shedding in human history. The Allies knew that blood would be a key resource for treating those injured in battle, but were also well aware of its shortcomings.

Blood could only be stored for a few weeks before the red cells broke down too short a time to be shipped and saved for battle overseas. They needed to find a component of blood that was more

The most obvious choice was plasma, the amber-coloured mixture of water, protein, antibodies and clotting factors that rises to the top when whole blood is centrifuged.

Plasma cannot serve all the functions of whole blood: lacking red cells, for example, it cannot carry oxygen. But in wartimes it could serve as a substitute when people needed their blood volume restored quickly, as in burns or accident injuries. And, unlike whole blood, plasma could be stored for months and could handle the rough conditions of wartime air transport.

That knowledge became crucial early in the war, when Americans began shipping plasma to London. With the German air force pounding their city, the British were in desperate need of trans-

Led by prominent African American doctor Charles Drew, the Red Cross and other organisations mounted blood drives in New York and set up a system to separate the plasma and ship it

It was no easy task. Plasma is easily contaminated by bacteria, and if it's processed improperly it can kill someone just as easily as cure them.

For that reason, the British referred to plasma both as "liquid dynamite" and "liquid gold". By the time the project ended in 1941. Drew and his colleagues had succeeded in collecting, processing and shipping 5,500 units of the life-saving liquid.

Drew became a revered figure in American medicine. A gifted athlete and scholar, he was the first African Ameri-

A revered educator at Howard University before taking charge of Plasma for Britain and later returning to teaching, he's equally famous for the body of

myth surrounding his death.



the way to an annual free clinic in the Deep South, he was taken to hospital in North Carolina, where some say he died because the doctors there refused to give him blood from white donors. In truth, the doctors recognised Drew and did everything they could to save him.

Other researchers found that freeze-drying plasma made it even more stable, giving it an indefinite shelf life. When American medics deployed overseas they carried packets with a vial of dried plasma along with a vial of distilled water to reconstitute it for the wounded.

#### Plasma key in pharmaceutical industry

By war's end, plasma and blood had become critical parts of the American treatment arsenal. But that was only the beginning. In the post-war years, plasma became a key raw material for a burgeoning pharmaceutical industry. And as the industry grew, its leaders found it impossible to maintain their

In the 1960s, a new process changed the game. The process, called plasmapheresis, involved hooking the donor up to a machine that separated the plasma and returned the red cells to the person.

People who donate whole blood can only do so six times a year, because it takes time to regenerate red cells. Donating more frequently would cause anaemia. But plasma regenerates in a few days, meaning that a plasma donor can safely donate 104 times annually.

To the pharmaceutical industry, this was the equivalent of hitting a gusher, and the industry took off. Treatment with plasma became a standard practice in surgery. Rather than infuse whole blood into patients, surgeons could infuse plasma. Antibodies derived from plasma became an important source of passive immunity - the same concept that's being explored to fight the coronavirus today. The technology soon became a blessing to people with haemophilia, a genetic condition that prevents blood from clotting.

For most of history, these people would die of haemorrhage before reaching adulthood. In the early 20th century they would get whole blood transfusions, usually from family members, but with little effectiveness.

Things improved in the 1960s, when patients could go to the hospital for intravenous infusions of plasma or its concentrate. But in the 1970s, a miracle arrived. Scientists developed a plasma-derived concentrated clotting factor, called Factor VIII, which patients could keep in their refrigerators and inject Gravely injured in a car accident on with a syringe whenever they needed it, in case of an internal

haemorrhage or external bleed.

This changed haemophilia patients' lives utterly, doubling their average lifespans and giving them the active lifestyles they wished for.

Corey Dubin, a radio producer and activist with haemophilia said in a late 1990s interview that before Factor VIII concentrate came along, he always had to be within a short drive of his hospital, where he could rush to get infusions of plasma in

After the concentrate, he felt like a free man. He could hike the mountains of California and bushwhack through the jungles of Costa Rica, while packing some concentrate and a sy-

#### Prospecting for new plasma supplies

But there was a hitch: each unit of Factor VIII required many units of raw material to start with. Even by bleeding donors more than 100 times a year, the plasma collectors could not get enough. And so, just as the oil industry explored the world for places to drill, plasma collectors went prospecting

The obvious place was in America's poor neighbourhoods, where many plasma collectors set up their centres. Many of those centres were unclean and poorly regulated. Some paid donors in chits redeemable at the local liquor store rather than in cash. In the mid-1970s, a series of newspaper and television re-

ports revealed the degrading conditions in some collection centres. In response, many collectors moved to the developing nations - notably, Haiti and Central America.

"We were peddling so much plasma out of Costa Rica that it must have been their second biggest in export after bananas," one pharmaceutical company executive reported.

But that didn't last. When newspaper reporters exposed the centre in Haiti, the country's rulers ordered it destroyed. A few years later, the collection centre in Nicaragua became such a hotbed of anger that rioters torched it, triggering that country's revolution.

Worse scandals were to come, as some collectors moved their business to prisons. One collector, Dr Austin Stough, had gained access to several prisons in the South through political connections and bribery.

Stough's target was high-priced immune globulins, the antibody-containing component of plasma. Antibodies are specific to disease: in order to get antibodies for measles, for example, you have to obtain plasma from a measles survivor.

Rather than scour the country for survivors, it's more efficient to inject a potential donor with a low dose of the disease and then return to collect his plasma after it has become rich in anti-

To Stough, prisons made ideal harvesting grounds: the inmates were eager to make a little cash - usually very little - and it was easy to find the same donor on the return visit.

Stough's business thrived until the mid-1970s, until his sloppy practices and failure to sterilise equipment led to a series of hepatitis outbreaks that caused him to be shut down. But others succeeded him, and prison collections continued into the 1990s.

By the mid-1980s, dealers like Stough were fast disappearing, and collection centres tended to be well-run and clean. Europeans scorned America's for-profit collections, while quietly - and hypocritically - importing most of their raw material from the US.

But even during that prosperous time, conditions were lining up for a tragedy. Two factors set the stage. One was the collection in poor neighbourhoods, where people generally had higher rates of infectious disease - such as hepatitis.

The second was the way that the plasma was handled. In order to efficiently process the material, the plasma was consolidated into enormous pools, sometimes of up to 60,000 donors. This caused a tremendous mixing to take place, especially with the more concentrated medicines, which required greater amounts of raw plasma as the starting material.

Virally speaking, someone with haemophilia injecting Factor VIII might be making contact with thousands of other people. With highly concentrated material being shipped internationally, a pandemic spread by plasma products was bound to occur; and it did with the spread of hepatitis and AIDS.

Most of us know the story of AIDS how it first appeared in the gay community, how it was early on ignored by politicians, and how it then spread throughout the world through sexual contact and blood transfusion.

What's less widely known is how AIDS devastated the haemophilia community. In what became known as the Hemophilia Holocaust, thousands of people became infected because the medicine they took was contaminated with HIV. Dubin revealed that he had long suspected that he had been injecting himself with contaminated Factor VIII. "I decided that maybe I could survive it," he said in the mid-1990s. He died of AIDS in 2017, at the age of 61.

A piece published in Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Douglas Starr is a Boston University Science Journalism Professor Emeritus and author of books and articles on science and its role in the human experience.

### 'High-quality, unique local content is the way for the media industry to go'

A day before the four-day (June 15-18) World Media Leaders eSummit, India-based business analyst Elizabeth Shilpa asked leading news media analyst Ken Doctor five questions to gauge his take on how the media industry is reshaped by the Covid-19 pandemic. Doctor, a columnist at Nieman Journalism Lab with his renowned 'Newsonomics' analysis, was set to moderate a session with Phillip Crawley, CEO of The Globe and Mail in Canada, and Jean-Luc Breysee, Deputy CEO of Group Figaro in France at the eSummit.

**WAN-IFRA:** The engagement with audiences appears to be better than ever before. Do you think the Covid-19 pandemic has played a role in winning back trust in newspaper organisations, if so, how can they leverage that loyalty in business terms?

**Ken Doctor:** We've seen unprecedented short-term membership bumps in news subscription sales. Technology provider Zuora has reported increased subscription growth of 110 per cent, among its clients, in the last three months. That tracks closely what I've seen: those news sources that have devoted significant resources to local Covid-19 coverage have been rewarded by their readers, with new subscriptions. In fact, they've re-proven the unique value of local reporting. Even superior national reporting can't do what the locals have done. The lesson: high-quality, unique local content sells.

#### You have covered consolidation in the US quite extensively. How will the pandemic affect that? Accelerate it even more so?

Consolidation is already picking up more speed. The reason is the same as it was pre-pandemic, but with even more urgency: M&A (mergers & acquisitions) is a prime strategy to reduce expenses, and costreduction is top of mind for all publishers. With Alden Global Media closer to assuming fuller control of Tribune Publishing, and McClatchy exiting bankruptcy court, we may well see what were seven independent newspapers companies falling into three or four companies by year's end. And they will likely be largely controlled by financial companies.



#### Do you have a sense of this situation in Europe?

I don't have a good enough view. The longer-standing family and private ownership structure in Europe has clearly cushioned the continent from some

newspaper business in North America. With the huge hits on advertising revenue, what are some of the key alternate revenue streams you see emerg-

ing out of this crisis? The new ad losses - with somewhere

of the excesses of financialisation of the between 15 per cent and 30 per cent of pre-pandemic ad revenues not expected to return even when society fully reopens - have accelerated the intense focus on reader revenue. That's job one for newspaper publishers. We see a lot of experimentation with virtual events,

mainly to replace lost sponsor revenue expected from physical events. Those physical events were the key new alternative many publishers had turned to, so in addition to the lost ad revenue, that's been another hit to income.

#### And what do you think about some of the non-profit models and government funding long-term?

All high-quality journalism, whether produced by for-profits or non-profits, is welcome. At this perilous moment, we're seeing a greater shrinking of the for-profit press, with a few notable exceptions.

Overall, the non-profit model is small, diverse and enthusiastic - but not coming close to replacing the volume of local reporting that has been lost in the great shrinkage of the press. We're seeing more serious business and tech-based thinking in some of these enterprises. That's very welcome, and needs to grow rapidly.

I've announced my own experimental local news model, an interesting hybrid as a for-profit, public benefit corporation. I hope Lookout Local changes the conversation about what's possible and necessary in rebuilding local news in the 2020s. More news on it soon.

As to government support, there's a wide mix of proposals in formation. Short-term ones, such as payroll support, clearly have been helpful. There are intriguing longer-term ones that would provide both potential news company owners and/or subscribers tax benefits. We'll see how many actually get tested in North America, Europe and/or Australia.

As critical as is the financial feeding of journalists' jobs, I believe we all need to keep a couple of arms' lengths from government influence in the essential independence of news media. That's as fundamental to our survival as is the money that supports it.

A World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) interview.

### Guardian www.ippmedia.com

# BUSINESS

**SLOWDOWN** 

### M-Pesa brand goes international after over 200 countries access the platform

**By Guardian Reporter** 

VODACOM Tanzania Plc's mobile money platform, M-Pesa has set a record by becoming the first brand to be accessed by customers to send and receive cash on their handsets.

The domestic market's leading mobile phone and technology services company announced yesterday that M-Pesa customers have the option and ability to easily transfer and receive funds from individuals across more than 200 countries worldwide.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during an international day of family remittances at which stakeholders met to

deliberate on the future of international remittance post COVID-19, Vodacom's M-Commerce Director, Epimack Mbeteni said that international remittances make people and small businesses stay connected irrespective of geography.

Mbeteni further pointed out that international remittances continue to transform lives of thousands of Tanzanians through facilitating payments for education, health and various business segments which is why M-Pesa maintains to expand to allow the Diaspora effectively participate in socio-economic activities of the country.

"We pride ourselves for being ena-



A Bank of Tanzania assistant manager, Albert Cizari (C), in a group photo alongside Vodacom Tanzania Plc M-Commerce director, Epimack Mbeteni (3rd L) shortly after launching the telco's expansion to more than 200 countries through an M-Pesa platform a portfolio dubbed 'Dunia ni kijiji na M-Pesa' in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

blers in the payment system by facilitating cross border trade within the region for the efficient and seamless sending and receiving of funds, from anywhere around the globe through M-Pesa international money transfer service," he said.

In its efforts to broaden its portfolio through partnerships, Vodacom has over the past few months established global contacts with Money-Gram, WorldRemit, Remitly and

JubaExpress, all of whom enable customers to receive money from over 200 countries across the world directly into their M-Pesa wallet.

The telco's Pan African partners include Safaricom, MTN, EcoCash and Mama Money which enable customers to send or receive money from Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Burundi and South Africa.

"With such a huge portfolio of

ners, the world is a village with M-Pesa. We thank our customers for their patronage and we remain committed to deliver on our vision to lead Tanzania into the digital age and change lives through technol-

Peter De Caluwe, CEO- Thunes praised the move saying such partnerships and innovations support the true African spirit because couninternational money transfer part- tries have always been connected

ogy," Mbeteni noted.

through daily movement of people, goods and services.

"International money transfer services are critical to African economies as they facilitate inflow of foreign currency into these countries and have a direct bearing on the social and economic welfare of the people," De Caluwe said while noting that mobile money payments also facilitate financial inclusion in developing markets.

#### **OUTSTANDING**

### TPDC's Mnazi Bay partner to pay 6.9bn/- dividend after impressive 2019 results

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

ONE of Mnazi Bay major shareholders, Wentworth Resources Plc has declared dividend of U\$3 million (over 6.9bn/-) to shareholders after posting net profits of U\$18.6 million (over 43bn/-) thanks to the country's growing natural gas demand.

In its 2019 annual results released recently, the London Stock Exchange listed company said 2019 was a year in which it continued to gain financial strength as highlighted by the declared first dividend with a yield of 7.2 percent.

Wentworth which owns 31.94 percent of shares at Mnazi Bay asset currently being operated by Maurel et Prom with a 48.06 percent stake, said it also became debt free by end of January this year with cash balance of U\$14 million. Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation has 20 percent of Mnazi Bay assets.

The company's board Chairman, Robert McBean said in the report that Mnazi Bay is performing as expected from a world class reservoir, but production rates have been affected over the past year by fluctuations in demand primarily driven by increased supply by hydroelectric generation.

The production volumes for 2019 were within the guidelines provided by Wentworth management and averaged 70.3 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscf/day) but has capacity to deliver in excess of 100 MMscf/day from existing wells and

production facilities. "2019 was a difficult year for the oil and gas busi-

ness as public environmental protests affected financial institutions' ability to further invest in our industry. Although Wentworth's gas focused business model shields it from most negative sentiment, the company still faces the pressures put forward by environmental groups to remove fossil fuels from the world energy supply mix," McBean said.

He further noted that the power access gap in the country is growing, despite domestic energy supply increasing and transformational growth is needed to deliver universal access throughout the country through low-cost low carbon solutions.

"Natural gas will play a critical role in meeting this target to support cheaper and more reliable electricity alongside carbon-free renewable energy systems, such as hydro and solar. Wentworth is committed to being a long-term partner for Tanzania in delivering low-carbon, domestic energy supply growth that will underpin the socio-economic development of the country in the near and longerterm," the Wentworth chair added.

Backing her boss, newly appointed Wentworth CEO, Katherine Roe said debt free and with a healthy balance sheet, the company has never been in a more financially and operationally robust position, especially important in these uncertain times of the coronavirus outbreak and stock market vola-

"Following strong performance across the board in 2019 and a resilient 2020 outlook, further underlined by our decision to announce a second interim dividend, we are excited and confident about the



Wentworth Resources Plc's CEO, Katherine Roe.

future," Roe said.

"We have increased capacity at the Mnazi Bay concession area which is well positioned to supply the expected demand increase over the near term as gasfired power generation in Tanzania is increased by the government,' she added while noting that with over 65 percent of the country's population having no reliable access to power and a universal energy access target set by the government by 2030. a huge opportunity ex-

The GBP 0.9 pence per share dividend is payable by the end of this month. The company paid a maiden interim dividend of U\$1.0 million in September 2019 bringing a total distribution in respect of 2019 to U\$3.0 million.

#### **COMPENSATION**

### Insurers pay Sh108m in Covid-19 death

#### **NAIROBI**

INSURANCE companies have so far paid Sh108.2 million on Covid-19 death claims since the disease was reported in Kenya mid-March.

According to the Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA), the total claims have hit Sh109.6 million, including Sh1.45 million paid for general health cover. Coronavirus, which causes the disease, has infected more than 3,000 people and caused 89 deaths.

The Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) said that the industry has so far settled 10 life insurance claims. Under general health cover, insurers have received 45 claims of Sh11.9 million but paid out Sh1.45 million.

"Out of these (general health insurance)

claims, Sh1.45 million has been paid, Sh9.8 million is pending and about Sh580,000 is unpayable," IRA's chief executive Godfrey Kiptum told the Senate. Life Assurance is the second biggest longterm insurance business with gross premiums of Sh28.2 billion and IRA says claims in this class are expected to increase as the virus persists.

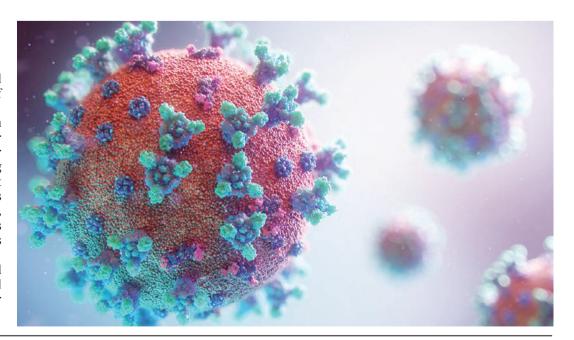
Although medical insurance companies have been paying coronavirus claims according to terms and conditions of their policies, the firms are facing a difficult period after the regulator directed that all coronavirus claims be settled.

Medical claims contribute the second largest premiums with gross written collections at quarter four of 2019 standing at Sh42.4 billion. According to IRA, motor insurance and medical insurance classes of business account for 67.1 percent of the gross premiums under the general insurance business that makes up 57 percent of

all insurance business.

Medical cover attracts equally high claims with Sh20.4 billion made in claims at the last quarter last year. Medical cover has been struggling over the last two years with industry players suffering a loss of Sh75.1 million last year, an improvement from a Sh1.1 billion loss at the end of 2018. As medical claims linked to the coronovirus spike, other medical claims have dropped as Kenyans keep away from hospitals afraid of coronavirus tests and being quarantined.

"We have noted that payments have slowed down and this could be attributed to the general slowdown in activities including invoicing," Mr Kiptum said.



#### **SLOWDOWN**

#### **JOHANNESBURG**

#### SOUTH Africa's smartphone market saw shipments decline 22.9% quarter on quarter (QoQ) in Q1 2020, according to the latest insights from global technology research and consulting firm Inter-

national Data Corporation (IDC). While shipments are traditionally weaker in Q1 than in Q4, the major reason behind the underperformance of the market was the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 outbreak halted production in China, with the resultant supply shortages effectively severing smartphone shipments into the South African in Q1

"The country's poor QoQ performance was due to delays in shipments of mobile phone devices into the country," says Arnold Ponela, a research analyst at IDC. "Economic activity is usually slow in the first quarter of the year, but this was exacerbated by uncer-

COVID-19 takes a swipe at Africa's smartphone market tainties caused by the COVID-19 crisis. With the negative impact of the pandemic on the economy, consumer demand declined substantially and channel activity was restricted due to lockdown meas-

ures and security issues." Despite all these challenges around supply and demand, Samsung continues to top the smartphone space in terms of overall smartphone shipments, accounting for 29.9% of the market's units

in Q1 2020. Samsung's lead was driven by the launch of various new affordable and feature-rich models such as its new A series and S series

range. Mobicel (17.7%) and Huawei (15.9%) followed in second and third place, respectively.

Looking ahead, IDC expects South Africa's overall mobile phone market to experience a further double-digit decline in Q2 2020 caused by COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions. "Con-

sumer demand will be severely affected, with the majority of consumer budgets being directed towards essential consumption," says Ramazan Yavuz, a senior research manager at IDC.

"Throughout 2020, the fallout from the COVID-19 crisis will compound South Africa's existing local and macroeconomic challenges.

**BUSINESS NEWS** 

**APPRECIATION** 

### Zanzibar Second VP salutes NMB for building materials donation

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank Plc's construction material donation worth 10m/- will go a long way in backing Zanzibar government's efforts to improve quality of education in the Spice Is-

Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Seif Ali Iddi said on Monday that NMB has been in the forefront in supporting government efforts to improve delivery of services in key sectors such as education and health.

"As government we thank the bank for the support which supplements state efforts in improving education and health sectors which give the public free services," Iddi said after receiving the donation for schools in Kikwajuni constituency.

He also commended the constituency's lawmaker and house of representatives members for doing a good job saying others should learn from them at this point in time when the country is heading for general elections. "You



NMB's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi, speaks at a past event.

can complete the remaining work in respective ing one percent of its profit to invest in comconstituencies, but never indulge in corruption to woo voters," the VP warned.

NMB's donation consisted of 215 iron sheets and 333 pieces of timber targeting construction of Kidutani, Jang'ombe and Miembeni schools in Kikwajuni constituency whose legislator is Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Hamad Masauni.

"This is among our corporate socio responsibility activities for this year. We always allocate at least one percent of the bank's profits to support education, health and provide disaster relief aid," said NMB's Chief Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi.

Mponzi who presented the donation at a ceremony also attended by the bank's Zanzibar Branch Manager, Abdallah Duch, said that for the past seven years, the bank has been allocatmunity projects in appreciation of the public's backing of its business activities.

In a vote of thanks, Masauni paid tribute to NMB's management and shareholders for allocating money to support community services. Masauni and his house of representatives counterpart, Nassor Salim Ali, said NMB is one of Isles government's main partner in improving social services.



This is among our corporate socio responsibility activities for this year. We always allocate at least one percent of the bank's profits to support education, health and

**DIVERSIFICATION** 

### Use of nuclear technology gets green light in Rwanda

**KIGALI** 

A Plenary session of the Chamber of Deputies on Monday, June 15, 2020, voted the law approving the ratification of the agreement between Rwanda and Russia, on cooperation in the construction of the Centre of Nuclear Science and Technology on the territory of Rwanda.

The agreement was signed in the Russian city Sochi, on October 24, 2019. The Centre will develop integrated nuclear energy solutions which the Ministry of Infrastructure expects to be beneficial to the advancement of several sectors of the economy especially agriculture, healthy, education, sciences and industry.

The Government of Rwanda started the process of developing nuclear energy applications for peaceful purposes, and establishing this Centre in Rwanda is

essential in order to access a wide range of nuclear applications in this regard, according to Minister of Infrastructure, Claver Gatete.

He told lawmakers that Rwanda chose six areas where such applications can be made including nuclear medicine, research reactor laboratory complex, and multipurpose radiation especially in agriculture, education, radiobiology, and material science.

Gatete said that the establishment of the centre is meant to provide Rwanda with required skills in the nuclear science and technology so that it becomes competitive at the international stage. Giving examples of the current nuclear usages, the Minister said that [some of] the imported foods into Rwanda are preserved using nuclear technology, and the security devices used to check cars are



Rwanda's Minister of Infrastructure, Claver Gatete.

equipped with that technology as well.

"If we do not have skills in such areas, we have a big problem. That is why we want to build the prerequisite skills, which requires laboratory and trained people," he said. MP John Ruku-Rwabyoma said that it is a good move that Rwanda is going to have the nuclear

"I am happy that Rwanda is going to have nuclear science. That will reduce the cost in electricity, agriculture, and research areas. We have reached a point where risks in nuclear science are over. Living near a nuclear reactor is like residing near a gas station," he said The aforementioned law was voted for by 76 MPs out of 78 who were present at the plenary. Two of them rejected it. MP Frank Habineza said that nuclear energy would cause more harm than good, hence voting against the law.

"Living near a nuclear energy plant is like living near a nuclear bomb which can explode and cause more damages. Considering the highly population density in Rwanda, there is no place where the plant can be built and the safety of Rwandans and neighbours is ensured," he said.

**PLEA** 

### Mozambican business sector asks for 50pc reduction in electricity rate

**MAPUTO** 

THE Confederation of Economic Associations (CTA), Mozambique's largest employer association, is negoenergy with state-owned company

discounts, and in principle are asking emergency in effect since April 1. for a 50% discount," the vice presitiating a 50% reduction in the price of dent of CTA's Energy department told a press conference in Maputo, the Mozambique Electricity (EDM), as part country's capital. Last week, the Mo-

demic, it was announced on Thursday. a general discount on energy prices considered the most vulnerable, and "We are in talks with EDM for more of 10%, for the duration of the state of who consume up to 125 kWh, mainly tion should be directed especially to

Speaking in parliament yesterday, the Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleiane, announced a 50% reduction in the social electricity tariff

of measures to face the Covid-19 pan- zambican government announced for the just over 3,000 EDM customers counter-measures. in the most remote areas. The CTA the industry and hospitality sectors, announced last week does not help entrepreneurs, who are already recording large losses because of Covid-19

According to Muni Sacur, atten-The businessman appealed to EDM to reduce the tariff for a period of six months, to help support the "expenses

with the personnel." "We have to safeguard our brothers' jobs, because we don't want to close companies," Sacur according to the AFP news agency, added.

Mozambique, which has been in a state of emergency since April 1 and by the end of this month, has recorded a total of 233 cases of the new coronavirus, with two deaths and 82 people accounted fully recovered. Globally, the Covid-19 pandemic has already claimed more than 355,000 lives and infected more than 5.7 million people in 196 countries and territo-

**INVESTMENT** 

### Foreign investors are pouring billions into **South African bonds**

**JOHANNESBURG** 

LAST week, foreign investors were net buyers of R4 billion in South African bonds, the latest JSE data shows. That followed two previous weeks of solid buying, with foreigners also net buyers of billions in local bonds during that time.

So far this year, foreigners sold R63 billion in SA bonds - but this is much less than the large outflow, of between R110 billion and R250 billion, that analysts expected following SA's sovereign credit rating downgrade to junk by Moody's in March.

It was feared that Moody's downgrade would trigger a destructive sell-off as foreign funds which can only invest in investment-grade bonds had to dump local bonds. In truth, the selling was much tamer than expected. Still, foreign investors now hold less than 32% of the issued SA bonds - from 42% years ago.

Now some of the world's biggest investment banks, including Goldman Sachs, Deutsche Bank, and Bank of America are recommending that their clients buy South African government bonds. Last week, at Treasury's bond auction, demand for SA bonds outstripped supply by almost three times: government auctioned off R2.1 billion in R186 bonds, while bids of R5.97 billion were received. Investors received a yield of around 7.5%. South Africa yields are standing out,

says Wikus Furstenberg, portfolio manager and head of interest rate process at Futuregrowth Asset Management. Many government bonds - including the US and most of the rich European countries now offer negative yields. This means that investors are paying these countries for the privilege of lending them money. In comparison, South African bonds, are still offering an attractive, positive rate.

After climbing to almost 11.5% in March, key government bond yields dipped to around 7.5% last week. This means government can offer much lower rates of interest when it issues new bonds -

which should ease the load on taxpayers. Local bonds have also received a boost from the Reserve Bank, which has (basically) been creating money out of thin air to buy government bonds. This was in response to a significant drop in market liquidity at the start of the coronavirus crisis. The Reserve Bank bought just more than R30 billion in bonds in April and May. The buying of government bonds in the secondary market intended to prevent the local bond market from freezing up, Furstenberg says.

But he cautions that it would be undesirable for the bank to continue doing this. "It most certainly is not ideal for market prices to be influenced by central bank intervention. Although the Bank categorically stated that the reason for the jump in the SA government securi-



South Africa Reserve Bank governor Lesetja Kganyago.

ties holding on its balance sheet is not to fund the budget deficit, it would become harder to convince the market otherwise if this continues unabated, even though its buying is limited to secondary market activity."

The current foreign interest in South African bonds may also not be sustainable, as the country's fiscal outlook is increasingly shaky. South Africa's GDP to debt ratio is currently around 66%, but on track to blow out to 90% in the next two years in light of the downward pressure on economic growth, pressure on tax revenue collection and the inability of the state to cut current expenditure to

While there may be a new normal in indebtedness following the coronavirus crisis - most other countries have also pumped billions into their economies there is concern about how the alreadyspluttering South African economy will bounce back, as well as how longstanding structural issues will be resolved.

Chiefly among them is the shrinking tax base, Furstenberg says. Even before the coronavirus crisis, tax revenue was under pressure - and government's decision to forego tax income from cigarettes and alcohol sales during the first phases of lockdown will not help.



The current foreign interest in South African bonds may also not be sustainable, as the country's fiscal outlook is increasingly shaky. South Africa's GDP to debt ratio is currently around 66%,



#### **COMPETITIVENESS**

### China to complete Beidou network rivalling America's GPS

#### **BEIJING**

THE Chinese Beidou navigation network will be completed this month when its final satellite goes into orbit, giving China greater independence from US-owned GPS and heating up competition in a sector long dominated by the US.

The idea to develop Beidou, or the Big Dipper in Chinese, took shape in the 1990s as the military sought to reduce reliance on the Global Positioning System (GPS) run by the US Air Force. When the first Beidou satellites were launched in 2000, coverage was limited to China. As use of mobile devices expanded, China in 2003 tried to join the Galileo satellite navigation project proposed by the European Union but later pulled out to focus on Beidou.

In the age of the iPhone, the second generation of Beidou satellites went operational in 2012, covering the Asia-Pacific. China began deploying the third generation of satellites aimed at global coverage in 2015.

The 35th and final Beidou-3 satellite will be launched this month – the day has yet to be announced – meaning Beidou has more satellites in its system than GPS's 31, and more than Galileo and Russia's Glonass.

With estimated investment of US\$10-billion, Beidou keeps the communications network of the Chinese military secure, avoiding the risk of disruption to GPS in the extreme event of

conflict. Weapons targeting and guidance also improves. When complete, Beidou's location services are accurate down to 10cm in the Asia-Pacific, compared to GPS's 30cm range.

Better accuracy

"Beidou was obviously designed a few decades after GPS, so it has had the benefit of learning from the GPS experience," said Andrew Dempster, director of the Australian Centre for Space Engineering

"It has some signals that have higher bandwidth, giving better accuracy. It has fewer orbit planes for the satellites, making constellation maintenance easier." Beidou-related services such as port traffic monitoring and disaster mitigation have been exported to about 120 countries, state media reported.

Many of those countries are involved in the Belt and Road initiative, spearheaded by President Xi Jinping to create a modern-day Silk Road of trade and investment. In a 2019 report, the US congres-



Two Beidou satellites via a single carrier rocket take off at the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre, Sichuan province, China, on 12 February 2018.

sional US-China Economic and Security Review Commission warned that China promoted launch services, satellites and Beidou under its "Space Silk Road" to deepen reliance on China for space-based services, potentially at the expense of US influence.

Thailand and Pakistan were the first foreign countries to sign up for Beidou's services, in 2013. Within China, more than 70% of mobile phones were Beidou-enabled as of 2019, state media reported, including models made by Huawei. Oppo, Xiaomi, Vivo and Samsung. Millions of taxis, buses and trucks were also able to receive Beidou signals. China's satellite navigation sector may top \$57-billion in value this year, state media said.

#### COVID-19

### Confined at home, world forced into eating less sugar

#### LONDON

FOR years, governments, doctors and celebrity chefs tried and failed to get the world to consume less sugar. Then the pandemic hit.

The global closure of restaurants, sports arenas and cinemas means sugar demand will drop this season for the first time in four decades, according to Czarnikow Group. Drink and confectionery sales at giants including Coca-Cola Co and Nestle have fallen, and while economies start to reopen, it's unclear how quickly demand will reployment fall.

home is normally more than what you would now substitute and have at home," said Ben Seed, an analyst at Czarnikow in London. "If you go to the cinema you would probably quite happily have a litre or maybe more of soda while you watch the film, whereas we just don't think people would drink a whole litre of soda while watching Netflix."

The sugar industry was already under siege before the coronavirus hit. Demand growth – largely driven by developing countries - slowed in recent years as lawmakers from South Africa to Thailand taxed sugary drinks and health groups urged people to cut back on carbs amid obesity Companies responded by selling slimmed-down treats and sugar-free sodas.

None of that had as much impact as the lockdowns that slashed outof-home spending. And now the emerging global recession is hurting the demand outlook going forward. In the first three until it's their turn? Some weeks of April alone, would do, some would Coca-Cola's volumes slid probably turn around."

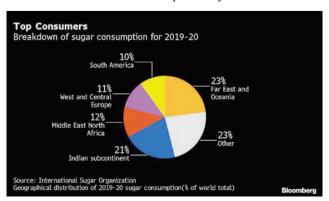
about 25%, and the company said the pandemic's effect on the second quarter will be material. PepsiCo Inc. expects second-quarter revenue to fall and in Germany, a key sugar-consuming nation, a group of confectioners said sales at half of members surveyed fell in the four months through April.

Sugar consumption will slip 1.2% to 169.9 million tons this season, according to supply chain services company Czarnikow. Analysts at the US government and Citigroup Inc. also see demand falling this season. The Intercover as incomes and em- national Sugar Organisation said the crisis has "Consumption out of wiped out most of 2020's projected consumption growth, and bigger losses may follow.

> Falling demand will bigger-than-exmean pected sugar surpluses this season and next, said John Stansfield, an analyst at trader Group Sopex. While New York futures recovered since late April amid concerns that supplies out of Brazil may start tightening, they're still almost 50% below a 2016 peak.

> Even though people may turn to comfort foods like ice cream, that won't offset lost consumption. For example, Londonbased ice-cream maker Oddono's Gelati Italiani's sales have been affected by reduced staff and social distancing.

> "If we were able to have five members of staff behind the counter serving as many people as possible at the fastest time, we would probably make 30%-40% more than we make now," said cofounder Christian Oddono. "Would people queue for an extra half an hour



# MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

#### **ITV PGM SCHEDULE**

SATURDAY 13 June Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha

7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 Mjue Zaidi rpt

11:15 The Base rpt The Great Queen Seonduk Chetu ni chetu rpt

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito Igizo rpt: Mizengwe Igizo: Mtego

Shamsham za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi

Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle

Hawavumi lakini wamo Kesho leo rpt Isidingo rpt

DWTV

SUNDAY 14 June Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI Kumekucha 7:00 Habari

8:00 Al jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt Bongo Movie rpt:

Tamasha la Michezo Mwangaza The Great queen Seonduk 16:00

ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi

Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe Mjue Zaidi

Bongo Movie: Apolo ITV Top 10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

MONDAY 15 June Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI Kumekucha

7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 09:55 Habari za saa

Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa ITV Top 10 rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera News 12:30 Mtego rpt

12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa

15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi

Kesho leo

18:45

Dakika 45 Kipindi Maalum: Utawala bora na utumishi Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV

19:00 Afya ya Jamii

Habari

**TUESDAY 16 June** 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI Kumekucha Michezo Habari za saa

Kumekucha Kishindo Isidingo Watoto wetu 10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa

12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt 12:55 Habari za saa Kipindi maalum: TMDA na Jamii 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt 13:55 Habari za saa

14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base

18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo

20:00 Habari 21:00 Tanzania Yetu 21:30 Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base

**WEDNESDAY 17 June** 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HARARI

DWTV

00:30

6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu

10:30 Uchumi na biashara Habari za saa 10:55 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45

13:45 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Utawala bora na utumishi Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30

Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu Korean drama rpt: The great queen 18:15 Seonduk 19:00 Ijue Sheria 19:30 Isidingo

Habari Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?

21:15 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi housing

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost Habari 23:30 The Base Al Jazeera

DWTV **THURSDAY 18 June** 5:30

Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo Habariz a saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo

Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa Watoto Shamba lulu rpt Habari za saa

Habari za saa 12:00 Al jazeera 12:30 Ijue Sheria 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi maalum: Watumishi housing

13:30 Tanzania yetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base

18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari

Jiji Letu

18:00

21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV

FRIDAY 19 June 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt 11:00 The Base 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base

17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto

23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV

SATURDAY 20 June 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha

7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 Mjue Zaidi rpt

The Base rpt

12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 21:00

13:15 Igizo rpt: Mapito 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani

Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang Jungu Kuu 19:30

Shika Bamba Habari Art and lifestyle Hawavumi lakini wamo Kesho leo rpt

22:45 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV SUNDAY 21 June Uwanja wa Mazoezi

HABARI

Kumekucha Al jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt

12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Apolo 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza The Great queen Seonduk 16:00 16:45 ITV Top 10

17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi

18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe Mjue Zaidi

22:05 Bongo Movie: Aple ITV Top 10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

CAPITAL

Sat 13 June 08:00 CNN International Drive It rpt 09:00 Turning the Spotlight rot 09:30 Culinary delight rpt 10:00 10:30 Innovation rpt Out n'about rot 11:00

11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Usafiri wako rot Eco@Africa rpt 12:30 Business edition rpt 13:00 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family 13:30 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off

Capchat rnt 18:15 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor Korean Drama: Kimchi Family 20:00 Out n' About 21:00 21:30 Movie: Personal Sergeant Series rpt: Grapes of vine 23:00 01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 14 June

17:00

17:30

19:00

19:30

08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family 11:30 12:00 Jagina rpt Bundesligga Kick Off rpt 12:30 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Itohan 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Drive it rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt

The Decor rpt

Turning the Spotlight rpt

Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights

Meza huru

Korean Drama: Kimchi Family Shift 21:15 Capchat live

Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny

Mon 15 June 06:00 Al jazeera

Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny

14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) Series rpt: Grapes of vine

Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:00 Eco@Africa rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 The Décor rpt

Shamba lulu Series: Grapes of vine The Monday Agenda

Capital Prime News 00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 16 June 06:00 Al jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) Series rpt: Grapes of vine 16:00

16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt 20.00 Series: Grapes of vine Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny

21:30 Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 17 June

23:15

06:00 Al jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine 16:30 Culinary delight rpt 17:00 Innovation rpt

17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Series: Grapes of vine 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45: 22:45 The Décor

Al Jazeera

Thurs 18 June 06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny

Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the spotlight 19:30 Tanzania yetu 20:00 Series: Grapes of vine Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Capchat rpt

23:00 Al Jazeera Frid 19 June

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

14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine The Monday Agenda rpt

### **Guardian**

# WORLD

## Beijing steps up virus control as 27 new cases reported

BEIJING/WUHAN/SHANGHAI/SHIJI-**AZHUANG** 

BEIJING has strengthened the management of people and key areas with high risks of being infected by COV-ID-19, said a Beijing municipal government official yesterday, after 27 newly

people should suspend their trips out of Beijing and those who have left the city should report to local governments to help curb the spread of the virus. Residential communities around markets where confirmed cases had

Schools and public transport in the city have taken measures to curb the spread of the virus. The number of passengers on buses or subways has been limited and all passengers are required to wear masks.

The city plans to roll out sweeping nucleic acid tests for residents living Xicheng district, after a market employee was confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 on Sunday, an official

government, said at a news conference in Beijing that testing sites would be set up in the neighborhood to cover all residents to facilitate epidemic control measures, including home isolation or quarantine at designated sites.

ties on Sunday shuttered and disinfected Guangwai Tiantao Honglian Produce Market, where an infected employee was found to have traveled to the Xinfadi produce market, a recent hotspot in southern Beijing.

nearby residents have been put in isolation and tested negative for the novel coronavirus. Seven residential communities near the market have been put on lockdown since 2 am, with volunteers designated to meet



A medical worker (right) takes a swab sample of a resident at a testing site in Fengtai district in Beijing, capital of China, on Monday. (XINHUA)

fadi market since May 30 are required to contact neighborhood authorities for testing and isolation, he added.

Li pledged all-out efforts to ensure basic needs for people put on isolation in Xicheng district.

Cleanup crews have been set up to take care of waste generated by residents on home isolation, and community workers and volunteers would be deployed to deliver food and other basic supplies to residents, Li said.

People who need renal dialysis and other essential healthcare during the two-week lockdown would be transported to designated hospitals using designated vehicles, he said, adding that neighborhood authorities would also help buy medication for people with chronic diseases.

Efforts will also be made to help graduating students in middle and high schools study at home, he added.

The Beijing Municipal Health Commission reported a total of 106 confirmed COVID-19 cases from Thursday to Monday, with 27 new confirmed cases, two suspected cases and three asymptomatic cases reported on Monday.

By Monday, Beijing had reported 526 confirmed domestic cases, including 411 who had People who have traveled near Xin- been discharged from hospitals after recovery

and nine deaths. There were still 106 patients receiving medical treatment, and 10 asymptomatic cases were still under medical observation.

So far, 174 imported cases have been reported in Beijing, with one still hospitalized.

#### Mainland reports 40 new cases

A total of 40 newly confirmed COVID-19 cases were reported on the Chinese mainland Monday, of which 32 were transmitted locally and eight were imported, the National Health Commission said in its daily report.

Out of all the local cases, 27 were reported in Beijing, four in Hebei province and one in Sichuan province, the commission said.

For the cases in Hebei, the provincial health commission said two of the four cases were close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Beijing. One of them formerly worked in Beijing's Xinfadi wholesale market while the other one was a case transmitted locally in Hebei.

Out of the eight imported cases, three were reported in Shanghai, three in Guangdong province, one in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region and one in Liaoning province, the commis-

All of the three imported cases in Shanghai

#### Xi to chair China-Africa summit on solidarity against COVID-19

**BEIJING** 

CHINESE President Xi Jinping will preside over an extraordinary China-Africa summit on solidarity against COVID-19 in Beijing today, and deliver a keynote speech, foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying announced yesterday.

The summit is jointly proposed by China; South Africa, the rotating chair of the African Union (AU); and Senegal, co-chair of the Forum on

Leaders of African countries, including members of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government and rotating chairs of major African subregional organizations; and the chairperson of the AU Commission will attend the summit upon invitation.

China-Africa Cooperation. It will be held via video link.

The secretary-general of the United Nations and the director-general of the World Health Organization will attend the meeting as special guests.

#### **Kremlin comments on Ukraine's** new NATO partnership status

**MOSCOW** 

NATO steps to expand its sphere of influence on other countries does not ramp up stability and security in Europe, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday, commenting on NATO's de-



cision to recognize Ukraine as an Enhanced Opportunities

"Undeniably, we paid attention to that," Peskov said, noting that Moscow's position regarding the alliance edging closer to the Russian borders is consistent and well-known.

"We always carefully treat NATO military infrastructure getting closer to our borders, we are forced to take measures to ensure our own security in this regard," the Kremlin representative noted.

According to him, "taking into account NATO's nature and its initial goals that NATO was created to achieve as a mechanism of confrontation," Russia has always carefully observed the process "when NATO absorbs new countries in various forms.'

"We do not believe that it boosts security and stability in Europe," the Kremlin representative added.

Answering a question whether he believes that it is symbolic that NATO made the announcement on June 12, Russia Day, Peskov underlined,

"It is up to representatives of the North Atlantic Alliance to contemplate symbolism of certain actions, it is not our concern." "In this case, we are paying attention to the na-

ture of the processes happening," he concluded. On Friday, the statement of Oana Lungescu, NATO spokesperson, was released in Brussels, notifying that the alliance had recognized Ukraine as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner. This status grants Kiev better access to NATO

programs, drills and information exchanges. However, the alliance stressed, "Ukraine's status as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner does not prejudge any decisions on NATO membership." Ukraine became the sixth NATO partner after Georgia, Jordan, Australia, Finland and

**UNITED NATIONS** 

THE United Nations has verified over 25,000 grave viola-

The overall number of grave violations remains similar to the number reported in 2018 and represents some 70 viola-

More than half of the violations in 2019 were committed by non-state actors, according to the report. Some 10,173 children were verified as having been killed (4,019) and maimed (6,154), with Afghanistan remaining the deadliest country for children, followed by Syria and Yemen, according to the report.

were used by non-state actors.

Xinhua

#### confirmed cases were reported in China's capital on Monday. The official stressed that high-risk

been reported should be closed.

near a produce market in the capital's

Li Yi, deputy head of the district

The move came after local authori-

Li said 62 market employees and

their needs for daily supplies.

### African nations seek UN inquiry into US police brutality

AFRICAN countries are lobbying to set up a UN inquiry into "systemic racism" and "police brutality" in the United States and elsewhere, aiming to defend the rights of people of African descent, a draft resolution seen by Reuters shows.

The text, circulating among diplomats in Geneva, voices alarm at "recent incidents of police brutality against peaceful demonstrators defending the rights of Africans and of people of African descent". It is

due to be considered at an urgent debate of the UN Human Rights Council on Wednesday.

The 47-member Council agreed on Tuesday to convene at the request of Burkina Faso on behalf of African countries after the death last month of George Floyd, an African American, in police custody in Minneapolis. His death has ignited protests worldwide.

The United States, which quit the Council two years ago alleging bias



against its ally Israel, has not commented on being put in the dock. The text, subject to change after

negotiation at the Council, calls for setting up "an independent international commission of inquiry ... to establish facts and circumstances related to the systemic racism, alleged violations of international human rights law and abuses against Africans and of people of African descent in the United States of America and other parts of the world". The panel should examine federal, state and local government responses to peaceful protests "in-

cluding the alleged use of excessive force against protesters, bystanders and journalists". The resolution calls on the United States and other countries to coop-

erate fully with the inquiry, which would report back in a year.

The Council already has commissions of inquiry or fact-finding missions into human rights violations in hotspots including Syria, Burundi, Myanmar, South Sudan, Venezuela and Yemen. **Agencies** 

### Trump to sign executive order on police reform amid intensifying outcry

#### WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that he will sign an executive order on police reform on Tuesday.

"The overall goal is we want law and order and we want it done fairly, justly. We want it done safely," Trump told reporters at the White House.

"This is about law and order, but it's about justice also," he said.

The move comes amid growing calls for action following the death of George Floyd, a 46-yearold African American man, in police custody in Minneapolis, Minnesota late last month, which has triggered nationwide demonstrations against police

brutality and racism. The outcry has intensified after a white police officer shot and killed Rayshard Brooks, a 27-year-old African American man, in Atlanta, Georgia last week.

"The trust that we have with the police force is broken and

the only way to heal some of these wounds is through a conviction and a drastic change with the police department," Brooks's cousin said Monday.

Asked about the Brooks case on Monday afternoon, Trump called it "very disturbing."

"I thought it was a terrible situation," he said. "I studied it closely. I'm going to get some reports done today, very strong reports, and we'll have a little more to say about it tomorrow." Brooks was shot twice in the

back and died from organ damage and blood loss from the wounds, the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office said in a statement on Sunday.

Garrett Rolfe, the officer who shot Brooks, was fired. A second officer, Devin Brosnan, was placed on administrative duty. Atlanta Police Chief Erika Shields resigned over the shooting.

Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said his office is hoping to announce a decision about possible charges by the



Combo photo shows police officer Derek Chauvin (L) and George Floyd. Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes on May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, while the latter one kept saying "I can't breathe." Floyd later died in police custody. (Xinhua)

middle of next week.

Brooks died after a confrontation with police officers who were responding to a complaint that he was asleep in the drivethru of a restaurant.

Police said the officers tried to

led to a struggle between the two sides. Police claimed that Brooks, while allegedly resisting, grabbed an officer's Taser and ran off with it.

from the restaurant's parking take Brooks into custody after lot showed that Brooks turned he failed a sobriety test, which around and appeared to point

Footage capturing the scene

An ambulance transferred Brooks to a local hospital, where

the stun gun at the police offic-

ers before being shot.

he died after undergoing sur-The shooting prompted protests

over the weekend in Atlanta, and the restaurant where the shooting took place was set aflame. Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance

Bottoms announced on Monday that she is signing a series of administrative orders to reform the use of force within the Atlanta Police Department. Bottoms, speaking to report-

ers, said that she and the city will continue to do what the city needs to do to ensure all Atlantans are treated with dignity and respect.

"We saw the worst happen on Friday night with Mr. Brooks. It angered me and it saddened me beyond words," she said. "Burning down buildings will not get us change in this city because if anything it is going to erase the message and it is going to eclipse what this is all about." *Xinhua* 

#### **UN reports over 25,000 grave violations** against children in armed conflict in 2019

tions against children in armed conflict in 2019, according to an annual report of the secretary-general on children and armed conflict, which was released on Monday.

tions per day.

Up to 7,747 children, some as young as six, were verified as having been recruited and used. Among those, 90 percent

#### China's well-coordinated prevention, control and treatment in COVID-19 response indicate the country's 'life first' philosophy

TO combat the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic calls for well-coordinated prevention, control and treatment.

China's epidemic response is universally recognized as an example, as it has ensured that all those in need have been tested, quarantined, hospitalized or treated, and effectively blocked the

transmission routes of the virus. China's State Council Information Office recently published a white paper titled "Fighting COV-ID-19: China in Action." The document, systematically summarizes and analyzes China's experiences and practices, said that the Communist Party of China (CPC) and

the Chinese government have always put people's lives and health first, acted swiftly to fight the virus and provide medical treatment for patients, and adopted the most thorough, rigorous and comprehensive prevention and control

China's selfless sharing of experiences is also hailed by foreigners, who said the country's practice will help the world better cope with the epidemic.

China's well-coordinated prevention, control and treatment came from its centralized and efficient command. Under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core, China has put in place an efficient system under which the central authorities exercise overall command, while local authorities and all sectors follow the leadership and instructions of the central authorities, perform their respective duties, and cooperate with each other.

This highly efficient system has made it possible for China to win its all-out people's war against the virus. General Secretary Xi Jinping takes charge of Covid-19 response, while government departments have made well-coordinated control efforts and local authorities and other stakeholders have lived up to their responsibilities.

Adjusting response measures in view of the evolving Covid-19 dynamics, China has not only ensured domestic prevention and control, but also actively launched international cooperation to combat the virus.

It established a strict system of information release, released information in an open and transparent manner as required by law, effectively responded to public concern and built public consensus. Its experience is something other countries can draw on in their fight against the virus. Foreigners hailed that China's strong system and effective measures are "rare in the world."

China's well-coordinated prevention, control and treatment came from its people who played a role as the mainstay in the CO-VID-19 response. The country established a tight prevention and control system involving all sectors of society and governments at all levels.

By strictly observing the principle of early detection, reporting, quarantine and treatment, and ensuring the patients were hospitalized, treated, tested or quarantined as appropriate,

Wuhan carried out two rounds of community-based mass screening of its 4.21 million households, enforced the strictest closure and

traffic restrictions on all outbound routes from Wuhan and Hubei, turning communities and villages into strongholds. The World Health Organization believes that China has rolled out the most ambitious, agile and aggressive disease containment effort in history, saying the experience of China is worth learning from for other countries.

China's well-coordinated prevention, control and treatment came from logical and effective measures and resource integration. China pooled premium resources to treat severe cases, exerted early intervention for patients with mild symptoms, re-

plans and applied effective ones on a broad scale. Besides, it also leveraged the

viewed diagnostic and therapeutic

unique strength of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), provided free treatment for patients, and strengthened infection control at medical institutions and ensured personal protection for health workers.

Two hospitals were newly built for treating infectious diseases, and a number of designated and general hospitals were expanded or remodeled. In addition, China repurposed stadiums and exhibition centers into 16 temporary treatment centers. **People's Daily** 

### Guardian

### Trump announces cutting US troops in Germany to 25,000

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said on Monday he would cut the number of US troops in Germany to 25,000, faulting the close US ally for failing to meet the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) defense spending target and accusing it of taking advantage of America on trade.

The reduction of about 9,500 troops would be a remarkable rebuke to one of the closest US trading partners and could erode faith in a pillar of postwar European security: That US forces would defend alliance members against Russian aggression.

It was not clear whether Trump's stated intent, which first emerged in media reports on June 5, would actually come to pass given criticism from some of the president's fellow Republicans in Congress who have argued a cut would be a

Speaking to reporters, Trump ac-

its payments to the NATO and vowed to stick with the plan unless Berlin changed

"So we're protecting Germany and they're delinquent. That doesn't make sense. So I said, we're going to bring down the count to 25,000 soldiers," Trump said, adding that "they treat us very badly on trade" but providing no details.

NATO in 2014 set a target that each of its 30 members should spend 2 percent of GDP on defense. Most, including Germany, do not.

Trump's remarks were the first official confirmation of the planned troop cut, which was first reported by the Wall Street Journal and later confirmed to Reuters by a senior US official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

That official said it stemmed from months of work by the US military and had nothing to do with tensions between Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who thwarted his plan to host an cused Germany of being "delinquent" in in-person Group of Seven (G7) summit.



**US President Donald Trump meets with German Chancellor Angela Merkel** during the NATO summit at The Grove in Watford, England. (File photo)

Asked about Trump's statement, German Ambassador to the United States Emily Haber said US troops were in Europe to defend transatlantic security and to help the United States project its

power in Africa and Asia.

"This is about transatlantic security but also about American security," she told a virtual think tank audience, saying US-German security cooperation would

remain strong and that her government had been informed of the decision.

Last week, sources told Reuters that German officials as well a number of US officials at the White House, State Department and Pentagon were surprised by the Wall Street Journal report and they offered explanations ranging from Trump's pique over the G7 to the influence of Richard Grenell, the former US ambassador to Germany and a Trump loyalist.

"There is sure to be significant bipartisan opposition to this move in Congress, so it is possible any actual moves are significantly delayed or even never implemented," said Phil Gordon of the Council on Foreign Relations think tank,

"This move will further erode allies' faith in NATO and US defense guarantees," Gordon added, saying it may also "weaken the deterrence of Russia or anyone else who might threaten a NATO member."

**Agencies** 

### Chinese, Irish medical experts exchange experience on COVID-19 via video conference

was held on March 13 at the Second Affiliated Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine (SAHZU) for Chinese and Irish medical workers to share experience of the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

The teleconference, spanning nearly 9,000 kilometers, was a response to Oisin O'Connell, a consultant in Bon Secours Hospital Cork, who emailed the SAHZU days earlier asking for China's experiences in pandemic re-

Medical experts with the SAHZU, the hospital's medical workers fighting COV-ID-19 in Wuhan, the former epicenter of COVID-19, as well as 30 some experts from Irish medical institutions and colleges joined the teleconference.

The Irish side raised a series of questions of their greatest concerns, such as the organization of manpower and resources, the rapid training of medical personnel, medication and short supply of medical materials. All the questions were an-

TELECONFERENCE swered in detail by SAHZU experts, who also shared with their Irish counterparts the Chinese schemes and Zhejiang's experience in coping with the disease.

The influence of the conference even extended beyond Ireland's borders. David Garry, a doctor with the Intensive Care Unit at UK's Oxford University Hospitals, asked to join in the meeting after he learnt about it. He heard the conference together with his colleagues at his hospital.

At the end of the two-hour experience exchange, the Irish experts extended their gratitude to the Chinese side, saying the Chinese experience is very valuable.

"We'll do our best to help our Irish friends combat the crisis together, as long as you need us," SAHZU president Wang Jian'an replied.

A few days later, the SAHZU received another invitation from Ireland. Deirdre McCarthy, News Managing Editor, Radio News Programmes and Regions of Ireland's National Television and Radio Broadcaster Radio Telefís Éireann, 20, joined by not only medi-sity shared her story during which was transparent and Chinese. **People's Daily** 



Medical experts having fought COVID-19 on the frontline in Hubei province exchange experiences on COVID-19 treatment, prevention and control with their Mexican counterparts via video link in a teleconference room of Hangzhou Red Cross Hospital, east China's Zhejiang province, April 3. (Photo People's Daily Online)

virus to the Irish public.

Therefore, a second teleconference started on March Studies of Zhejiang Univer-

said she wanted to make a cal experts, but also several the quarantine. "I spent my TV show to introduce China's citizens from Hangzhou, time at home baking, doing experience in containing the capital of Zhejiang province.

Xu Xueying, a professor at the School of International

exercise and reading in the past two months. I also followed closely the latest official release on the disease,

open," she said, adding that the Hangzhou citizens were concerned, but not panicked. Medical and health insti-

tutions in Zhejiang province contributed to the efforts of their foreign counterparts in fighting the pandemic.

Likewise, cities and counties of the province also donated materials to and offered technical support to foreign countries, sister cities, friendly organizations and overseas Chinese of Zhejiang origin, carrying out international cooperation in multiple forms.

So far, the province has donated 152 batches of medical materials to sister cities in 45 countries, friendly organizations and institutions, as well as foreign missions stationed in China, including about 5.1 million pieces of masks, 68,000 protective suits, and 455,000 pairs of surgical

Besides, it also donated about 5.49 million pieces of masks and 12,000 protective totaling 36 million yuan (\$5.09 million) to overseas

#### S. Korea confirms DPRK blew up inter-Korean liaison office in Kaesong

**SEOUL** 

SOUTH Korea's Unification Ministry said yesterday that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) demolished an inter-Korean liaison office in the DPRK's border town of Kaesong by an explosion.

The South Korean ministry in charge of inter-Korean affairs said in a brief statement that the DPRK blew up the Kaesong joint liaison office at 2:49 p.m. local time (0549 GMT). The liaison office was opened in September 2018 for the round-the-clock communications between the two Koreas in accordance with the Panmunjom Declaration.

The declaration was signed by South Korean President Moon Jae-in and top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un after their first summit on April 27, 2018 at the inter-Korean truce village of Panmunjom. The joint liaison office has been temporarily closed since Ianuary over the COVID-19 outbreak.

#### **Date for consultations** between Russian. **Turkish ministers** to be agreed later

**MOSCOW** 

A date for consultations between Russian and Turkish foreign and defense ministers on issues of Libyan settlement will be agreed later, the Russian foreign ministry said on Sunday.

"At the instruction of the Russian and Turkish presidents, the two countries' foreign and defense ministries take active efforts in support of Libyan settlement," the ministry said. "Experts maintain contact in the interests of the soonest establishment of the ceasefire and launch of the United Nations-brokered intra-Libyan negotiating process in compliance with the resolutions of the Berlin international conference of January 19 and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2510."

"Work continues. A date for a meeting between the two countries' foreign and defense ministers will be agreed later," the ministry said.

The Russian foreign ministry said on Saturday that the Russian foreign and defense ministers planned to travel to Turkey to take part in bilateral consultations on regional problems.

#### "WILL online courses work?"

That was a question striking Sonam Lhamo, a physics teacher in Shigatse, China's Tibetan Autonomous Region when she was first required to teach online two months ago due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

However, her worries were dispelled immediately after attending an online class given by Yao Xueqing, a physics teacher aiding Tibet's education from Shanghai.

"The class was very interactive," said Sonam Lhamo, who has taught students for 13 years.

In 2003, Sonam Lhamo, a native-born Tibetan, for the first time left her hometown and went to study computer science at a university in Central China's Henan Province, where she was firstly introduced to the internet, a completely fresh world. But the circumstances are dif-

ferent now for her students, as the internet is nothing new to them who sometimes have more knowledge about it than the teachers do. Yao, who teaches at the Shanghai Experimental School in Shi-

### Internet gives a leg up to Tibet's education

gatse, had once collaborated with Sonam Lhamo during online courses. Yao noted the changes brought to the students by the internet.

November, livestreamed a class for middle school students in Shigatse. To make sure the students are well prepared, he distributed learning materials to them before the class. As a result, the students learnt very fast, and some of them proudly shared with him what they had learnt from the class.

"Education is more about teaching students how to study than just imparting knowledge to them. It will exert a far-reaching influence on them as it enables them to complete more complicated and diversified jobs," Yao said.

The access to online resources has laid a solid foundation for informationized education in Tibet. According to the autonomous region's education authority, as of the end of 2019, a total of 826 middle and primary schools, or 86.3 percent of the total in Tibet, had been connected to the internet. Nearly 30 percent of the them were equipped with a bandwidth of 100mbps.

What internet brings to education is not only interconnectivity, but also educational equality. To achieve this, a cloud education platform was launched by local education authority in Tibet.

The platform, with nearly 600,000 registered users, and more than 120,000 educational resources, offers learning materials of all curriculums, video courses, and tutorials in Tibetan language. Students and teachers can access the top-notch courses and teaching materials of the autonomous region and even the country at large for free.

"In Tibet, many remote areas are bothered by the scarcity of teachers and relevant resources. Online education can both ease the burden of teachers and help students better absorb the knowledge," said Zhu Shenggao, an offi-

cial with the autonomous region's

education department. Internet-powered education will become meaningless if it can't improve teaching quality, and without high-quality education, poverty will be passed on to future generations, Zhu added.

At present, the internet is being exploited by teachers in Tibet to improve their teaching. For instance, the five counties and districts in Shigatse receiving pairing assistance from Shanghai are now livestreaming classes, and video conferences are being held for teachers to discuss and improve their teaching skills.

"Tibet is a vast plateau where teachers face limited opportunities and high cost to communicate with and learn from their peers due to the inconvenient traffic condition.

The internet is providing us with more such opportunities," said a Tibetan teacher taking part in teleclass.

**People's Daily** 

### With a bit of oomph, Brexit deal feasible in July, says UK's Johnson

#### **BRUSSELS/LONDON**

LEADERS from Britain and the European Union agreed on Monday that talks on their future relationship should be stepped up to clinch a deal, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson suggesting an agreement could be reached in July with "a bit of oomph".

With a status-quo transition deal set to run out at the end of the year, the two are seeking a free trade agreement. But businesses on both sides are being told to prepare for a no-deal outcome that some fear would complicate trade and hurt jobs.

"I don't think we're actually that far apart but what we need now is to see a bit of oomph in the negotiations," Johnson said, adding that he had told the EU's top representatives that there was a need to "put a tiger in the tank" of the talks.

"The faster we can do this the better, and we see no reason why you shouldn't get this done



Earlier, after a video confer-

ence between Johnson, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the leaders of the European Council and European Parliament, the two sides said they "agreed ... that new momentum was required".

Britain left the EU on Jan 31 and its relationship with the bloc is now governed by a transition arrangement that keeps previous rules in place while the two sides negotiate new

Negotiators have made very little progress towards a trade

pact, however, and the talks have all but stalled over issues such as fair-competition guarantees and fishing rights.

London confirmed last week that it had no intention of extending the transition period beyond 2020.

Some fear that, with the two sides so far apart and little time left to negotiate, London's decision not to extend may lead to a cliff edge that could compound the economic damage caused by the coronavirus crisis.

One EU diplomat said that, despite plans to speed up talks, major progress was unlikely until after the summer, when London would "scramble to get something done" at the 11th hour, as it did last year to reach a withdrawal agreement.

Jill Rutter, an expert at the UK in a Changing Europe thinktank, told a Brexit panel discussion on Monday that a "very thin and unambitious deal" was likely, but a no-deal scenario couldn't be ruled out.

While the challenges are im-

### African children remain under siege from COVID-19

**CAPE TOWN** 

CHILDREN in Africa remain confronted by a host of threats due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Tuesday in commemorating Day of the African Child.

The direct and secondary impacts of the virus threaten to unravel the gains made for the poorest children across Africa, UNICEF said in a statement emailed to Xinhua.

While wealthier children are able to continue learning online, barely one in five households

in Eastern and Southern Africa have internet access, according

to UNICEF. Eighty-four percent of the rural population - where the bulk of African learners reside - have no electricity, meaning online learning is not an option, said

Up to 16 million children in Africa are no longer accessing critical daily meals at school while violence is increasing, and more African children will fall into poverty, UNICEF said.

Prior to COVID-19, it was estimated that around three out of



poverty. These children are deevery four children in Africa are prived of the most basic things

going to school, being able to bathroom in a safe place, or liv-

affected by multi-dimensional in life, like access to sufficient get medical help, sleeping in food and clean drinking water, adequate shelter, going to the

ing in an environment free of physical and emotional abuse.

The economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic could push up to 86 million more children into household poverty by the end of 2020, two thirds of these in Africa, according to analysis released by

Save the Children and UNICEF.

Only 16 percent of children in Africa are covered by social protection programs, making it impossible for families to withstand financial shocks caused by COVID-19 and furthering the cycle of intergenerational poverty, said UNICEF.

mense, UNICEF said it is collectively achieving significant regional results, including 71 million people reached with messaging on COVID-19 prevention and how to access services, 10.8 million children supported with distance/home-based learning, more than two million people reached with hand-wash supplies and two million children and women reached with essential healthcare services in UNICEF-supported facilities. Enditem.

Xinhua

### **Guardian**

# SPORT



### Not fade away: Venus Williams still dreaming at 40

**LOS ANGELES** 

WHEN Venus Williams first stepped onto a tennis court in Oakland for her professional debut in 1994, the Rolling Stones were playing a concert next door at a neighbouring stadium.

Twenty-six years later, Williams, like Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, is in no mood to simply fade away.

The trailblazing American star celebrates her 40th birthday on Wednesday with the tennis season on pause amid the coronavirus crisis which has decimated the calendar.

The former world number one, however, says there is no prospect of her quietly drawing a line under a career which has yielded seven Grand Slam singles titles, four Olympic gold medals and dozens of tournament wins.

So, despite the march of time and a recent record of futility -- her last singles title came in a WTA Tour event in Taiwan in 2016 - Williams won't be hanging up her racquet just yet.

"You always have to have dreams, so I keep having them," Williams told the Tennis Majors website in an interview earlier this month, revealing that she still wants to challenge for the French and Australian Opens, the two Grand Slams that have eluded her.

"I would like to win Roland Garros. I was not far from it. The same goes for the Australian Open: I was unlucky, I always missed it a little," Williams said.

Dreams of completing a career "Golden Slam" are likely to remain elusive though.

While sister Serena has kept pocketing Grand Slams regularly, it is 12 years since Venus won her last Slam, when she triumphed at the 2008 Wimbledon Championships.

And Venus though knows that the clock is ticking.

"I probably won't be playing as long as what I have already played," she says. "We'll see how I feel. I still love winning as much, but when it's over, it's over."

- Highs and lows -

Williams has never been big on admitting defeat however, a hallmark of her early days under the tutelage of father Richard Williams, who drummed into his daughters the maxim

that "the ball is never out" -- an exhortation to chase down every ball.

When Williams does finally call it quits, tennis will bid farewell to one of the greatest players in its history.

And even though advances in sports science are increasingly stretching the boundaries of longevity for modern athletes, few players today are likely to match her achievement of a professional career that has spanned four different decades.

By now the broad brushstrokes of Williams career are part of tennis lore: the upbringing in the gritty Los Angeles suburb of Compton, the rivalry with younger sister Serena, who has 23 Grand Slam titles to Venus's seven, the successful comeback after being diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome, an auto-immune disease whose symptoms include joint pain and fatigue.

"I've had great moments, I've been on the top, I've been on the bottom, I've been down and out - I've done it all and I've been equally as happy during all of it," Williams says.

The final years of Williams career have coincided with the emergence of a young crop of African-American tennis players, including Sloane Stephens, Madison Keys, Taylor Townsend and Coco Gauff.

Former US professional turned broadcaster Pam Shriver believes Williams has helped African-American women "to feel there's a pathway for them to the top of the tennis world."

In recent weeks, Williams has spoken out about the tumultuous protests which erupted in the wake of the killing of unarmed black man George Floyd by police in Minneapolis on May

Williams wrote in a long Instagram post that Floyd's death and other incidents had shown that "racism that still pervades America."

"This just scratches the surface of the hideous face of racism in America," she said.

"Speaking up about racism in the past was unpopular. It was shunned. No one believed you.

"Until you have walked in these shoes, as an African American, it is impossible to understand the challenges you face in the country, in this

### Mwasiti, Shilole colour leadership training programme launch

**By Guardian Correspondent** 

RENOWNED Tanzanian musicians and members of the film industry participated in the launch of leadership training program known as 'Kipepeo' which was held in Dar es Salaam recently.

They include musicians, Mwasiti Almasi 'Mwasiti', Zuwena Mohamed 'Shilole', Elias Barnabas 'Barnaba' and Nickson Simon 'Nikki II', as well as Bongo Movies actress, Rose Ndauka.

They were accompanied by Isaac Maro, a professional medical doctor, and psychologist, Aunt Sadaka.

The artistes staged entertaining live performances for a section of their favourite songs, whereas Maro and Sadaka, who were a section of the speakers at the event, offered advice to youths that attended it.

The youths, mostly consisting of young girls who make the Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) group, fielded questions to the artistes and the speakers.

Sadaka and the artistes, moreover, shared their profiles and testimonials with the youths.

The 'Kipepeo' platform was officially launched in January this year by Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummy Mwalimu. All influencers used their voices

girls and young boys on best ways to use in order to achieve desired dreams and goals. 'Kipepeo' platform gears towards reaching 10 regions but the outbreak

of the COVID-19 led to the closure of the platform and it therefore reached only eight regions. Thirteen interpersonal communication events had been implemented in 91 schools and

students. Arusha, Tanga, Singida, Dodoma, Mbeya, Njombe and Iringa.

successfully reached to 44,094



that grooms future leaders has adolescent girls and young women been seeking to equip young boys and adolescent girls with the right information about preventive measures for HIV/AIDS and risks of early pregnancies, which are to a great extent preventing youths from The regions include Morogoro, achieving their desired future goals.

During the regional events, inspirational messages

and adolescent boysí behavioural

Apart from that, side sessions were conducted to identify AGYW and youth related issues/challenges which include HIV/AIDS, early pregnancy and gender-based violence.

In addition to those events were implemented, influencers were 'Kipepeo' as a platform where communicated to influence able to find the spotlights, talking

and provoking positive educative dialogues with students and share their profiles on how they realized their dreams.

'Kipepeo' campaign has also been broadcasted on Television and radio stations along with various social digital platforms and reach the targeted audience with a slogan 'Protect your career, Debute engagement in early sex'.

However, there is still a great challenge, namely lack of proper information on how to prevent HIV/ AIDS infection and pregnancy, even though the government is working hard to increase this awareness.

It is for that matter a responsibility for parents, guardians, teachers to protect and guide AGYW to reach their goals.

In one of the ways for protecting the AGYW in the COVID-19 pandemic, the campaign has focused on the use of digital platforms and Television stations to communicate the intended messages of interpersonal communication skills.

And during this time when the AGYW are at home, parents and guardians should share with the former about the effects of early pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and how they can reach their desired dreams.

Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children has ensured easy access of information to AGYW by issuing a toll-free number 117 and another telephone number to send 'Kipepeo' messages 15017.

This initiative works under the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and National AIDS Control Program (NACP).

The initiative has, in partnership with Benjamin Mkapa foundation through the Global Fund, managed to coordinate a platform on interpersonal communication skills under a domestic radio station and

### A tribute to Donald Ngoma, a striker who could do it all

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

DONALD Ngoma might well be cruelly remembered as an Azam FC flop, but he was only deemed a failure there because of how wonderfully brilliant he was at Young Africans

His period of excellence did not last, but at least we got to see it.

Tanzania Premier League had lost Emmanuel Okwi, who was sold by Simba SC to a Danish side after the 2014/15, and a vacancy had opened up for another import forward to take his place at the club.

Fortunately, Yanga signed up Ngoma from Zimbabwe after they had witnessed his performance with FC Platinum in the CAF Champions League.

Amissi Tambwe might have been the one to end that campaign as the league's top scorer, with 17 goals to his name, but Ngoma emerged just as impressive that season.

The Zimbabwean international hit the ground running with goals in both friendly and competitive debuts. He matched the expectation and hype around him with goals and good performance.

It was the start of a season to remember for the once shorttempered forward. He maintained that level of goalscoring form for the rest of the campaign, bagging a mightily impressive 21 goals in all competitions.

But like many before him, the well built striker struggled to replicate his 17-goal haul in the Premier League the following season, managing just eight goals in 2016/17. It was the start of his decline.

The qualities which came as second-nature to Ngoma in that first season are the same ones we could cruelly see slipping away once he sustained a knee injury at the start of the 2016/17 season. He had undergone a surgery.

After surgery and months on the sidelines he returned with a couple of goals but was never quite the same player. Muscle injuries and a second operation followed.

His relationship with Yang suffered. He was accused of indiscipline while he defended himself as not ready to rush back to the pitch while not yet



 ${\bf Azam\,FC\,forward,\,Donald\,Ngoma.\,PHOTO;\,COURTESY\,OF\,AZAM\,FC}$ 

His struggles later in the last three seasons show the fine margins between being the best and being anything but, and demonstrate how hard it is to accept your level when you used to be capable of so much more.

The only difference was that his body could not make the same movements at the same pace with the same accuracy. The knee took away his pace.

The struggles of Ngoma post 2016 were absolutely noticeable, but they would not have happened without the earlier highs. He was a victim of the high standards he set in his debut

For instance, while deemed surplus to requirement at Azam FC, Ngoma was actually directly involved in 20 goals in 42 appearances. That is not a bad goal scoring ratio because he was always going to be measured against the gold standard of his first season at Yanga and that is where he came

A lesser player would not have got himself in the position to fail, because he would not have been familiar with the idea of succeeding from those same spots.

It is safe to say Ngoma would most likely have been in the conversation of best strikers to grace the Tanzania Premier League but injury ruined him. He never fully recovered both mentally and physically from the knee injury.

He is still trying to squeeze every minute out of a career that once showed so much promise. It is commendable that he is battling.

His glorious days might be well behind him but he will not be shy of suitors and Namungo FC, who are riding high in their topflight debut season, have already

expressed their willingness to recruit him. Namungo FC head coach Thierry Hitimana has expressed his admiration for the striker, claiming he brings something different to what they currently have.

**SPORTS NEWS** 

### Guardian

#### **Racial reckoning in boardrooms** and dugouts as EPL resumes

#### By ROB HARRIS

WHEN the time came to vote on restarting the Premier League, no black chief executives or chairmen from the English clubs were involved. There aren't any across the 20 teams, nor in the leadership of the world's richest league.

As the league's 100-day pandemicenforced shutdown ends on Wednesday, a competition that prides itself on attracting multicultural talent from across the world on the field, is facing a racial reckoning.

There are owners or chief executives of Asian, Indian or Middle Eastern heritage. But the lack of black leaders across the Premier League has appeared jarring amid a groundswell of activism by players demanding an end to inequalities, roused by the brutal police killing of George Floyd in the United States.

"It raises all that exclusion, inequality, injustice," Paul Elliott, the former Chelsea player now chairing the English Football Association's Inclusion Advisory Board, told The Associated Press. "It's been that bridge, that catalyst for the injustice, the unconscious bias, given the popularity of the participants of football being around 30% black and very few in the administrative, executive and boardroom areas.'

Players of all races have already taken a knee as entire squads at training grounds across England. Over the next week, they will take to the field at Premier League stadiums wearing "Black Lives Matter" instead of their names on the back of jerseys.

"The knee and the solidarity behind that will eventually phase out," Elliott said. "But the problem is still going to be here with us. Then it's about a cogent, coherent strategy across football - from the touchline to the boardroom. There has to be a whole reset and accountability."

Especially in a season when a Premier League game was paused for the first time for warnings about racial abuse in the stands when Tottenham played Chelsea in December.

The toxic elements of football fandom were highlighted outside the British Parliament on Saturday during scuffles featuring far-right activists with police while claiming to be guarding historical monuments that have been targeted recently by antiracism protesters for their links to slavery and British colonialism. On what should have been the opening weekend of the European Championship, which was postponed due to the pandemic, football chants were adopted by hooligans in the disorder. "The only disease right now is the

racism that we are fighting," England and Manchester City star Raheem Sterling said last week in a landmark interview with a BBC political show. "Just like the pandemic, we want to find a solution to stop it."

For that to happen in the national sport, the symbolism of on-field campaigning will somehow need to lead to substantive changes that provide a pathway to more diverse boardrooms, dugouts - and media tribunes which are dominated by white men. There is only one black manager in the Premier League – Nuno Espírito Santo -- at Wolverhampton and no black referees.

Elliot's presence of the FA's main board shows how the English game's governing body has already acted on the need to be more diverse as part of a wider strategy.

"Football has to realize," Elliot said, "with a diverse workforce the deci-

sion-making is more effective." The rest of Europe has to heed the

Germany's football leadership espouses the virtues of diversity, but all 19 members of the presidential board are white and only one is a woman. The Bundesliga has no black coaches and black players can face racial abuse.

It does not take long to be rehabilitated. Schalke chairman Clemens Tönnies caused outrage early in the season with racist comments about Africans. He eventually stepped down for three months but has since resumed his role.

In Spain, La Liga president Javier Tebas was bemused to be asked about the need for greater diversity.

"You said our board should be changed to have more black people? Racial diversity has to be in line with the structure of your country," he said on a video call with international media. "If in Spanish society we had more black people, obviously they would be represented in our organization." The approach, disregarding the need for inclusion, means the black stars on the field in Spain lack representation in positions of power. The players take it on themselves to advocate for racial equality. When Marcelo scored for Real Madrid on Sunday, the Brazilian put his left knee down and raised a right fist in the air.

It is the type of campaigning gesture that will be welcomed when Europe's biggest league resumes this

"The league will support players who 'take a knee' before or during matches," the Premier League said. "The Premier League believes there is no room for racism, anywhere."

#### Sarri targets first Juventus trophy against former club Napoli

MAURIZIO Sarri takes on his former club Napoli in Wednesday's Italian Cup final looking for his first trophy as Juventus coach days before Serie A resumes after a three-month shutdown. Juventus are chasing a record-ex-

tending 14th Italian Cup against fivetime winners Napoli in Rome, after the Turin giants' four-year cup-winning streak was ended last season.

Sarri took over at Juventus one year ago after a season with Chelsea during which the Premier League side won the Europa League.

Before that the 61-year-old spent three seasons with Napoli, battling Juventus for the title, before falling out with club owner Aurelio De Laurentiis.

Sarri claimed he only found out he had been sacked and replaced by Carlo Ancelotti when he switched on the television.

De Laurentiis blasted his former coach on Monday.

"He (Sarri) betrayed me, he left with the vulgar excuse of money, forced me to change, and still had a two-year contract," De Laurentiis told Corriere dello Sport.

Sarri's return to Napoli's Stadio San Paolo ended in a 2-1 league defeat in January

But the former Chelsea manager will have another chance for just the second trophy of his 30-year coaching career at an empty Stadio Olimpico.

A win would help the eight-time defending Serie A champions set the tone when the title battle resumes

next week, with Lazio just one point

behind in second place. - Ronaldo v Mertens -

Juventus striker Gonzalo Higuain, who helped Napoli to their last Italian Cup triumph in 2014 and was Serie A's top-scorer with 36 goals under Sarri in the 2015-2016 season, remains a doubt for the Turin side with a thigh injury.

Cristiano Ronaldo, who missed a penalty in Friday's semi-final second leg against AC Milan, will start up front for Juventus, while Napoli winger Dries Mertens is fresh from breaking the club's all-time scoring record with a last-four goal against Inter Milan.

Ronaldo, who has scored 25 goals this season, can lift a 30th career trophy in Rome.

"The missed penalty was unfortu-

nate," said Sarri.

"It will take a little patience. "The players have been on their sofas for weeks, and so getting them back to complete physical and mental efficiency is not simple or automatic."

Napoli are sixth in Serie A, and chasing their first trophy since 2014, after a difficult start to the season with Gennaro Gattuso replacing Ancelotti in

The last time the two teams met in a final was the Italian Super Cup in December 2014, with Napoli coming out

Napoli and Juventus last met in an Italian Cup final eight years ago, with the southerners winning 2-0 at the Stadio Olimpico for their first major

trophy in 22 years.

### Premier League braces for return after virus shutdown

#### LONDON

THE Premier League returns on Wednesday after 100 days in the deep freeze, with Liverpool on the brink of winning the title in a radically changed football universe.

The English top flight follows Germany's Bundesliga and La Liga in Spain in rebooting their seasons after the coronavirus lockdown, aiming to cram 92 games into six weeks of breathless action. Aston Villa kick off against Sheffield United, to be followed later on Wednesday by Manchester City v Arsenal, before a cascade of matches.

Despite vocal complaints from some clubs and stars including Sergio Aguero and Raheem Sterling, "Project Restart" has largely gone smoothly, with regular testing of players and staff yielding few positives.

But when Villa and Sheffield United kick off, the watching world will be confronted with a jarring spectacle, with an eerie silence in the usually noisy

Piping crowd chants into stadiums, cardboard cut-outs of supporters and live video fan walls will add colour but it will be impossible to mimic the usual vibrant atmosphere.

In total, about 300 people will be allowed in stadiums for each match, with strict health protocols in place. There will be widespread disinfection of changing

facilities, dugouts, matchballs, goalposts, corner flags and substitution boards.

People other than players and coaching staff on team benches must wear face coverings. The games themselves will look different. Players

have been told to maintain social-distancing during goal celebrations and encouraged not to spit. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta admits players will have to find motivation without the urgency

provided by fans. "The game is different," he said in his pre-match press conference on Monday. "The intensity drops a little bit. That urgency from the crowd doesn't exist any more, how passionate the crowds are in

England. We have to adapt. "We have to experience it. We have to find ways to motivate our players as well in moments."

But Aston Villa manager Dean Smith said his players were desperate to return, talking about the honour of playing the first game.

"The eyes of the world will be on us and we are



Liverpool are on the verge of winning the Premier League (AFP Photo)

been itching to get back." - Muted celebrations -

The hectic fixture list, warm summer temperatures and a lack of preparation time could lead to more injuries, so world governing body FIFA has given the green light for five substitutions per match.

Some believe that unfairly helps teams with bigger squads. Villa's Smith said he was not in favour of the change.

Following the recent death of George Floyd, killed by a white police officer in the United States, the Black Lives Matter cause will also be visible.

Players' names will be replaced on the back of their shirts with "Black Lives Matter" for the first 12 matches, while the league will back anyone who chooses to looking forward to it," he said. "The players have take a knee in protest before or during

The subdued mood and constant fear of the virus making its presence felt will overshadow the remainder of a season that will always have an asterisk next to it in the history books.

When the campaign was halted on March 13, Liverpool were two wins from their first English title in 30 years.

Jurgen Klopp's side, 25 points clear at the top, could be crowned champions as soon as this weekend if second-placed Manchester City lose at home to Arsenal on Wednesday and the Reds win their first game of the restart at Merseyside rivals Everton on Sunday.

Whenever they clinch that long-awaited 19th league title, it will be a moment to treasure for Liverpool.

But, with fans being told not to gather outside the stadium and no trophy parade planned due to social-distancing rules, the celebrations are likely to be muted.

Since the Bundesliga resumed there has been a drop in the number of home wins as teams struggle without the drive provided by their fans.

That could influence some key issues in the Premier League.

Chelsea and Manchester United will try to hold off unexpected challenges from Sheffield and Wolves in the race to reach the Champions League.

At the other end, Norwich, Villa and Bournemouth bid to climb out of the bottom three at a time when relegation could be more costly than ever.

### Key UEFA meeting to decide on way forward for suspended Champions League

AS football around Europe returns after a long suspension, UEFA is set to announce the format for the latter stages of the Champions League at a key meeting on Wednesday which will also raise the thorny issue of the postponed, pan-continental Euro 2020.

The Champions League was frozen in mid-March before the last-16 stage had been completed, as the sport ground to a halt when the coronavirus pandemic began to take hold.

Initially, European football's governing body had hoped to finish its flagship competition -- along with the Europa League and women's Champions League -- by the end of June.

It soon became clear that such an outcome was overly optimistic, and during the peak of the pandemic in Europe any prospect of finishing the season at all looked slim.

Nevertheless, UEFA has for some time been working on a way of completing its season in August, which looks feasible as leagues restart and the European death toll from Covid-19 slows. With that in mind, the Executive Committee meet-

ing, to be held by videoconference, is set to approve the idea of a "Final Eight" in Lisbon, as widely reported by media across Europe in recent days. That would mean finding a way to play out the

four remaining last 16, second legs before bringing together all the quarter-finalists in Portugal's capital for a series of one-off games to crown the European champions. According to reports, the final would be

In the current context, grouping all teams together in one place and reducing travel is the wisest solution, although it remains to be seen how many fans, if any, could attend.

Football in most countries is being played behind closed doors, yet UEFA's meeting comes in the same week many EU member states -- Portugal among them -- opened up once again to foreign visitors.

The final was scheduled to be played in Istanbul on May 30 and only last week Turkey's Sports Minister, Mehmet Kasapoglu, expressed confidence that the city would not lose out.

"I have no doubt it will take place in the best way in Turkey. We're confident that we will receive good news on June 17," he said.

However, last month the New York Times reported that Istanbul could instead be awarded a future final, when it is safe for fans to travel in large numbers. - Fewer hosts for Euro 2020? -

Gdansk in Poland was slated to host the Europa League final but that competition also looks set to finish in a watered down "Final Eight" format.

German newspaper Bild reported last week that the closing stages would be switched to the region around the western city of Cologne.



The latter stages of this season's Champions League could go ahead in August in Lisbon in a "Final Eight" format, according to reports (AFP

A similar format could be brought in for the women's Champions League, the final of which was due to be played in Vienna.

UEFA's announcements will have a knock-on effect on when next season can start around Europe. Everything could be derailed by a second wave of coronavirus

Euro 2020 was meant to be in full swing by now, but postponing the tournament by 12 months was one of the first big deci-

sions taken as the crisis intensified.

Staging the European Championship in 12 different countries, from as far apart as Baku and Saint Petersburg to Dublin and Bilbao, already looked questionable before the virus struck.

Now UEFA must potentially make some big decisions about its format, and president Aleksander Ceferin recently hinted that the number of host cities could be with all the logistical challenges. reduced.

In an interview with beIN Sports, he admitted to having "some issues" with three unnamed cities. "In principle, we will do it in 12 cities. But if not, we are ready to do it in 10, nine or eight," he said.

That could leave some hosts -- just like Istanbul -- less than happy, making this week's meeting a potentially delicate diplomatic operation for UEFA to go along



# Guardian www.ippmedia.com

### Samatta set to return as Aston Villa take on Sheffield United

Premier League braces for return after virus shutdown

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EATV SAA I



13:30 Kali Za Wana

14:00 Planet Bongo (r) 14:30 Bongo Hits 15:00 Funguka 15:30 Nirvana (r)

16:00 Skonga (r) 16:30 #HASHTAG 17:00 5SELEKT 17:55 Kurasa

18:00 eNewz 18:30 Music/Soap 19:00 EATV SAA 1

19:45 MJADALA 20:00 DADAZ (r) 21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

06:00 Supa Breakfast

12:00 Kipenga Xtra

13:00 Planet Bongo

10:00 MAMAMIA

16:00 EA Drive

20:00 Kipenga

be in dire straits.

disclosed.

21:00 The Cruise

Coverage of the days current

events accompanied by

Interviews with prominent

people on diverse topics

ranging from national to

social interests.

eastafrica

Arusha club in financial

ARUSHA Football Club, currently preparing to trav-

el to Kigoma for a First Division League (FDL) match

against Mashujaa FC and later in Shinyanga, seems to

"We have 14 players in the preparatory camp at the

moment, but there are many others that are vet to re-

turn to field after the leagues got suspended due to

COVID-19 pandemic," AFC skipper, Mahsen Bawazir,

Speaking to journalists here, Bawazir was of a view

that the journey to Kigoma is facing hurdles, because 90 percent of the squad's players lack sporting gear, es-

pecially playing shoes, wondering how exactly they are

"We are constrained financially, the trip to the Lake

going to survive there while tackling the game.

crisis ahead of FDL tie

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

striker, Mbwana Samatta, is set to make a return to action for English Premier League side Aston Villa today.

By Correspondent Michael



Aston Villa will get the English front of goals. Premier League's Project Restart Sheffield United in the first toptier match since March.

Samatta and his fellow players are in a relegation battle. Things are looking bad at Villa Park as they suffered four successive defeats before the suspension.

Aston Villa are 19th in the table, yet three points against Sheffield United could temporarily take them out of the relegation zone.

A win would see them leapfrog AFC Bournemouth, Watford and West Ham United, placing them at 16th.

They will have to quickly prepare for a clash with Chelsea within three days as the rest of the league returns with nine rounds to the end of the campaign.

They are staring at a tough run of fixtures, six of their remaining 10 outings are against sides currently in the top half.

To escape relegation, Aston Villa will certainly need Samatta, who was named in the starting XI in each of their last four Premier League matches, to deliver in

The 27-year-old Taifa Stars plan underway as they face captain made history by becoming the first Tanzanian to play in the English top flight league when he joined the club during the January transfer window.

He has had a relatively good start with two goals to his name before the season was suspended on March 13 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

He was signed as a badly needed reinforcement to Aston Villa's attack after Jonathan Kodjia was sold to Qatari side, Al-Gharafa, and Wesley Moraes suffered a knee injury on New Year's Day.

He made a goal scoring Premier League debut against Bournemouth on February 1 and he later scored the side's only goal in their 2-1 loss to Manchester City in the League Cup final on March 1.

Against Sheffield United, Samatta looks set to continue leading the line, with strike rival, Wesley, still sidelined through injury.

### Yanga acting secretary general now seeks to prove his worth

By Guardian Correspondent

YOUNG Africans SC (Yanga) Acting Secretary General, Simon Patrick, has said he is ready and capable of heading the club's secretariat.

Patrick has replaced David Ruhago, whose contract as Secretary General at the club was terminated last Monday. Speaking yesterday, Pat-

rick said he needed support from all stakeholders to achieve his dream. He stated that the Yanga

family should expect a lot of good things from him. He said to achieve his

dreams, he needs support from all stakeholders. "I'm ready for the new

task, I'm sure I'm capable

tary General for the club, my work speaks for itself, you can ask Yanga supporters, fans and the management, they all know how I work, what I need is support from all stakeholders," he said.

Yanga on Monday announced that they have parted ways with Ruhago, effective the same day, but they could not present reasons for parting ways with the official.

"Yanga's management and Secretary General David Ruhago have today (June 15) reached a mutual agreement to part ways," read the statement signed by the side's information officer Hassan Bumbuli.

The information further

of doing the job of Secre-said; "The decision has been reached after extensive talks by all the parties involved, so, effective today [Monday], Ruhago is no longer serving the team as the Secretary General."

> The Jangwani Streetbased side went on to thank the former official for his services before appointing his replacement.

> "The Yanga service committee under the leadership of Chairman Mshindo Msolla wishes to thank Ruhago for the time he served at the club," the statement continued.

"During this transition period, the service committee has appointed Simon Patrick, who is a lawyer by profession, to take Secretary General."

Some inside sources at the club say Ruhago was shown the door for failing to agree with the top management regarding some issues centering on the club's future.

Antonio Nugaz, Yanga's mobilization officer, in a monitored radio interview which took place yesterday, said Ruhago was shown the exit door as he was failing to work at the pace the team needs.

"Ruhago was failing to reach the expected levels of the club, our aim is to transform and turn into a commercial entity, but his pace did not meet the expectations of many," he

#### ITF set to back Tanzania wheelchair tennis program

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TEN tennis wheelchairs from the International Tennis Federation (ITF) are expected in Tanzania early next month.

Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) chairman, Dennis Makoi, yesterday said ITF has agreed to send the wheelchairs which will help in the development of the sport in

He said the wheelchairs, which are of modern standard, are in three sizes, small, medium and big.

The equipment, according to him, will be used by the national wheelchair tennis team players, whilst the small sized will be donated to Salvation Army Center at Kurasini, Dar es Salaam, for the development of junior wheelchair tennis players.

According to him, Salvation Army Center has a steadfast junior tennis development program hence the need to have the modern small sized wheelchairs.

The remaining (medium and big size wheelchairs), he disclosed, will be used for training and tournaments only, insisting no individual player is to own them.

Makoi expressed his gratitude to ITF for the donation, saying cash strapped TTA would not have managed to purchase them on their own as they are very expensive.

He said the wheelchairs will help the country produce many wheelchair tennis starlets who can represent the country at international events.

"As I'm speaking to you, the ITF has just send a communiqué to us that the 10 wheelchairs we asked them will be in the country early July," Makoi said.

"We really thank them for the 10 wheelchairs, the wheelchairs will help to unearth more talents and develop the sport in the country," he said.

He said TTA has a number of projects for wheelchair tennis, a development which is giving him confidence that the country will produce many top wheelchair ten-

"It is always possible to produce good wheelchair tennis players. It is just about having the right structures in place, having the right support in place and making sure that there are a good number of players and also a good number of local tournaments to give the players a chance to play the game," he disclosed.

"The players also have to play a lot of local and international tournaments," he said.

However, Makoi said, once the wheelchairs arrive in the country, TTA will have to foot the clearing bill at the port and, being cash strapped, TTA will seek a sponsor to pay

He stopped short of disclosing how much TTA will be required to pay at the port, saying it will depend on the number of days the wheelchairs will be at the port.

"Once the wheelchairs arrive in the country TTA will be required to pay for clearance fees at the port as the sender does not pay the clearance fee," he disclosed.

"We, therefore, will need the support from the stakeholders and people, companies and organizations," he



Dar es Salaam's draught player, Yasin Mohamed (R), makes a move in a match against his opponent Mohamed Ndembo in this year's National Championship, which is currently taking place at Java Kitunda venue in the city. PHOTO; CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE

### Flexibles by David Chikoko



#### Kigoma peninsular is one big challenge, in fact some players may even refuse to travel due to apprehension, fearing to get stuck there, like it happened during the last time when the team travelled," Bawazir said. He advised the team's management to find ways of

rescuing the squad and where possible, they should seek assistance from the government.

The outfit's coach, Abdallah Juma, said the beginning was tough because few players turned up when preparation started,

He stated now they have adequate players but they badly need funds to enable AFC undertake the journey "Arusha residents should learn to motivate their

team's players through various forms of support especially after winning," the coach said. He stated that the games played away from home

field are usually tough and demanding. The Arusha side is expected to feature in four differ-

ent matches which are all to be played away. The squad will first confront Mashujaa in Kigoma, then head to Sinyanga to play Stand United.

The side will thereafter play against Mawenzi Market FC in Morogoro and finally top it all in Tanga against Sahare All Stars.

The AFC plays in Group B fixture of the FDL, in which Gwambina FC leads the rest of the pack with 40 points. Geita Gold FC has been placed second with 30 points, followed by Mashujaa FC in the third spot with 26

Gipco FC, Transit Camp and AFC are positioned fourth, fifth and sixth respectively, with each squad recording 25 points but with different tally of goals.