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Fuel price increase: Motorists to pay more



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Land acquisition for investors in Tanzania



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PCCB holds CCM members over 'bribery'



TCRA: Verify all SIMcards now that ownership rules take effect

By Henry Mwangonde

MOBILE phone users must verify registration of their sim cards in view of the coming into effect of the Electronic and Postal Communication (Sim Card Registration) Regulations 2020 which limit ownership.

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) Communications Manager Semu Mwakyanjala (pictured) told 'The Guardian' yesterday that the regulation imposes a fine of not less 5m/- or imprisonment for a term not less than 12 months or both and a fine of not less than 75,000/- for every day during which the SIM card was used or possessed by an individual.

One needs to dial *106# to know how many simcards are registered in his name or her name on any network, he said.

"If you have an extra line on one operator, you need to write an explanation about it to continue using it as otherwise it is punishable by law," the manager noted.

The regulations require service providers to notify individuals, companies or institutions with more than the required number of SIM Cards that they had up

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Ministers fail to agree on EAC fiscal year estimates

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

UNTIL June 30 clocked, the Council of Ministers had not presented the required budget estimates for the East African Community (EAC) for tabling before the East African Legislative Assembly.

An EALA statement said here yesterday that the failure has serious implications on the effective functioning of organs and institutions of the East African Community.

The assembly through the EALA Commission engaged the Council of Ministers and the EAC Secretary General on the issue without success, as the Council of Ministers has not indicated when budget estimates will be presented, the statement noted.

At its sitting held on 28th June, the chairman of the Council of Ministers made a request to the Assembly to approve a Vote-on-Account amounting to \$29.4m to facilitate routine operations of the EAC in the first quarter of fiscal 2020/2021, it said.

The EALA Speaker referred the request to the Committee on General Purpose for scrutiny which considered the matter and presented its report to the House, it elaborated.

To examine the request for approval of a Vote-on Account 2019, the committee held a video meeting with top EAC officials, including the Secretary General, the Counsel to the Community, and heads of the relevant organizations, it said.

The committee reviewed the request for such approval by examining provisions of the treaty, the EAC Budget Act and EAC Financial Rules and Regulations to prepare a report on

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CCM National Chairman President John Magufuli, who is aspiring for re-election as Head of State, shows his presidential nomination form before returning it to the party's Secretary General, Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa (R), at the party's headquarters in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



05/15/2020

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

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Stay home when you are sick.

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

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

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

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

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

JPM deplores crowding for Zanzibar presidency

By Guardian Correspondent, DODOMA

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has told party cadres vying for the Zanzibar presidency to use digital technology to promote their policies and stop using it as a platform to mudsling one another.

Addressing a ruling party gathering after he returned his nomination forms at the party headquarters, Dr Magufuli said that aspirants in Zanzibar should understand that only one will be nominated and only God knows who could take the position.

The president, who is also national CCM chairman told the contestants to

rather use the networks to promote peace for the country's development.

"I am asking you all to be patient. I have started seeing bad signals from the 33 contestants in Zanzibar as some of them have started using social media to mudsling others. But they have to understand that only one will be picked at the end of the journey," he said.

Dr Magufuli emphasized continued unity among CCM members so as to carry forward the party's dedication to development efforts.

"I appeal that we all together protect our peace and unity. If we fight among

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Covid-19 situation: German tour firms seeking out facts

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

GERMAN tour operators have arrived in Arusha in a mission to satisfy themselves on reports of diminishing cases of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The coordinator of the agents from Kilaweni Tours Safaris, Corinae Wieleimann said here yesterday that the visit is aimed at issuing the green light for tourists who have confirmed to visit Tanzania to make their journeys.

The tour firm officials want to satisfy themselves whether the coronavirus

situation and precautions being taken are sufficiently convenient for tourists to start coming.

They want to see for themselves the true situation and compare with reports they receive, he stated.

"Basically, since they arrived in Tanzania they have seen for themselves and are happy as they have found the situation to be calm," the coordinator noted.

After the agents arrived they were

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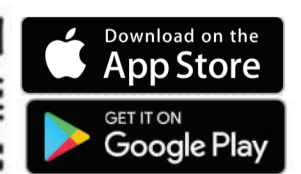
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Songwe regional commissioner Brigadier General (retired) Nicodemus Mwangela (L) and Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Dr Angelina Mabula check the region's map at yesterday's launch of the region's Lands office. Right is Lands assistant commissioner Wilson Ruge. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

Ministers fail to agree on EAC fiscal year estimates

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the matter, the statement said.

In its report, the committee stated that preparation and consideration of the Budget by EALA, the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat are required to comply with the timelines set out in the Budget Act.

Under Section 3 of the Act, the Secretary General must, by 15th October of each financial year, prepare the EAC budget and submit it to the council for consideration.

Section 4 of the Act requires the chairman of the Council of Ministers to present the EAC Budget to the EALA by April 30, it stated.

EALA members are required to adopt the EAC Budget estimates not later than 30th June, but as of yesterday the council had not yet presented to the EALA the EAC budget estimates.

Regulation 29(1) of EAC Financial Rules and Regulations stipulates that appropriation shall be available to meet obligations for the financial year to which they relate.

Rule 29 (2) asserts that appropriation shall remain available for three months following the end of the financial year to which they relate.

That provision is tagged to requirements to "discharge obligations in respect of goods, supplies and services rendered during the financial year which have not been settled," it stated.

In exceptional circumstances, EALA via the Speaker may invoke certain provisions of the Budget Act if the Council of Ministers is unable to meet the set timelines, it further observed.

Section 6 of the Act provides that the Assembly may approve a Vote-on-Account every financial year to enable normal operations of the Community in the first quarter of the new financial year before the approval of the budget. The vote-on-account shall not exceed one-third of the total budget of the

Community or any of its institutions, it further provides.

Section 12 affirms that the EALA Speaker may in writing reduce or extend any period under the Act for a 'reasonable period.'

"While the committee appreciates the need to invoke Section 6 of the Act, it would be irregular to invoke this provision when the chairman of the Council of Ministers has not presented EAC Budget Estimates for fiscal 2020/2021 as required by Article 132(2) of the Treaty and Section 4 of the Budget Act," the committee underlined.

"The assembly can't be an accomplice in the commission of such illegality. It would be speculative for the EALA to approve a Vote-on-Account amounting to \$29.4m at a time when the Council of Ministers has not met nor even set a date for a meeting to consider and approve the Budget," it further stated.

EALA members have made it clear that the crisis the EAC has been plunged in has to do with inadequacies in the work of the Secretary General, not the Assembly, the statement added.



The assembly can't be an accomplice in the commission of such illegality. It would be speculative for the EALA to approve a Vote-on-Account amounting to \$29.4m at a time when the Council of Ministers has not met nor even set a date for a meeting to consider and approve the Budget

Covid-19 situation: German tour firms seeking out facts

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received by officials of the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB) and visited nearby national parks and other areas with tourist attractions, he said.

They saw all the precautions against the pandemic - starting from airports

and hotels, along with control at the gates leading to various game parks, he elaborated.

Speaking after visiting some of these areas, tour agent Moren Brenneke said in as much as they were satisfied with steps being taken, he was happy to see that local people understand the need to take precautions.

TTB representative Francis Malugu said the decision by the agents to come to Tanzania was a good sign that the world starts to understand the diminishing of Covid-19 cases in the country.

Assistant Commissioner of Arusha National Parks (ANAPA) Albert Mziray said despite these achievements

against the disease precautions have to be taken all the time.

Tanzania is among countries in the East African region that suspended air travel including those bringing in tourists due to the pandemic. The suspension was lifted after the severity of the disease was seen to be going down day after day.

JPM deplores crowding for Zanzibar presidency

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ourselves in these campaigns we may lose direction; let's be patient with one another, show respect and love such that whoever will be nominated we should all agree," he declared.

Explaining his picking up of reelection nomination forms, Dr Magfuli said: "I want to ensure that I accomplish all the development plans that I have initiated."

"We still have a number of unaccomplished projects. I thought it is better I come back so that I realize my dream," he said, citing the ongoing construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project as well as the Mwalimu Nyerere Hydro Power Project costing 6.5trn/- with the capacity to generate 2115 MW of power. These are mega projects in the country," he pointed out.

The fifth phase government has recorded a number of achievements in the past five years in various sectors, he said.

"Another thing in the history of this country is that when we came to office in 2015 there were 2,132 villages that had electricity, but now we have

9,114 villages and 3,000 more will be connected to power lines in the near future. This enables people even in remote areas to access power and be able to engage in economic activities for their development and the country at large," he pointed out.

The government is also planning to buy modern ships to transport cargo from Karema port to Kalemie (in the Democratic Republic of Congo) as an initiative to attract more business and traders from DRC, he added.



We still have a number of unaccomplished projects. I thought it is better I come back so that I realize my dream



Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene (L) has a view of cattle cared for at Ubena Prison ranch at Bwawani in Coast Region yesterday. Next to him is the prison's head, Daimu Mmolosha. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

TCRA: Verify all SIMcards now that ownership rules take effect

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to yesterday, to choose among its SIM cards that should remain active.

The regulations direct individual ownership of SIM card to one from each service provider for use on voice, short message and data services. Not more than four SIM cards from each service provider for use on machine to machine communication are allowed, he specified.

Upon notification and failure to choose the service provider is required to deactivate all SIM cards, he said.

The regulations were made under the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, 2010 (Cap. 306) to govern biometric registration of SIM cards and

built-in SIM card mobile telephone.

However, the regulations do not apply to users of SIM cards issued by foreign mobile network service providers roaming on service providers in Tanzania.

"An individual, a company or an institution intending to own SIM cards beyond these limitations is required to submit a written application and obtain approval from the TCRA," he emphasised.

On sim card registration for minors, the regulations allow a parent or guardian is required to present the service provider with the minor's birth certificate, adoption document or valid passport with valid visa and the minor's portrait photo, he added.

Motorists to dig deeper into their pockets, fuel prices up

By Guardian Reporter

RETAIL and wholesale prices for the petroleum products, imported through Dar es Salaam port, for June have gone up compared to prices recorded in early last month.

The new retail prices released by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura) which takes effect

from July 1, shows cap price for a litre of petrol has increased by 173/- (11.38 per cent), diesel has increased by 170/- (10.98 per cent).

The utility regulator said kerosene prices shall continue the same as those that were published on June 3 because there was no new consignment of kerosene that was received through Dar es Salaam port in June.

According to Ewura, retail prices for petrol and diesel in northern regions of Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara will remain the same as the prices published in June.

Motorists in Dar es Salaam will buy petrol at 1,693/-, diesel at 1,716/- whereas kerosene will cost 1,568/-.

Those in Tanga, Same, Manyara, Arusha, Mwanza, Moshi will buy petrol

at less than 1,800/-.

Ewura attributed the prices due to the global trends that have largely affected oil prices at the world market.

The authority has advised oil marketing companies to feel free to sell their products at a price that gives them a competitive advantage provided that, such price does not exceed the price cap.



Pangani Basin Water Board public relations officer Abraham Yesaya (L) briefs visitors in Moshi municipality yesterday on the board's functions during the commemoration of its 29th anniversary. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

'Govt to produce more technicians to scale up industrialisation agenda'

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

THE government is determined to invest more on Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) so that it produces more technicians who will spearhead the country's industrialisation agenda.

Prof Joyce Ndalichako, the minister for Education, Science and Technology made the call on Monday in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region when inaugurating the Nyamidaho Veta College saying the government plans that by 2025 there should be VETA college in every region and district.

She said in the 2019/20 fiscal year, the construction of VETA colleges in 10 districts has been completed while about 48bn/- had been set aside for the construction of VETA colleges in 29 districts including Uvinza, Kasulu Town and Buhigwe in Kigoma Region.

"My lads, you have not been misled by coming to VETA and I assure you after you complete training you will find ample employment, there are some of you who even before they

completed training they had already secured employment," she said.

Earlier, explaining about the college's establishment, VETA director general Dr Pancras Bujulu said it was started by World Vision, a Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) in 2014 and was presented to Kasulu District Council who passed it to VETA on March 5 2019.

He said thereafter they started refurbishing by constructing more buildings to satisfy VETA requirements and in February this year it started conducting trainings in four fields of electricity, sewing, secretarial and computer knowledge and masonry.

The Kasulu District Commissioner Simon Anage called upon students to be trustworthy.

"My lads, you have not been misled by coming to VETA and I assure you after you complete training you will find ample employment, there are some of you who even before they completed training they had already secured employment"

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

Set aside land for investments, Kairuki tells RCs and councils

THE Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments), Angellah Kairuki tasked regional commissioners to ensure district councils set aside land for investments to spur new investors in their respective areas.

The minister made the call yesterday here when wrapping up her five-day tour of Iringa, Njombe and Mbeya regions. The visit enabled her to learn the successes, problems and challenges regions and investors were facing in existing projects and attracting new investments.

Kairuki argued that investment flows will naturally go to regions and districts

that have set aside land and developed requisite infrastructure for investment.

She said regions and districts that have set aside land and established essential investment infrastructures have put in place incentives to attract prospective investors.

According to her, three southern highlands regions have unmatched investment tourism, farming and

livestock-keeping opportunities that are begging for big investments.

"It is important for each region and its district councils in our country to set aside land and develop vital infrastructure for investment in order to attract foreign and local investors," she said

She called on investors in the three regions to register themselves with

the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) in order to benefit from opportunities offered by the centre, saying the government was working hard to improve the business and investment climate. "Welcome to the TIC to see with your necked eyes the kind of investment opportunities in southern highlands regions and Tanzania in general," she said

The three regions are in the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) and have been grouped together in a set known as Ithemi Cluster. SAGCOT and its partners facilitate socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable value chain investments and the minister praised SAGCOT for the work it was doing.

The SAGCOT Chief Executive Officer, Geoffrey Kirenga, said Sagcot and the private sector were supporting the government in a bid to make Tanzania a middle-income industrial nation.

Minister Kairuki visited 20 establishments that included Asas dairies Farm Ltd, GBRI Solutions Tanzania Ltd, Farm for the Future, Silverlands (T) Ltd, Masifio Estates, Pyrethrum Tanzania (PCT), Qwihaya General Enterprises, Sao Hill, Unilever Tea Tanzania Ltd, Njombe Milk Factory, Outgrowers Services Co.Ltd (NOSC), Tanzanice, Olivado Tanzania Ltd, Marmo Granito Ltd, Irish Potato Promotion Project, Raphael Group Ltd, Highland Estates Ltd, Mbeya Cement Co. Ltd.

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Residents of Ngwandi village in Chamwino District briefs journalists yesterday on a school building they were constructing on self-help basis but which they have abandoned for four years, reportedly for lack of money. They said their children are forced to walk a total of eight kilometers everyday to the nearest school and back. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

PCCB holds four CCM members for 'bribery'

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Arusha region are holding four members of the ruling CCM's parents wing for allegedly giving bribe in order to be nominated as MP candidates in the forthcoming October general elections.

A statement issued yesterday to the media by the Acting PCCB Commander in Arusha Region, James Ruge, mentioned the suspects as Sifaeli Pallangyo, a member of WAZAZI Arusha

regional committee, Upendo Ndorosi, the WAZAZI secretary (for Guardians) for Longido District, Laraposhu Laizer, and Godwait Mungure WAZAZI secretary for Kikatiti ward in Arumeru district.

The statement said on June 26 this year PCCB in Arusha region received a tip off from a good citizen that Lilian Ntiro, who intends to contest as MP in Arusha region through WAZAZI ticket gave Sifaeli Pallangyo money to bribe members of the WAZAZI committee for Longido District.

The aim of the money was to persuade Wazazi delegates to vote for the nomination of Lilian during nomination exercise that is slated to take place in July, this year.

The statement further said after receiving the information, they set up a trap and arrested the four suspects every one with a sum of money ready to bribe the Longido District Wazazi delegates.

The statement further said Pallangyo had 140,000/-, Upendo Malulu, 552,000/-, and a mobile phone that

showed details of communication with the suspects

The PCCB statement further said other suspects who were apprehended included Laraposhu Laizer (117,000/-) and who had a Samsung mobile phone that had communication details.

Godwait Mungure had a mobile phone which showed communication details with Pallangyo.

The PCCB thanked the people for their prompt action and warned all those who plan to bribe voters to stop doing so as it was against elections laws.

Government fully for crackdown targeting firms hoarding fuel

By Guardian Reporter, Kibaigwa

THE government ordered the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) to launch a nationwide crackdown on oil marketing companies' hoarding fuel after prices of the commodity dropped early this month.

"Any oil marketing company found hoarding fuel will be fined not less than 100 million Tanzanian shillings (about 43,000 U.S. dollars)," warned the Minister for Energy, Medard Kalemani when he addressed a news conference in the capital Dodoma.

Kalemani said most of the oil marketing firms selling fuel in the country have decided to stash the commodity after the retail and wholesale prices for the petroleum products imported through the Dar es Salaam port for June dropped compared to prices recorded in May.

Home Affairs George Simbachawene has instructed the country's Inspector General of Police (IGP) to liaise with Energy, Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) to arrest owners of various oil companies who have hoarded fuel causing widespread panic in the country

He said there is acute shortage of fuel in Dodoma and Singida Regions because the commodity has not been transported thereto by dealers whom he said were waiting until Wednesday when the price will rise and reap huge profits.

Speaking to hundreds of motorists who converged at Kibaigwa Petrol Station in Dodoma Region yesterday, Simbachawene said the nation cannot entertain wealthy people who do not wish the country well; they must be arrested and prosecuted.

"Just look at the queue, people cannot suffer just like this simply because fuel dealers are hoarding the stuff and wait for the price to go up and then sell, they should be arrested as quickly as possible," Simbachawene said.

He also instructed Regional Police Commanders (RPCs) and Officers Commanding District (OCDs) to work together with EWURA to make inspections at petrol stations and arrest all owners thereof who are hoarding fuel.

A motorcycle (bodaboda) owner Hamisi Shokela, a resident of Mpwapwa said he came from Mpwapwa since morning to look for fuel at Kibaigwa, which is very far and until evening he has not obtained it due to the very long queue.

"Many petrol stations have closed, this is the only one that is open and the queue is like as you see, I am here since morning, Minister we ask you to help us and we also thank you for coming here," said Shokela.

Gaspar Rwambo, another motorcycle owner and Kibaigwa resident said because of the shortage of fuel he has not done any work for the whole day, adding that if the situation persists he will fail to feed his family.

"I ask President John Magufuli to intervene, we are suffering, today the queue is this long, we do not know about tomorrow, this is the only petrol station that is open in the whole of Kibaigwa area," Rwambo lamented.

Simbachawene made a brief stop at the petrol station while on his way from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma and saw the long queue of vehicles waiting to purchase fuel.



Many petrol stations have closed, this is the only one that is open and the queue is like as you see, I am here since morning, Minister we ask you to help us and we also thank you for coming here

Tanzania gets shortlisted for 2020 edition of World Trade Promotion Award

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA has been shortlisted in the 2020 installment of the prestigious 'World Trade Promotion Organisation Award.'

Official statement from the International Trade Centre (ITC) revealed here that 18 national trade promotion organizations have been shortlisted for the 2020 World Trade Promotion Organization (WTPO) Awards with Tanzania listed among the seven countries that stood up in the 'Best Use of Partnership' category.

The shortlisted organisations are competing in three categories, including the 'Best use of a partnership,' in which Colombia, Egypt, Sweden, the Netherlands, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe and the United Republic of Tanzania have been slotted.

There is also the 'Best use of information technology,' where Brazil, China, Georgia, Malaysia, Portugal and the United Arab Emirates topped the bill, while for the 'Best initiative for inclusive and sustainable trade,' it was Austria, Costa Rica, Lithuania, Saint Lucia and Spain that got listed up.

The winners will be announced at the 13th WTPO Conference in to be held in Accra, Ghana, on the 14th of October, this year.

The WTPO Awards 2020 received 60 applications, the highest number since the awards were created in 2004. A jury of peers selected the shortlist. The jury is comprised of the 2018 award winners, and is chaired by ITC Executive Director Dorothy Tembo.

The competition, open to all national trade promotion organizations, recognizes excellence in trade support services. They celebrate organizations that excel in innovative, effective export development initiatives. The organizations must show that they help micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to become

competitive in international markets.

Entrants were asked to demonstrate innovation and boldness for each of the three categories. The first category demonstrates strong service delivery through key partnerships; the second focuses on efficiency through new technologies; and the third showcases solutions that contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Commenting on this year's shortlist, Ms Tembo said: 'National trade promotion organizations play a crucial role in supporting business innovation, trade-led growth and the internationalization of MSMEs. To be able to deliver services at a time of multiple external shocks these organizations must be proactive, and forge their place at the front line.'

'The entries demonstrate how these organizations are responding, while also shaping their initiatives to contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth,' she added. 'Today's nominees displayed vision and commitment to excellence in service delivery.'

The WTPO Network World Conference is a biennial event, first held in 1996 in Cartagena, Colombia. The 13th conference, themed 'Bold solutions for resilience and recovery' will bring together more than 200 TPO representatives, policymakers and business leaders from over 70 economies.



The winners will be announced at the 13th WTPO Conference in to be held in Accra, Ghana, on the 14th of October, this year



Small traders (in blue T-shirts) hunt for customers from among passengers on a bus on transit at Morogoro municipality's main bus stand at Msamvu at the weekend. The wearing of the uniforms is for identification purposes - and is mandatory. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Prisons dept commended for producing quality seeds

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE Tanzania Prisons has been commended for production of different improved quality seeds to meet the target of producing enough food to feed all the 129 prisons countrywide in response to President John Magufuli's directives, urging all prisons to be independent for food requirements.

They have also pledged to enhance production and become big seed producers in the country and able to sell seeds inside and outside the country.

Assistant Commissioner of Prisons Roswin Mbena announced when speaking to reporters after the

training on better seed production methods from Tanzania official seeds certification institute (TOSCI).

Mbena said they have started implementing the education acquisition strategy for better seed production from TOSCI to enable them produce quality seeds at their 12,000 hectares farms countrywide.

He said the Prisons Department is engaged in the production of various crops in their farms including trees, cash crops, food crops and vegetables but they have not been attaining production targets because they have been buying seeds through tendering which sometimes are of poor quality.

He said the training they received from TOSCI has helped them to

identify that not every seed in the farm or that falls down will be called 'seed', it will only be called as such after it has passed through special production procedures.

"We intend to implement the decision of being producers of quality crops seeds and we can, because we have enough experts countrywide and if we add the officials who received training, we will have made great strides," he said.

He said the production of these seeds will assist in reducing the Prisons Department expenses as they will no longer be buying seeds via tenders.

Prisons Superintendent from Agriculture and Livestock Unit in Dodoma Nimuindaeli Mziray said the

training acquired will assist the Prisons Department to produce quality seeds of both national and international standards.

TOSCI's training instructor on quality seeds Emmanuel Mwakatobe said they have provided the training to Prisons Department officers in order to build for them the capacity for production in the farms, laboratories and by following the law on seeds.

He also said it was essential for the seeds to have the required quality in accordance to statutes governing seeds production before they reach the farmer and that seed disinfection during storage should also follow the existing regulations.



Mussa Lumala (L), an official with NMB Bank Plc's Clock Tower Branch in Arusha city, presents life insurance documents to Beatrice Seleka shortly after she enrolled for the service yesterday. The bank is on a nationwide drive to reach 60 per cent of adult Tanzanians with insurance services by 2024. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PS urges Tanelec to speed up production of switchgears for Karanga leather factory

By Guardian Reporter

THE Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Prof Riziki Shemdoo has appealed to the Arusha based electric equipment manufacturers - Tanelec to speed up the production of electric equipment including switchgears that are needed for installation at Karanga Leather Industries Company in Kilimanjaro

region.

Prof Shemdoo issued the appeal during his inspection visit at the Karanga leather factory being constructed by the Prisons Department at a cost of over 9bn/-.

A big part of construction work on the factory has been completed and what remains is the installation of switchgears that are manufactured by Tanelec factory in Arusha.

"My appeal to Tanelec - make sure you manufacture the needed electrical equipment in time so as to make it easy for experts who will come to install plants and machinery at the factory," he said.

He also pleaded with work supervisors to quickly finish the remaining work on the factory's first phase.

The construction supervisor Eng

Mwagalamba told the PS that the work would have been completed but the delay is attributed to delay in the installation of the switchgears made by Tanelec.

When completed Karanga Leather Industries Company is expected to employ 5,000 people including other 4,000 who will conduct various businesses around the area.

Plans well under way for Hombolo's ultra-modern cassava processing plant

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PLANS are afoot for the Anglican's Diocese of Central Tanganyika (DCT) and an Indian investor, Ramani Veerappan, to open an ultra-modern cassava processing plant in Hombolo ward, Dodoma Region.

If all goes well, through the envisioned pact, DCT will provide a total of 100 acres for the construction of the said plant, whereby the foreign investor will be responsible for construction of the factory, installment of machines, as well as other relevant facilities.

However, in ensuring abundant supply of raw materials, the diocese is expected to cultivate at least 1,000 acres of cassava nearby the factory.

According to the regional Secretary with the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industrial and Agriculture (TCCIA), Idd Senge, the two parties are finalising talks in readiness for the crucial plant.

"The talks have reached a crucial stage and both sides are demonstrating high spirits and readiness to have the project start as soon as possible," he said.

He added that upon its completion, the facility is expected to stimulate cultivation of the tubers in the central zone corridor, a move which will also see many households cheat poverty through cultivating and selling the cash crop to the plant.

"The envisaged factory will dwell in manufacturing cassava starch, at capacity of 200 tonnes per day, and animal feeds," he detailed.

On his side, the Indian investor, Veerappan, unveiled that the envisaged factory will be purchasing fresh cassava from farmers at a price of between 250/- and 300/- per kilogramme on cash basis, depending on the quality of the tuber.

Despite being endowed with key potentials of growing cassava, the cash crop has always been grown in poor tide in Dodoma and Singida, but the recent revelation that some Indians and Chinese traders are eying to invest in processing cassava in Tanzania has triggered major revolutions among farmers of the said tuber in central zone regions.

Most farmers in central zone are currently in forefront to acquire chunk land for establishing cassava plantation due to recently news released during the China- ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) 2018 that some Chinese traders want to chip in the county and invest in cassava processing factories.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner (RC), Binlith Mahenge, said the region has set aside enough land for supporting various industrial investments.

"Doors are open for local and foreign investors to come and invest in Dodoma, the region has many investment opportunities to offer," he said.

With an annual production estimated at 6.8 million tonnes, Tanzania is the twelfth largest producer of cassava in the world, and the sixth in Africa after Nigeria, DRC, Ghana, Angola, and Mozambique.

The future demand of cassava in Tanzania is projected to be between 530,000 and 630,000 tonnes and potential drivers of increased local demand are milling, animal feed, beer and beverages, sweets and snacks, starch manufacture, textile factories, paper mills and hardboards, paint and pharmaceuticals.

PASSPORT IMEPOTEA
ABDULMALIKI KHALID
MUGULA



Anatangaza kupotelewa na Hati ya Kusafiria (Passport) yenye namba AB 200416 Iliyotolewa mwaka 2005 Ofisi ya Idara ya Uhamiaji Dar es Salaam

Yeyote atakayeiona atoe taarifa Polisi.

Taarifa ya Polisi:
MWA/NY/RB/482153/2020



Nguvu Moja Security Services Ltd

P.O. Box 105028
Dar es Salaam

Nguvu Moja (SS)
(Kuwa Nasi - Yataka moyo)

Contact: 0754881168 or
0621760716

JOB OPPORTUNITY

CONTENT

Nguvu Moja (SS) a local content (native) Tanzania security Company which operates in three notable Medium Gold Mines located in lake Victoria Green Belt Zone; seek to employ energetic youths who have undergone military training in National Service (Operation Magufuli and Operation Kikwete), Special forces retirees, Para military Soldiers and other people from other national security organs of the age of NOT ABOVE 45 years old.

JOB DESCRIPTION

To provide proficient security solutions in the extractive industry

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should be healthy Tanzanian youths, trustworthy, diligent, audacious with good conduct and no criminal record. Education Require - Completion of Tanzania Primary school to College Level.

SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENT (added advantage)

- Computer literacy
- Community outreach
- Relevant tertiary qualification in security/risk management
- Driving licence, Financial accounts, GD Clerk, materials management, mechanical technician and others

RENUMERATION

Basic Salary according to Tanzania Government financial regulations as per labour law

MODE OF APPLICATION

Cover letter be addressed to Human Resources Manager including, Dated CV, Copies of relevant certificates, email and telephone contacts, names and three referees, to be forwarded to below address. Bring original certificate if contacted for interview.

CONTACT ADDRESS

Humans Resources manager
Nguvu Moja Security Services Ltd
PO Box 105028, DAR ES SALAAM. Email: mojanguvu@gmail.com

APPLICATION DEADLINE

- Application letters should reach Us before 05 July 2020 at 17 hrs 30
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for Interview

NB Beware of conmen NMSS does not receive money in exchange for a job. - Corruption is strictly forbidden. Any corrupt act must immediately be reported directly to **TAKUKURU mob No (026) 2322003/2322695** or to mob No given herein. **0754881168** or **0721760716**



MAKAO MAKUU

Jengo la EWURA, Medeli Magharibi
S.L.P. 2857, Dodoma, Tanzania

Simu: +255-26 2329002-3; Nukushi: +255-26 2329005

E-mail: info@ewura.go.tz Website: http://www.ewura.go.tz

TAARIFA KWA UMMA



Mamlaka ya Udhhibiti wa Huduma za Nishati na Maji (EWURA) inapenda kuitangazia umma kuwa **MAKAO MAKUU YA EWURA** yamehamishiwa katika **JENGO LAKE JIPIYA LILIPO MTAA WA MEDELI MAGHARIBI, JIJINI DODOMA**.

Hivyo basi kuanzia tarehe **1 Julai, 2020** shughuli zote za **EWURA Makao Makuu** zitafanyika katika Jengo jipya la **EWURA**, Mtaa wa Medeli Magharibi karibu na Maduka ya Shoppers Plaza.

Ofisi zetu za Kanda zinaendelea kuwepo maeneo yale yale ya zamani Kanda ya Ziwa (Mwanza), Kanda ya Kaskazini (Arusha), Kanda ya Nyanda za Juu Kusini (Mbeya), Kanda ya Kati (**DODOMA EWURA HOUSE**) na Kanda ya Mashariki (Dar es Salaam).

Hivyo basi, kwa taarifa hii mawasiliano yote kwenda Makao Makuu yapelekwe kwa Mkurugenzi Mkuu, Jengo la EWURA (EWURA House), Medeli Magharibi, Dodoma

Imetolewa na
Mkurugenzi Mkuu

Hundreds of pupils in Bagamoyo to benefit from water wells aid

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

HUNDREDS of primary and secondary school students in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region, are set to benefit from clean and safe water after two organisations pledged to drill 20 water wells in their school premises.

The water wells will be drilled with a charity organisation—'Time To Help' in partnership with Feza schools.

The organisation's public relation manager, Mbwana Kitendo revealed this yesterday when he handed over a water well to Mtambani Primary School in Bagamoyo District.

The idea to drill water wells is to ease water woes facing many primary and secondary schools in the district, he said.

"We came to learn that many schools in this district have no access to clean and safe water for daily consumption and for those schools with water spends a lot in paying monthly bills," he said.

"We've also created a system that enables water to flow in toilets and build three water outlets at Mtambani Primary School whereby students can access clean water without queue."

"We have already drilled one well at Mapinga secondary school and we made it here at Mtambani and we promise to continue with this spirit to make sure we reach many schools as we can to facilitate them with clean and safe water," he said.

Mtambani Primary School head teacher Timothy Kassiani commended the two organisations for extending the support to the school, saying: "With this water well, we're going to save 100,000/- per month in water bills."

The 44 year-old school has a total of 2,400 students, which is beyond its capacity so there is a great need of water and other facilities like desks, classrooms, photocopy machines and teachers houses.

Bagamoyo District Education Officer,

Sophia Killumbi applauded the two organisations for the timely assistance and asked them to help other schools in the district that face the same problem.

"What you have done to this school is commendable and other organisations should learn the giving spirit that you showed to us. Our school is overwhelmed by the number of students so the assistance like this will help to create a good learning environment," she said.

Feza schools director, Ismail Yilmaz said water is important, that's why his schools and Time To Help will do their best to ensure many schools in the country access clean and safe water.

Time To Help which is a global organisation started its operation in 2006 in Tanzania, with the aim of helping the needy in education, healthy, food, shelter and water.

Some schools benefited by Time To Help are Kawe B Primary School, Boko, Temboni, Kifuru, Kisarawe, Adris Abdul Wakili from Mpiji Majohe and Golan in Kimara Dar es Salaam.



We came to learn that many schools in this district have no access to clean and safe water for daily consumption and for those schools with water spends a lot in paying monthly bills



BRAC Tanzania director Fordson Kafweku (R, in glasses) shows Temeke district executive director Lusubilo Mwakabibi (next to him) how to use improved hand-washing facilities shortly after presenting the items in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Looking on are head teachers of primary schools in the district. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbinga

RESIDENTS of Ruvuma Region are now benefiting from the implementation of 30bn/- government funded water projects.

Speaking during her inspection visit of the Mnyangayanga water project in Mbinga District, Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme said that the project currently being implemented costs 284m/-.

The RC called upon Mbinga District residents to take care of the Myangayanga water source that has the capacity to produce 300,000 litres of water per day and serve more than

Ruvuma residents benefit from 30bn/- water project

12,000 people.

"The only word of thank to give President John Magufuli is to take care of the environment, we should not graze, cultivate or cut tree at the water source, we want this water to be used during both rainy and dry seasons," she stressed.

The Manager for Ruvuma Water and Sanitation Authority (RUWASA)

in Mbinga District Mashaka Sinkala said the authority plans to lay pipes network for the supply of water including a 4.4 km main pipeline from the water source to a reservoir.

He said RUWASA in Mbinga District will establish water communities that will be responsible in managing the project according to the Water Act (No. 5 of 2019) and regulations thereof.

He said the dripping water source has the capacity to produce 300,000 litres to supply 12,000 residents, but initially 12,300 residents will be served.

Myangayanga Water Project is among seven water projects run by RUWASA in collaboration with Songea Water and sanitation Authority (SOWASA) funded from the Water Fund and employ water experts from within Mbinga District.



Zanzibar Education and Vocational Training minister Riziki Pembe Juma (R, in headscarf) pictured in Zanzibar yesterday receiving buckets for use in the washing of hands. It is a donation from Muzdalifa Islamic Charitable Organisation chairman Abdallah Hadhar and Al Ansari Foundation. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Correspondent, Iramba

RESIDENTS of Ntwike, Nsunsu and Nkonkilangi villages in Shelui ward, Iramba District in Singida Region have praised the government for providing their areas with electricity through Rural Energy Agency (REA).

They said after electricity reached their villages, services like welding and milling business have begun.

One resident of Ntwike village, Joyce Emanuelli, said before electricity reached their areas, workers at the village dispensary used oil lamps when treating patients during the night.

Relief to Iramba District villagers connected to national power grid

Joyce said as of now the dispensary uses electricity and serves people 24 hours.

Ntwike Village Executive Mohamed Mwanga said residents now have welding services and can have their grain milled at newly established milling machines.

"Our request to the government is that it should extend power to other areas that have not been reached," he stressed.

Joseph Kapteni, another Ntwike villager said service at the village dispensary before the advent of electricity was not satisfactory as

compared to now, when the health centres is open 24 hours.

Former Singida Region TANESCO Manager Eng Abdulrahman Nyenye said out of the region's 168 villages that were lined up to get power via REA, 113 villages have started benefitting from the service.

Kisarawe prepares youth to reap from opportunities made available by tourism

By Guardian Reporter

AUTHORITIES in Kisarawe District have embarked on efforts to prepare youth utilise opportunities that would come with tourism activities in the area.

The district's move comes at the time when the sector was opening up opportunities after the government's decision to introduce the new national park, Nyerere National Park, and existing of abundant forests that were ideal for tourism.

More assurance towards the growth of the tourism sector in the district came after President John Magufuli on Monday directed the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication to start technical procedures for constructing road from the district to Nyerere National Park.

The president stated that it was impossible that the National Park which was named after founder of the nation have poor road heading to it.

Yesterday, the district authorities organised free training for 52 youth to impart skills on hospitality industry.

The training meant to empower them with sharp eyes for seeing and use opportunities for economic benefits for them and the district.

Opening the training, District Commissioner Jokate Mwegelo said the district was endowed with abundant opportunities in tourism that the youth could use to create their own employments.

"It's now upon you to ensure that these opportunities benefit you and the district," she told the youth, adding, for instance the youth could start engaging in tour guide activities since the Nyerere National Park is set to attract many tourists.

Mwegelo assured the youth that her office would support them, and that there was no reason for them not to benefit from the opportunities.

She also commended the president for seeing importance of constructing the road heading to the Nyerere National Park.

Last month, the association of tour guides in the southern circuit also said it would be more appropriate if the road was tarmacked to facilitate tourism in the national park which was formed from part of the area of Selous reserved forests.

Executive Director of the National College of Tourism, Dr Shogo Sedoyekam, also said the district has many areas proper for tourism activities.

She said the college would see possibilities of expanding such trainings to other groups such as entrepreneurs.



Mwegelo assured the youth that her office would support them, and that there was no reason for them not to benefit from the opportunities



Simanjiro district administrative secretary Zuvena Omary speaks on female genital mutilation at a meeting for development stakeholders held in the district at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Authorities in Rukwa warn 'bodaboda' riders against impregnating schoolgirls

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

THE authorities in Rukwa Region has warned motorbike drivers alias 'bodaboda' to avoid engaging in love affairs with primary and secondary school girls insisting to take stern measures against the culprits.

According to Rukwa Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo, early pregnancies hinder girls' from achieving their life dreams as they cannot continue with studies.

RC Wangabo made the statement recently during a function to handover 35 motorbikes to 'bodaboda' drivers who are active members of the new Bodaboda Sacoss with its headquarters in Sumbawanga District.

The motorbikes have been provided by the Sumbawanga District on loan basis under its programme which gears to economically empower youth, women and special groups.

He alleged that some motorbike drivers have been engaging in love affairs with school girls, the thing that poses danger to them as they risk imprisonment.

He said: "We want our girls to continue with education to higher levels, those impregnating schoolgirls will be punished according to the country laws."

Wangabo said the region has come up with a special campaign dubbed 'Mwache Mtoto Asome' which aims to protect learning girls from any kind of violence as well as ensuring they complete their primary and secondary education without getting pregnant.

"Let us leave the girls to continue with their education, you are only allowed to engage in a love affairs with your fellow adults," he said.

He however called upon the drivers to adhere to traffic rules and regulations when driving the motorbikes. He said drivers should be in the forefront

to avoid accidents which have been causing deaths and injuring many people.

The RC said that in between June 2019 and June 2020, the region recorded a total of 32 road crashes that involved motorbikes. He said twelve people died due to the accidents hence the need for drivers to avoid reckless driving to reduce the number of accidents.

Earlier, Sumbawanga District Executive Director, Jacob Mtalitinya said the district issued loans amounting to 235.1m/- in the 2019/2020 financial year. The loans were given to women, youth and special groups including people with disabilities.

Mtalitinya informed that a total of 378 people have benefitted with the loans.

The central government requires district authorities to set aside 10 percent of its collected revenues for provision of loans to women entrepreneurs, youth and groups with special needs.

Lawyers calls upon female students to focus on studies

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) has called upon female students in higher learning institutions to concentrate with their studies to enable the country to have a good number of female experts in near future.

Jamila Mohamed, director of ZAFELA, said some female students fail to complete their studies due to various reasons including involvement in bad groups as well as greed for money and expensive goods.

She made the remarks recently when speaking to female university students in Zanzibar during training on gender based violence (GBV).

"There are some of you who got pregnant before completing studies; most of them entered into love affairs with men with hopes of getting money. You should only concentrate with your studies to achieve your life dreams," said Jamila.

She urged them to share knowledge

on gender-based violence with other girls at their specific localities. He said the move will reduce GBV cases as well as enable girls to know their rights.

According to her, some male teachers have been seducing female students to engage in a love affairs with them over promises of being assisted to pass exams or given higher marks in particular subjects.

ZAFELA Project Officer, Rufeja Khamis Juma said the gender based violence training was meant to enable girls know their rights as well as be able to protect themselves from any forms of violence.

Meanwhile, the female university students commended the association for educating them on GBV matters, promising to pass over the knowledge to their fellow girls back home.

Mariyam Mbarouk, a student, suggested for the government to review some of the existing laws to provide stern punishment against the culprits. She said it is important to change the laws concerning girls and women because they directly hamper progress in the development of women and children.

ZAFELA was established in 2003, spurred by the many challenges facing women and children in the community. It seeks to ensure that women and children are no longer the victims of any form of violence by educating them about their civil and social rights, providing counseling and support through difficult life transitions, and safeguarding their future by creating awareness of their legal rights through legal aid.

UNESCO cautions: COVID-19 worsens education inequality

PARIS

NEARLY 260 million children had no access to schooling in 2018, the United Nations education agency said in a report that blamed poverty and discrimination for educational inequalities that are being exacerbated by the coronavirus outbreak.

Children from poorer communities as well as girls, the disabled, immigrants and ethnic minorities were at a distinct educational disadvantage in many countries, the UN's Paris-based education body UNESCO said.

In 2018, "258 million children and youth were entirely excluded from education, with poverty as the main obstacle to access," the report found.

This represented 17 percent of all school-age children, most of them in south and central Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

The disparities worsened with the arrival of the coronavirus crisis, which saw over 90 percent of the global student population affected by school closures, the report said.

And while children from families with means could continue schooling from home using laptops, mobile phones and the internet, millions of others were cut off entirely.

"Lessons from the past – such as with Ebola – have shown that health crises can leave many behind, in particular the poorest girls, many of whom may never return to school," UNESCO's director general Audrey Azoulay wrote in a foreword.

The report noted that in low- and middle-income countries,

adolescents from the richest 20 percent of households were three times more likely to complete the first portion of secondary school – up to age 15 – than those from poor homes.

Children with disabilities were 19 percent less likely to achieve minimum reading proficiency in 10 of these nations.

In 20 poor countries, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, hardly any rural girls complete secondary school, UNESCO said.

And in richer nations, 10-year-olds taught in a language other than their mother tongue scored 34 percent lower than native speakers in reading tests.

RC unhappy with pace of Kalambo District offices expansion project

By Guardian Correspondent, Kalambo

RUKWA Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo has summoned the contractor–SUMA JKT, a wing of Tanzania National Service that executes a project for expansion of Kalambo District offices over delays to complete a project for expansion of Kalambo district offices.

Wangabo wanted the contractor–SUMA JKT to provide tangible reasons for the project's delay.

The RC noted that the contractor signed a contract for construction of the buildings at the Kalambo District on September 8th 2017 under conditions of completing the job in May 2019. He said the district authority had already paid the contractor some 1.7bn/- out of the required 4.12bn/-.

"I am not impressed with the pace

of project execution, you should explain as to why my office should not terminate a contract with you," he said adding that upon completion, the new building will include 137 office rooms.

He said some district officials have

been forced to use classrooms, the environment which is not convenient for them to work properly.

"I want to meet with the contractor–SUMA JKT, Kalambo District Commissioner and the district director. We shall discuss possibilities to change some contract terms so that the project is implemented through Forced Account," he stated.

The contractor from SUMA-JKT, Eng Jackson Bwila said they experienced various challenges when executing the project including heavy rains which forced them to temporarily suspend implementation of the project.

Eng Bwila said the project was stopped for more than seven months due to rains, but they are expecting to resume the work in coming days. He also raised concerns over delayed payment from the government.



I am not impressed with the pace of project execution, you should explain as to why my office should not terminate a contract with you



EMPLOYMENT VACANCIES

PCI is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing diseases, improving community health, and promoting sustainable development worldwide. With support from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), PCI Tanzania will be implementing the final phase of Food for Education (FFE) programming in the Mara region (2017-2021). The goal of the program is to improve literacy among primary school students, and increased use of health and dietary practices, empower women etc.

In line with program objectives, growth and sustainability, PCI wishes to attract talent and professionals to help run the program.

Position Title: Director of Finance & Administration
Location: Dar – Es – Salaam
Reporting: Country Director

The Director of Finance & Administration will ensure compliance to PCI policies and procedures in the management and operations of programs in Tanzania. S/he will also manage the financial resources to ensure availability, reasonableness, and effective utilization in implementation of programs.

Responsibilities include:

- Manage the financial & Administration function of the organization including, effectively managing cash treasury and forecasts – review of cash tracking tool, request funds, projection of spending using appropriate tools.
- Supervise daily program financial operations, including cashflow management, timesheet records, financial reporting, and monitoring of budgets and expenditures
- Oversee bank operations – facilitate opening or closing bank accounts as needed, manage operations including signing authorities, review bank reconciliation.
- Ensure all transactions are accurately coded by expense code, activity code and cost center into ACCPAC including review and recording of IO entries.
- Coordinate month end reconciliation of general ledger control accounts
- Oversee the preparation of the FOFR form each month to be sent to IO along with other information as per the monthly reporting checklist.
- Reconcile trend reports field v/s International Office to ensure match / in line.
- Develop departmental work plans and oversee development of individual work plans for Finance & Administration staff.
- Implement and maintain systems (financial & administrative) and internal control. Ensure compliance of donor and statutory regulations.
- Coordinate establishment of mechanisms to document and disseminate existing and newly established systems to staff.
- Liaise with CFO and Regional Director of Finance to solicit, identify and engage a local auditor
- Review of budgets and projections in line of donor and IO requirements. Oversee and manage audits – IO and statutory.
- Prepare and share with country director and program staff on monthly basis a report on budget

v/s actual and actual v/s MDRT projections.

- Reconcile budgets with actual to the cash tracking tool. Generate and reconcile field Grant to Date report to cash tracking tool from IO.
- Provide supervision to Administration staff.
- Oversee preparation of monthly payroll including proper allocation of time from completed timesheets and LDS and other employee benefits.
- Oversee VAT application processes working with the finance team.
- Assist Country Director in strategic and operational plans and development.
- Maintain relationship with stakeholders such as Banks, WCF, NSSF, Tanzania Revenue Authority, District Executive Directors, District Commissioners etc.
- Cover for Country Director during periods of absence.
- Oversee the procurement function for PCI Tanzania for all the offices in country.
- Support the senior management team to engage with key national stakeholders as necessary (e.g. Ministry of Education Science and Technology and the President's Office Regional and Local Government)
- Work with the Country Director in program work planning, budgeting, performance management, risk management, monitoring and evaluation, and strategic communication

Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, and or financial management (BCom, BSc, BAF, BA etc.). Candidates with a master's degree is a plus (MBA, MSc, MA etc.).
- Professionally Qualified Accountant (CPA, ACCA, or CMA) registered with appropriate professional governing authority.
- 10 years management accounting experience, audit experience, dual reporting relationship experience, fluent written and spoken English, automated and integrated accounting packages experience.
- Experience leading large teams across multiple locations and managing program that achieve results, with a focus on adaptive management
- Experience working with USG funded projects (USAID, USDA, DOD) is an added advantage.
- Experience managing and coaching direct reports
- Demonstrated leadership skills, versatility, and integrity

HOW TO APPLY:

Please visit our website at www.pciglobal.org and click on the "Careers" link under the About Us tab. This will take you to PCI's Career Portal. Click on the employment opportunities tab and then click on Search Current Openings to find and apply for the open position with PCI Tanzania enclosing a detailed CV together with copies of relevant testimonials and cover letter

DEADLINE:

A first review of candidates will happen after July 13th, 2020

PCI is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Only Successful Candidates will be contacted

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Reducing emissions from deforestation, forest degradation is certainly crucial

REDUCING emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+) was first negotiated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2005, with the objective of mitigating climate change through reducing net emissions of greenhouse gases through enhanced forest management in developing countries. Most of the key REDD+ decisions were completed by 2013, with the final pieces of the rulebook finished in 2015.

In the last two decades, various studies estimate that land use change, including deforestation and forest degradation, accounts for 12-29 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. For this reason the inclusion of reducing emissions from land use change is considered essential to achieve the objectives of the UNFCCC.

During the negotiations for the Kyoto Protocol, and then in particular its Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the inclusion of tropical forest management was debated but eventually dropped due to anticipated methodological difficulties in establishing - in particular - additionality and leakage (detrimental effects outside of the project area attributable to project activities).

The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty which extends the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that commits state parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, based on the scientific consensus that (part one) global warming is occurring and (part two) it is extremely likely that human-made CO₂ emissions have predominantly caused

it. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on 11 December 1997 and entered into force on 16 February 2005. There are currently 192 parties (Canada withdrew from the protocol, effective December 2012) to the Protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol implemented the objective of the UNFCCC to reduce the onset of global warming by reducing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

The Protocol is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities: it acknowledges that individual countries have different capabilities in combating climate change, owing to economic development, and therefore puts the obligation to reduce current emissions on developed countries on the basis that they are historically responsible for the current levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

What remained on forestry was afforestation and reforestation - sectoral scope 14 of the CDM. Under this sectoral scope areas of land that had no forest cover since 1990 could be replanted with commercial or indigenous tree species. In its first eight years of operation 52 projects had been registered under the "Afforestation and Reforestation" scope of the CDM. The cumbersome administrative procedures and corresponding high transaction costs are often blamed for this slow uptake. Beyond the CDM, all developed countries that were parties to the Kyoto Protocol also committed to measuring and reporting on efforts to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions from forests. The United States also measures and reports on the net greenhouse gas sequestration in its forests.

Why we should care to protect vulnerable African farmers with climate risk insurance

AS the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread into countries already dealing with the impacts of drought, economic crises and conflict, the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has provided USD 5.9 million to ensure that the UN World Food Programme (WFP) can continue to protect 1.2 million vulnerable African farmers with climate risk insurance.

This donation comes at a crucial time. The 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 COVID and climate impacts. Heatwaves, floods, storms and droughts are compounding the economic and public health effects of the pandemic, putting an additional burden on overstretched health services," says Gernot Lagoda, WFP Chief of Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Programmes. "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 emergency COVID-19 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 with having to feed more people while at the same time trying to control the spread of COVID-19.

"This is why this insurance could support 'double resilience' for vulnerable people. It is protecting them from both hunger and the impacts of COVID-19 on market access," said WFP Mauritania country director Nacer Benalleg. "We can act much faster to help our partner government at a

difficult time when the countries of the world need to support each other. If a drought occurs next season, having a payout from our climate risk insurance policy would free up budgetary resources that Mauritania would have otherwise needed to split between food security and health responses."

This German donation will fund insurance coverage for around 108,000 people in Mauritania; 175,000 people in Burkina Faso; 45,000 people in the Gambia; 745,000 people in Mali and 266,000 people in Zimbabwe.

The insurance scheme is part of the African Union's African Risk Capacity (ARC) - innovative risk management and resilience-building institution that helps African Union Member States manage climate and disaster risk and adapt to climate change. The ARC Member States purchase index-based drought insurance that guarantees payouts if rains fall below certain levels. Financial help can reach affected small-scale farmers immediately after the failed harvest. ARC is also offering governments comprehensive technical support for disaster preparedness and disaster risk management.

ARC Replica coverage is an insurance product offered by ARC Ltd to the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Start Network - a network of over 40 humanitarian aid organizations - to complement the insurance policies purchased by African states. As Replica partners, WFP and Start Network can increase the ARC insurance coverage of eligible ARC Member States by purchasing a 'Replica Policy'.

As part of the InsuResilience Vision 2025, Germany and the other G7 countries have committed to ensuring 500 million poor and vulnerable people are covered against climate and disaster shocks by pre-arranged finance and insurance mechanisms by 2025. ARC Replica is a vehicle to support the achievement of this goal.

The funds will be channelled from BMZ through the government-owned development bank Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW).



Biodiversity and human vandalism

By Mohammed Bello Yunusa

BIODIVERSITY is another word for all creatures, from the very minute and weak to the most visible and domineering that live on earth.

These creatures include bacteria, worms, insects, reptiles, birds and animals including humans. These creatures constitute the environment, and are known for providing shelter, food, and security for one another in a very complex manner. Together they balance and moderate each other's existence on earth.

But this balancing and moderating has failed significantly. Coexistence failed mainly for reasons of survival and differing modes of survival livelihoods. The big creatures capture the small ones for their meals. Big fishes eat up small ones, pythons swallow their victims, as the big cats pieces and eat other animals. As the wilds eat, they trample and kill or destroy others including vegetation cover. The vegetation cover such as shrubs, trees and grass are major resources to humans.

The most domineering, visible and influence of the co-tenant of earth is the human species. The humans have combined intelligence and technology to capture, adopt and use the surface of the earth to the destruction of other tenants and self. Farmland, construction materials, household fuel, food and medicinal materials that are sourced by man impact on the environment. The sourcing of these resources has reached the point of rendering life on earth unliveable.

Human being, the most vicious and destructive species on earth, is the creature that sources much of these. Human activities destroy the environment and invariably the biodiversity as the humans pursue food production and other livelihoods. Furthermore, construction of places of abode as homes, the production of food, and construction or production of other support infrastructure and goods, have made humans far less accommodating and tolerable of creatures that are co-tenants.

Farmland clearances and farm practices have often destroyed trees and grass species, killed birds, insects, worms, ants, reptiles and such others that have definite roles in keeping the natural balance while supporting the existence of humans on earth. Further more, the construction of towns and cities has bitten off a good chunk of biodiversity as concretes, asphalt



roads and roofs took over the natural environment.

Humans seem to say wait for me as production and consumption processes continue to inflict injuries on the natural environment so much that water bodies, earth surfaces and the atmosphere have become precariously vandalised and polluted. It is bad enough that carbon dioxide emitted by humans has lost its tenancy on plants and grass and has turned its anger on the world in the form of global warming.

In all these, grass and plant species has vanished. Iroko, mahogany, and obeche trees have reduced in quantity and quality. Vultures that were common sites at abattoirs have left towns and villages. Worms, soldier ants, butterflies, and species of moth have all decreased. This is so because human beings, the vandals in the environment and annihilators of other biodiversity are at work to meet own needs.

Farmlands, both small holder and large scale, are completely striped of natural vegetation to the extent that medicinal plants and grass have been lost. Animals and birds have either been eaten or migrated. The bare land has been exposed to damage and the anger of climate change manifestations in terms of flood, whirlwind and erosion that in various ways destroy livelihoods and properties is high. Today humans are more threatened by

consequences of biodiversity depletion and consequences of climate change such as food security than can ever be imagined.

The coexistence of biodiversity on earth is naturally constructed to be interdependent and symbiotic to the extent that the destruction of the environment and the biodiversity by humans has grave consequences for living and survival of humans on earth. As the vandalism and annihilation continue, humans are also under pressure to either change their ways or be set to be vanquished from earth as an abode.

Today, as the world celebrates the Environment Day with a focus on Biodiversity, the human population has left us with little or nothing to celebrate. This is no less so in Nigeria where the distinction between the mangrove forest and Sudan Savannah has become blurred. A journey through the built and unbuilt environment in Nigeria only presents you indicators of biodiversity.

To mediate the coexistence, preserve the environment and protect the biodiversity, institutions like the Ministry of Environment and other departments and agencies were created. The task is to regulate and limit the annihilator. These agencies have tall tasks. The task of monitoring the ways humans use every inch of

earth; the extraction of items of value by humans and containing human excesses; restoring the environment and cultivating the biodiversity is certainly herculean.

This is indeed a huge task for many national and international agencies that are engaged in environmental protection and conservation. From the experience of the Socioeconomic and Environment Advocacy Centre (SEA-C) with a farming community, restoring the environment and nurturing biodiversity to make the world a liveable habitat require intensive and extensive outreach activities.

It requires the mobilisation of grassroots stakeholders through outreach programmes. The outreach is a platform for connecting all agencies and persons, spreading ideas and techniques for humans to appreciate the environment and live peacefully with other creatures.

The attainment of a sustainable environment where all creatures happily coexist is far from being attained. As for the Federal and State Ministries of Environment and other agencies, the ability to attain the ideals of liveable environments where all creatures, including humans, co-habit with others and incurring minimal damage to the symbiotic relationship lies in monitoring, protection and conservation. Effective advocacy is a veritable mediating activity.

TARI Uyole commended for research, production of improved crop varieties

By Gerald Kitabu, Mbeya

MINISTER of agriculture Japhet Hasunga has directed Tanzania Agricultural research Institute (TARI) to continue organizing and conducting agribusiness expo in all centres so that farmers and other stakeholders can get an opportunity to learn more new technologies and improve farming methods.

The Minister also directed TARI to maintain large number of different germplasm saying they will help much in research and production of improved varieties rather than importing them from outside.

He gave the directive at TARI Uyole in Mbeya when he visited and opened the agribusiness expo hosted by TARI Uyole centre recently.

In fact this is a centre of excellence an excellent of research and production of improved crop varieties in Tanzania. This is what we want as we work hard to realize our President's vision and mission of building an industrial economy," he said.

TARI Uyole has eleven experimental stations distributed strategically considering all agro-ecological conditions available in Southern highland regions

According to the Centre Director Dr. Tulole Bucheyeki, the centre coordinates five commodities nationally; Highland maize, beans, round potato, pyrethrum and agro-engineering.

The centre also conducts collaborative research activities; soil, rice, wheat, soybean, agroforestry, horticulture, socio economics, postharvest handling, sweet potato, finger millet, sunflower.

The agribusiness expo involved researchers, large and small holder farmers from across the highland regions, seed companies, exhibitors in the grain and staple foods subsector, and agro processors among many others.

It provided an opportunity for TARI and other exhibitors from Mbeya and other neighboring regions to showcase a wide range of latest technologies, innovative farming methods, products and services. The participants also get an opportunity to learn new farming methods and latest technologies.

"One of the ways to inform farmers on the latest technologies and improved seed varieties is through agribusiness and expo. This is another opportunity for stakeholders to dis-

play their goods, products and technologies," he said.

He said TARI must transform agriculture so that the country can be food secure through well researched and sufficient improved seeds.

"I am confident that TARI will now champion transformation of agriculture because agricultural revolution always begins with availability and adequate improved seeds for the farmers and other stakeholders," he said.

Citing an example, he said that the country spends about 600 bn/- to import edible oil every year while there is adequate and potential land to produce all types of vegetable edible oil.

"We have potential land, energetic people and the capacity to grow enough sunflower, sesame and other horticulture crops. TARI must take the lead to effectively and efficiently play its role of research and production of improved seeds," he said.

"I understand that we have enough researchers who can conduct fruitful research and production of enough improved seeds to realize the fifth phase government's vision. We want to move from where we are now to the industrial economy and open employment for Tanzanians, he added.

He said for agriculture to develop, there is also a need to invest in irrigation agriculture. If we want to succeed in agriculture, we need to develop irrigation agriculture.

He said that a survey conducted by agricultural experts revealed that Tanzania has a total of 44.2 million hectares of potential land for agriculture, out of which, 29.4 million hectares are useful for irrigation agriculture. However, currently the land under irrigation is still small. "We had only 475,000 hectares of land under irrigation and recently in June this year, we increased the land under irrigation to 691,000 hectares. The target is to reach one million hectares under irrigation by 2025, he added.

The said the Ministry 1 working hard to make sure that the target is reached in two years time. "The major task is to make sure we get enough food to feed our people. If there is hunger everybody will be complaining to the Minister of agriculture. That's why when it happened shortage of sugar recently, everyone was lamenting and pointing finger to the Minister. I am saying this nation has everything such as valleys, fertile soil and water, we don't need to have shortage of sugar.



Agriculture Minister Japhet Hasunga visiting agribusiness expo hosted by TARI Uyole centre in Mbeya region recently. Others are TARI directors, researchers, participants and exhibitors. Photo by correspondent Gerald Kitabu

He said Uganda which has smaller area than Tanzania is currently producing five hundred thousand tones of sugar per year. Their requirement of sugar is only 360 tones which means they have surplus and this time around, Tanzania has imported sugar from Uganda. The Ministry is currently putting in place comprehensive plans and strategies to stop this problem. The capacity of all sugar factories in Tanzania to produce sugar is 350 tones, but because this year had much rains, sugar production for all factories did not reach even 350 tones, instead, produced only 264 tones.

The factories have started working, the problem of shortage of sugar has finished, at least there is enough sugar. "We have enacted law to protect local industries, but we want the local industries that imports sugar to reduce the importation and continue producing more sugar.

TARI Uyole Centre Director Tulole Bucheyeki said his centre has developed different latest technology for all farmers in the Southern highland regions and Tanzania as a whole. "TARI Uyole has been able to research and produce improved varieties of many crops because it has turned challenges into opportunities.

"There is a need to mobilize our own internal resources to capacitate agricultural research institutes and research systems in Tanzania because there are extra benefits for Tanzanians and farmers in particular as this will respond to the local needs and the country's broader objectives," he said.

TARI's chairman of board of directors Dr. Yohana Budeba explained that TARI has enhanced efforts on research and production of improved seeds in all strategic crops and others to realize the President's vision of industrial economy.

"Currently TARI is working around the clock to change agriculture in this country. We are well positioned to conduct fruitful research and production of improved seeds that will provide another opportunity for the farmers to produce enough food and raw materials for our industries. Through this way, Tanzania's economy will be sustaining long-term growth," he said.

We have directed TARI to conduct research that contribute to increased agricultural productivity through development and deployment of improved agricultural knowledge and technologies by adopting innovation systems approach, he added.

TARI Director General Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo said that the efforts of research, production, multiplying and disseminating the improved seeds of all crop varieties in Southern highland regions and elsewhere is basically trying to make sure that there is enough improved seeds for the farmers and other stakeholders in the country.

"TARI has released many new varieties and new technologies. We are still working on several initiatives plans and strategies to make sure that we contribute positively to transforming agriculture through improved seeds for the farmers and the industrial economy.

Solidarity in fighting coronavirus brings China, Africa closer

NAIROBI

IN face of the deadly coronavirus that has been raging across the world for months, China and Africa have been supporting and helping each other all the time as real good friends.

And the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19 recently, chaired by Chinese President Xi Jinping and attended by many African leaders and heads of international bodies, added to such a friendship, marking another concrete step towards building a closer China-Africa community with a shared future.

Over the past few months, China and Africa have been sticking together through thick and thin. At the height of China's battle against the disease, Africa kept expressing solidarity with its Asian friend, sending urgently needed medical supplies as well as warm-hearted messages. In return, when Africa was struck by the virus, China was the first to rush to its aid and has since stood firm with the African people.

So far, China has sent to more than 50 African countries and the African Union (AU) their much-needed supplies, dispatched medical experts to over 10 African countries, and shared its anti-epidemic experience with medical workers across the continent via video conferences.

According to a communique issued recently by the AU, China has ensured the supply of 30 million testing kits, 10,000 ventilators and 80 million masks each month for Africa, a "significant contribution" to Africa's response to the pandemic.

Many Chinese enterprises and civil organizations have also been actively assisting the continent's fight against the virus. Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Foundation, for example, have donated three batches of essential medical supplies, including 10.6 million masks and 800 ventilators.

At summit, China and Africa made new commitments, not only agreeing to extend each other more support and seek closer cooperation amid the pandemic, but also pledging to back the role of the World Health Organization in coordinating global anti-pandemic response and staying committed to upholding multilateralism.

As Xi said during the summit, China will continue to do whatever it can to support Africa's response by "providing

supplies, sending expert teams, and facilitating Africa's procurement of medical supplies in China," and ensuring African countries will be among the first to benefit once the development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccine is completed in China.

China also voiced support for Africa on economic reopening and people's livelihood, promising to cancel the debt of relevant African countries in the form of interest-free government loans that are due to mature by the end of 2020, to work with the global community to give greater support to those hardest-hit African countries under heavy financial stress, and to support Africa's efforts to develop the African Continental Free Trade Area, enhance connectivity and strengthen industrial and supply chains.

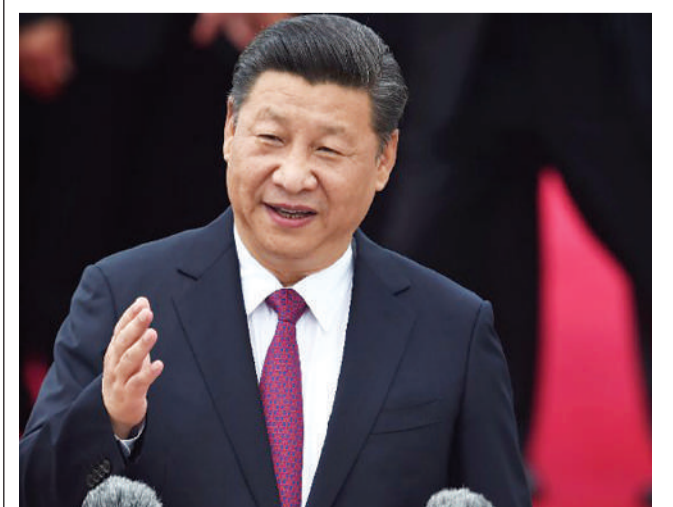
For Africa's part, its leaders attending the summit reaffirmed their aspiration to consolidate Africa-China friendship and build a community with a shared future for mankind. Noting that "Sino-African solidarity and better multilateral cooperation is key to winning the battle against this pandemic," South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called on both sides to continue to strengthen the bonds and take collective action to secure the future of humanity.

Cavince Adhere, a Kenyan international relations researcher with a focus on China-Africa relations, said China's commitments at the summit have helped breathe new life into Africa's struggle with the pandemic. Humphrey Mushi, professor of economics at the University of Dar es Salaam and director of the Center for Chinese Studies, said the summit is a continuation of China-Africa friendship and economic cooperation.

Viruses respect no borders. Nor is race or nationality relevant in the face of a pandemic. Just as Xi said at the summit, solidarity and cooperation is "the most powerful weapon" against COVID-19. And this is exactly what China and Africa have been doing -- joining hands and fostering greater synergy to fight the disease.

"Hold a true friend with both hands." By cherishing their friendship as is called upon by the Nigerian proverb, China and Africa will surely win the anti-pandemic battle soon, and further deepen their friendship in the future.

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping

How news organisations can best enhance links with skeptical or unaware audiences

By Catherine McGloin

Isat at the same table every Friday, next to the upright piano and open mic area, drinking coffee while police officers picked up breakfast sandwiches, city councilors met local activists over salads and residents guessed what time their bus would show up at the terminal next door.

Welcome to our community newsroom. The Scope is a digital social justice magazine, editorially independent and operated by Northeastern University's School of Journalism. Then publication is barely two years old, but it is determined to cover communities in Greater Boston that are underrepresented by traditional media.

As Poynter-Koch fellow and editor-in-chief, I ran our small news startup from this local cafe in a historical Black neighbourhood every week. It was one way we worked to get to know and respect our readers, and build trust with our audience.

Trust in the media is low nationwide, but particularly so in communities accustomed to being ignored or misrepresented by mainstream media outlets. It's not low so much as nonexistent.

But without trust, our enterprise - like many others - fails. In the midst of the pandemic and nationwide protests for racial justice, authentic audience engagement and trust building are the most important ways to ensure the inclusive, community voices audiences are demanding get heard.

As a small startup - I was the first and full-time staff member, working with one other student editor, two stu-

dent staff writers and a faculty advisor - we decided to bake trust-building into our processes from the beginning.

It didn't always work. Some ideas worked better than others. The pandemic ensured that some of our plans went to the wall. I drank a lot of coffee in the cafe on my own.

What follows is a list of some of the more successful ways we built trust with our audience, started conversations and actively listened to what they said.

One: Having a clear and visible mission statement. The first place we started was by looking at what we stand for, what motivates our work, what our readers can expect from us and, importantly for our audience, what sets us apart from other news organizations that have destroyed their trust in the past.

For us it was: "We tell stories of justice, hope and resilience in Greater Boston. We practise journalism as an act of service, working to connect communities, inform civic life and amplify voices that are often overlooked or mischaracterised by traditional media. We do this by striving to be transparent, fair and accurate in our reporting."

It gave us something to point to when people said they expected us to only parachute into their neighborhood when there's pain and suffering. We hope our mission statement, and our consistent presence in the neighbourhoods, helped allay their concerns.

Formulating a set of guiding principles isn't revolutionary. Being direct, writing them clearly and making them

easy to find on our website and social media - that was the game-changer.

We laid it out plainly and we pasted it across the top of our website. We included links to our mission statement in stories and developed a separate mission statement for our coverage of the coronavirus, including in-line graphics that link to this page on all of our Covid-19 coverage. We also pinned stories to our social media pages so that this would be the first thing new followers would find on our feeds.

Two: Explaining what you do and how you do it. As journalists, we often assume that people know how journalism works. But we found from speaking with our audience that they didn't know where our story ideas came from, how we handled anonymous sources or, more fundamentally, how we ensure that what we publish is accurate.

We added a page on our website explaining these things, and invited readers to ask us questions about our coverage. We also printed information cards about our work for reporters to hand out to people they approached who were unfamiliar with our publication.

Our transparency helped us connect with people and get interviews that, on a few occasions, did not seem likely at the outset.

Three: Being human. A Pew Research report from last year showed that 78 per cent of people have never met a local journalist. In the communities where we worked, those who did meet a local journalist found that it was not always a pleasant experience. They met on some of their darkest days or in traumatic circumstances. We tried to fix that.

Our newsroom pop-ups, first in local cafes then virtually via Zoom, inspired story ideas and fostered relationships with community members that we wouldn't have met in our in-boxes or on social media.

It also gave readers the chance to see that we were not walking word processors, but empa-

thetic, there to listen and not to manipulate their words. They saw that we would treat their story with dignity. It's hard to hate "the media" when you've shared a cup of coffee with them.

Smaller actions included signing off tweets with my name, making sure I responded to every comment personally and sharing finished articles with those who graciously gave their time and energy for a story.

Humanising our digital presence helped turn down the heat in a few situations, showed our readers that we weren't mindless bots and that we were invested in holding space for their concerns.

Four: Letting them do the talking. We say we want to give overlooked or mischaracterised communities a voice. What that often translates to is our voice. At the Scope, we wanted to see if we could work ourselves out of a job. We wanted to let members of these communities write the stories themselves.

We partnered with local writing and literacy nonprofits, and planned to publish work by local high school students, Boston's Black writers and members of the immigrant community.

Plans and priorities changed once COVID-19 hit, but it's something we're committed to moving forward once things return to normal.

Five: Meeting your audience where they are. Build a news site and they will come, said no one ever. Similarly, not everyone is online or has a social media profile you can engage with.

Take our audience in Boston where, according to the 2018 American Community Survey, households of colour are less likely to have access to broadband internet. Almost 90 per cent of Black households had a broadband subscription in 2018, about 7 per cent less than White households.

Our solution was to take some communication offline. The pop-up newsroom played its part, as did the printed explainer cards, old-fashioned posters and clips we handed out while reporting.

'Equitable access' the main concern in race for Covid-19 vaccine

By Sandisiwe Shoba

RESEARCHERS are confident that they will soon crack the code for a coronavirus vaccine, but the major global health concern is whether politics and wealth will be a barrier to universal and equal access to this critical vaccine.

"Vaccines under these circumstances must be described as what's called a 'global public good'. That means that they should be equitably made available to everyone in the world, irrespective of whether you're a big or a small country or a rich or a poor country," said Professor Helen Rees, chairperson of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) and executive director of the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute.

Rees and Professor Shabir Madhi joined Maverick Citizen editor Mark Heywood for a compelling webinar on Sunday 28 June, on the race for a coronavirus vaccine.

Madhi, who is leading the charge in South Africa's first Covid-19 vaccine trial, is the incoming dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand and director of the South African Medical Research Council Vaccines and Infectious Diseases Analytical Research Unit.

The OxlCov-19 Vaccine VIDATrial began on Wednesday 24 June and is a collaborative effort between Wits University and the University of Oxford.

This is the continent's first and only clinical vaccine trial.

According to Madhi, there are six vaccine trials (includ-

ing this one) that are now being tested on humans, largely occurring in developed countries.

If high-income nations monopolise vaccine production, Madhi said, it may cause a delay in the vaccine's introduction to lower-income countries due to a lack of information on the efficacy of the vaccine in those regions.

"There's a number of reasons that can influence why vaccines work differentially between different settings. So, if we don't generate evidence right now, we will never know just how well this vaccine will or will not work in our local context."

He also mentioned that the World Health Organisation (WHO) doesn't recommend introducing a vaccine into a developing nation until there's proof that it works in that context.

Rees spoke about the proprietary and industrial power dynamics linked to the vaccine and warned against "vaccine nationalism".

This happens when a country procures vaccines for its citizens ahead of anyone else, commonly through pre-purchase agreements between a government and a vaccine manufacturer.

"This cannot be all for some and none for others. This has to be an equitable distribution of vaccines," said Rees.

We need to be able to prioritise small numbers of vaccines at the beginning, increasing numbers over time, but as a world, we need to be able to say who gets it first, in an equitable manner.

Madhi pointed out that sub-Saharan countries have not in-



Executive Director of the Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute at the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Helen Rees, left, Maverick Citizen Editor Mark Heywood, centre, and Professor of Vaccinology at the University of the Witwatersrand, Shabir Madhi. File photos

vested in building capacity and capability to produce vaccines.

"That is why we are always at the mercy of every other pharmaceutical country."

He said the onus was on these governments to stimulate production capacity.

Rees, who also sits on the ministerial advisory committee on Covid-19 said although only a few companies with capabilities for aspects of vaccine production exist in South Africa, the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation was looking to partner with

them.

"The reason why there are so many types of vaccines is we are looking at not only having a variety of types to make sure that something works, but also that some types of formulations of vaccines are much easier to manufacture than others and can be done really quickly and to scale."

Rees said intellectual property would present a problem to the goal of equitable access. The culprit: Big Pharma.

"Many pharmaceutical companies are investing a lot and they're doing it at-risk. So, they are investing in the development of the technology in the clinical trials, but they're also looking at investing in manufacturing," she said.

Up to 2,000 participants are being enrolled in the study. The criteria includes people between the

ages of 18 and 65. Those with comorbidities (such as diabetes or hypertension) may be included if their conditions are well managed. Volunteers will be screened for eligibility and must give informed consent to take part in the trial.

Madhi explained that volunteers must score at least 80% on a questionnaire to test their understanding of the trial and the risks involved, failing which, they are not allowed to participate.

Half of the participants will receive injections of the candidate vaccine and the other half (the control group) will receive a placebo (normal saline).

Regarding concerns about the safety of the trial, Madhi said "serious adverse effects" will be reported immediately to the regulatory authorities and an independent data and safety monitoring board.

"If the vaccine is found to be unsafe, that vaccine

will never pass licensure."

Madhi, who is confident that a vaccine will be developed, said the rapidly increasing infection rate in South Africa may speed up how soon they get an answer whether the vaccine works, possibly by November.

"The coronavirus is much less complex than TB, HIV and malaria. It's much more genetically stable. Just over a short period of time, we're getting good insight in terms of what might be required for a vaccine to be effective."

Agencies

By Robert Roy Britt

WHILE new US cases of Covid-19 spike to record highs, a worrying trend is emerging: diagnosed infections are soaring among younger people, with the majority of new cases in several regions now being seen among people under age 50 - with significant increases among teens and young adults.

Without new or renewed efforts to control the spread of the coronavirus, the skew to younger carriers will likely initially cause the death rate to fall, since the virus is deadlier for older people.

This is according to Thomas Tsai, MD, a surgeon and health policy researcher at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He says the overall rise in the number of infections will however likely drive the daily death toll back up again eventually owing to the sheer numbers of infections.

Tsai and other health experts say the trend could cause the pandemic to get even worse this autumn. Nationwide data on Covid-19 cases by age group are complex, buried in reports from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and it was until recently only through the end of May.

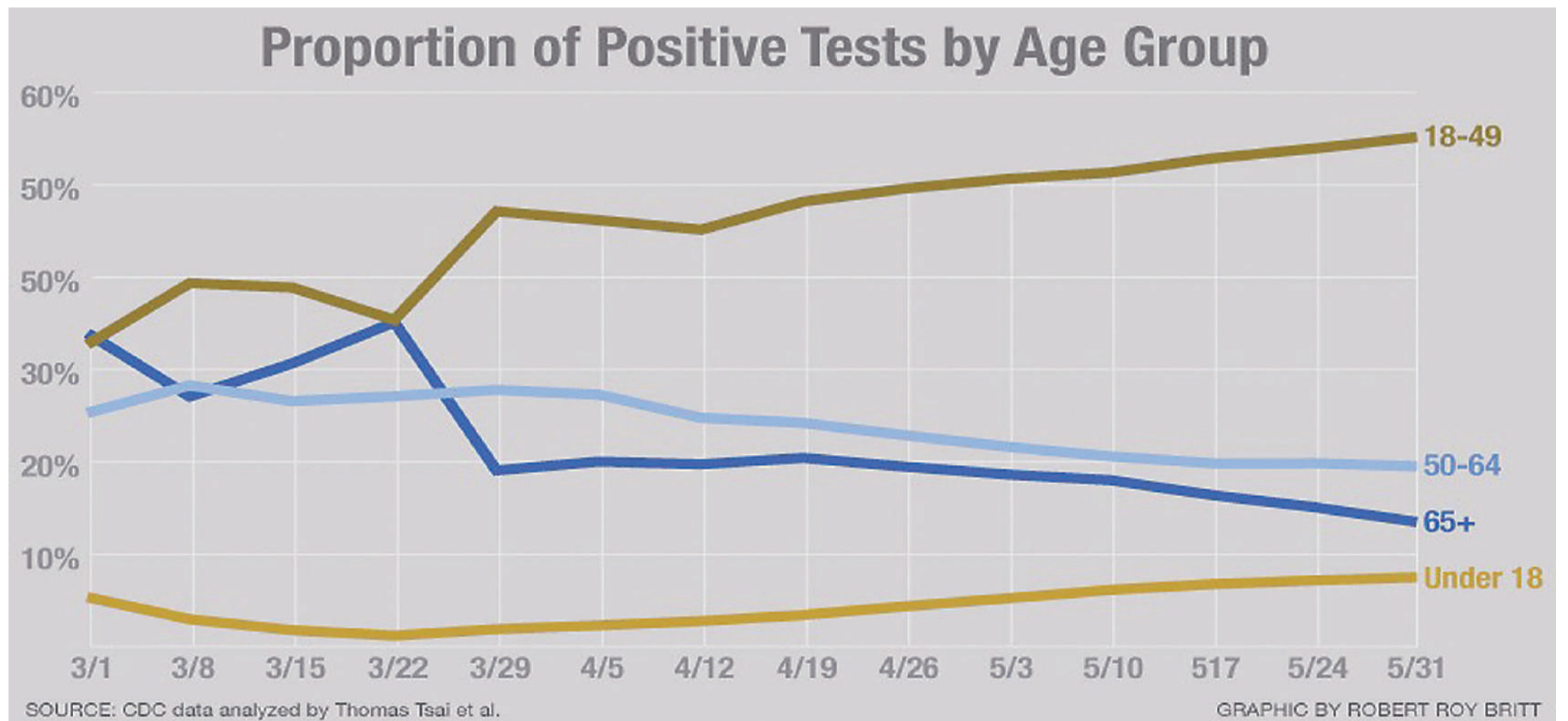
Tsai, also a researcher at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, has pored through that data and has a preliminary bead on what's happening: "There is definitely a shift to the younger groups. That's becoming more evident across states and nationally as well."

Examples of the trend are found in some state and local data: Arizona: Through March 30, some 40 per cent of cases were among people under age 45. That cumulative figure has since grown to 60 per cent, according to the state health department. Cumulative cases among teens and children rose from under 3 per cent to 11 per cent during the same time period, while among people over age 65 it fell from 24 per cent then to 13 per cent now.

Ohio: The average age for new cases has fallen from about 60 early in the pandemic to 47 today, says Robert Salata, MD, a professor of medicine in epidemiology and international health at Ohio's Case Western Reserve University. The main causes are increases in large gatherings and people not wearing masks, Salata says in an email.

Dallas County, Texas: Almost half of new cases since June 1 have been among people age 18 to 39. The state

Surge in Covid-19 infections among younger people could worsen matters



reported a record 5,489 new cases June 23. "The hospitalisation rate is at an all-time high. The coronavirus is serious," says Governor Greg Abbott, who has been reluctant to require face coverings or reinstate stay-at-home orders.

Florida: The median age of people testing positive for Covid-19 plummeted from 65 in early March to 36 this week. "I think our older populations are taking more precautions, protecting themselves a little bit more," says Cindy Prins, PhD, associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Florida, adding: "And I think that our younger populations have moved back into the community as these stay-at-home orders have been lifted."

The trend is showing up, at least in early data, in hospitalisations, too. In March, 82 per cent of people hospitalised for Covid-19 in New York City were over age 45, according to Scott Gottlieb, former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Now, 50 per cent of Covid-19 hospitaliza-

tions in Dallas are under age 50, Gottlieb says.

What's going on?

In comparison to other viruses, this coronavirus is particularly wily. It spreads readily, mainly through close contact and even through the air, especially indoors.

While it can be debilitating and deadly for any age group, the virus frequently lurks unnoticed in some people, especially younger people, presenting only mild symptoms or none at all.

In that way, it hops from person to person - sometimes causing dozens or hundreds of infections in a single "super-spreader" event - and anywhere from two to 14 days go by before anyone realises what's happened.

Researchers do not think the virus itself is morphing or mutating in any way that's causing the younger skew. Rather, SARS-CoV-2 is simply taking advantage of opportunities Americans present: As lockdowns have been lifted

and people - particularly younger people - have resumed many normal aspects of life, in some cases dismissing the seriousness of Covid-19 and eschewing masks, physical distancing recommendations.

There are three specific factors that could explain the age shift, according to Natalie Dean, PhD, an epidemiologist and assistant professor of biostatistics at the University of Florida: older people are being more cautious; young people are being less cautious; and more widespread testing is capturing more of the mild and asymptomatic cases, which tend to involve younger people. With severely limited testing capabilities in the early months of the pandemic, often only people with severe cases were tested.

"The reality is almost certainly some mixture of all three explanations," Dean says.

Concerns the pandemic could worsen

Dean explains that each of these sce-

narios has different implications for the ongoing spread of the virus. For example, if young people are becoming less cautious, then more young people will see severe consequences, including death, even if the odds don't change for each individual.

And they will be more likely to spread the disease to vulnerable populations: "This concerns me both for the health of these young people but also for how it will affect their communities, as young people can inadvertently infect others," she says by email.

Other scientists as well as front-line doctors are similarly concerned. "Younger people often feel that they are invulnerable to harm or danger, and that nothing bad will happen to them. Because of this, they may discount the importance of physical distancing and wearing masks," says Glenn Fennelly, MD, a professor of pediatrics and microbiology at Rutgers University.

Tsai, the Harvard researcher, is concerned about a potential confluence

of rising Covid-19 infections among younger, sometimes asymptomatic but infectious people, and the start of flu season this autumn, potentially overloading hospitals across the country.

He says the US has missed its opportunity to contain the coronavirus. Now mitigation is crucial - masks, social distancing, testing, contact tracing - especially over the next two weeks.

Tsai adds that the worry is that as children go back to school and people spend more time indoors, the rise in the number of cases "may serve as a reservoir for community transmission - and, unabated, it will lead to an even more significant pandemic in the autumn and the winter."

A feature in *Elemental*, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Robert Roy Britt is science & health journalist, author, former editor-in-chief of LiveScience & Space dot com, and seeker of a more just and equitable world.

Moves are afoot in Africa to keep more women in science careers

By Barbara Tiedeu

WOMEN scientists have a vital part to play in scientific leadership and in contributing to Africa's development and transformation. But they remain substantially under-represented in higher education and in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

This is because women are generally seen and treated by society as being inferior and less capable than men. This then spills over into their educational and professional lives.

This is a global issue. Women account for 53% of the world's bachelor's and master's degree graduates and 43% of Ph.D. graduates. But they make up only 28% of researchers in all fields. And, only 30% of women in higher education move into STEM-related fields.

The situation is no different in sub-Saharan Africa; in fact, in some countries in the region it's worse. Only 30% of sub-Saharan researchers in all subject areas are women.

Happily, there have been some improvements in recent years. Between 2011 and 2013, for instance, there was an increase in the percentage of women researchers in South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Cameroon and Ethiopia.

But it isn't all good news. Many women leave scientific research careers at a fairly junior level. Gender disparities persist in the scientific workforce, largely leaving women



scientists in junior positions with little responsibility and power to make decisions, as well as limited leadership opportunities.

The result is that scientific work is missing women's perspectives and contributions. This weakens the science agenda. But examples are emerging of how to close the gender gap in African STEM.

The UNESCO STEM And Gender Advancement (SAGA) project is one. It keeps track of gender data and supports the design and implementation of

science, technology, and innovation policy instruments that affect gender equality.

To track and monitor women's representation, the African Development Bank's gender equality index captures progress on the appointment of women to posts of responsibility. The index shows the legal, social and economic gaps between men and women, giving African leaders the evidence to begin dismantling the barriers that prevent women from fully contributing to the continent's development.

The Boardroom Africa maintains a database of talented women leaders and senior executives, making them easy to find. It also trains, certifies, mentors and prepares women for board membership. The Boardroom Africa helps organisations benefit from diversity by placing women directors and shifting the boardroom gender balance.

The Gender Summit Africa platform provides evidence of when, why, and how biological differences (sex) and sociocultural differences (gender) affect

outcomes. Its goal is to make gender equality in research and innovation the norm and a sign of quality. Africa has hosted two Gender Summits: GS5 in South Africa and GS14 in Rwanda.

The recognition of achievements is crucial to driving gender equity. The African Union Kwame Nkrumah Awards for Scientific Excellence Programme honours two outstanding African women scientists from each of Africa's five geographical regions. This programme promotes scientific development, encourages perseverance in research or academic careers, nurtures ambition, and raises the profile of science and technology innovation so that it contributes to Africa's development.

As part of building skills and mentoring the next generation of African scientists, the African Union declared 2015 as the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Africa Agenda 2063. It also adopted the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024, which examines among other things the role women can play in accelerating Africa's transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy which meets society's needs.

Convened events that aimed to amplify the voices and concerns of African women and girls have included UN sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the International Conference on Population and

Development.

Mentorship programmes such as COACH-Cameroon and the Higher Institute for Growth in Health Research for Women (HIGHER Women) Consortium have trained hundreds of women in career-building scientific skills, such as applying for grants, leadership, ethics, research quality, and project management.

Individually and through workshops, mentors provide professional guidance on dealing with African traditional, societal, and cultural pressures on women.

Annual evaluations show empowerment and improved assertiveness and self-confidence among participants, resulting in an upsurge in their careers. For example, they have been able to get research grants, attend conferences, publish more scientific articles, and achieve promotion.

All these efforts can contribute to closing the gender equity gap in STEM in Africa. But change is needed in other spheres too. Many women in research have to balance their careers with family responsibilities. A strong family support system has been key to the success of many women.

Africa's ability to harness scientific and technological knowledge is crucial for its socioeconomic development and competitiveness. This potential cannot be fully realised without the inclusion and advancement of women.

UN report: Tourism, fishing trawlers hurt seaweed farming in East Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has warned that fishing trawlers, seaweed farming, and tourism on the coasts of Tanzania and Kenya are threatening the survival of seagrasses.

The UN body wants countries to include seagrass protection and restoration in their nationally determined contributions to help reduce the amount of heat-trapping carbon in the atmosphere.

In its new report titled 'Out of the blue': The value of seagrasses

to the environment and to people, launched on World Oceans Day on June 8, UNEP blames these unsustainable activities for a deteriorating coastal ecosystem, a decline in coastal productivity, and affected certain supportive functions performed by the marine plant leading up to loss of critical fisheries habitat.

Known as the "lungs of the sea" due to their role in producing oxygen in the water, the flowering plants that grow entirely underwater perform numerous functions, including stabilising the sea bottom, providing food and

habitat for other marine life, and provide numerous other services to coastal communities. East Africa's coast has 12 known seagrass species.

Seagrass ecosystems are biologically rich and highly productive, providing valuable nursery habitats to more than 20 per cent of the world's largest 25 fisheries and filtering pathogens, bacteria, and pollution out of seawater.

"The Out of the Blue report showcases the many ways that seagrasses help people thrive and sustain the healthy natural environment that we all depend

on," said Dr Maria Potouroglou, seagrass scientist at Grid-Arendal and lead editor of the report.

For example, it is estimated that seagrasses covering an area of seven square kilometres of Gazi Bay at the Diani-Chale Marine National Reserve, Kenya, comprise of a total carbon stock of 620,000 Mg, with a monetary value estimated at \$19 million in regulated global climate at a global scale.

This value is unevenly shared across the globe with China, Europe and the US as the main beneficiaries.

Though Seagrass meadows cover only 0.1 per cent of the ocean floor,

they are efficient carbon sinks, storing up to 18 per cent of the world's oceanic carbon.

"Seagrasses can help us solve our biggest environmental challenges. They purify water, they protect us from storms, they provide food to hundreds of millions of people, they support rich biodiversity, and they efficiently store carbon," said Ronald Jumeau, Permanent Representative to the United Nations and ambassador for Climate Change, Seychelles.

UNEP said new data suggest that seagrasses are among the least protected coastal habitats. Only 26 per

cent of recorded seagrass meadows fall within Marine Protected Areas compared with 40 per cent of coral reefs and 43 per cent of mangroves.

The Unep World Conservation Monitoring Centre, said it had found in its most recent census that an estimated seven per cent of seagrass habitat is being lost worldwide each year.

That is close to a football field of seagrass lost every 30 minutes.

The survey also found at least 72 seagrass species in decline around the world. Since the late 19th century, almost 30 per cent of known seagrass area across the globe has been

lost. The main threats to seagrass meadows include urban, industrial, and agricultural run-off, coastal development, dredging, unregulated fishing and boating activities, and climate change.

Yet, seagrass beds in the region, according to the UNEP support sizeable populations of two endangered species, the greenturtle, the Dugong-dugon and seahorses, both of which feed on seagrasses.

They act as nursery, breeding and feeding grounds for marine fish and crustacean species of economic importance such as shrimps and spiny lobster.

Maputo protocol scorecard, index launched to monitor execution of women's rights

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

THE African Union Commission (AUC)'s Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) has kicked off a series of engagement on the validation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) Scorecard and Index (MPSI).

The Scorecard and Index is an innovative contribution to the body of tools that seek to enhance accountability and assess the progress on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and the implementation of the Maputo Protocol.

The Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index has been developed to support effective gender equitable COVID-19 response and recovery monitoring and implementation of the Maputo Protocol.

It underscores the need to uphold women's rights obligations encapsulated in the Protocol during the COVID-19 crisis, to mitigate the harsh impact of the pandemic on women. This is especially important as women are disproportionately affected by the pandemic and responses that exclude gender equality and women's concerns might have long-term negative impact on women.

WGDD in collaboration with Africa Leadership Forum and Plan International organized a first review of the "Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index Framework: A COVID-19 Response and Recovery Monitoring and Implementation Tool", with representatives of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations Agencies and civil society. The framework will be implemented in collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to support national as well as regional monitoring and implementation ef-

forts of the Maputo Protocol.

AU Commission's Women, Gender and Development Directorate, Acting Director Victoria Maloka, restated the commitment of the African Union to promote and protect women's rights and to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, during and post the COVID-19 pandemic. She highlighted the importance of Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index framework in ensuring that the progress made in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) is not compromised, noting that the series of engagement for its validation will involve various stakeholders, including the AU Member States. "The Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index is important because it is a monitoring and evaluation tool that will be used not only as a safety measure against violations of women's rights during the emergency crises, but also to protect women's rights in the long run. This is a good milestone in enhancing accountability for how Member States are implementing the obligations that they have committed to. The framework will be used as not only an emergency tool but also as a recovery tool," she stated.

The Maputo Protocol unequivocally reinforces women's rights in totality, while expounding on specific and unique experiences of African women and sets the standards for women's human rights in Africa that includes among others, elimination of discrimination against women; the right to dignity; the right to life, integrity and security of the person; the right to access to justice and equal protection before the law; the right to participation in political and decision-making processes; the right to peace; and the right to protection in armed conflicts, improved autonomy in their reproductive health decisions, and an end to female genital mutilation. Despite the signifi-



cant number of ratifications to the Maputo Protocol, and the progress made in the implementation of the rights of women in Africa, the gains have been quite slow and low. Studies have shown that a number of factors including, among others, lack of accountability, absence of or limited access to verifiable data and limited capacity for data and information processing have contributed to these less than satisfactory levels of implementation.

The Commissioner of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa Justice Lucy Asuagbor, observed that the slow progress in realizing women's rights might also hold back the full implementation of Africa's development goals as encapsulated in Agenda 2063 adding that it is not enough to put in place policies to promote gender equality, but there is need for the policies to be backed by strong support frameworks to ensure that there is accountability for their im-

plementation. "Adopting a legal instrument is one thing, but ratifying and implementing its content requires the same tireless women and men of the continent, who believe in its potential, to pick up their advocacy tools and convince State Parties to deliver on their commitments. I have no doubt that the Scorecard and Index will promote participatory and accountable institutions to reverse inequality trends, and push for action to accelerate greater change in the lives of African women and girls", she noted.

While forty two (42) Member States have ratified the Maputo Protocol, only nine member states have submitted reports on the implementation. Thirteen (13) Member States have not ratified the protocol yet mainly due to issues concerning women and girls' rights on sexual and reproductive health rights, especially in relation to marriage or access to safe abortion and some have put reservations while ratifying the Protocol. Plan International

Regional Director for West and Central Africa Region Rotimty Djossaya, on his part, noted that the Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index creates a platform for transparency and accountability by the African Union Commission, and Member States on the implementation of the Maputo Protocol. He added, "this framework will open the space for identification of best practices across the continent that can be adopted by less-performing Member States and provide an evidence based feedback Mechanism between the Member States and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. It would also provide advocacy opportunities for CSOs and other Non-State Actors in supporting Member States' efforts and holding them accountable on the commitments made."

The major thrust of this Scorecard and Index framework is to build accountability for gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights obligations under the Maputo Protocol. Africa Leadership Fo-

rum Executive Director, Dr Olumide Ajayi, elaborated that a total of 226 indicators were generated from the 25 articles of the Maputo Protocol. These indicators were grouped into nine themes in accordance with the Maputo Protocol Reporting Template provided by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). The framework incorporates outcomes of the 2019 Africa Review Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years since adoption.

The MPSI adopts an Assessment Question Approach. This methodology uses questions to evaluate the implementation of laws, legislative actions, policies, strategies, programmes and projects that Member States have developed and deployed in response to the demands of the articles of the Maputo Protocol. Binary Scoring Method (0 and 1) is adopted in the deployment of the assessment question with a threshold of 30% for articles that require proportional representation of women.

For a vaccine to work, people need to take it, but are they sure to get it?

By Yasmin Tayag

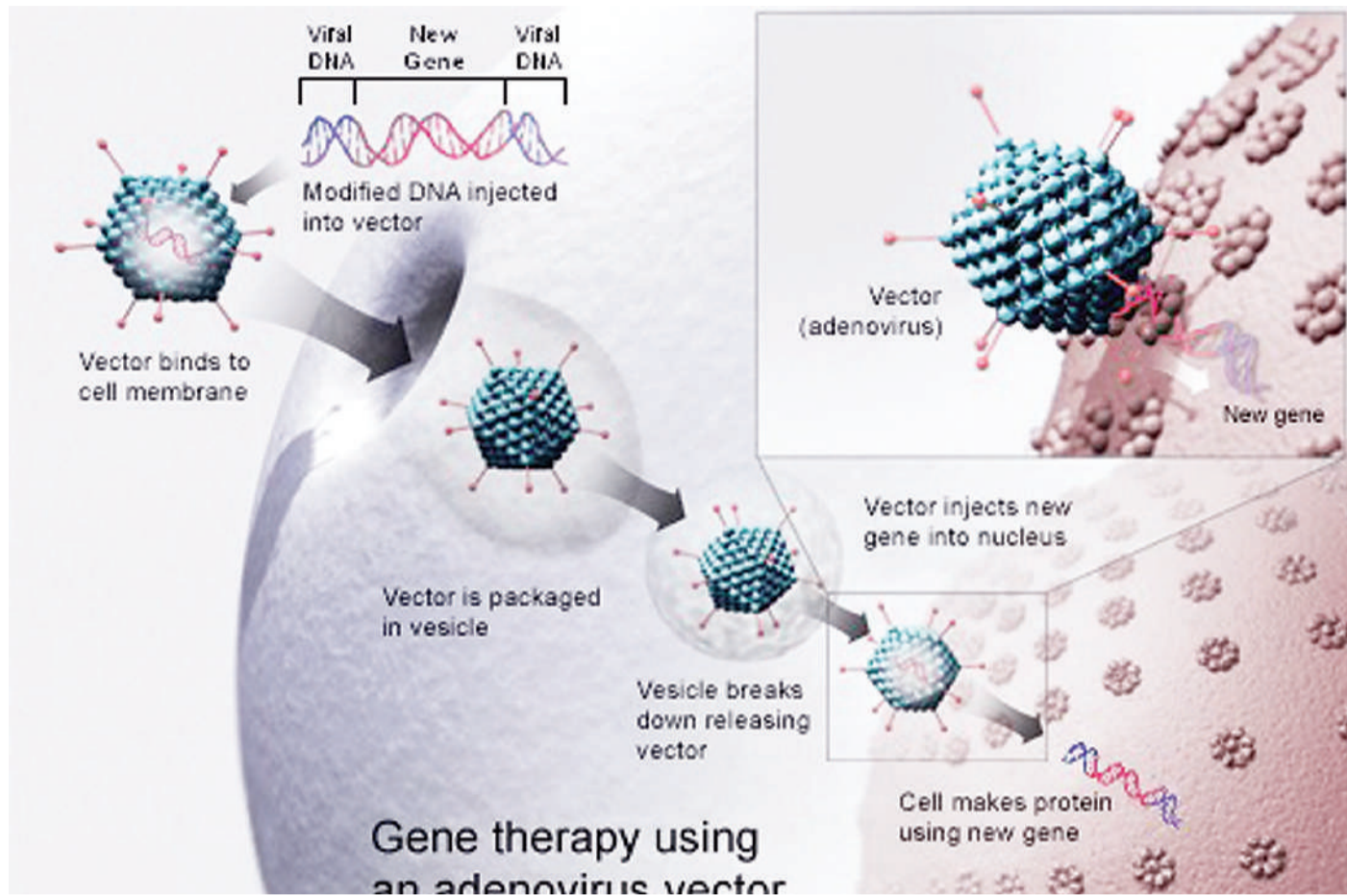
IN an interview that aired during the weekend's Aspen Ideas Festival broadcast, Dr Anthony Fauci expressed doubt that the United States would achieve herd immunity if a coronavirus vaccine became available. He gave a major reason as the alarming number of Americans who oppose vaccination.

A coronavirus vaccine isn't available yet, but three are in phase 3 clinical trials and more than 125 are in development. There's no guarantee, however, that any of them will be effective in 100 per cent of people who get it - the best humans have accomplished is 97 per cent to 98 per cent, with the measles vaccine.

In the interview, White House coronavirus task force member Fauci said he'd "settle" for a coronavirus vaccine that was only 70 per cent to 75 per cent effective, which he said would bring us to the "herd immunity level".

A population achieves herd immunity when the proportion of people who are immune to a disease passes a certain threshold, making it extremely difficult for the disease to spread even if it is reintroduced. The threshold is different for every disease, but as Tara Haelle wrote, experts estimate that it's about 60 per cent to 80 per cent for Covid-19.

Herd immunity can be achieved in two ways: either everyone gets vaccinated or enough people get infected with Covid-19 and - crucially - manage



to recover. Since Covid-19 can be fatal, the latter is not a great option.

Widespread vaccination is a safe way to establish herd immunity that doesn't involve the risk of people dying - it has succeeded for measles, mumps, polio and chickenpox, but it's only going to work if enough people actually get vaccinated.

Unfortunately, anti-vaccination sentiment is

strong in the US and has seen a surge during the pandemic.

A CNN poll conducted in May showed that one-third of Americans would not get a coronavirus vaccine if it was available. It also revealed that 81 per cent of Democrats and 64 per cent of independent voters polled would try to get a vaccine if it existed, while only 51 per cent of Republicans

vaccine, while 12 per cent would reject a vaccine outright. This is according to The BMJ.

In California, a hotbed of vaccine opposition, anti-vaccination advocates have staged regular protests at the state capitol, at which Judy Mikovits, the discredited doctor and anti-vaccination activist behind the widely debunked Plandemic conspiracy documentary, has been a guest speaker.

In the interview this last Sunday, Fauci expressed his often-repeated concerns about anti-vaccination in the US: "There is a general anti-science, anti-authority, anti-vaccine feeling among some people in this country - an alarmingly large percentage of people, relatively speaking," he said.

Anti-vaccination advocates make up a small but very vocal minority around the world, including in Australia, Canada and the UK. Suspicions about racism in vaccination trials have been stoked by the clinical trials of a new coronavirus vaccine in South Africa, adding a layer of complexity to the opposition to vaccines.

In an interview last week, Stanford University law professor Michelle Mello pointed

out that it will not "be immediately salient that anti-vaxxers are not willing to be vaccinated", pointing to the likelihood that a limited number of doses will be available at first.

"Because so many people will want vaccines when they become available," she says, "the question in the near to medium term is not must everyone get them, but who gets to access them?" In May, meanwhile, Emily Mullin wrote about the ways in which the government might have to triage its distribution of the vaccine.

Fauci, for his part, said he was "cautiously optimistic" that a vaccine will be available by the end of this year or the beginning of 2021. He pointed out that several vaccine companies have said that hundreds of millions of doses could be available by the beginning of next year and up to a billion doses could be made available by 2022. Though triaging will likely have to happen early on, eventually there could be more than enough doses for every American to have one.

Herd immunity is possible and could protect everyone in the US - if the vast majority of people choose to cooperate. But as long as we are divided along ideological lines, we remain vulnerable to the spread of what could, eventually, become a preventable disease.

An Elemental piece. Yasmin Tayag is a senior editor at OneZero at Medium, a publication about health and wellness.

Even if you are asymptomatic, coronavirus can cause damage

By Markham Heid

SINCE the early days of the novel coronavirus outbreak, infectious disease experts have recognized that some people who contract the virus do not develop a fever, cough or any of the infection's other hallmark symptoms.

These apparently "asymptomatic" cases may make up a large portion of all Covid-19 infections. Estimates vary widely, but many - including a recent mathematical model from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - suggest that somewhere between 20 per cent and 50 per cent of infectees never experience noticeable symptoms.

This is a problem for public health officials because asymptomatic carriers can likely still spread the virus to others. Their lack of apparent symptoms makes the virus tricky to monitor and corral. On the other

hand, it would be comforting if a large percentage of people with Covid-19 are skating through without any apparent ill-effects.

But some recent findings have turned up "subclinical" effects in people with Covid-19 who never develop noticeable virus symptoms. These could indicate underlying risks for asymptomatic patients.

Trouble below the surface

According to a recent research review published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, chest scans of asymptomatic people with Covid-19 have revealed the presence of some "lung abnormalities" - abnormalities that also turn up among symptomatic patients.

Specifically, the scans have found what radiologists call "ground-glass opacities" - or GGOs - which are areas of lung tissue that appear gritty - or coarse - and opaque (like ground glass), and that tends to develop as a result of inflamma-

tion.

In one of the studies included in the review, these lung abnormalities were present in 54 per cent of asymptomatic people with Covid-19.

"Our finding was that a significant proportion of asymptomatic people are having internal hits that they're not aware of," says Eric Topol, MD, co-author of the review and a professor of molecular medicine at the Scripps Research Institute.

Topol's is not the only study that has identified these underlying lung issues. A report on asymptomatic Covid-19 patients published June 18 in the journal Nature Medicine found GGOs and other lung irregularities in 67 per cent of the roughly three dozen people it examined.

How big a deal is this? No one's sure.

"Ground-glass opacities are very common - we see them all the time and there are many things that can cause them,"

says Adam Bernheim, MD, a cardiothoracic radiologist at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

But while GGOs are common, the ones that are turning up among Covid-19 patients are distinctive. "If we see this very round shape and peripheral distribution, that's atypical of other types of infections but it's something we frequently see with Covid-19," he explains.

Bernheim has published work on GGOs and other lung effects associated with the novel coronavirus. He says that the presence of these abnormalities among asymptomatic patients is now well established, but the long-term consequences of these lung issues are not fully known.

"We've seen patients with mild GGOs that heal completely, whereas others develop scar tissue almost like a skin injury, which is permanent," he says. This scar tissue could cause or contribute to poor lung function and shortness of breath or even, theoretically, a slight increase in the risk for lung cancer later in life.

Bernheim says that it stands to reason that people who are asymptomatic



THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 101 00--

WORD-FIT

CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS

Word-Fit:
 3 letters: SEE, ASS, TRI, SUE, ROT
 4 letters: RARE, ECTA, ALHA, NENE, SURE,
 5 letters: SHARE, AMUSE,
 6 letters: MEDDLE, UTOPIA, ZEALOT, YACKER
 7 letters: CENTRAL, LAICIZE, DROUGHT
 8 letters: TIGRINYA, INTRENCH, RESTRICT
 9 letters: MOUNTAINS

Crossword Clues:
Across:
 1 Evil spirits
 5 Togo's Capital
 6 a risky or daring journey
 9 the size of a dose of a medicine
 11 the person who leads
 12 a wooden frame for holding an artist's work in progress
 13 primeval
 14 A very longtime
 16 not previously known
 18 a cereal
 19 central
 20 the subject of a talk
Down:
 1 grow or cause to grow and become larger
 2 damage property
 3 insect infests human skin and hair
 4 the sale of goods to the public for consumption
 5 one of the limbs for walking on one's own
 7 not often
 10 perfume
 15 stiff hairs- like or bristle-like structure
 16 the state of being famous
 17 a position of an object

will also have more mild lung abnormalities - the kinds that are more likely to heal without scarring. But it's too early to be sure.

Scripps' Topol reiterates these points. "I think it's most likely that these underlying lung things will heal, but the fact is we don't know," he says.

Lung-related damage may not be the only concern for asymptomatic people. Research has found that the novel coronavirus can spread to the brain, heart, liver, kidneys and other organs.

"No one is really assessing those organs in asymptomatic people," Topol says, adding: "So we just don't know what's going on." The presumption that people who don't develop symptoms are getting off scot-free may be wrong. It seems as though the more researchers study

SARS-CoV-2, the more surprises they turn up - many of them unpleasant.

"There were the cases of children in New York who never really had symptoms, but then several weeks later they developed this post-viral autoimmune inflammatory condition. Initially, that just wasn't on our radar at all," Bernheim says, referring to what the CDC is now calling the "multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children", or MIS-C.

"You can't assume that if you never had symptoms, you're 100 per cent in the clear," he warns.

A piece in Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Markham Heid is a health and science writer.

CONCERN

Cement prices go up as traders blame scarcity

By Guardian Reporter

RETAIL cement prices in the local market have increased by between 500/- and 590/- per bag of 50 kilograms starting last weekend, consumers who are currently building structures have said.

Members of the public said the product's prices in some parts of the city such as Mbagala, Kigamboni, Gongo la Mboto, Mwenge, Kimara and Tegeta have increased from an average of 11,500/- per bag to between 12,000/- and 12,200/-.

"We are selling at increased prices because wholesale prices from our major dealers have also gone up since last week," said Juma Idrissa from Mbagara Rangi Tatu who added that the product is also in short supply.

"We don't know why the product is not readily available since last week," said Tatu Adam, a large scale dealer for cement and other construction materials.

She said they have been asking manufacturers reasons behind the scarcity but many of them have blamed growing demand due to government's ongoing major infrastructure projects.

A survey by The Guardian across major suburbs of Mbagala, Kigamboni, Mwenge, Kimara and Tegeta found out that not all cement companies have increased prices although major producers such as Dangote, Twiga and Nyati have their products with increased prices.

An official from Fair Competition Commission said they are already

investigating the matter because although demand for cement is increasing, the local capacity has also increased in recent years with very little imports.

"We have heard about this artificial scarcity and we are investigating, any-

one found to be hoarding the product will be prosecuted," the FCC official who preferred not to be identified warned.

According to official statistics, the country's annual consumption for cement stands at over 11.5 million metric

tons by end last year with the largest manufacturers being Dangote Cement of Mtwara, Tanga Cement and Twiga Cement of Wazo Hill in Dar es Salaam which have a combined capacity of 7.5 million tons.

Twiga was expected to increase its

capacity this year with a US\$20 million investment to expand and modernise its facility which will increase capacity by 300,000 tonnes per year by end this year. Twiga Cement currently produces 2.3 million tonnes per annum.



Cement prices are on the increase in Dar es Salaam owing to increased demand.

HOPE

Industrialists eye cheaper loans to ensure recovery

NAIROBI

MANUFACTURERS have asked the State to ease importation of raw materials, relax operational restrictions and compel banks to lower lending rates as the country plans to reopen after three months of lockdown.

The industrialists also want the government to consider an emergency rescue package for businesses hard hit by effects of covid-19 control restrictions with suggestions to have direct monetary support to their employees kicked out of employment.

Through their umbrella body the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), the makers of goods are pushing for faster processing of Value Added Tax refunds to pump liquidity drained by slow demand as the pandemic sweeps through various sectors of the economy.

"Government should ease

regulations on importation of raw materials, intermediate goods, industrial spares and machineries especially where ports of origin have been closed down and inspecting agencies are not operating optimally," the manufacturers wrote to Treasury Principal Secretary Julius Muia.

In the detailed memo outlining measures that will enable the sector return to normalcy, KAM wants the emergency rescue fund to be set up, supported by development partners, to identify and support the most vulnerable businesses and entrepreneurs affected by Covid-19.

The lobby also wants the Treasury to push for increased moratorium for bank loan repayments including interest to six to 12 months. They want interest rates further pushed down to eight percent and the entire loan and overdraft books granted a full waiver for the three months.

"In addition to direct cash transfers (helicopter money) to targeted individuals, indirect transfers to individuals through the manufacturers could be considered," the manufacturers wrote. The sector, which employs about 300,000 directly and three million indirectly has been hard hit by the pandemic driven fall in demand for goods forcing them to cut operations and shed employees.

President Uhuru Kenyatta has already indicated a possibility of relaxing the movement restrictions between counties from July after months of lockdown. The manufacturers estimate earlier measures put in place to stimulate the economy like reduced corporate income taxes, Value Added Tax and the other measures, as well as others aimed at increasing consumers' disposable incomes will begin bearing fruit after the pandemic.



Kenya Association of Manufacturers CEO, Phyllis Wakiaga

RELIEF

IMF approves new \$5.2bn loan for Egypt amid coronavirus pandemic

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund approved a new 12-month \$5.2 billion loan for Egypt to help it cope with challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and finance its budget deficit and balance of payments shortfalls.

The approval of the Fund's Stand-By Agreement (SBA) allows for the immediate disbursement of about \$2bn, which will help Egyptian authorities preserve the macroeconomic achievements made over the past four years. The arrangement will also support health and social spending to protect vulnerable groups, and advance a set of key structural reforms to put the country on a strong footing for a sustained recovery with higher and more inclusive growth and job creation over the medium term.

"Over the past few years, Egypt saw strong growth, fall-

ing unemployment, moderate inflation, build-up of strong reserve buffers, and significant reduction in public debt. The authorities were looking to broaden and deepen structural reforms begun under the Extended Fund Facility, but the Covid-19 pandemic has temporarily refocused government priorities to address the economic and health crisis," Antoinette Sayeh, deputy managing director and acting chair of the IMF's executive board, said in a statement on Friday.

"The government has responded decisively to the crisis with a comprehensive package that supports health care needs, the economy, and the most affected individuals and sectors. The Central Bank of Egypt has also taken several actions to support economic activity and borrowers."

Egypt's economic policy framework, supported by the new IMF arrangement, aims

to maintain the country's macroeconomic stability with priorities to protect necessary social and health spending. It also aims to avoid an excessive build-up of public debt, anchor inflation expectations and safeguard financial stability while maintaining a flexible exchange rate. The initiative will also help implement key structural reforms to strengthen transparency, governance, and competition, according to the IMF.

After a strong track record of successfully completing a home-grown economic reform programme supported by the IMF's Extended Fund Facility in 2016-2019, Egypt was one of the fastest growing emerging markets prior to the Covid-19 outbreak. However, the significant domestic and global disruptions caused by the pandemic have worsened the country's economic outlook



Antoinette Sayeh, deputy managing director and acting chair of the IMF's executive board.

and reshuffled policy priorities.

"As the economic recovery takes hold, fiscal policy will need to work towards resuming the downward trajectory of public debt. The Central Bank of Egypt aims to continue to provide a stable anchor for inflation expectation and financial stability while rebuilding reserve buffers and allowing orderly exchange rate adjustments," Ms Sayeh said.

"Achieving programme objectives is subject to risks. At the global level, uncertainty about the severity and length of the downturn remains exceptionally high. On the domestic side, the authorities will need to

continue their strong track record of steady fast policy implementation." The economies of the Middle East and Central Asian countries are projected to shrink by an average of 4.7 per cent, more than the earlier 2.8 per cent contraction forecast, according to the IMF.

Last week, Egypt significantly eased regulations against the spread of the coronavirus, cancelling the overnight lockdown, reopening mosques and churches and allowing patrons back into restaurants and cafes but with limited capacity. Cinemas and theatres can also reopen, but beaches and public parks will remain shut.

TRADE-WAR

India bans Chinese apps including TikTok with escalation of tension

NEW DELHI

INDIA has banned 59 Chinese apps, including the popular TikTok short-video service, claiming threats to its sovereignty, security and public order, as relations between the two nations worsened.

The blocked apps also include software from the Alibaba tech giant, internet search organisation Baidu, and WeChat and Clash of Kings, owned by gaming company Tencent. The move comes days after border tension killed Indian and Chinese soldiers. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Monday said there was unauthorised transmission and storage of Indian users' data in overseas servers. The ministry said that data was mined and profiled "by elements hostile to national security and defence of India."

It remains unclear how the ban will be implemented because most of these apps are already stored on users' phones. The government might need to block the apps' servers and prevent new users from downloading them.

One in three smartphone users in India will be affected by the ban, Tarun Pathak, associate director with Counterpoint Technology, told Bloomberg. The border standoff, which has been brewing for nearly two months, has worsened.

Indian Customs officials at major ports and airports has begun to halt clearances of industrial consignments from China. The app ban is the latest by India as it tries to reduce dependence on Chinese products.

India, with its a half-billion internet users, is an emerging arena for global technology companies, from the US to China. Hundreds of millions of first-time users are coming online in India with Chinese smartphones and Chinese apps. The move is a particular blow for ByteDance, which says India is its biggest market, having more than 200 million TikTok users.

SUSTAINABILITY

SBL's business value chain remains strong despite Covid-19

By Staff Reporter

DESPITE the ongoing coronavirus outbreak that has badly affected the hospitality industry, Serengeti Breweries Limited has continued to support a strong business value chain comprising of retail outlets, farmers, logistic companies and distributors across the country.

According to a survey conducted in April by East African Business Council, just a month after the pandemic hit the region, showed that the hospitality industry was the worst affected by an average reduction of cash flow by 97 percent. The logistics and retail sectors followed with 70 percent and 63 percent average reduction in cash flows respectively.

To cope with the situation, SBL has been supporting its business partners through provision of personal protective gear such as sanitizers, hand washing buckets and masks. The beneficiaries also included its field and factory staff to keep them safe from contracting the virus.

SBL's Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha apart from the strong focus on its business value chain, the brewer has also provided backed government efforts to combat Covid-19 with material donations.

In March, SBL helped the Health ministry in delivering awareness posters and flyers to regional medical officers across the country with transport and logis-



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister, Ummy Mwalimu (R) receiving a donation of sanitizers from SBL corporate relations director, John Wanyancha in April 2020. File photo.

tics. In April, the company donated 1,250 litres of hand-sanitizers to the ministry for onward distribution to the public.

Wanyancha said SBL which has about 800 employees and works with dozens of distributors in the country including smallholder farmers who supply the company with barley, maize and sorghum for its beer production, grew its cereals uptake from zero to 17,000 metric tonnes of grain from 400 farmers across the country by end last year.

"The 2019 cereal uptake by the company was equivalent to 70 percent of SBL's total raw materials requirement for the year," the Corporate Relations Director added.

Founded in 1996 by local entrepreneur with one brewery built in Dar es Salaam, the brewer had between 2010 and 2013, changed ownership structure with the coming on board of regional alcohol giant, East African Breweries Limited (EABL) and the global beverage producer, Diageo. The new global players injected further investment which resulted into the opening of Mwanza and Moshi factories.

EXPANSION

MFS Africa targeting broader market with Beyonic acquisition

HARARE

PAN-AFRICAN cross-border payments services provider MFS Africa has acquired Beyonic, a digital payments management provider of business services for SMEs, Fintechs, and social impact entities across Africa. While the companies believe the deal will add value to Africa's digital payment ecosystem, they have commented on recent developments in Zimbabwe and have expressed concern.

According to a statement released to the media, as a digital payments hub MFS Africa connects over 200 million mobile wallets on the continent via one API, and Beyonic focusses on domestic payments and collections coupled with secure front-end business functionality.

The companies say the deal is subject to regulatory approval by the Fair Competition Commission in Tanzania, and will provide the growing micro, small, and medium enterprise segment across Africa with the ability to manage digital transactions with individuals and businesses around the world.

Dare Okoujdjou, founder and CEO of MFS Africa, said: "Africa has a strong base of connected young entrepreneurs and business people who are bringing fresh ideas to the table, in order to create prosperity for themselves and for their communities on the continent. With the MFS Africa Hub, we have been creating new digital pathways between mobile money users in Africa and the global economy. With the acquisition of Beyonic, we can now put this digital payment network at the service of those entrepreneurs whether they are SMEs, Fintechs, or social impact organisations. By combining MFS Africa's and Beyonic's assets and capabilities, we can unleash the wealth of opportunity that business within Africa and with Africa presents to the wider world."

The companies explain that extended access and functionality will become available to customers of both organisations in the second half of 2020. They state: "In practice, this means that a Uganda-based organisation that uses Beyonic to manage digital payments to and from Ugandan mobile wallets and bank accounts will be able to reach additional markets directly and seamlessly using the same interface, leveraging the pan-African and global connections of the MFS Africa Hub."

Luke Kyohere, founder, Executive Chairman, and CTO of Beyonic, said, "MFS Africa's mission to make borders matter less in digital payments aligns perfectly with Beyonic's vision of helping enterprises deliver fast, affordable Fintech solutions to the last mile, where they are needed the most. Together, we will give our customers access to the broadest and deepest digital payment network in Africa."

I'm excited about the possibilities this partnership brings, especially when you factor in MFS Africa's recent partnership with Visa, enabling them to issue Visa payment credentials across their pan-African network. It's a new dawn for SMEs in Africa."

According to the World Bank, SMEs contribute up to 40% of national income (GDP) in emerging economies. However, they face a number of growth constraints in emerging markets, including the ability to scale operations domestically, continentally, and internationally.

LUN Partners Group served as financial and strategic advisor and Dahui Lawyers served as legal counsel to MFS Africa and its Board of Directors in this transaction. ENS Africa also provided local law counsel and due diligence to MFS Africa on the transaction. Beyonic was advised by financial advisor ICON Corporate Finance and legal counsel Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP.

Monica Shupikai Simmons, Director of Tech Investment Bank, ICON Corporate Finance, who led the transaction said, "We are delighted to have advised Beyonic on its sale to MFS Africa."

This deal is one of the most significant cross-border African FinTech M&A transactions in recent years. Global financial connectivity to Africa's micro and SME sector has never been more important.

The combined company will provide a seamless financial platform which opens unparalleled digital commerce opportunities across Africa and beyond."

RELAXATION

Emirates warms up to serve travellers as Dubai opens up

By Guardian Reporter

EMIRATES said it welcomes the latest air travel protocols that will facilitate international travel for UAE citizens, residents and tourists as Dubai opens to business and leisure visitors effective next Tuesday.

In a statement, the Dubai based airline said the protocols for travel into and out of Dubai airports were announced under the directives of United Arab Emirates' Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Emirates Chairman and CEO, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum thanked the UAE leaders for easing travel restrictions. "I would like to thank Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed for their latest directives to reopen air travel which show their vision for Dubai as a world leader in business and tourism," Al Maktoum said.

He noted that the move is a strong affirmation of Dubai's readiness to resume aviation and economic activity after comprehensive planning, review, and preparations. "We are confident that the multi-layered measures that have been put in place in the air, on the ground, and



Emirates Chairman and CEO, Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum.

throughout our city, enables us to mitigate risks of infection spread and manage any required response effec-

tively," the Emirates chief added.

He said in the past weeks, Emirates has gradually expanded its network

by offering services to a number of destinations, providing the means for customers to travel through

Dubai while serving the global demand for air freight movement.

"We continue to work closely with all stakeholders and international organisations to ensure the highest levels of health and safety for our crew, our customers and our communities. Currently, Emirates connects Dubai to 40 cities and with the latest directives, we have the opportunity to expand our network and offer additional destinations which will be communicated in the coming days," he noted.

Emirates has also launched an advert to tell the world that Dubai is open and ready to welcome international travellers, with health and safety first measures being implemented comprehensively at every step of the customer journey to ensure their safety and that of its employees on the ground and in the air.

Some of the measures include distribution of complimentary hygiene kits containing masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and antibacterial wipes to all customers. The airline reminded travellers restrictions remain in place, and that they will only be accepted on flights if they comply with the eligibility and entry criteria requirements of their destination countries.

OPTIMISM

Crystal Telecom, MTN Rwanda project 12% revenue growth

KIGALI

CRYSTAL Telecom and its associate firm, MTN Rwanda are projecting revenue growth in 2020 of about 12 per cent buoyed by increased Mobile Money and data usage. This emerged at Crystal Telecom's Annual General Meeting virtually on June 29.

Crystal Telecom holds a 20 per cent stake in MTN Rwanda which it has floated on the local bourse. At the meeting, MTN Rwanda expressed confidence of growth performance in 2020 noting that they expect to lead the market in both revenue and market share.

Mitwa Kaemba Ng'ambi the Chief Executive of MTN Rwanda said that the outlook for 2020 is positive, projecting revenue growth of about 12 per cent in 2020. She noted that in 2019, revenues had grown significantly but profits dipped resulting from one-off costs. Among the one off costs included tax penalties which impacted profitability.

MTN Rwanda earned a profit of about Rwf6.8 billion in profit after tax in 2019. MTN Rwanda's profit dropped slightly compared to the previous year when it registered Rwf7.7 billion. Total revenue for 2019 was about Rwf125 billion.

In 2019, the biggest income stream for MTN Rwanda was voice revenue (airtime) at 49 per cent of revenue. Voice revenue before tax was estimated at over Rwf 61 billion before tax. Mobile money followed with revenue of



Mitwa Kaemba Ng'ambi, CEO of MTN Rwanda.

over Rwf 22 billion and mobile data at about Rwf19 billion.

Among their drivers for growth in 2020, she said was tapping into the unconnected customers, mobile money and data. Mobile Money and data demand have gone up amid the covid-19 pandemic as members of the public seek to make cashless payment as well

as work remotely. Ng'ambi noted that for instance, mobile money usage had gone up four fold.

Crystal Telecom registered a profit of Rwf1.3 billion in 2019 which was a slight drop, from Rwf1.5 billion in 2018. The Annual General Meeting approved dividend payout of Rwf1,006,141,541 with shareholders to receive a payout

Rwf3.72 per share which will be disbursed in August.

The Annual General Meeting also approved the addition of Regis Rugemanshuro on the Board of Directors replacing Richard Tusabe who has since retired.

2019 was the second year running that MTN Rwanda has recorded a

profit after a major rebound from a loss of Rwf8.5 billion it had incurred in 2017, largely owing to hefty fines by the regulator and tax authorities. As of June 2019, MTN Rwanda recorded the highest market share of 54 per cent in active mobile cellular telephone subscriptions whereas Airtel Rwanda Ltd had 46 per cent.

RELIEF

China's factories continue to recover from Covid-19 slump

BEIJING

A gauge of China's manufacturing activity climbed in June, signalling the country's gradual recovery from the coronavirus slump remains on track.

The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index rose to 50.9 from 50.6 a month earlier, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Tuesday. The non-manufacturing gauge rose to 54.4. Readings above 50 indicate improving conditions from the previous month.

The data confirm the trend of a gradual domestic recovery from the historic contraction in the first quarter and back up the government's relatively modest stance on policy stimulus. But with the coronavirus hitting global demand and continued outbreaks of the virus not ruled

out, the rebound may prove hard to sustain.

A sub-index of new export orders climbed to 42.6, while manufacturing employment fell to 49.1 and the non-factory job index rose to 48.7. The data show that manufacturing is still leading the recovery in China, said Zhou Hao, senior emerging markets economist at Commerzbank in Singapore. "China's GDP growth is very likely to turn positive in the second quarter. However, the job data remain a concern as both job indices are below 50, suggesting that the demand recovery still lags behind."

While parts of the economy have recovered from the virus shutdowns, there's an apparent divergence between demand and supply - factories and companies have returned and output is growing again, but exports and

domestic retail sales are shrinking.

"The data underline stabilisation in an economy that's still hampered by an uneven recovery across different sectors. The upshot - policy accommodation will probably be in place for a long time, though the pace of easing might slow," said Chang Shu and David Qu of Bloomberg Economics.

Almost 55 per cent of firms said demand was inadequate, the fourth straight month more than half of firms have said that, Wen Tao, an analyst at the China Logistics Information Center, which helps compile the data, wrote in a report on its website. "The new orders index is lower than the output index by 2.5 percentage points, meaning the gap between production and demand is widening, leading to rising oversup-



A worker wearing a face mask works on a production line manufacturing bicycle steel rims in China's Hangzhou, Zhejiang province.

ply pressures." Tourism revenue fell almost 70 per cent during a three-day holiday last week compared to the same period in 2019, according to China In-

ternational Capital. Severe flooding in southern China may also have slowed the pace of production in some areas, and a recent flare-up of the coronavirus has also hit confidence.

A separate PMI indicator that gauges China's high-tech industries slowed significantly this month. A Bloomberg Economics gauge of early indicators on the economy picked up in June, with a better performance for smaller companies tempered by the still-grim global outlook.

However, the position of small firms has begun contracting again, according to today's data, while medium-sized firms rose above 50 and larger companies improved further.

More small firms reported a lack of orders compared to larger companies, according to the NBS statement.

"China's recovery is still on track, but the momentum could lose some steam in coming months," said Lu Ting, chief China economist at Nomura International in Hong Kong.

"Despite the strong recovery between March and mid-June, we believe a full economic recovery remains distant. In our view, it is too early for Beijing to reverse its easing stance."



Movement restrictions in Thailand are easing as life slowly returns to normal, as can be seen here in central Bangkok.

Thailand slowly reopens to international flights, while only some tourists can visit

BANGKOK

THAILAND is reopening to international passenger flights from July 1. Commercial passenger flights will be allowed to operate flights landing at international airports across the country, including Bangkok, Samutprakarn, Chiang Mai and Phuket. Restrictions on who can fly into the country remain in place, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand.

Commercial flights carrying Thai nationals and their family members, residents, students, medical and wellness tourists and those with special permission to enter the country will be allowed to land in Thailand. All other passengers will not be allowed entry as authorities work to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Anyone entering the country must adhere to screening procedures in place at all airports and follow mandatory 14-day quarantine procedures at their own cost.

Medical visitors could restart crippled tourism industry.

Medical tourists can enter the country on the basis that they go directly to quarantine at hospitals and health centres.

Thailand is ranked fourth in the world for its medical tourism industry, which is worth approximately \$600 million annually, according

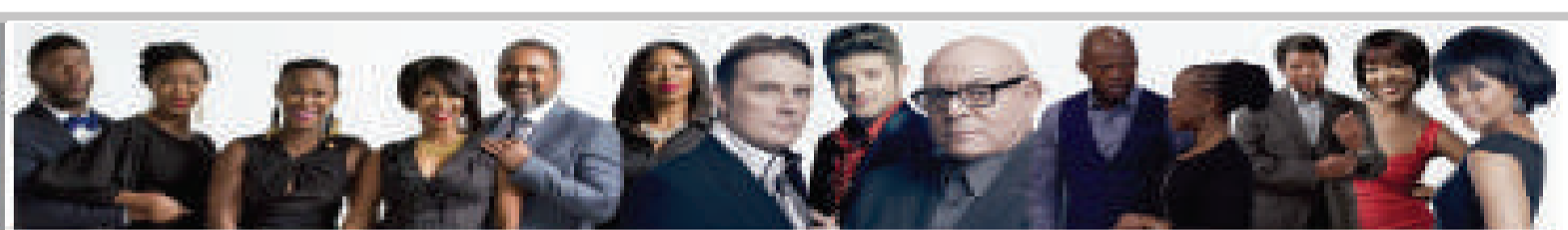
to the International Medical Travel journal. Thai authorities are keen to revive this carefully regulated travel sector to help rejuvenate at least part of the country's crippled tourism industry.

Medical and wellness visitors typically account for nearly 10 per cent of Thailand's 35 million annual tourists, and the UAE is a key market says the Tourism Authority of Thailand. The three most requested medical treatments in Thailand overall are medical check-ups, plastic surgery and orthopedic surgery.

Cargo, repatriation, and humanitarian flights were never banned from entering Thailand and can continue to fly in and out of the kingdom.

Easing of restrictions The opening of Thailand's borders to some commercial flights comes as the country further eases movement restrictions. From July 1, bars, karaoke venues and pubs can reopen until midnight following safety guidelines that include social distancing between tables and operating at reduced capacity.

Thailand most recently confirmed two new coronavirus cases, both imported from abroad. At the time of writing the country had gone five weeks without any recorded local transmission of the Covid-19 virus.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM



ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 27 June

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Shika Bamba 5
- 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk
- 13:00 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
- 13:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:20 Igizo: Mtego
- 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
- 19:00 Jungu Kuu
- 19:30 Shika Bamba
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Art and lifestyle
- 21:30 ITV TOP 10
- 22:10 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 22:45 Isidingo rpt
- 01:30 DWTW

SUNDAY 28 June

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidingo
- 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
- 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Apple
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 The Great queen Seonduk
- 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
- 21:20 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:05 Bongo Movie: Kiboko Kabisa
- 00:05 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

MONDAY 29 June

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 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
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 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
- 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:10 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 Albu yako rpt
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:45 Kesho leo
- 19:00 Afya ya Jamii
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Dakika 45
- 21:45 Kipindi Maalum: Utawala bora na utumishi

TUESDAY 30 June

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 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 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
- 13:00 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 Kipindi maalum: Equip Tanzania
- 21:15 Tanzania Yetu
- 21:45 Chetu ni chetu
- 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 DWTW

WEDNESDAY 01 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 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
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 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
- 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
- 18:15 Korean drama rpt: The great queen Seonduk
- 19:00 Ijue Sheria
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Uongozi
- 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
- 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 2:00 DWTW

THURSDAY 02 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habariz a saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto
- 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 The Base rpt
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Ijue Sheria
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Kipindi maalum: Uongozi
- 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
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Jagina
- 19:00 Usafiri wako
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 DWTW

FRIDAY 03 July

- 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 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Equip Tanzania
- 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 17:30 Ibadaya ya kisilamu
- 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 DWTW

SATURDAY 04 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Shika Bamba 5
- 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk
- 13:00 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
- 13:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 16:20 Igizo: Mizengwe
- 16:30 Shamsam za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
- 19:00 Jungu Kuu
- 19:30 Shika Bamba

- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Art and lifestyle
- 21:30 ITV TOP 10
- 22:10 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 22:45 Isidingo rpt
- 01:30 DWTW

SUNDAY 05 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidingo
- 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
- 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Kiboko kabisa
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 The Great queen Seonduk
- 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
- 21:20 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:05 Bongo Movie: Love & power
- 00:05 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

CAPITAL

Sat 27 June

- 08:00 CNN International
- 09:00 Drive It rpt
- 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
- 10:00 Culinary delight rpt
- 10:30 Innovation rpt
- 11:00 Out n'about rpt
- 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
- 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
- 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
- 13:00 Business edition rpt
- 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family
- 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
- 17:45 Bundesliga kick off
- 18:15 Capchat rpt
- 19:15 Mizengwe
- 19:30 The Decor
- 20:00 Korean Drama: Beating Again
- 21:00 Out n' About
- 21:30 Movie: Hammerlock
- 23:00 Series rpt: No regrets
- 01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 28 June

- 08:00 CNN International
- 09:00 In good shape
- 10:00 Capchat rpt
- 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
- 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Beating again
- 12:00 Jagina rpt
- 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
- 13:00 In good shape rpt
- 13:30 Series rpt: Ithoh
- 15:15 Albu yako
- 15:30 Drive it rpt
- 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
- 16:45 Mizengwe rpt
- 17:00 The Decor rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
- 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
- 20:00 Korean Drama: Beating again
- 21:00 Shift
- 21:15 Capchat live
- 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 29 June

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 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
- 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
- 17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 The Decor rpt
- 19:30 Shamba lulu
- 20:00 Series: Grapes of vine
- 20:45 The Monday Agenda
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Kipima Joto
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 30 June

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 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
- 16:30 Capchat rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Innovation
- 19:30 Jagina rpt
- 20:00 Series: Grapes of vine
- 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
- 22:30 Eco@Africa
- 23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 01 July

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 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
- 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 Decor
- 23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 02 July

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 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
- 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
- 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Capchat rpt
- 23:00 Al Jazeera

Frid 03 July

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 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
- 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Drive it
- 19:30 Eco@Africa
- 20:00 Albu Yako
- 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
- 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

China, Ethiopia agree to strengthen China-Africa solidarity in fight against COVID-19

BEIJING

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday held a phone conversation with Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Gedu Andargachew, with both sides agreeing to enhance solidarity and cooperation between China and African countries in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wang (pictured) said that China and Ethiopia are good friends and partners.

In the fight against COVID-19, China and Ethiopia have been understanding and supporting each other, which has further enhanced their friendship and mutual trust and consolidated the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, Wang said.

Wang stressed that China is ready to work with African friends, including Ethiopia, to implement the outcomes

of the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19.

First, China will continue to provide emergency assistance to African countries in the light of the development of the epidemic, and send medical and health teams to exchange experience with African countries, Wang said.

Second, China will promote the implementation of the outcomes of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation Beijing Summit to be more focused on such areas as health care, resumption of work and production and improvement of people's livelihood, he added.

Third, the construction of the headquarters of the African Center for Disease Control and Prevention should start before the end of this year, Wang said.

Fourth, China will accelerate negotiations with African countries and implementation of the Debt Service

Suspension Initiative of the Group of 20 members, he said. Wang pointed out that both China and Ethiopia are developing countries and share common interests in safeguarding their respective sovereignty and dignity.

China appreciates Ethiopia's support for China's just claim on the Hong Kong issue, Wang said, underlining that the Hong Kong issue is entirely China's internal affair.

Some countries and forces use human rights as an excuse to try to sabotage Hong Kong and thus prevent the development and revitalization of China, Wang said.

China firmly opposes politicizing the human rights issue and the use of the issue to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, Wang added.

China will unswervingly safeguard its legitimate rights and interests and the common interests of developing countries, Wang said.

For his part, Gedu congratulated China on the

success of the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19 and a high-level video conference on Belt and Road international cooperation, which fully demonstrated China's commitment to international solidarity in the fight against COVID-19.

Ethiopia thanks China for its support to African countries and for its help in building the African Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which is crucial to strengthening Africa's public health system, he said.

Ethiopia firmly supports the one-China policy and the Hong Kong issue is China's internal affair, he said, adding that China's sovereignty should be respected on any international occasion.

Gedu also briefed Wang on the latest situation on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam issue. Wang said China supports the parties concerned to continue to find mutually beneficial solutions through friendly consultations. *Xinhua*



Palestine rejects Israeli annexation whether partial or complete - Abbas

RAMALLAH

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas said on Monday that Palestine rejects the Israeli plan of annexing parts of the West Bank, whether it is partial or complete.

Abbas's announcement was made in a telephone conversation with Simonetta Sommaruga, president of the Swiss Confederation, the official Wafa news agency reported.

According to the report, Abbas (pictured) stressed that the Palestinians reject the US Mideast peace plan, adding that it violates all the international resolutions.

The Swiss president said Switzerland opposes any unilateral actions or any changes that violate international law and the international legitimacy, and called on Israel and the Palestinians to dialogue.

Sommaruga told Abbas that her country will continue providing support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, mainly in the field of health to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtayeh accused Israel of planning to dissolve the Palestinian Authority (PA), adding that the Palestinians will not let Israel do so "because the PA was the result of the Palestinian struggle."

"The Israeli annexation plan threatens the existence of the Palestinian people and their just cause and also threatens security and stability in the region," Ishtayeh said during an online meeting with 40 British lawmakers.

The Israeli government is planning to annex more than 30 percent of the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley. It also plans to impose sovereignty on several Israeli settlements in the territory.

Tension between the two sides has mounted after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that his annexation plan will be implemented on July 1.



Kremlin sees no threats to credibility of vote on Constitution

MOSCOW

KREMLIN does not think there are threats to the credibility of the outcome of the nationwide vote on constitutional amendments.

"We see no threats to the credibility of the outcome of the vote that will end on July 1," Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists yesterday, answering a question on whether the monitoring of the vote faced complications because of its span over several days.

He also noted that the observers are working, and the Kremlin sees no problem with their activity either. "Some one-time problems can occur, they cannot be avoided in such a huge country, but in general it does not affect the overall process of vote and observation," Peskov (pictured) underscored.

According to Peskov, "one-time mistakes cannot be associated with the general background, and must not be associated with it."

"All final assessments should be provided after the vote is over. I am certain that all aspects will be taken into account," the spokesman said, answering a question whether the decision to stretch the vote over several days, subjecting the electoral commissions and the observers to heavy loads, was a good one.

Peskov also claimed that the amendments come in a single package, because a relevant initiative has been approved. Answering a question why the amendments were not voted upon separately, the spokesman said that "the decision on the single vote was made, because there was such an initiative, and it was this mode that has been approved."

Commenting on a poll indicating that some Russians support the social amendments to the Constitution but do not favor the re-election option for Russian President Vladimir Putin, Peskov noted that "there are different polls; this is just one of them."

"There are wildly different indicators, sociology is a science," he said. "We treat it just like a huge number of other studies that have been performed on this topic," the spokesman said. *Agencies*



WHO says living with COVID-19 to be new normal as global cases top 10 million

GENEVA

THE chief of the World Health Organization (WHO) said Monday that all countries living with COVID-19 will be the new normal in the coming months, as the pandemic had already infected more than 10 million people worldwide, including nearly 500,000 deaths.

"The critical question that all countries will face in the coming months is how to live with this virus. That is the new normal," said

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a daily press briefing.

He added that although many countries have made some progress against the COVID-19, the pandemic is speeding up globally.

According to the latest WHO numbers, as of 3:15 p.m. CEST (1315 GMT) on Monday, the total infected population worldwide had reached 10,021,401, including 499,913 deaths.

"Six months ago, none of us could have imagined how our



world -- and our lives -- would be thrown into turmoil by this new

virus," the WHO chief said.

"The pandemic has brought out the best and the worst of humanity," he continued. "All over the world, we have seen heartwarming acts of resilience, inventiveness, solidarity, and kindness. But we have also seen concerning signs of stigma, misinformation and the politicization of the pandemic."

He urged all countries to prioritize five sets of measures to save lives, including empowering communities and individuals to

protect themselves and others, suppressing virus transmission, saving lives with oxygen and dexamethasone for instance, accelerating research on COVID-19, and strengthening political leadership and solidarity.

Tedros also announced an updated and detailed timeline of the WHO's response to the pandemic for the public to understand how the UN health body has been responding to the outbreak.

Xinhua

China's top legislature adopts law on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong

BEIJING

CHINESE lawmakers yesterday voted to adopt the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

The law was passed at the 20th session of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature.

President Xi Jinping signed a presidential order to promulgate the law, which goes into effect as of the date of promulgation.

The law, formulated based on an NPC decision on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security, has 66 articles in six chapters, and is a comprehensive law with substantive law, procedural law and organic law contents.

The law clearly defines the duties and government bodies of the HKSAR for safeguarding national

security; the four categories of offences -- secession, subversion, terrorist activities, and collusion with a foreign country or external elements to endanger national security -- and their corresponding penalties; jurisdiction, applicable law and procedure; office of the central people's government for safeguarding national security in the HKSAR; and other contents.

It thus establishes the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the HKSAR to safeguard national security.

After the adoption of the law, the NPC Standing Committee, in accordance with the requirements of the NPC decision, consulted its HKSAR Basic Law Committee and the HKSAR government, and adopted a decision on Tuesday afternoon to list the law in Annex III to the HKSAR Basic Law.

The newly-adopted decision stipulates that the law shall be applied in the HKSAR by way of promulgation by the region.

The law is a landmark one for



Li Zhanhu, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, presides over the plenary meeting of the 20th session of the 13th NPC Standing Committee in Beijing, capital of China, yesterday. The Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, closed its 20th session Tuesday, adopting the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR). (Xinhua)

upholding and improving the institutional framework of the "one country, two systems" under new circumstances. It will effectively

safeguard national security, and lasting peace, stability and prosperity in Hong Kong, and ensure the steady and sustained devel-

opment of the cause of the "one country, two systems" in Hong Kong.

Xinhua

Beijing further tightens epidemic prevention, control measures

BEIJING Is ramping up efforts to further reinforce COVID-19 prevention and control network to avoid any possible transmission of the novel coronavirus by enhancing relevant measures for key links and sense of responsibility of major entities.

Beijing reported nine newly confirmed COVID-19 cases on June 21, bringing the double-digit daily increase to a single-digit number after 8 consecutive days and seeing a sound momentum of epidemic control.

In recent days, the capital has spared no pains and raced against time to carry out strict epidemiological investigations and com-

prehensively trace the source of the new clustered infections.

In the short period of time, Beijing has fully grasped the information of the resurgence and important risk points, and contained further spread of the disease.

Comprehensive and thorough disinfection measures have been taken in farm produce markets to ensure strict epidemic prevention and control at all links of the food supply chain.

Learning its lesson from the Xinfadi wholesale market, Beijing has comprehensively intensified efforts to strengthen management of the whole supply chain to guarantee food safety.

While requiring market operators to earnestly perform their duty to adopt strict standards in cleaning, disinfection, ventilation, and personal protection, the city has also tightened inspection and quarantine for food transported through cold chain systems, extending epidemic prevention measures for agricultural and sideline products to key places including vegetable markets, supermarkets, restaurants, and canteens.

A wholesale market on Dayang Road, Shibaldian township, Chaoyang district of Beijing, sterilizes the stall and booth area four times a day, the living area and public area outside the hall of the market,

including sewer and garbage station, twice a day, and toilets four times a day. Besides, trash in the market is cleared every day.

In addition, the market regulation administration of Chaoyang district puts on record and establishes a ledger for all the products in the market, in a bid to ensure that the sources and sales process of the products are under control and traceable.

Massive COVID-19 tests have been conducted on construction sites to ensure safety.

June is the peak period for construction projects. The high density of workers has posed challenge for epidemic prevention

and control on construction sites. Beijing has so far discovered three confirmed COVID-19 cases on two construction sites, both of which have been put under closed-off management.

On June 22, Beijing Municipal Commission of Housing and Urban-rural Development issued new regulations on epidemic prevention and control for construction sites, specifying that all the staff members of a project must be tested for COVID-19 if there is direct contact of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the project, or if anyone works for the project has been to the Xinfadi market.

All the chefs, purchasers, service

providers, sanitation workers and security guards of construction sites must be tested for COVID-19, according to the new regulations. Those required to take COVID-19 test also include the staff working for projects under construction and major projects in medium- and high-risk areas.

The city has tested a total of 1,622 people working for 435 projects in 16 districts, according to Ding Sheng, deputy director of Beijing Municipal Commission of Housing and Urban-rural Development.

Public transport system in Beijing has adopted the strictest epidemic prevention and control

measures. On the basis of existing measures, bus stations in high-risk areas are requested to be disinfected every hour, and the interior of the buses are requested to be disinfected every trip to ensure ventilation.

Beijing Subway also further raised relevant standards for disinfection, ventilation, and temperature measurement, requiring that all the facilities frequently touched by passengers must be disinfected once an hour, such as security inspection devices and equipment, self-service ticket issuing equipment, turnstiles, handrails of staircases and escalators, as well as elevators. *People's Daily*

African experts root for policy shift to hasten post-COVID-19 recovery

NAIROBI

GOVERNMENTS across the Sub-Saharan African region should embark on a realignment of economic policies to boost recovery from COVID-19 disruptions and strengthen resilience against future shocks, experts said on Monday.

The policymakers and experts who spoke at a virtual briefing in Nairobi said that the enactment of new economic policies was long overdue to enable countries to survive a recession linked to the pandemic.

"We must build a solid macro-economic policy environment, protect local investments and strengthen intra-African trade as we embark on a post-COVID recovery path," said Njuguna Ndung'u, executive director of Nairobi-based think tank, the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC).

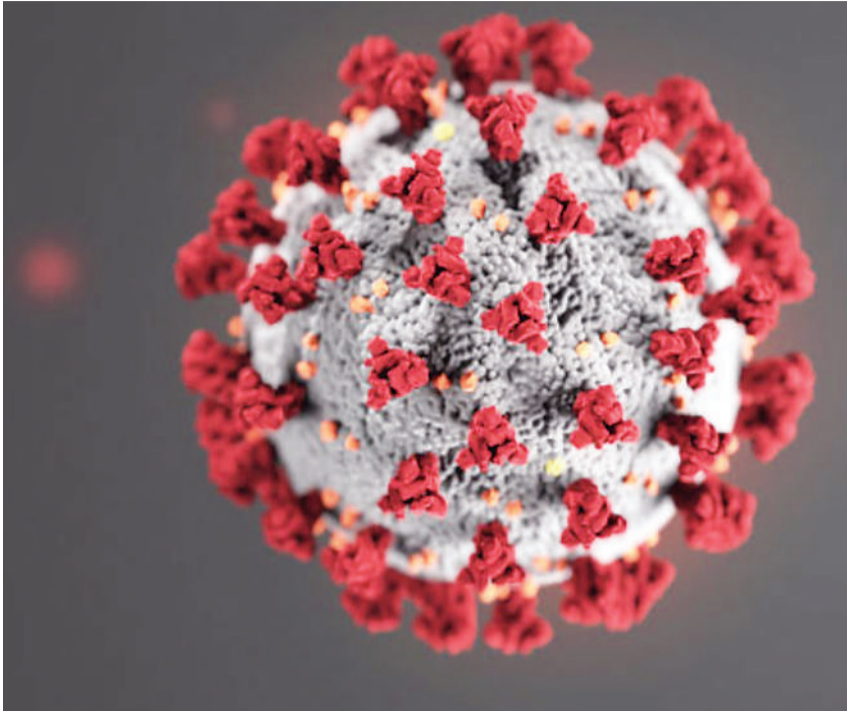
The forum, organized by the think tank which was attended by senior

government officials and scholars in Nairobi, discussed policy options that could be adopted to boost economic recovery after months of downturn occasioned by the global pandemic.

Ndung'u said the continent could still weather COVID-19 related economic shocks if governments took bold actions like channeling stimulus packages to hard-hit sectors including hospitality, tourism and manufacturing.

"Some of the best practices that have worked elsewhere could be applied in the African context to boost recovery. They include capital injection to the private sector and investments in public infrastructure to lower the cost of doing business," said Ndung'u, a former governor of the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK).

African economies have suffered from supply chain disruptions linked to COVID-19 and Sub-Saharan Africa's economy is expected to shrink by 3.2



percent in 2020.

Betty Maina, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Trade and Industry said that reimagining African economies and businesses should inform efforts to hasten recovery and create new job opportunities.

"There is an opportunity to establish a new post-COVID-19 economic order that guarantees a better income for households, foster innovation, competitiveness and growth," said Maina.

But leadership and foresight are required to accelerate this recovery through promoting local manufacturing, intra-African trade and formalization of small and medium-sized enterprises," she added.

Maina said that strengthening the resilience of local supply chains combined with less reliance on foreign imports is key to accelerate post-COVID-19 economic recovery in Africa.

Xinhua



Maduro orders EU envoy to leave following fresh sanctions

CARACAS

VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro on Monday ordered the European Union (EU) envoy to leave the country, hours after the EU announced sanctions against several officials loyal to the socialist leader.

The EU subjected 11 officials to financial sanctions, citing their actions against the democratic functioning of Venezuela's National Assembly.

The European bloc earlier this month said a decision by the South American nation's Supreme Court in May to ratify an ally of Maduro (pictured) as president of the National Assembly was illegitimate.

Opposition leader Juan Guaido was the rightful congressional president following his election by the majority of members in January, not the court-approved Luis Parra, the EU said.

Parra was among those named in Monday's sanctions, along with Franklyn Duarte and Jose Gregorio Noriega, who were named as vice-presidents of the assembly in the May court ruling.

Maduro gave the EU envoy, Isabel Brilhante Pedrosa, 72 hours to leave the country after the sanctions were announced.

"A plane can be loaned to her to leave," he said during an appearance on Venezuelan state TV.

Also on the EU sanctions list were Juan Jose Mendoza, president of the Supreme Court's constitutional chamber, and General Jose Ornelas, head of the National Defense Council.

The EU said the 11 individuals "are particularly responsible for acting against the National Assembly's democratic functioning, including stripping parliamentary immunity from several of its members."

Agencies

China calls for greater connectivity, openness, inclusiveness to tackle global crises

CHINA will work with its partners to develop the Belt and Road into a model of cooperation for meeting challenges through unity, Chinese President Xi Jinping recently said in a written message to the High-level Video Conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation.

The Belt and Road will also be a model of health for protecting people's safety and well-being, a model of recovery for restoring economic and social activity, and a model of growth for unlocking development potential, Xi added.

The Chinese President's message demonstrated the firm confidence of China and its Belt and Road partners in promoting high-quality cooperation, and bolstered various countries' confidence in defeating the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic urged countries to take effective countermeasures to tackle global crises and realize long-term development.

All nations' destinies are closely connected, and humanity is a community with a shared future.

"Be it in taming the virus or in achieving economic recovery, humanity cannot succeed without solidarity, cooperation and multilateralism. The right ap-

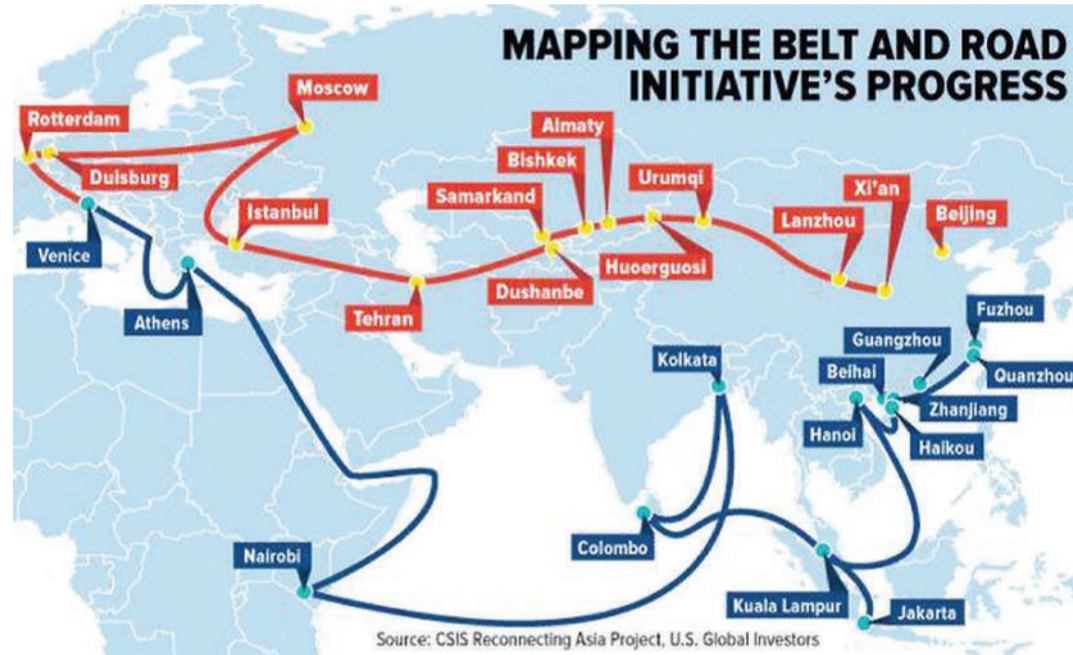
proach to tackling global crises and realizing long-term development is through greater connectivity, openness and inclusiveness," Xi said.

Since the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was proposed nearly seven years ago, China and its BRI partners have signed 200 government-to-government cooperation documents, launched more than 2,000 projects, and created tens of thousands of jobs created in the partner countries.

The family of BRI partners has continued to expand, with more solid progress in trade and economic exchanges, greater connectivity, and more solid foundation of public opinion, which can inject positive energy into the global COVID-19 response confidence into world economic recovery.

Rather than holding back Belt and Road cooperation, COVID-19 has only highlighted its strong resilience and vitality. In the face of the virus, BRI partners have extended a helping hand to each other, and many of them lent valuable support to China.

China, on its part, provided assistance to 122 BRI partners to support their response to the virus. It also sent medical teams to 25 countries and shared its experience in containment, diag-



nostics and therapeutics with all countries without reservation.

In the first five months, the China-Europe Railway Express made 28 percent more trips and transported 32 percent more freights from a year ago. To date, it has transported 12,524 tons of medical supplies, serving as a key "cargo lifeline" and "bond of solidarity" on the Eurasian continent. It has made great contributions to the global fight against COVID-19 and greatly mitigated the pandemic's impact on global

industrial and supply chains.

As former Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf said, the world is facing unprecedented challenges and must work together through the global cooperation mechanism, adding that this is where the BRI can make a difference.

When the pandemic weighs down the global growth, countries must promote common development through greater cooperation, so as to improve people's welfare. To turn the BRI,

the largest platform for international cooperation, into a model of recovery for restoring economic and social activity conforms to the practical interests of people in all countries.

From January to May, China's actual use of foreign direct investment from countries and regions participating in the BRI rose 6 percent year on year, and the country's non-financial outbound direct investment in these countries and regions also saw a 16 percent growth from a

year ago.

Projects including the China-Laos railway and the Budapest-Belgrade railway are well underway, and a number of projects suspended due to COVID-19 have also resumed work. Besides, China established a "green channel" for transportation, customs clearance, as well as Belt and Road economic and trade and people-to-people exchanges.

Belt and Road cooperation, pressing ahead against all odds, is demonstrating participating countries' firm determination to pursue common development.

The future of the BRI lies in expanding the cooperation to new areas. President Xi called for joint efforts to build a "Silk Road of health" in June 2016. After the outbreak of COVID-19, countries have a surging demand for public health cooperation.

Pushing forward the Belt and Road health cooperation and the development of a "Silk Road of health" will add new substance to high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

Besides, promoting the building of the digital Silk Road and a "green Silk Road" will create new engines of growth for the partner countries and new impetus for global recovery.

People's Daily

China refutes Pompeo's anti-China statements over China-Africa ties

BEIJING,

CHINA on Monday expressed strong opposition to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's statements over China-Africa relations, saying that the statements ignored the fundamental facts and smeared China arbitrarily, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

Spokesperson Zhao Lijian made the remarks at a news briefing when asked for comment to Pompeo's statements, in which he blamed China-Africa cooperation and China's transparency in handling COVID-19.

Since COVID-19 broke out, China has always acted in an open, transparent and responsible manner and provided timely information to the World Health Organization and relevant countries and regions including the United States, Zhao said.

China also shared the genome sequence of the virus, actively responded to the concerns of others, and strengthened cooperation with all sides, the spokesperson said, adding China has bought time and made



positive contributions to the global fight against the virus.

Zhao said China will work with the international community to step up support for African countries and earnestly act on the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative.

"Some African countries have applied for such suspension with China. And we are now working on the specific details through close coordination and consultation to ease their debt burden and help them tide over the difficulties," Zhao said.

"We hope that the United States will focus on its own epidemic response and also contribute to the global fight against the virus through concrete deeds, instead of undermining and smearing other countries' response and spreading the 'political virus,'" he said.

The African countries and the international community at large have no difficulty in telling who is genuinely helping Africa and who is politicizing the debt issue, Zhao added.

Xinhua

US authorities start recertification flights for Boeing 737 MAX

SAN FRANCISCO

THE U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) started Boeing 737 MAX recertification test flights on Monday, marking a major step toward the aircraft's return to service after being grounded.

A Boeing 737 MAX aircraft departed from Boeing Field in Seattle, U.S. state of Washington, on Monday morning for the first round of testing, said the FAA said in a statement, confirming that the administration and Boeing are conducting a series of certification flights this week to evaluate Boeing's proposed changes to the automated flight control system on the 737 MAX.

The certification flights, which are expected to take approximately three days, will include a wide array of flight maneuvers and emergency procedures to assess whether the changes meet FAA certification standards. The tests are



being conducted by test pilots and engineers from the FAA and Boeing.

"While the certification flights are an important milestone, a number of key tasks remain. The FAA is following a deliberate process and will take the time it needs to thoroughly review Boeing's work. We will lift the grounding order only after we are satisfied that the aircraft meets certification standards," the FAA said.

Boeing's 737 MAX jets have been grounded across the globe since early March last year following more evidence emerging indicates that its key flight control software played a part in two deadly air crashes in less than one year. **Xinhua**

Israeli minister signals major West Bank annexation move not imminent

JERUSALEM

AN Israeli minister played down yesterday the likelihood of major moves to annex Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank on July 1, the planned starting point for cabinet debate on the issue.

Zeev Elkin, a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party, said Israel still did not have the green light it seeks from Washington to be-

gin extending its sovereignty to parts of the West Bank, territory Palestinians seek for a state.

Palestinian leaders, the United Nations, European powers and Arab countries have all denounced any annexation of land that Israeli forces captured in a 1967 war.

"Whoever painted a picture of everything happening in one day on July 1, did so at their own risk," Elkin, minister of higher education, told Army Radio

when asked what would happen on Wednesday. "From tomorrow, the clock will start ticking."

No cabinet session for Wednesday has been announced.

U.S. officials are in Israel as part of the White House's efforts to win consensus within its government for annexation as envisioned in an Israeli-Palestinian peace plan announced by President Donald Trump in January.

The proposal calls for Israeli sovereignty over about 30% of



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

the West Bank - land on which Israel has built settlements for decades - as well as the creation of a Palestinian state under strict conditions.

Palestinians say the blueprint would make statehood, in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, unviable, and most world powers view Israel's settlements on occupied land as illegal. Netanyahu says the Jewish people have a legal, historic and moral claim to the West Bank, the bibli-

cal Judea and Samaria.

Netanyahu and his main coalition government partner, Defence Minister Benny Gantz, are at odds over annexation, which the right-wing prime minister has promoted.

In an interview with the YNet news site on Tuesday, Gantz repeated his call for Israel to try to enlist Palestinian and international support for the Trump plan before proceeding with a unilateral annexation move.



Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) FC defender, Omary Kunambi (L), in action during the Second Division League (SDL)'s Group C final match pitting the squad against Tukuyu Stars at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya on Monday. DTB FC edged Tukuyu Stars 2-1, with Dickson Rweyemamu and Edwin Balauna netting for the former on the seventh and 75th minutes respectively, whereas Tukuyu Stars' goal was netted by Oscar Mwachanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DTB

A how-to: BET pulls off artistic, virtual, political success

NEW YORK

YOU'd think trying to produce the 2020 BET Awards during the coronavirus pandemic would be filled with restrictions, but instead, show producers took another approach: We're not limited to a single stage, so sky's the limit and let your creative minds run free.

That's the model the producers of the show ran with when crafting the special event, which was a major success Sunday night and one of the first virtual awards shows of the coronavirus era. While abiding by safety guidelines and rules set in place by government officials to prevent the virus from spreading, the BET Awards featured highly produced, artsy pre-taped performances from DaBaby, Megan Thee Stallion, John Legend and Alicia Keys, while also addressing current issues in the world about the Black Lives Matter movement, police brutality and inequality.

"The irony of it is that we are in a situation where we are 'locked down' and can't do this and can't do that. But the truth is that, in this particular platform, it's actually very freeing," Jesse Collins, the longtime BET Awards producer, said in an interview Monday. "Creatively, it's very freeing."

Connie Orlando, BET's executive vice president of specials, music programming and music strategy, echoed Collins' thoughts.

"A show with COVID is challenging because of all the regulations and safety. Also, it takes the guardrail off. You're not limited to just being in a venue on a 100-foot stage. You can kind of let your imagination go wild and really create art and pieces that are epic," she said.

ViacomCBS, BET's parent company, had a COVID-19 task force in place, which helped BET keep safety at the forefront of production. The show's production was monitored by lawyers and experts in production, safety and risk management.

"If we wanted to change something or do it in a different way, they would tell us," Orlando said. "They're looking at the federal guidelines, the state, local laws, as well as the unions."

Sunday's night show celebrated the 20th anniversary of the awards show and BET's 40th year as a network. Orlando said though other networks canceled awards shows and special events, BET was always going to try to hold on: "Never in my mind was it that we would cancel it."

From its opening number, which included performers like Chuck D, Nas, Questlove and 12-year-old sensation Keedron Bryant rapping and singing about the Black experience to DaBaby's gripping performance as he emulated the last few moments of George Floyd's life by rapping as a police officer pressed his knee on his neck, the BET Awards stood out in major way.

On Monday morning TV Guide ran the headline: "The 2020 BET Awards Set a Bar for Award Shows in the COVID-19 Era." NME called the show "absolutely vital."

"Rather than the lo-fi, at-home performances from couches and kitchens that have become standard television fare during the Covid-19 crisis, BET provided budgets for its far-flung talent to produce remote segments that

were often more like mini-music videos than the typically raw and sometimes glitchy live awards-show stagings," the New York Times reported.

Orlando said BET's nicely produced special "Saving Our Selves: A BET COVID-19 Relief," which aired in April, helped the team prep for the BET Awards. "We learned in that one because that was the first time we were all home."

Collins said they were developing the awards show for the last 2 1/2 months, but "things didn't really come together until the last two weeks."

"We were still locking and getting final performances on Saturday morning. It still kind of came in last minute," he continued.

He said his team and the artists collaborated on each performance, trying to be as creative as possible. Collins said the performances were filmed "all across the country": Keys taped her slot in downtown Los Angeles, Roddy Ricch filmed in Carlsbad, near San Diego, and Megan Thee Stallion brought the film "Mad Max" to life as she twerked and rapped in the desert.

"I think there was an expectation, well I know there was an expectation because I saw it on Twitter, that it was going to be very low production value, everybody at home, just not very engaging or exciting," Collins said. "I just knew people wanted something different. When we started speaking to the artists about how we wanted to do this differently, the artist community responded back right away. Everybody was in. Nobody was really excited to perform on their couch or their backyard."

DaBaby's performance was the most striking, and Collins said as the world changed, so did the ideas for that performance.

"That creative, he threw it out. He came up with his new idea and he was super passionate about it and was very specific and knew exactly what he wanted. They shot it and he delivered. It was a breakout stand out moment," Collins said.

The BET Awards have always been a stage where Black artists have spoken and sang about race, disparities and more, from Kendrick Lamar rapping on top of a police car with a large American flag waving behind him to Janelle Monae and Jidenna wearing large "I'm a Classic Man" signs around their necks, a reference to the historic "I Am a Man" civil rights era protest signs.

But this year, as the world continues to protest following the deaths of Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery and others, speaking out boldly felt more relevant than ever.

"This year was almost like a perfect storm. I think over decades music and musicians have always used their art for activism ... (and) BET has always been the platform to amplify our voices," Orlando said. "We freely and openly embrace that because that's who we are as a network and what we always want to be to our audience and to the world. We are unapologetic and authentic."

"To be able to be that platform during this time, like, my heart is just so full."

AP

Aces cricketers seek to turn into dominant force in Kazim Nasser Tournery

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM cricket giants, Aces Club, has expressed intention to mount a successful quest for the trophy in Division A of this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)-organized Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML).

The Kazim Nasser Memorial League is among several tournaments organized by the regional cricket governing body with a view to raising the standard of the sport at the domestic level.

Aces Club's founder and senior player, Azim Thakur, disclosed that the outfit will field two squads in the tournament.

The tournament will, as disclosed by DC, will have three tiers, namely Division A which will have participating sides competing in T50 matches, Division A1 and Division B which will see the competitors lock horns in T30 games.

Thakur pointed out Aces A will take part in the Division A event, whilst Aces B will play in the Division A1 event.

The two squads, he disclosed, had lately been going for intensive training in the city to stay in great shape ahead of the competition, which started last weekend.

"After a successful spell in the previous season, a lot was expected from us, to start with, until the coronavirus pandemic brought everything all over the world to a standstill," he stated.

Sporting activities in Tanzania had, for over two months, been suspended as per the government's directives with a view to containing the coronavirus outbreak.

Sports were then given green light to restart early this month, with the participants and fans being urged to duly follow health precautions.

Aces A, according to Thakur, will be going into the Division A event as underdogs as the side has never had a reputation of pulling off good results in the long format of the sport.

Thakur noted Aces Club believes that persistence conquers resistance, adding that the outfit's tendency to keep on working hard has helped it become a team of excellent players.

"Coming into the T50 competition, Aces have added an U-19 player, Emmanuel Laurent, as the club continues to expose the local talent," he noted.

"We have also roped in two more



Aces cricketers in a group photo before taking part in a recent training session in Dar es Salaam. The outfit will feature in this season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML), organized by Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC). PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACES CLUB

experienced players from outside Dar es Salaam, namely Kibwana Salum from Morogoro and Nassib Kelvin from Arusha."

"Both are well experienced players and they will add a lot of variety and stability to the squad."

Aces, Thakur disclosed, are also excited to see some other young guns in Dar es Salaam join different clubs in the city and the side expects that the boys will perform well for themselves and their clubs.

"We always believe a star is not born overnight, continuous effort is required to get the best out of the lad, similarly an outfit cannot reach competitive level without discipline, team work, training and ethics," he added.

He further said Aces B will start their campaign in the new season by locking horns with General Petroleum B in the Division A1 event's clash slated for July 5 at Leaders Club ground.

The Aces A side, he noted, will open its quest for the top honour in Division A by locking horns with General Petroleum A in a clash which will be played at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club oval on July 7.

"The T30 clash is absolutely a different ball game and the game is going to, at different level, be about patience. It is about holding and playing the game on the merit, which are different from the shorter formats," he stated.

"It is a game of absorbing pressure, defending, holding your guns and counter attacking."

"Aces do have enough firepower in

both of their teams, our experienced player Waheed Mushtaq, for instance, has reversed his decision to retire and has decided to continue playing."

Aces, he disclosed, have further been boosted by the presence of experienced players Ajith Shetty, Raj Jathan and 'spin wizard' Jatin Prajapati that have joined the side this season.

"This is also going to be a test to Aces A players in the likes of Salum Jumbe and Ali Mpeka that are as well featuring for the senior national squad."

"Aces As Mohamed Ali, who was the top wicket taker for national side in a recent tour of Zimbabwe, and Jumanne Mohamed, will equally be under scanner."

"Jumanne had mixed outing last year, when he topped the batting charts in the start of the year but then experienced dip in form at the end of the year."

"We are also hopeful for our players, Ankit and Ejaz Aziz, to play their flawless game, Nassib wants to remind fans that he can also do a lot with the bat."

The Aces boss also pointed out the squad's experienced performer Bhavesh Govind will be continuing his stint at Aces A.

Thakur stated he has decided to feature for Aces B squad and has promised to put impressive show in the tournaments.

He maintained believes this season's tournaments promise to be either a race for or a show of excellence and passion.

"When either fans or our club's members are asked to mention the best cricket club in Tanzania, the answer is

Aga Khan SC," he noted.

"The club is an institution where players are made and, hence, every club in Tanzania wants to reach to that level of excellence."

The KNML is held annually in memory of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Event and Tournament Manager, Kazim Nasser, who passed away in the city in 2015.

Nasser was a respected cricket official, who also served in other positions in the national cricket governing body and the then Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC) for over a decade.

The official oversaw successful organizations of various top domestic tournaments and international competitions, which took place in the country.

Nasser had been one of senior players at Union Club before moving to cricket administration and he last played for the side in TCA competitions in 2006.

He also played for senior national cricket team in the ICC Africa Qualifiers for the World Cricket League, which took place in the city the same year.

Lessons for sports from COVID-19 outbreak

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AS we all continue striving to find our feet in these still fraught and perilous times for humanity, it must no doubt come as a significant consolation that the line-up of sports which are returning to business as usual continues to lengthen by the day.

Indeed, apart from our most exalted football league here on the home front, the Mainland Premier League, other sporting competitions which have taken a real stab at picking up from where they left off include the Bundesliga of Germany, La Liga of Spain, the USA PGA Golf Tour and also South Korea's pre-eminent football league among a few others.

In addition, other especially prominent global sporting brands like the NBA, for one, are in the midst of preparing to return to live basketball games, which must come as music to the ears of all connoisseurs of basketball on terra firma.

Still, despite the understandable elation over the return of live sports, this writer is left to ponder on whether there are any significant lessons which the particularly lucrative international sporting arena can glean from the potentially threatening COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, it is commonly acknowledged that COVID-19 is one of those unforeseen and unpredictable catastrophes which emerged totally out of the blue to take a severe and costly toll on the lives of the denizens of this planet.

Thus, bearing in mind that the COVID-19 pandemic was a cataclysm that took us completely unawares, one wonders whether continental sports administrators would be able to take any other unplanned for and sudden disasters, be they man-made or natural in their stride if such devastatingly damaging events were to be a nasty surprise that occurs during one of Africa's most prestigious



Simba players celebrate after their team mate had scored for the squad in a recent Vodacom Premier League clash, which was played in Dar es Salaam.

sporting championships such as the All Africa Games, which is sort of like the continent's answer to the multi-sports Olympic Games and the AFCON finals among others.

Perhaps, in order for us to get a firmer grasp of the central issue of this sporting narrative, it would be of massive assistance if we were to take a hypothetical example in order to illustrate just how critical it is for African sports bodies to develop contingency plans in the event of another epic crisis totally emerging from the shadows during one of the continent's immensely treasured sports competitions.

For example, imagine if the much-cherished AFCON finals were taking place in the South African country 'E', which has long enjoyed a sterling image as being one of the continent's havens of peace ala Tanzania.

Two weeks into these AFCON finals, a tremendously lethal cyber-attack infects

the online systems of the organizing committee of the host country 'E' and the contagion or malware also spreads to the computers which are being used by African, European and South American sports journalists who are beavering away penning their stories in the Main Media Station of the championship.

To those who are in the dark over exactly what function a Main Media Station serves, the station's primary function is to act as a newsroom for the assemblage of sports and football writers who are covering the AFCON finals from countries on the continent and the rest of the globe.

Having clarified that specific matter, let us now return to the major thrust of this commentary.

If, as our hypothetical example establishes, a cyber-attack were to strike and completely disable the proper functioning of all computer and online systems of the main media station of our

AFCON finals host country 'E', would they be able to hastily fall back onto a 'Plan B' so as to ensure that the tournament in its entirety is NOT wasted?

At this crucial juncture, it is important for us not to lose sight of the fact that the aforesaid scenario involving the country 'E' as the hosts of the AFCON finals and the cyber-attack that she suffered was merely a hypothetical example used to ram home one essential lesson, which is: as the COVID-19 pandemic so vividly illustrated, African sports administrators must always have a 'Plan B' to fall back upon so that unforeseen disasters in the future do not spark widespread panic and alarm during one of the continent's premier sporting events.

On a final note, this writer would like to extend the heartiest of congratulations to Simba Sports Club, who last Sunday carted home the 2019-2020 Mainland Premier League title. Spectacular stuff Simba!

Why Dortmund's Haaland shouldn't rush his next big move

BERLIN

AS Erling Haaland closes in on the end of his breakthrough season, another year at Borussia Dortmund will serve him just fine. The Norway international's one-year express journey from a mere talent to a household name in world football is possibly one of the most remarkable stories of the year.

Dortmund's January signing from FC Salzburg hit the Bundesliga like a whirlwind, with nine goals from his first six league appearances; his tally after the COVID-19 break stands at the slightly more humanly comprehensible four from their final seven league outings of the 2019-20 campaign, which wrapped up on Saturday.

While Haaland's early productivity was nothing short of breathtaking, it's worth noting that he slotted into an already free-scoring Dortmund team. Lucien Favre's side had scored 18 goals from the previous six league matches prior to the winter break, and you'd be hard pressed to find a more friendly environment in which a centre-forward could thrive. With the mesmeric attacking movement produced by Jadon Sancho, Thorgan Hazard, Marco Reus and Julian Brandt – supplied by the most attacking-minded pair of wing-backs in European football, Achraf Hakimi and Raphael Guerreiro – the spectacular Borussia Dortmund side were hitting a peak. That said, Haaland was by no means a freeloader; he has very much added to the party.

Equally, as Dortmund have hit a slump in form in the past weeks, Haaland's impact has logically diminished. The 2-0 defeat to Mainz at home on June 16 was arguably Dortmund's poorest performance of the season, with the attacking movement, rhythm and cohesion in the last third – that we have become so accustomed to – completely absent. Haaland, too, looked out of place and pace and uncharacteristically lethargic, hardly being involved throughout the 90 minutes.

Yet perhaps this was understandable with no league title left for Dortmund to chase, Bayern Munich having wrapped up their eighth straight win that same week. Haaland in particular is a passionate player who responds to the situation and, especially, to the crowd. With less to play for and in the absence of the usual 80,000 roaring him on, perhaps it's not surprising that his performances have dipped.

Dortmund's have, too. And however talented the teenager is, he's not a one-man team. Although in terms of skill set and attributes, he is one of the few centre-forwards at the top level who's fully capable of creating opportunities – and indeed goals – on his own, even he is still at the mercy of the machinery around him.

In many respects, Haaland's first six months at Borussia Dortmund have been nothing but a huge bonus. While it looked likely that he had the capacity to successfully jump from Norwegian and Austrian football to the higher demands of the Bundesliga, he's shown it sooner than probably anyone expected. He has looked sharper mentally, the breaks he used to take during the games are shorter now and – despite some fitness issues in the past weeks – he's increasingly showing the ability to last the whole 90 minutes.

There's no doubt that Dortmund have a plan in mind for the further development of Haaland, and their influence is already being seen. The essence of an enthusiastic, powerful centre-forward who thrives when the game opens up is still in evidence, yet certain technical aspects of his game seem to have improved since his move to Germany. He recently came off the bench to score a stoppage-time winner against Fortuna Dusseldorf with a well-directed header – his first

headed league goal since he left Norway – and he also seems more interested in, and comfortable at, receiving the ball with his back to the goal, as opposed to his previous tendency of always wanting to exploit space, either wide or behind the defence. Yet his aggressiveness, fearlessness and directness remain the staple features of his game, along with his trigger-happy left foot.

It will be exciting to see how he performs in 2020-21, which, as he has now become an integral part of the Dortmund team, should be his real “kick-on” season. Finally having some stability, after moving in quick succession from Norway to Austria and then Germany, should help his development – assuming he stays to continue it at the Westfalenstadion. And really, although it's tempting to envisage Haaland pulling on even more famous shirts than the yellow Borussia Dortmund kit, there's hardly any better place for him to progress.

The comparisons with Robert Lewandowski may stop with the position on the pitch and the fact that he, too, was pulled from relative obscurity – in his case Lech Poznan – but it's no coincidence that Poland's record scorer made the step from a prospect to the finished article at the same club. Lewandowski, perhaps the defining centre-forward of the past decade, might not have become the same player if it wasn't for the environment of meticulous and cutting-edge player development that the German club has cultivated.

While Haaland's impact might have slowed from “sensational” to “fine” – at least by the standards one has come to expect from the teenager – it certainly hasn't wiped the 19-year-old off the shortlists of the eight to 10 high-spending European elite clubs. However, it's clear that €80-100 million – the amount said to be the minimum for Dortmund to even pick up the phone – will be harder to come by in the coming transfer windows. Partly because most clubs are still months away from understanding the exact financial harm the coronavirus pandemic has caused throughout the football economy, and partly because the higher end of the transfer market is still affected by bewilderment of what the new reality might entail in terms of transfer value and prices.

In fact, the two most recent “benchmark” transfers at the higher end of the market this summer are Mauro Icardi's €50m move from Internazionale to Paris Saint-Germain – in which the French giants exercised a buyout option that was negotiated back when the financial climate was less unpredictable – and Timo Werner's move from RB Leipzig to Chelsea for the same amount, which was subject to a predetermined buyout clause. In other words, neither of those deals were heavily compromised or discounted by the pandemic, as the conditions were already set out some time ago (although Liverpool allegedly pulling out of the race for Werner because of uncertainty about the price might be a sign of the prudence that could affect the market).

Consequently, the chance of Haaland moving this summer is probably reduced to the off chance of a financially stable club seizing the moment of a volatile financial climate to make an opportunistic strike – both Manchester clubs immediately spring to mind.

Dortmund will hope that Haaland wouldn't yet be tempted by any such offer, and that the incentive to go one better and try to topple Bayern next season will be enough to keep him for at least one more year. However, with clubs also circling for Borussia Dortmund's other stars – namely Brandt and Sancho – it could be that if they lose one of them and become less competitive, they could quickly end up losing all three.

ESPN

How Benzema has thrived for Real Madrid since Ronaldo left

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

IN all the fuss made over Karim Benzema elevating himself to fifth in Real Madrid's all-time scoring list and Sergio Ramos' latest goals making him La Liga's most prolific defender, there's an important stat that has been given zero attention. But it also involves Madrid's brilliant French hybrid striker.

Since Cristiano Ronaldo left, abruptly, for Juventus in the summer of 2018, Los Blancos have won three trophies; it's foolish for anyone to try to claim that they've been a mess without him. However it's widely felt that there's a direct correlation between CR7 leaving and Madrid suddenly becoming mortal in the competition they've dominated in recent history: the Champions League. Nor were they, last season, even vaguely competitive in the race for the Spanish title.

Since Ronaldo packed his bags and added a new kit to his collection, there has been a suspicion – and even some finger-pointing – that Madrid's remaining players shrank in his absence, that they felt reduced without their longtime prince of the penalty box. The revolving door that has whisked coaches in and out has also made both Valdebebas and the Santiago Bernabeu hard, thankless, unforgiving places of work.

In 2018, Zinedine Zidane left, of his own accord, in search of regenerated energy after winning three Champions Leagues. From the Frenchman's point of view it constituted a little warning to his president, Florentino Perez, that: “If you want things your way, not mine, then you'll have to sail the ship without me.”

Julen Lopetegui, pretty miserably, was in and out in a matter of weeks as his replacement, the Basque's opportunity to win the World Cup as Spain coach left in tatters. Santi Solari – bright, articulate, modern, obstinately wedded to a set of clear playing principles – arrived (and soon left again), asked to bail his club out of extremely stormy waters, cast aside as soon as Perez grew weary of being patient. Back came Zidane, initially to grave doubts about whether or not second comings were visionary or vexed.

Throughout all this, with the consistency of a metronome, Benzema stepped up to the plate. Despite a football club's version of chaos around him, despite suddenly playing an entirely different role to the “domestique” characteristics he'd adopted in order to help team leader Ronaldo flourish, despite massive new responsibility and pressure – while surrounded by a midfield that was putting in some paper-thin performances last season – the Frenchman has now amassed the superb total of 52 goals since he, and his club, said adios to their No. 7 nearly two full seasons ago.

I think this is remarkable. Just stop there and think about it. Some strikers take three seasons to even sniff that total. Benzema did it in 93 matches, significantly better than a goal every two games on average. The fact that he has been in his early 30s for the majority of the period in question, and often having to perform as the sole “central” striker, tells a deeply significant story. Simply put, Benzema has been both mentally and physically in shape to take the kicking, the bullying, the pressure and the white-hot intensity of being Madrid's key goal scorer across what will be over a century of matches in two seasons.

Now look at the other stat that helps mark out which attacking players have “the right stuff” and are judged to be elite. On top of those 52 goals, this misjudged, underappreciated, suede-headed



Karim Benzema

Rolls-Royce of a footballer has also thrown in 20 assists for good measure. Far from shrivelling under the pressure of no longer having Ronaldo's relentless demand for goals and victories around him on a daily basis – never mind in big matches – Benzema has treated it like a personal mission to show everyone at his club how to react to adverse circumstances. And if you'll allow me to focus on him in even more detail, you'll see only good things.

Over the past two seasons, Benzema hasn't had the benefit of a centre-forward worthy of the name either to help him, play off him, let him rest or take the burden of goal scoring away from him within games or during a period of drought for the Frenchman.

In their first season post-Ronaldo, Madrid fumbled around for so long in trying to add a striker that they ended up with Mariano, who managed three starts and a total of just over 400 competitive minutes alongside Benzema. How does this Lyon-born lion who grew up idolising the real Ronaldo (Brazilian, brilliant and better than the one who came next) react to such discouraging circumstances? By producing the second-best scoring total (30) of his entire 11-year stint at Madrid.

This term, the Luka Jovic situation has been a joke. Benzema's employers bought a €60m striker whose modus operandi is a repeated flow of great crosses into the box from wide advanced positions despite the fact that Madrid, under Zidane, have a huge predilection for counterattack goals, long-distance shooting and nicely constructed one-touch/two-touch deconstruction of a packed opposition defence. It's not that Madrid never crash the ball in from wide left or right in the manner that a big, burly striker like Jovic years for – it's just that this tactic would be one of the least identifiable parts of the Zidane-Madrid makeup.

The result? Jovic ends up feeling lost, thus slowing down his adaptation, such that his coach loses faith in him; Benzema is again stripped of a strike partner to win him extra space by tying up defenders, losing out on the option of juicy knock-downs or lay-offs from a traditional No. 9. As for Jovic being someone to score the goals that could take the pressure off Benzema when he's exhausted or out of form? Forget it.

All of which takes us to just one more obstacle he has had to cope with this season. The odds were always good that there would be entente cordial between Belgium and France in Madrid's dressing room. Eden Hazard was born to play with Benzema. They get on well off the pitch: One a little more reserved and the other gregarious, living life with a grin and swagger, respectively. But the two share an idea that football should be beautiful, clever, dashing and fun.

Most of you won't remember when radios used to get bad reception, and you'd probably hear about 60% of your favourite new song as the airwaves crackled with static or the signal dipped out before bobbing back up. That's what it's been like watching the “Glimmer Twins” this season.

Hazard arrived in Madrid a little overweight, got injured and then, instantly upon return, showed he's 100% on Benzema's wavelength. It was about to “click” into something velvety and gorgeous before Hazard, through no fault of his own, was injured again. Now that we're all back to watching top-level Spanish football again, it's suddenly a thrill a minute listening to the pretty music the duo make together.

There was evidence against Mallorca. Hazard dropped deep from his new No. 10 role. He backheeled the ball from midfield, without needing to check his accurate mental snapshot that Vinicius and Benzema were brilliantly positioned. When the Brazilian pounced on the possession, what followed was

a sensational one-two as Benzema controlled with one foot and sent a laser-guided pass into Vinicius' Olympic sprinter run through the middle of Mallorca's defence. That Vinicius hit the bar instead of scoring truly matters only to Madrid fans – to the rest of us who love vivacious football, it was unashamedly beautiful.

Not that it bears comparison with Benzema's performance last week against Valencia, when he dominated the best match I've seen around Europe this season.

Having fed off Hazard's neat assist to break open an intriguing and balanced contest that was 0-0 near the hour mark, Benzema still had Spain's goal of the season thus far up his sleeve. After Marco Asensio scored a beauty of his own, celebrating his first competitive touch of the ball after a year out injured, the young Mallorca took a raking crossfield ball from Toni Kroos; Asensio then clipped a hopeful chip inward toward Benzema. On the run, the protagonist of our story juggled possession with the top of his right boot over the intended interception by Hugo Guillamon, didn't break stride, observed the ball dropping just slightly toward his left foot and thundered a volley into the top right-hand corner of Jasper Cillessen's net.

I'm still convinced, even having commented on it live, that skill of such gymnastic balance, at such speed and with milliseconds for decision-making, should pretty much be impossible for human beings. Robot-ninjas in some sort of computer-generated future, perhaps. As it stands, that football work of art should have its own dedicated gallery space in both the Museo del Prado in Madrid and the Louvre in Paris. It was that beautiful.

In summary, if Benzema is underappreciated, it's not because of anything he's doing. It's because those who fail to appreciate him should know better.

Barcelona players turning on Setien - sources

BARCELONA

BARCELONA manager Quique Setien's relationship with his players is already showing signs of straining, with various sources having told ESPN they didn't click from day one.

Barca led La Liga in January when Setien replaced Ernesto Valverde, who was sacked after the Spanish Supercopa defeat to Atletico Madrid in Saudi Arabia. However, Saturday's 2-2 draw at Celta Vigo, coupled with Real Madrid's win at Espanyol on Sunday, saw them fall two points behind Zinedine Zidane's side at the top of the table with just six games to be played.

Setien signed a contract with Barca until 2022 – with a get-out clause in 2021 if the newly elected president does not want him to continue – but results and performances have quickly seen him lose credit with the players and the board of directors.

Luis Suarez appeared to deflect the blame on to Setien in Vigo on Saturday. Asked to explain Barca's poor away form, he told the reporter the players were giving everything on the pitch and that “managers are there for a reason.”

On Monday, Setien tried to play down Suarez's comments in his news conference ahead of Tuesday's clash with Atletico Madrid. He said: “These little controversies will always exist. Everyone has their own way of seeing things. It's normal.”

“I wasn't an easy player, either. We have to convince the players that the common idea is what's important. The communication between us is good and I don't give it any importance.”

“When you don't win, because of an isolated play at a certain moment, like the foul for Celta's equaliser, everyone sharpens the knives. This is the circus we're

involved in. But the relationship we have with the players is good. It's true there are sometimes disagreements, but I don't see any problems worthy of talking about.”

Meanwhile, images over the weekend emerged of Lionel Messi giving Setien's assistant, Eder Sarabia, the cold shoulder in the second half at Balaídos. During the drinks break, Sarabia twice tried to relay information to Messi, but the Argentine captain walked away from him on both occasions.

Sarabia previously made headlines in March, when he drew criticism for his language and touchline demeanour during the 2-0 loss to Madrid at the Santiago

Bernabeu.

Sources have told ESPN that despite Setien's best efforts, he and his coaching staff have struggled to win round the players, many of whom supported Valverde, since taking charge.

Sarabia often leads training sessions, where there has also been conflict. He demands intensity at all times, which has generated moments of tension, forcing Setien to become a firefighter.

Elsewhere, Marc-Andre ter Stegen has preferred to work with Jose Ramon de La Fuente as his goalkeeper coach instead of Jon Pascua, who arrived with Setien in January. The Germany international has

a great relationship with De La Fuente, which has raised questions about the need for two goalkeeping coaches.

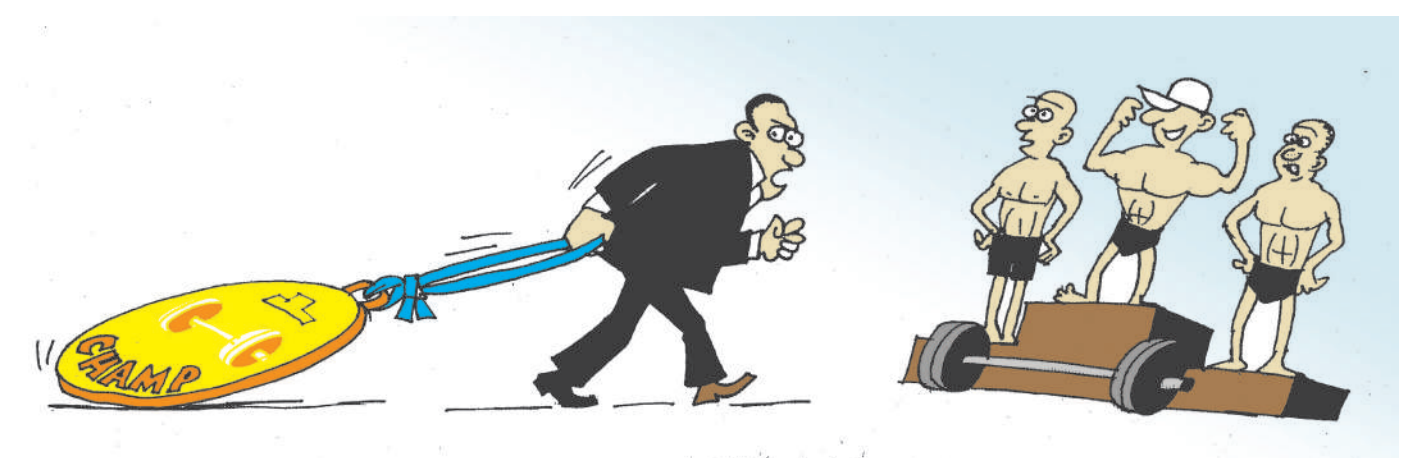
More recently, the doubts the players maintain have extended to the board.

President Josep Maria Bartomeu replaced Valverde with the hope of triggering an attitude change among the squad. But results and performances have left a lot to be desired.

Setien has overseen 17 games since taking charge, winning 11 of them, including all eight at Camp Nou, but results away from home and the level of performances have increased concerns in his ability to manage the club.



Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

How Benzema has thrived for Real Madrid since Ronaldo left

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Mtibwa Sugar players (L-R) forward Jaffary Salum, fullback Kibwana Shomary and midfielder Boban Zirintusa, jubilate when their outfit netted a goal in a recent Vodacom Premier League clash, held in Morogoro. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

Undercooked Pakistan bid to burst England's bubble

LONDON

COACH Misbah-ul-Haq has left no stone unturned in his preparations but Pakistan still look decidedly undercooked for their three-test series against England in August-September.

Skipper Azhar Ali and his squad will discover how much cricket has changed in the six months since their last test, with COVID-19 curbs putting a stop to the use of saliva to shine the ball and forcing games to be played without fans.

The bulk of the squad arrived on Sunday after clearing a battery of tests and the matches will be staged in a bio-secure bubble, which will undoubtedly take some time to get used to.

England, however, should be well-versed in cricket's 'new normal' by the time they face Pakistan, with their home series against West Indies next month to be played in the same kind of bio-secure environment.

Pakistan left England with their heads held high after their last two tours, drawing both, most recently under Misbah in 2018.

But England have not lost a home series since 2014 and Pakistan's callow pace attack looks ill-equipped to end that streak.

Of their frontline quicks, only Mohammad Abbas has played test matches in England, with the exciting Shaheen Afridi and 17-year-old Naseem Shah having only 12 test caps between them.

Medium pacer Sohail Khan, who toured England in 2016 but has not played a test since the Boxing Day match in Australia that year, has been recalled to add his experience.

"In terms of number of games, of course England have tons of experience in their bowling," captain Azhar said before leaving for England on Sunday.

"But we have the skills: (our bowlers) are young and have a lot to offer. They can give trouble to any team in the world." Rory Burns, Dom Sibley, Joe Denly and Zak Crawley are vying for the top three spots in England's top order and Azhar saw an opportunity.

"Looking at their batting, their top order has been fragile for some time since Alastair Cook retired," he said.

Pakistan's bowlers will also be able to call upon the knowledge and experience of coaches Waqar Younis and Mushtaq Ahmed, who won a test series in England in 1996.

Former captain Younis Khan has also come on board as batting coach for the series and has emphasized the importance of Pakistan's batsmen posting a first-innings total in excess of 300 runs.

The onus will be on Azhar and Babar Azam to provide the bulk of those runs, with the other batsmen looking to bat in partnership with the mainstays and counter England's varied pace attack, especially the dangerous Jofra Archer.

REUTERS



Gymkhana's all-rounder, Zamoyoni Ramadhan (L), is presented with man of the match award by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Chairman, Premji Pindoria, after the Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A game pitting the outfit against Strikers A, played at Gymkhana oval in Dar es Salaam last weekend. Gymkhana won by 10 wickets. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAR ES SALAAM CRICKET

Dar Gymkhana cricketers wallop Strikers A in Kazim Nasser tourney

By Guardian Reporter

Gymkhana cricketers have opened their quest for silverware in the Division A of this season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) in grand fashion, thrashing Strikers A by 10 wickets at the former's backyard in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC)-organized competition's only clash of the day brought together outfits, which had on several occasions in the past, set up entertaining duels whenever they locked horns in tournaments.

The last weekend clash, though, was far from a contest, given Gymkhana were in great form in both batting and bowling.

After having been presented with an opportunity to bat first, Strikers A were bowled out for 68 runs in 20.1 overs of the 50-over match.

The outfit's skipper Kishen Kamania, who opened the innings, was so far the batsman with meaningful contribution, record-

ing 17 runs that consisted of four fours.

Strikers A thereafter endured batting collapse, with none of the remaining batsmen managing double digit figures.

Experienced all-rounders, Ashish Kamania and Jatin Darji, could only score five runs apiece in what was an underwhelming showing by the duo.

Kamania's attempt to turn Strikers A's fortunes around was frustrated by Gymkhana's Abhik Patwa, who caught the former from a delivery by Yash Hirwani.

Darji, who had on several occasions put standout performances for the outfit, was a pale shadow of himself at the crease last weekend.

The all-rounder was caught by Gymkhana's wicket keeper, Nasor Zahoro, from a delivery by Hirwani.

Low order batsman, Sachin Kumar Patel, chipped in with four runs for Strikers A.

Gymkhana's pacer, Zamoyoni Ramadhan, tormented Strikers A's batsmen almost at will, ending his spell with five wickets and

conceding 20 runs in eight overs.

Ramadhan's displays were so far the best in the day and he was deservedly presented with the man of the match award.

Hirwani displayed a good bowling performance as well, finishing with three wickets and leaking 18 runs in six overs.

Kartik Syal chipped in with two wickets, leaking two runs in 1.1 overs for the eventual winners.

In response, Gymkhana hardly drained a sweat, reaching the target without loss of wicket in mere 8.1 overs.

Skipper Patwa put up a solid opening stand with Yakesh Patel to steer Gymkhana to the victory, easily punishing Strikers A's bowlers.

Patwa recorded 30 runs not out, cracking six boundaries, Patel posted 19 runs not out, blasting two boundaries.

The KNML is held annually in memory of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Event and Tournament Manager, Kazim Nasser, who passed away in the city in 2015.

Mtibwa Sugar now focus on avoiding relegation to FDL

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

MOROGORO'S Mtibwa Sugar have for the first time conceded they are in difficult position in the Vodacom Premier League and need to step up performance.

Mtibwa Sugar's information officer, Thobias Kifaru, said this season has not been great for the side, much as they have been playing their hearts out in matches.

The Morogoro side is currently placed 13th in the top flight table with 37 points from 32 matches, posting wins in nine, losing 13 and managing draw in 10.

"We are in a truly difficult position, we have been taking part in the top flight for 25 years but I will not forget this season, we are going through a very difficult time," he noted.

"We have not found ourselves lowly positioned for a long time. We are now concentrating on what we have to do."

"Our club's technical bench is seeking to address players' weaknesses, we are also praying to God that we should maintain our spot in the top flight."

"If we manage to cling on to our spot in the top flight, we will start improving the squad next season."

Kifaru, the longest serving information officer at Union Club before moving to cricket administration and he last played for the side in TCA competitions in 2006.

He also played for senior national cricket team in the ICC Africa Qualifiers for the World Cricket League, which took place in the city the same year.

Two mouth-watering duels have been slated for Sunday and Tuesday next week, with Dar es Salaam cricket giants, Caravans and Aga Khan SC, set to lock horns at the Gymkhana oval on Sunday.

General Petroleum Club will confront Aces A at the same venue on Tuesday.

"We will do all we can to post wins in the forthcoming outings in an effort to place ourselves in better position."

In their previous five matches, Mtibwa Sugar cruised to 3-1 win over Kagera Sugar, the Morogoro squad later recorded 1-1 draw with Biashara United.

Mtibwa Sugar then went on to manage 0-0 draw with Coastal Union, thrashed Singida United 3-1 and later conceded 1-0 loss to Mwadui FC last weekend.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



"We have not found ourselves lowly positioned for a long time. We are now concentrating on what we have to do"

TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
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 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kiblashara Zaldi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM