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# 'Students will have more time to learn, prepare final exams'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

STUDENTS who are currently at home following the countrywide closure of schools over the Covid-19 pandemic will be given adequate time to learn and prepare for national examinations once the crisis is over.

The government position was given here on Friday evening following fears that given the time wasted, at the end the government might rush things at the expense of learners, to avoid extending the school calendar.

Prof. Joyce Ndalichako, the minister for Education, Science and Technology said here on Friday that rumours being spread that students will sit for national examinations immediately after schools are reopened are totally misleading. "We are working on a plan that will enable all students to learn and prepare for exams," she said.

She was responding to queries raised by members of Parliament when contributing to the ministry's proposed budget estimates for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

"The government is working on the matter. We are conducting evaluation on how the outbreak of the coronavirus has affected a number of economic areas including the education sector. We will take appropriate measures," the minister affirmed.

"Once the Covid-19 pandemic is over, the government will look into possible ways to ensure students complete required syllabuses. There will be no exams immediately after schools re-opening," she insisted.

She said the government resolved to eliminate charges and fees at its libraries as well as enable free accessibility of learning materials and publications from the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) shortly after schools were



Police and Sugar Board of Tanzania officials pictured yesterday inspecting a consignment of sugar which reports said was suspected to have been illegally imported by a businessman in Moshi Kilimanjaro Region. The price of the sweetener has witnessed a steep rise across Tanzania in recent days, in part on account of genuine and artificial shortage. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## UN agencies start African regional knowledge hub for Covid-19 data

ADDIS ABABA

AS the world grapples with an unprecedented global health crisis of COVID-19, the United Nations is spearheading a digital hub to house information and knowledge resources to assist crucial development partners in fighting the pandemic in Africa.

The virus has caused a global crisis affecting the core of humanity, affecting the social, economic, environment and related spheres, and it is attacking societies indiscriminately. In Africa, the region's fragile health systems and

**The Africa Knowledge Hub for COVID-19 will be a resource open to all users**

economic costs can derail the socio-economic development trajectory of the global Sustainable Development Goals and the regional Agenda 2063 aspirations.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) projects that Africa's GDP growth will decrease by almost half to 1.8 percent. In the region, COVID-19 is already disrupting millions of people's livelihoods, with disproportionate impact on poor households and small and informal businesses.

Evidence-based information and data from credible sources will be key not only to inform the COVID-19 but also to aid the decision-making processes of governments, UN agencies and bilateral development partners to save the lives of people and economies. The Africa Knowledge Hub for COVID-19 will be a

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## Sugar: Officials seize 23 tonnes over wholesale price violations

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

OFFICIALS from the Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) have seized 23 tonnes of imported sugar that was being sold here above indicative prices issued by the government last week.

Working in collaboration with plainclothes police officers, SBT officials stormed storage facilities owned by prominent businesspeople within Moshi municipality yesterday and impounded the cargo.

The tem also impounded a pick up vehicle which was being used to move the stock from a warehouse apparently after learning that the facility was about to be raided.

Speaking after the operation, SBT official

Faustine Mzimba said they acted after learning that the sugar was being wholesale for retailing at 3,400/- per kilo instead of 2,700/- indicative price for Kilimanjaro Region.

The traders also sold 50kg sack of sugar at 135,000/- instead of 128,000/- as indicated, he stated, elaborating that they failed to produce importation documents to justify their sale prices. "They are not honest," he said.

He also accused wealthy traders within the municipality of hoarding substantial amounts of sugar to create artificial shortage with intent to make a killing by hiking prices.

Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga and his Industry and Trade counterpart, Innocent

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## Covid 19: COs seek 3bn/- to aid vulnerable groups

By Guardian Correspondent

CIVIL society organisations in the country have presented to the government a 3bn/- strategic plan for tackling the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the plan, CSOs have identified vulnerable groups to be prioritised including people with disabilities, elderly citizens and children.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam late last week, the Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) Onesmo

ole Ngurumwa said CSOs have decided to offer ideas to the government in the fight against the pandemic.

"We as CSOs cannot remain idle and leave the government tackle the pandemic by itself while we are able to contribute something," he said.

Ole Ngurumwa said CSOs have deeply analyzed effects of the pandemic and how they affect CSOs' performance in the country. They therefore issued recommendations on how they can work

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### SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

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

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

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

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



## Sugar: Officials seize 23 tonnes over wholesale price violations

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Bashungwa, met in Dodoma on Thursday last week and announced cap prices to apply in various regions, with the lowest being 2,600/- per kilogramme and the highest 3,200/-.

Bashungwa started touring local manufacturers yesterday, beginning with Moshi-based TPC factory.

The minister called upon the manufacturers to increase production to end dependency on imports. He said he would continue with the visit to other producers namely Kagera Sugar, Mtibwa Sugar and Kilombero Sugar to check if they adhere to privatization agreements on enhancing production.

But speaking last week, Hasunga said that there has been a shortage of sugar because local producers missed their 2019/2020 targets due to a number of factors, including too much rains, can disease and unforeseen defective machineries in the factories.

He said the demand for table sugar stands at 470,000 tonnes annually, meaning 38,000 tonnes per month, with another 14,000 tonnes required as emergency stock.

Cap prices for residents of Dar es Salaam Region are lowest at: 2,600/- per kilo while those living in Rukwa Region have to part with 3,200/- per kilo, the highest price.

Indicative prices per kilo in other regions are Iringa (2,900/-), Mbeya (3,000/-), Katavi (3,200/-), Ruvuma (3,200/-), Njombe (2,900/-).

Others are Lindi (2,800/-), Mtwara (2,800/-), Arusha (2,700/-), Manyara (2,700/-), Tanga (2,700/-), Coast (2,700/-) Morogoro (2,700/-), Kagera (3,000/-), Mwanza (2,900/-) and Simiyu (2,900/-).

Residents of Shinyanga region will pay 2,900/- per kilo, Geita (2,900/-), Mara (3,000/-), Kigoma (3,200/-), Singida (2,900/-), Tabora (2,900/-), Dodoma (2,900/-) and Songwe (3,000/-), a ministerial statement indicated.

## Covid 19: COs seek 3bn/- to aid vulnerable groups

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jointly with the government to help eradicate the pandemic.

He said apart from assisting special groups, the strategic plan intends to win provision of assistance to other areas including medical equipment and education on the pandemic.

Receiving the strategic plan, the Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Faustine Ndagulile said contributions from various stakeholders in the fight against the pandemic are vital especially at this time when the pandemic is intensifying in Africa.

"We as government accept the plan from CSOs and have identified various areas in their document on how they can work together with the government in this fight as the fight

needs everyone," said Dr Ndagulile.

Speaking on protective equipment against Covid-19 for doctors and nurses when serving patients, the deputy minister said the government was working hard to ensure provision of such protective gear is given first priority to ensure their safety.

Dr Ndagulile's remarks come at a time when the Tanzania Medical Association (TMA) has issued a warning to the government to ensure medical staff obtain protective gear against Covid-19 so as to be effective and safe when serving patients.

Speaking on various ways of controlling the pandemic including 'steam inhalation,' Dr Ndagulile said these can be used only to reduce the extent of the disease to sufferers, insisting that they are not complete for treating the disease.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc director general Hisham Hendi (2nd-L) presents a gift to Vodacom customer Abutwalib Mtua after visiting at Vodashop at the firm's headquarters in Dar es Salaam at the weekend for a first-hand account of the quality of service to customers during these Covid-19 times. Others are Vodacom corporate affairs director Rosalynn Mworira (L) and head of public relations Jacqueline Materu. Photo: Correspondent

## 'Students will have more time to learn, prepare final exams'

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closed mid last month.

Previously, students had to pay some fees to access various educational publications, she said, noting that learning materials for preparatory classes, primary and secondary schools are available at the TIE library.

"Knowing that some students could

face transport challenges to and from the library, we have also come up with educational programmes that are currently aired by televisions and more than 34 community radios," the minister underlined. The programmes were officially launched on April 20th, she said.

She however warned some schools and colleges that have started re-calling students, noting

that stringent measures will be taken against them. The re-opening of schools will only be announced by the president or the prime minister, she emphasized.

Education Shadow Minister Suzan Lyimo told the legislature that there are over 14m students—12, 043, 577 (primary) and 2,023,457 (secondary) staying at home since the government announced the closure of primary and

secondary schools in the wake of the pandemic.

She pushed for facilitating distance learning for primary and secondary school students, referring to other countries which were doing that already.

They are China, Italy, France, Germany and Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Mongolia, and scarcely any African country, observers noted.



Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (2nd-R) pictured in Arusha city at the weekend viewing goods processed by small entrepreneurs using machines designed by the Tanzania Engineering and Manufacturing Design Organisation (TEMDO). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## UN agencies start African regional knowledge hub for Covid-19 data

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resource open to all users," said Oliver Chinganya, Director of the Africa Centre for Statistics.

To mitigate the effects of the pandemic, the United Nations is responding to the crisis as One UN in terms of preparedness, response and provision of updates on the COVID-19 epidemiological situation. The African Knowledge Hub for COVID-19 is a One-Stop-Shop for information and knowledge resources on the pandemic in Africa on strategies and responses by the regional UN development system and development partners to support African governments to strengthen capacities to effectively respond to the pandemic.

The translation of collective UN knowledge into strategic action can guide the efforts of all national and international partners to support national governments.

"This Africa Knowledge Management Hub for COVID-19 is an accessible and interactive repository of interventions, engagements and resources designed to support African governments as they grapple with the epidemiological, socio-economic and governance complexities of the deadly coronavirus," said Raymond Gilpin,

Chief Economist, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa.

The portal will facilitate the regional UN Development System's (UNDS) efforts to identify, select, organize, disseminate and transfer important information, knowledge and expertise existing in the region. This will facilitate quick response to specific national member states' requests in support of Agenda 2030 and 2063, as well as enhance collaboration amongst the regional UNDS in knowledge management.

The hub will focus on developing and providing knowledge services from the wider UN system using intelligent clustering and contextualization by leveraging both human and intelligent machine processes. In addition, the hub will provide an interactive platform for collaboration, consultation and networking on important issues for the development agenda on the continent.

ECA and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) co-convened this initiative together with all UNDS entities. The collaboration is under strengthened integrated data and statistical systems for sustainable development (opportunity/issue based coalition) with technical expertise on the development of the hub provided by ECA.

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Region has received financial contributions and other items from business people and development partners all valued at 140m/- as assistance in the control of Covid-19 infections.

The stakeholders presented their contributions to the Morogoro regional commissioner after promising to do so on April 21 at a meeting that discussed the strategies to prevent the spread of the disease in the region.

Receiving the assistance, the Regional Commissioner Loata Ole

# Moro receives money, items worth 149m/- to fight Covid-19 infections

Sanare thanked all the stakeholders who donated money and other items and assured them they will be put to the intended use.

He also called on the stakeholders

to educate wananchi, especially those in their business places on preventive measures against the pandemic.

The chairman of the Islamic Foundation, Aref Nahdi who donated

10m/- advised the media to convey and stress various directives to wananchi on how to protect themselves against Covid-19 infections.

He said through media outlets many

people will understand on how to effectively guard themselves against the disease.

During an earlier meeting the Regional Commissioner directed

the establishment of various centres along all main roads passing through the town to take temperatures of all passengers before they proceed with their journeys.

# Dr Reginald A. Mengi: His Legacy

**"I always think of ways to do better today than I did yesterday."**



By Nimi Mweta

ONE of the most important roles Dr Reginald Abraham Mengi played for years on end was the unofficial or rather muted one as a consultant for all manner of members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Tanzania.

There was a continual though not consistent or regular tendency of consulting the industrialist and philanthropist at his IPP head office working station or elsewhere, but his role in "silent diplomacy" complemented official efforts as he always served as a helping hand in various national campaigns.

Of course, by the very nature of that role, this will not have necessarily pleased everyone - as it is not always that heads and other personnel of diplomatic missions consult a local businessman or some other notable person merely for a cup of tea or coffee. Indeed, the predominant belief would likely be that the occasion involved some strategic issues especially hard to tackle.

Obviously, the diplomatic personnel and especially heads of missions at the bilateral and multilateral levels knew that Dr Mengi wasn't a decision maker in the public sector, but they will not have been blind to the fact that he carried immense weight in fashioning opinion in civil society - particularly the private sector.

In certain areas the philanthropic industrialist could become part of a campaign if this was what some diplomatic mission or international organisation sought from him, and they had no doubt whatsoever that he had special zeal for societal programmes and projects that made a difference.

For instance, it would be difficult in the 1990s and early 2000s even merely to remotely suggest that such and such among the numerous tree planting projects implemented in different parts of Tanzania was doing without some form of support from Dr Mengi.

While it isn't possible to decipher someone's mind and find out precisely how that person had something for each sector of society without being wholly identified with any particular sector, it is possible to sketch some starting points in the case of Dr Mengi.

One obvious parameter is that he was himself in the private sector while also knowing the public sector so much through and through that

## Silent diplomat Dr Mengi triumphed in his 'balancing act' with various groups



IPP Executive Chairman Dr Reginald Mengi has an audience with the French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier, in Dar es Salaam.

he was at times better positioned to advise foreign experts about reform in Tanzania than some public sector officials.

It is easy to see what he would at times exchange ideas with foreign diplomats from the viewpoints of both the private sector and the public one. Hus, he must have fully understood that the mainstay of most modern economies is a working private sector.

One area where a senior government official or highly placed public sector bureaucrat would not have fared very

well in diplomatic conversation was the way of looking at economic reforms, say, from 1986 onwards.

Sometime during the mid-1980s to early 1990s, when the presence and impact of Dr Mengi as a "silent diplomat" was yet to be noticeably felt and recognised, the predominant view could have been seen as largely in consonance with that of foreign diplomatic corps - which was that Tanzania needed more and more reform.

This was especially true from early

1986 to early 1993, after which the whole idea of strategic privatisation elicited mixed feelings.

After the selling off or liquidation of loss-making parastatals, dissenting voices recommended a halt to the reforms at least by ensuring that profit-making parastatals continued to run like the state-owned or state-supported 'jewels' indications were that they were.

Glimpses of Dr Mengi's role in this debate and how it involved continued consultations with foreign diplomats soliciting his views could be discerned

from what was being said until as recently as just about the middle of last year.

Dr Mengi's chairmanship of various advisory bodies in the private sector generally and the business community in particular had unparalleled influence in reaching compromises about the sort of legal and structural parameters the reforms called for and would benefit from.

Specifically, the issue was how to privatise - or restructure - this or that parastatal in line with what foreign

economic policy makers would see as minimally acceptable, while not putting much more in the 'mouths' of top-level bureaucrats than they could 'swallow'.

One can easily see how many people would thus depend on Dr Mengi's input in the 'fine tuning' of their strategic or negotiating positions, with the result that the process went on *cahin-caha* - the French for 'with difficulty'.

Still, it must be readily admitted or rather forcefully emphasized that Dr Mengi wasn't giving out his specific business outlook but was merely trying to help individuals or groups with diametrically opposed sentiments meet halfway and put up something credible.

As to how faulty it still was would be something to deliberate on manage in the future, but for the moment compromise would be struck - much like in the famous 1938 Munich Agreement - to realise 'peace in our time'.

In that case, when one encounters failed privatisations like that of telecommunications, the national airline and the national energy parastatal in the plan to sell shares, it isn't to Dr Mengi that one should direct the criticism.

The fact is that these were entirely different matters in that, if there was a will to privatise on the part of the government, there would have been little need to invite Dr Mengi's views in the first place. The explanation here is that negotiations between top ministerial officials and international agencies - or foreign companies and local business groups - would have been dealt with, perhaps to satisfaction.

Dr Mengi's own views would have been aired in the business groups, which is where he would be said to properly belong. However, in the wake of the stymied dialogue between officialdom and multilateralism, his voice was one of understanding for both sides, a rare balance.

Dr Mengi had an audience with a wide range of foreign diplomatic personnel, quite often at a venue of his own choice - and with him as the host.

Even this alone strongly suggested that the widely acclaimed industrialist was up to speed on many issues relating to local, national, regional, continental and international developments and how to approach them - most importantly, with the interests of his country and nation fully at heart.



Dr Mengi and Republic of Korea's Ambassador to Tanzania, Song Geum-young, engaged in talks in Dar es Salaam.



Dr Mengi holds talks with Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, Hanne-Marie Kaarstad, in Dar es Salaam.

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

## 'Protect the welfare of draught donkeys'

THE government has been called upon to introduce by-law that will protect donkeys from being or slaughtered.

The chairman of Singida district council Elia Digha issued the call at a councillors' meeting.

Digha stressed that it would be almost impossible for residents in the district to exist without donkeys, hence it is high time for the animals were legally protected.

"Donkeys help us a lot, they are being sold like chicken and nothing is being done about it... they are being annihilated like nobody's business ... why are many factories being established for our donkeys to be slaughtered for its meat?" Msange queried.

Digha was also irked by the decision to allow foreigners to bring in their black donkeys while slaughtering our own donkeys.

INADES-Tanzania Instructor Grace Mketto said her organization in collaboration with the ministry are in the process to ensure the protection of the donkeys.

She said they are conducting campaigns to ensure Tanzanian donkey sis not stolen or slaughtered.

"We are working together with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and finally we will have robust strategies for the protection of donkeys," she added.

Participating in the debate one Councillor Iddi Kijida said before the district was separated with Ikungi, donkeys were being slaughtered at Damankiya village, hence the decided to make a bylaw to protect the them.

He said in the event the population of the donkeys becomes big, we shall discuss and decide among ourselves whether to sell them for meat.

Ikhanoda Ward Councillor Hinga Mnyawi said there was a by-law made by the council banning donkeys to be used as 'beasts of burden', it was seen as against its rights, and hence Damankiya villagers started slaughtering them for meat.

The donkey or ass is a domesticated member of the horse family, Equidae. The wild ancestor of the donkey is the African wild ass.. The donkey has been used as a working animal for at least 5000 years.

There are more than 40 million donkeys in the world, mostly in underdeveloped countries, where they are used principally as draught or pack animals. Working donkeys are often associated with those living at or below subsistence levels. Small numbers of donkeys are kept for breeding or as pets in developed countries.

A male donkey or ass is called a jack, a female a jenny or jennet; a young donkey is a foal. Jack donkeys are often used to mate with female horses to produce mules; the biological 'reciprocal' of a mule, from a stallion and jenny as its parents instead, is called a hinny.

Asses were first domesticated around 3000 BC, probably in Egypt or Mesopotamia, and have spread around the world. They continue to fill important roles in many places today. While domesticated species are increasing in numbers, the African wild ass is an endangered species. As beasts of burden and companions, asses and donkeys have worked together with humans for millennia.



Residents of Dar es Salaam's Goba Matosa suburb plant bamboos on the banks of Mbezi River yesterday in a desperate attempt to prevent soil erosion from further threatening to demolish their houses. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Reporter

## Govt installs dialysis machines for Covid-19 patients

THE government has installed three dialysis machines at Amana Hospital in Dar es Salaam Region for Covid-19 patients with kidney complications.

In medicine, dialysis is the process of removing excess water, solutes, and toxins from the blood in people whose kidneys can no longer perform these functions naturally. This is referred to as renal replacement therapy.

A dialysis machine is used in dialysis that filters a patient's blood to remove excess water and waste products when the kidneys are damaged, dysfunctional, or missing. The dialysis machine itself can be thought of as an

artificial kidney.

Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) said in a statement yesterday that it had already fitted the machines for clinical purification of blood valued at 210m/-, adding that it was also to install one ventilator worth 56m/- at the facility designated for Covid-19 patients.

A statement issued by MNH Public Relations Officer Aminiel Aligaesha said the machines were already being used on patients with kidney complications since Friday last week.

"Covid-19 patients receiving dialysis

service are not being charged; their treatment cost is borne by the government through MNH," reads the statement.

In addition MNH has installed a Portable RO valued at 28m/- including water network thereof valued at 12m/- to enable the dialysis machine work properly.

The statement further said beginning 28 April 2020 MNH will start receiving doctors and nurses from Amana Referral Hospital for capacity building in using dialysis machines including on

the functioning of five different types of Intensive Care Units (ICUs).

The statement said MNH, through Upanga and Mloganzila Hospitals received 93 patients from Amana referral Hospital including 30 babies (under one month) with their mothers, 36 pregnant women, 10 surgical patients and 13 other patients.

The statement said MNH is working closely with the Dar es Salaam regional government in the process of receiving Covid-19 patients at Amana Hospital and to ensure they receive treatment

appropriately. Aligaesha called on people to continue taking preventive measures against the pandemic as given by health experts.

The government shifted all patients who were receiving treatment at Amana Referral Hospital a week ago to other hospitals to give space for the facility to take care of patients with Covid-19 only.

This came hours after Health Minister Ummu Mwalimu directed MNH to stop attending to patients with the symptoms of the Covid-19 so that

the national health facility can focus on its obligation of providing specialised health services to patients suffering from other diseases.

Speaking to the staff of Amana Hospital shortly after visiting it, then Health ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr Zainab Chaula, said all the patients who were receiving treatment at the hospital had been shifted to other government hospitals in Dar es Salaam.

She added that the government had released 200mn/- for minor renovations of buildings at the facility.

**56 YEARS**  
of the Union of  
**Tanganyika and Zanzibar**



H.E. DR. JOHN JOSEPH POMBE MAGUFULI  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



H.E. DR. ALI MOHAMED SHEIN  
PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY  
GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR

The Management and the Staff of **The Guardian Limited** wish to congratulate the **President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. John Joseph Pombe Magufuli, and the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, and all Tanzanians on commemorating 56 years of the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.**

**The Guardian Limited**

### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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#### PUBLIC NOTICE APPLICATION FOR LICENCE

**NOTICE** is hereby given to the public that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has received licence application from the following applicant:

NAME OF APPLICANT	SHAREHOLDER NATIONALITY & PERCENTAGE	TYPE OF LICENCE	AREA OF OPERATION
Axieva Africa Lab Limited (T)	1) Axieva Inc.- 99% UAE, 2) Gaurav Dhingra- 1% Indian	Application Services Licence	National

Pursuant to Section 8 of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of licence to the applicant to reach the Authority, within fourteen (14) days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration when the Authority considers the application.

**Comments should be addressed to:**

**Director General**  
**Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority**  
**Mawasiliano Towers**  
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**P.O. Box 474**  
**14414 DAR ES SALAAM**  
**E-mail: dg@tcra.go.tz**

# Mbeya residents with disabilities underline need to have friendly centre in registration

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PEOPLE with disabilities in Mbeya region have appealed to the government to continue making friendly gadgets and equipment for them to be used in the updating of the second phase of voters' register slated for May 2, this year.

The request was given yesterday by chairman of Tanzania federation of people with disabilities organisation (SHIVYWATA) in Mbeya city Damas Mwambeje, saying some of the challenges facing them during such exercise include unfriendly infrastructures at the registration centres.

SHIVYWATA secretary for Mbeya city, Mawazo Omary, who is also chairman of the disability green zone based at Uyole, said among the challenges include signing using a thumb due to unfriendly equipment.

Omary who has hands disability said last time it was difficult for him to use his thumb until a member of the registration centre came to his

assistance.

He advised Mbeya city council to inform groups of people with disabilities the location of registration centres in every ward for them to participate fully in the exercise.

This paper made efforts to contact Mbeya city director James Kasusura to comment. However, by press time he was not available.



**He advised Mbeya city council to inform groups of people with disabilities the location of registration centres in every ward for them to participate fully in the exercise**



Residents of Gongolamboto in suburban Dar es Salaam look on helplessly yesterday as floodwaters force their way into houses following the blocking of a drainage system supposed to lead into a nearby river. Photo: Correspondent Moshi Lusongo

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Agricultural Research Institute through Uyole centre (TARI-Uyole) in Mbeya region will start imparting the correct crop harvesting technology to farmers in order to reduce harvest loss.

This was announced by TARI-Uyole researcher from Dr Andrew Urrio when he spoke to this paper on the strategies in educating farmers from the crops loss challenge.

He said already had started

# TARI-Uyole launches new technology for better crop production for farmers

imparting the technology to some farmers including education on how to process the crops to protect what they had harvested.

He said the crops storage and

processing department at the research centre had already educated a cross section of farmers on processing some of the crops including soya, beans and yams for making various products

including bread, cakes, buns, juices and biscuits.

He stressed that education on how to preserve crops will increase food security to the farmers as well as add

value for the products' markets.

However Dr Urrio said they were still continuing with efforts against malnutrition by educating wananchi on the proper ways to prepare foods

with all essential nutrients for healthy growth.

Farmers from Tembela ward in Mbeya district had appealed to TARI-Uyole to impart the new harvesting technology to all farmers including lowering the costs thereof.

On farmer, Absalom Mwandafwa was optimistic that the new technology could be a savior for them for the harvesting loss challenge, but the only snag was that such technology does not come cheaply.

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**  
**LABOUR, YOUTH, EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITY**  
**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AUTHORITY**

56th Union Anniversary

**H.E. DR. JOHN POMBE MAGUFULI**  
 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

**H.E. ALI MOHAMED SHEIN**  
 PRESIDENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR

Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB), Management and Staff of the **Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA)** joins all Tanzanians to congratulate His Excellency **Dr. John Pombe Magufuli** and President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar **Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein** for marking **56th anniversary of the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.**

*"Safety and Health at work can save lives, Corona free Tanzania is possible"*

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JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA  
 MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA  
 ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

**MAADHIMISHO YA MIAKA 56  
 YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA**

**Mhe. Dkt. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli**  
 Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania

**Mhe. Dkt. Ali Mohamed Shein**  
 Rais wa Zanzibar na Mwenyekiti wa Baraza la Mapinduzi

Bodi ya Wakurugenzi, Menejimenti na Watumishi wa Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) wanaungana na Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania **Mhe. Dkt. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli**, Rais wa Zanzibar na Mwenyekiti wa Baraza la Mapinduzi **Mhe. Dkt. Ali Mohamed Shein** na Watanzania wote kwa ujumla, katika kuadhimisha miaka hamsini na sita (56) ya Muungano wa Tanganyika na Zanzibar. Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania tunapenda kuahidi kuwa tutaulinda na kuudumisha Muungano wetu.

**'TUZINGATIE MAELEKEZO YA WATAALAM WA AFYA KATIKA KUPAMBANA NA VIRUSI VYA CORONA'**

**'Mungu Ibariki Tanzania'**

**'TUTUMIE MAWASILIANO KUJILETEA MAENDELEO'**

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By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

RUVUMA region anticipates to harvest 30 tonnes of simsim and pigeon peas in the current crops season, according to its Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme.

The RC announced at the weekend when she was officially launching the region's crops auction using 'Warehouse receipts' system for the 2019/20 season.

The launching was held at her office

## Ruvuma region expects to harvest 30 tonnes of simsim, pigeon peas

in Songea before a few newsmen as a precaution measure against Covid-19 infections.

She said the expectations for the season is to collect and sell more than

12 tons of simsim and soya, 17,711 tonnes of pigeon peas and that the auctions will take place at three centres - Songea, Namtumbo and Tunduru.

However, she said this year's auctions

will involve few people who will be representing farmers and buyers to avoid huge gatherings as a preventive measure against covid-19 infections, as directed by health experts.

Speaking on achievements attained during the last season, she said farmers incomes went up due to good sales.

She said during the season, 8,424,268

tonnes of simsim was sold at an average of 2,959/- per kg that injected more than 24bn/- to farmers.

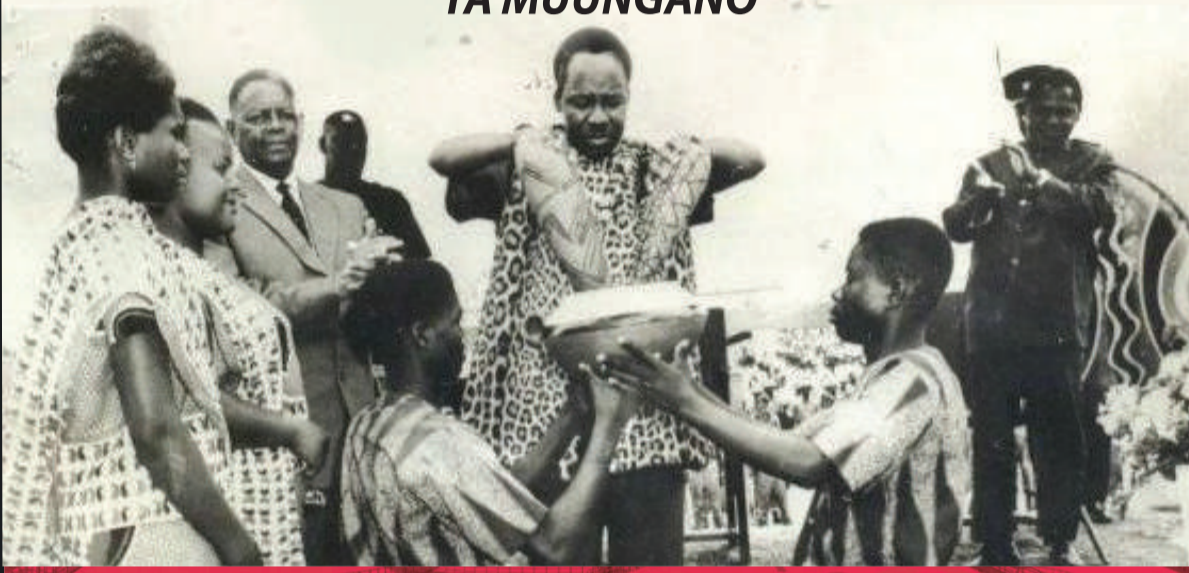
"During the same period 2,858,383 kgs of soya was also sold at an average price of 750/- per kg earning farmers thereof 2,143,787,250/- via Songea and Namtumbo auctions.

In regard to pigeon peas, the RC said 773,543 kgs was sold at an average price of 700/- per kg earning farmers more than 541m/-.

MIKA



YA MUUNGANO



Uongozi wa Oryx Energies Tanzania unaipongeza Serikali ya Jamhuri wa Muungano ya Tanzania Chini ya uongozi wa Mhe. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli na Mhe. Dk. Ali Mohamed Shein, Raisi wa Serikali ya Mapinduzi Zanzibar kwa kuadhimisha miaka 56 ya Muungano wa Tanganyika na Zanzibar.

Tunawatakia Watanzania wote sherehe njema za maadhimisho ya siku hii.



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Students (L & R) of Ilambilele Secondary School in Iringa Region study at the weekend under the close watch of their mother, with all institutions of learning across the country under mandatory closure in the wake of the global spread of Covid-19 infections. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

Morogoro

## Morogoro health centre gets new maternity ward

MORE than 2,000 expectant mothers will benefit from the newly constructed maternity ward at Sabasaba health centre in Morogoro municipality.

The maternity ward which is well equipped was funded by Morogoro Municipal Council (MMC).

The ward worth nearly 130m/- accommodates eighteen beds, with two beds in the delivery room.

Morogoro district medical official (DMO) Zulu Ikaji unveiled this when speaking at the official inauguration of the facility, which will serve expectant mothers from five wards in the municipality.

He said that the new health facility will reduce congestion at Morogoro regional referral hospital as it will accommodate 2,585 expectant mothers annually.

The maternity ward has been named

as "Regina Chonjo" - in the honour of the current Morogoro District Commissioner.

The facility according to the DMO will reduce long distances facing women to reach the nearby health facility. Since started its operating in August 2019, the facility hasn't recorded any death.

So far, the maternity ward has served 965 expectant mothers, whereby 714 were at the facility (74 per cent) and 251 (26 per cent) were referred to the regional referral hospital for further medical treatment, the medical official said.

Morogoro District Commissioner, Regina Chonjo called on the Morogoro Municipal Council to allocate a budget for the construction of theater building at the facility to reduce unnecessary

movements of patients to regional hospital.

The DC also urged the municipality and Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) to address power woes facing the health facility.

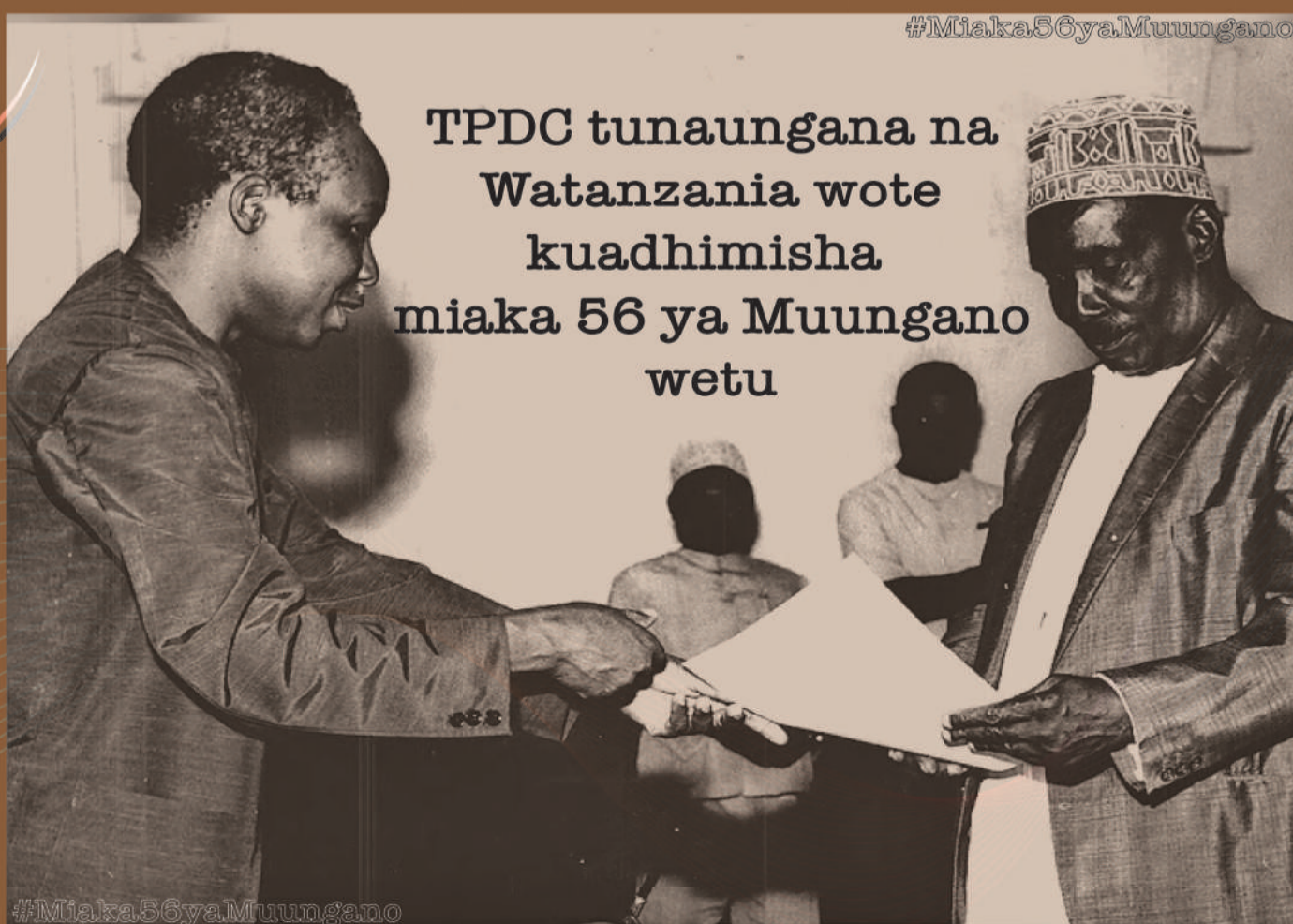
Happiness Mbogo, one of women who gave birth to baby girl at the facility lauded the Morogoro municipal authorities for improving maternal health facilities in the area, saying: "In the past women were travelling long distances in search of the services, the situation which was expensive and some died on the way."

Happiness also commended the role played by DC Chonjo in addressing the challenges facing mothers since she arrived in the municipality four years ago.

## Salamu za Muungano

#Miaka56yaMuungano

TPDC tunaungana na Watanzania wote kuadhimisha miaka 56 ya Muungano wetu



#Miaka56yaMuungano

#Tunawezesha



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## Sweden takes controversial approach to containing the coronavirus disease

By Alexandra Sifferlin

SWEDEN is forgoing lockdowns and taking an alternative approach to preventing the spread of the coronavirus. The government is advising people to follow social distancing recommendations.

However, schools, gyms, and restaurants remain open. It's unclear how it will work, but the country is in the spotlight since mass closures have taken hits on economies worldwide.

"Part of that approach relies on having access to one of the world's best-functioning health-care systems," Bloomberg News reports, adding: "At no stage did Sweden see a real shortage of medical equipment or hospital capacity, and tents set up as emergency care facilities around the country have mostly remained empty."

As of one recent Monday afternoon, the country had 14,777 confirmed cases and 1,580 deaths. These are much higher figures than those of their neighbours - Norway had 7,122 cases and 181 deaths; Denmark had 7,711 cases and 364 deaths; and Finland had 3,868 cases and 98 deaths - but lower than those of other European countries.

As Bloomberg reported, the country might be better suited than others for this approach in part because of its strong medical system, the fact that more people already work from home compared to other countries in Europe, and widespread access to the internet.

However, as The Guardian reported, critics say the country's elderly are paying the price. Most of the cases appear to be among people in nursing homes, where family members say masks and personal protective equipment are not always used.

The country's chief state epidemiologist, Anders Tegnell, is credited with the strategy - and argues the plan will work better over time because it's easier to maintain.

Tegnell notes: "Locking people up at home won't work in the longer term. Sooner or later people are going to go out anyway." Ultimately, the world will know if the plan is a failure or a success, based on the death toll. Sweden's government has tried a risky coronavirus strategy. It could backfire.



Manyara Region Special Seats legislator Esther Mahawe (3rd-L) presents 500 face masks, 200 buckets and ten drums of liquid soap to Manyara regional hospital at the weekend to help in the war on Covid-19. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

# Minister pledges enabling climate for investment in agriculture

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of Agriculture Japhet Hasunga said that the government would continue creating enabling environment suitable for attracting more investors into the agricultural sector.

However, the policy and planning department of the ministry has been directed to show how much money has been invested in agriculture from the government, the private sector and development partners.

The directive was given by the Minister for Agriculture Japhet Hasunga yesterday when speaking to the department's workers and staff at the ministry's conference hall in Dodoma.

Hasunga said the policy and planning department should increase efforts and professionalism in day to day performance.

He called upon it to categorise various statistics in crops production, crops prices including those for horticultural products.

He said despite great achievements attained in the four years of the phase

fifth administration, still there is room for strengthening of the agricultural sector for greater results.

"What developed countries achieved, and why we in Tanzania are still lagging behind in agriculture, and how many agro-processing factories do we have," Hasunga questioned at the meeting.

In addition the minister directed the department to understand the concept of the marketing policy and what does experts say on the market situation.

He also wanted to know the situation in regard to food security, cooperative policy, policy on better use of land and where exactly the country is stuck in so far as the agricultural sector is concerned.

**“What developed countries achieved, and why we in Tanzania are still lagging behind in agriculture, and how many agro-processing factories do we have**

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

## Mbeya RPC warns bus drivers over overloading

POLICE in Mbeya Region have warned bus drivers and conductors who do not implement the government's directives in the fight against Covid-19 infections.

Speaking to entrepreneurs at Kiwira Market in Rungwe district, the Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei said some vehicles continue

to overload passengers despite the government's order.

RPC Matei said investigations have shown that the vehicles notorious in contravening the prohibition are those plying between Mbeya City and Kyela district which he claimed they

were still overloading including some passengers standing.

Matei directed the Rungwe District Police commander (OCD) to embark on a special operation to inspect the vehicles and take appropriate steps against drivers and conductors thereof.

He also said some of the buses do not have running water and soap for passengers hence warned that they will deal with those who contravene this requirement.

He also directed drivers of huge trucks to make sure they

have hand sanitisers in their vehicles and use them regularly as a preventive measure against Covid-19 infections.

Meanwhile RPC Matei said the Police force, in collaboration with various state organs continue to

guard the Tanzania-Malawi border area at Kasumulu border post in Kyela District to control people entering the country through unauthorized routes.

He said any person entering the country must follow procedures by passing through authorized border crossing and those contravening will be dealt with in accordance with the laws.

### HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA



### TANGAZO LA UZAJI WA VIWANJA

Mkurugenzi wa Halmashauri ya Jiji la Dodoma anawatangazia Wananchi wote kuwa kutakuwa na zoezi uuzaji wa Viwanja kuanzia TAREHE 25/04/2020 katika eneo la wazi Manispaa ya zamani (karibu na Sabasaba) kuanzia saa 2:00 Asubuhi hadi saa 9:30 Alasiri.

Viwanja vinavyouzwa ni katika maeneo ya:

ENEO	MATUMIZI NA BEI TSHS KWA (SQM1)
Iyumbu New Town Centre, karibu na UDOM na mradi wa Watumishi Housing	• Apartment 7,500/= • Biashara 10,000/=
Njedengwa Investment Centre, Karibu na Mradi wa Nyumba 300 wa Kisasa	• Apartment 13,070/= • Biashara 18,876/=
Nala Industrial Area, Karibu na Kituo cha Malori	• Viwanda 5,000/=
Medeli Extension, Karibu na Jengo la Hazina na Benki Kuu	• Hotel 80,000/= • Taasisi 40,000/=
Mtumba (Karibu na Mji wa Serikali na Ikulu)	• ZONE II Makazi 6,000/= • Makazi na Biashara 7,500/=
Nala, Karibu na Chuo cha IFM	• Makazi 2,500/=
Mahomanyika, KM 2 kutoka unapojengwa Uwanja Mpya wa Ndege	• Makazi 5,000/=
Mapinduzi, Karibu na Kituo cha SGR	• Makazi 6,500/=
Kitelela, Karibu na Unapojengwa Uwanja wa Ndege Mpya	• Makazi 5,000 • Makazi na Biashara 6,000/=
Ihumwa, Karibu na Itakapojengwa Bandari Kavu	• Makazi 6,000/= • Makazi na Biashara 6,500/=
Chahwa, Karibu na Ikulu	• Makazi 3,000/=

NB: Malipo yote yafanyike ndani ya Siku 90 baada ya kupata hati ya madai.

Kwa mawasiliano zaidi piga simu namba 0714 785513.

Tangazo hili limetolewa na:  
Mkurugenzi wa Jiji,  
DODOMA

215716001



### Chief Operating Officer

Our client CRDB Bank Plc, is the leading bank in Tanzania with 23% of total deposits and 20% of total assets in the country. With a wide network of 263 branches, 552 ATMs, 18 Depository ATMs, 12 Mobile branches, 5,457 FahariHuduma agents and 1184 POS terminals, the Bank offers comprehensive Corporate, Retail, Business, Treasury, Premier, and wholesale microfinance services. The Bank has also established three wholly owned subsidiaries namely; CRDB Microfinance Services Company Limited, CRDB Bank Burundi S.A and CRDB Insurance Broker Ltd.

CRDB's history of strong leadership and culture of innovation led it to receive "B1 stable outlook" by Moody's - the highest rating to have been acquired by banks or financial institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. The Bank's ability to develop uniquely tailored products and being responsive to market needs resulted into growth of 6% in net profit growth, 2.3% in total assets and 8.4% in customer deposits in the last financial year.

CRDB is in the second year of its transformation journey, which focuses on becoming a leader in futuristic digital banking, improving customer experience and reducing cost-to-income ratio. The Bank is therefore looking for an experienced and effective leader, with strong business acumen and exemplary ethics to join the executive management team as Chief Operating Officer (COO). Reporting to the CEO, the COO will be responsible for managing all operational activities, ensuring delivery of timely, reliable, quality and secured services to customers, while ensuring maximum efficiency and compliance to the banks policies and procedures.

#### Key Duties and Responsibilities

- The specific responsibilities of the COO at CRDB includes:
- Developing actionable business and operational plans that are in line with the Bank's medium and long term business strategic objectives;
  - Setting and cascading comprehensive goals for business performance and sustainable growth;
  - Examining current business processes, identifying areas for improvement and making necessary changes to increase efficiency, promote compliance and reduce operating costs;
  - Directly overseeing banking operations (back office), analysing and reporting on the achievement of the overall objectives;
  - Overseeing and managing the Bank's three subsidiaries overall operations to ensure effective optimisation, coordination and efficiency;
  - Managing ICT investments and expenses to ensure that the bank realises its digital transformation, data security, customer experience and operational efficiency goals;
  - Developing and implementing business continuity strategy, policies and procedures;
  - Responsible for strategic workspace planning and ensuring availability of facilities in line with service level agreements;
  - Ensuring that business change projects are delivered within time and budget;
  - Developing and overseeing adherence to policies, procedures to ensure compliance with national and international regulations and taking corrective action when necessary;
  - Monitoring and evaluating effectiveness and efficiencies of Bank's operations and internal support services;
  - Building a culture that is: inclusive and fosters teamwork; high integrity; and strong ethics in order to facilitate excellent customer service; and
  - Building and maintaining relationships with key customers, collaborators, promoters, partners, vendors, shareholders and stakeholders.

#### Person Specifications

- Ten years proven experience in managing enterprise wide operations or relevant role in a medium to large entity;
- Understanding of business functions such as banking operations, ICT, business continuity, facilities management etc.;
- Demonstrable competency in strategy execution;
- Working knowledge of data analysis and performance/operation metrics;
- Outstanding leadership capabilities i.e. leading change, building strong teams and coaching for performance improvement;
- Excellent interpersonal, decision making and problem solving skills; and
- Graduate in business, technology, engineering, economics, project management or related field.

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# The Guardian

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MONDAY 27 APRIL 2020

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

## We ought to influence intellectual property protection the world over

WORLD Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on 26 April. The event was established by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in 2000 to raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks and designs impact on daily life and to celebrate creativity, and the contribution made by creators and innovators to the development of societies across the globe. 26 April was chosen as the date for World Intellectual Property Day because it coincides with the date on which the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organisation entered into force in 1970. This event has been criticized by a number of activists and scholars as one-sided propaganda in favour of traditional copyright, ignoring alternatives related to copyleft and the free culture movement.

Following a statement made at the Assembly of the Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in September 1998, the Director General of the National Algerian Institute for Industrial Property (INAPI) proposed on 7 April 1999 the institutionalisation of an international day for intellectual property, with the aim of setting up a framework for broader mobilization and awareness, [opening up] access to the promotional aspect of innovation and [recognizing] the achievements of promoters of intellectual property throughout the world.

On 9 August 1999, the Chinese delegation to the WIPO proposed the adoption of the World Intellectual Property Day in order to further promote the awareness of intellectual property protection, expand the influence of intellectual property protection across the world, urge countries to publicize and popularize intellectual property protection laws and regulations,

enhance the public legal awareness of intellectual property rights, encourage invention-innovation activities in various countries and strengthen international exchange in the intellectual property field.

In October 1999, the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) approved the idea of declaring a particular day as a World Intellectual Property Day.

Mike Masnick of Techdirt wrote that World Intellectual Property Day is intended to promote ever greater protectionism and mercantilism in favour of copyright holders and patent holders, while ignoring any impact on the public of those things. It's a fairly disgusting distortion of the claimed intent of intellectual property." Zak Rogoff of the Defective by Design noted that this event is a global but decidedly not grassroots event". This event has also been criticized by the activists from civil society organisations such as IP Justice and the Electronic Information for Libraries who consider it one-sided propaganda as the marketing materials associated with the event, provided by WIPO, "come across as unrepresentative of other views and events". Michael Geist, a law professor at the University of Ottawa, noted that "World Intellectual Property Day has become little more than a lobbyist day. [Cushla Kapitzk from the Queensland University of Technology wrote that most of the WIPO's statements related to promotion of the World Intellectual Property Day are "either exaggerated or unsubstantiated"; noting that for example one of WIPO's claims used to promote this event, namely that copyright helps bring music to our ears and art, films and literature before our eyes is tenuous at best, and lexical association of copyright with things recognised as having social and cultural value ('art', 'film' and 'literature') functions to legitimate its formulation and widespread application".

## We need to mark world workplace safety and health day appropriately

WORLD Day for Safety and Health at Work is a UN international day that is celebrated every April 28. It is concerned about safe work and awareness of the dimensions and consequences of work-related accidents and diseases; to place occupational safety and health (OSH) on the international and national agendas; and to provide support to the national efforts for the improvement of national OSH systems and programmes in line with relevant international labour standards.

The 2011 World Day for Safety and Health at Work focuses on the implementation of an Occupational Safety and Health Management System (OSHMS) as a tool for continual improvement in the prevention of workplace incidents and accidents.

Workers' Memorial Day, International Workers' Memorial Day or International Commemoration Day (ICD) for Dead and Injured or Day of Mourning takes place annually around the world on April 28, an international day of remembrance and action for workers killed, disabled, injured or made unwell by their work.

Workers' Memorial Day is an opportunity to highlight the preventable nature of most workplace incidents and ill health and to promote campaigns and union organisation in the fight for improvements in workplace safety. The slogan for the day is Remember the dead - Fight for the living.

Although April 28 is used as the focal point for remembrance and a day of international solidarity, campaigning and other related activities continue throughout the year right around the world.

In 1989, the AFL-CIO declared April 28 "Workers' Memorial Day" to honour

the hundreds of thousands of working people killed and injured on the job every year.

April 28 is recognised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) as International Workers' Memorial Day.

Workers' Memorial Day is recognised as a national day in many countries including.

Workers' Memorial Day is now an international day of remembrance of workers killed in incidents at work, or by diseases caused by work, and annually on April 28, Workers' Memorial Day events are held throughout the world. Some examples include active campaigning, and workplace awareness events.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social justice and promote decent work by setting international labour. The ILO has 187 member states: 186 of the 193 UN member states plus the Cook Islands are members of the ILO. The tripartite structure is unique to the ILO where representatives from the government, employers and employees openly debate and create labour standards.

The International Labour Office is the permanent secretariat of the International Labour Organization. It is the focal point for International Labour Organization's overall activities, which it prepares under the scrutiny of the Governing Body and under the leadership of the Director-General.

The ILO employs some 2,700 officials from over 150 nations at its headquarters in Geneva, and in around 40 field offices around the world. Among these officials, 900 work in technical cooperation programmes and projects.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

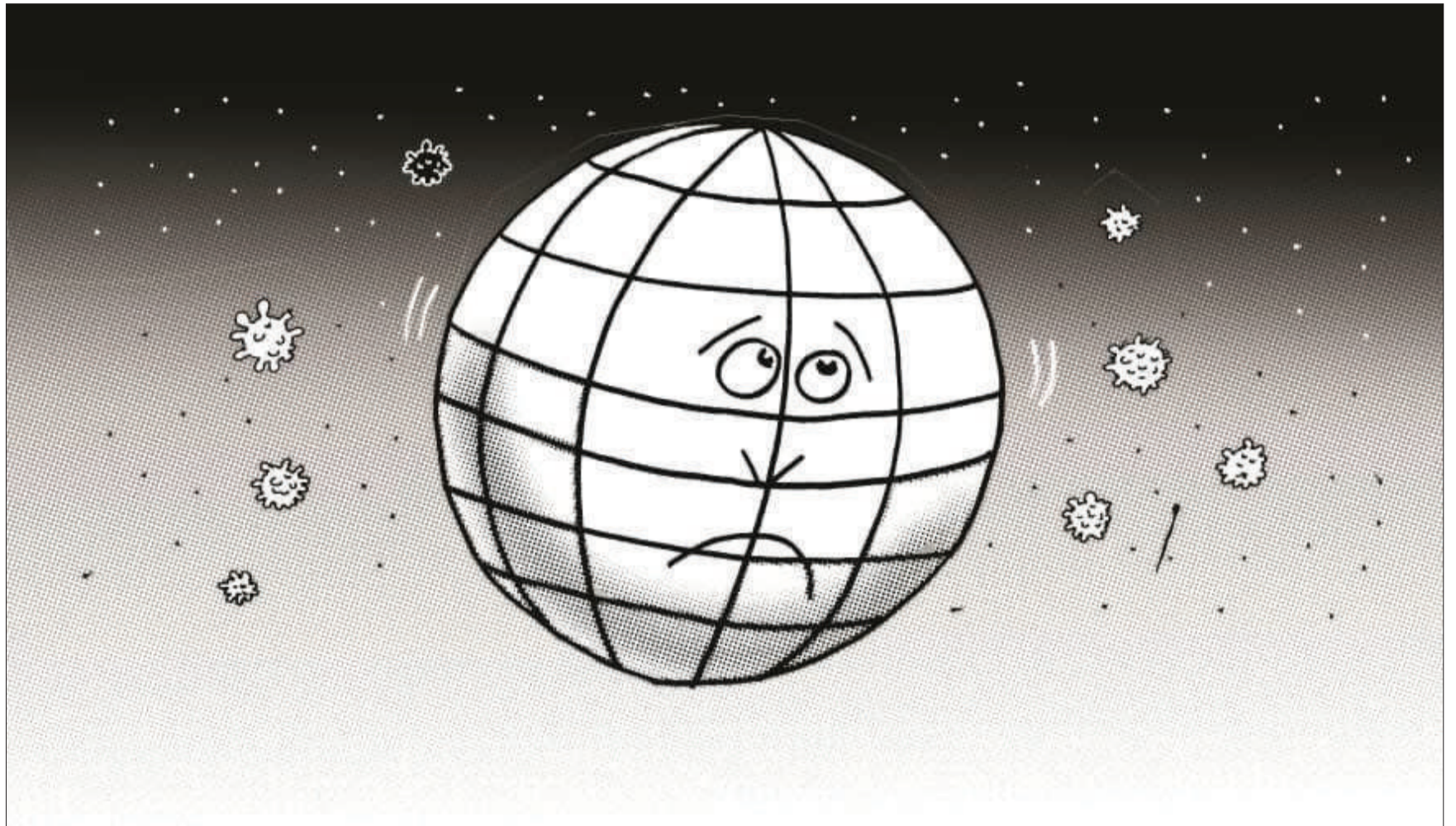
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By Special Correspondent

THE Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) highlighted why Nigeria should not have been excluded from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) list of countries to benefit from its debt relief as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The IMF earlier last week announced the approval of a debt relief fund to 25 countries which are mostly African countries, with Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, excluded from the list.

The IMF managing director of the IMF, Kristalina Georgieva in a statement, said it would provide \$500m in grant-based debt service relief to the countries. Those countries enlisted to benefit from the relief fund according to IMF include: Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo D.R., The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia. Others are: Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan, Togo and Yemen.

Reacting to this development, NLC President, Ayuba Wabba in the statement noted that Nigeria, being a major regional transportation hub should not have been excluded from the list of beneficiaries. "The implication is that a population as large as Nigeria's with very active citizens could be a major epicenter for future global waves of COVID-19 if very robust and adequate support is not extended to Nigeria to fight and contain the coronavirus pandemic," he said.

He said, "During the two weeks initial lockdown in Lagos, Ogun and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), there were reports of increased tension, unrest and criminal activities in different parts of the country." Wabba noted that even rich countries in Europe and America are struggling to keep up with the supply of essential medical goods and services as COVID-19 bites harder. According to him, "The fact is that the dangers of a burgeoning constituency of the poor including the working-class poor are staring us hard in the face. We do not know how long this dam can hold. But we do know that Nigeria needs all the support it can get, including debt relief, moratorium, and pardon in order to enable the country tide over the waves of COVID-19 pandemic." He urged the IMF to reconsider its decision and include Nigeria in its beneficiary list for the COVID-19 related debt relief and debt moratorium based on very cogent reasons. Wabba said that some of the reasons Nigeria should be included in the relief funds are "dire economic crisis in Nigeria, given the recent plunge in the price of crude oil, Nigeria's major foreign exchange earner." This plunge in the price of crude oil has already

## COVID-19: Congress faults IMF for excluding Nigeria from debt relief



led to the downsizing of the capital expenditure in the 2020 national budget, he added. He also noted that as at December 2019, "Nigeria's external debt hit a 16 year high of US\$27 billion with a debt servicing commitment of US\$1.5 billion. "The fact that Nigeria's debt servicing is about 5% of our 2020 federal budget and 75% of our external reserves signpost that our debt servicing pledges are impracticable and should be renegotiated," Wabba said. He said in order to mobilize the necessary financial resources to fight and defeat COVID-19, the NLC is calling for a temporary suspension of debt payments by developing economies, re-negotiation of debt obligations, and ultimately debt pardon by creditor countries.

The debt relief package is coming under what the Bretton-Woods multilateral financial institution described as the revamped Catastrophe Containment Relief Trust (CCRT), and is for countries described as the poorest, as well as most vulnerable members. Specifically, it is intended to help such countries overcome the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by providing them exemption for six months during which they will not service their debts to IMF, but are allowed to divert any debt servicing funds into combating the impact of COVID-19.

The window is to enable them concentrate on providing urgent medical and related emergency relief efforts. Incidentally, the omission of Nigeria from the list of would be beneficiaries of the CCRT had drawn queries from not a few observers, on at least two grounds.

Firstly, is that Nigeria is a bona

fide member of the Fund, is in good standing and is entitled to such a relief that will ease its burdens in the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. Secondly is that the country also faces similar challenges as the listed beneficiary countries. Hence in a sense it sounded unfair to exclude Nigeria from benefitting from the IMF's seeming goodwill gesture.

However, on the flip side of the argument is that Nigeria does not technically qualify for the CCRT package, also on the basis of equally cogent reasons. Firstly, the country is not owing the IMF, and is presently not a debtor which is saddled with debt servicing obligations. Secondly, the country even has a reserve holding of \$3.4 billion with the IMF from which it can, and even intends to, draw down funds to service its fiscal obligations, which for now are pressing given the dip in its revenue profile jointly caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in one vein and its repercussions which spawned a price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia.

In the light of its diminished revenue from oil which provides it with over 95% of export earnings and 40% of government revenue, Nigeria is adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic by recalibrating its N10.594 trillion 2020 budget, by reviewing some of its critical fundamentals. In a new budget proposal, which the executive presented to the National Assembly, the government is cutting off N318 billion to bring the budget to N10.276 trillion. This is in tandem with the 2020 budget oil price benchmark which drops from the December 2019 value of \$57 per barrel to a current, notional

value of \$30 per barrel, and a reduced daily production from 2.17 million to 1.17 million barrels a day. The country has also adjusted tacitly, the exchange rate of the Naira from N305 per dollar to N360 per dollar. In the face of this situation, the federal government is contemplating acquiring more loans. This time from multilateral agencies such as the IMF, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

The immediate and unsettling implication of the foregoing is that the country is still dependent on and hence highly vulnerable to the wild swings of the global oil market. Hence the government is groping for any relief to latch onto even if such were to be the IMF. On a more profound note, it actually indicates the government's agenda for diversification of the economy, as a failure.

In the circumstances, even dividends of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) which was launched in the wake of the 2016 economic recession may have yielded suspect dividends, hence the desperation in government circles to raise money from any source. Meanwhile the government agents are parading data and sundry evidence to shore up its claims of making meaningful progress in turning the economy around. Just as well, market realities tell a different story.

The situation therefore calls for the government to think out of the box in order to move the country to the proverbial next level, which it flaunts to the citizenry. The time has come for the government to consider moving from rhetoric of growing the economy to actually practicalising the growth agenda.



# TANZANIA TAX JUSTICE COALITION (TTJC) POSITION STATEMENT ON THE 2020/2021 NATIONAL BUDGET

## 'Stability in Revenue Collection During the COVID-19 Pandemic'

### 1. Preamble:

We, the members of the Tanzania Tax Justice Coalition (TTJC), a Civil Society Coalition advocating for fairness in taxation,

Having done a series of review sessions and consultations on Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM) in relation to the National budget during the COVID-19 pandemic,

Having considered the budget proposals presented in March 2020 by the Minister of Finance and Planning for 2020/21 which emphasized raising domestic revenue collection from TZS 23.05 trillion in 2019/20 to TZS 24.07 trillion in 2020/21,

Appreciating the call and constant emphasis by Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, the President of URT on the importance of strengthening efforts in Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) as well as reducing reliance on foreign aid,

Cognizant of the obvious fact that public revenues are essential for funding basic public services and national development goals which is the heart of the social contract,

Acknowledging the effort by the Tanzania Government in clamping down all forms of actions and behaviours that cause revenue leakages, widening the tax base, tackling corruption, modernising revenue collection methods to enhance timely revenue collection and management,

Solemnly aware of many countries around the world including Tanzania have been hit by COVID-19 which is likely to have a substantial impact on the fiscal accounts of African economies,

Mindful of 254 COVID-19 cases with 8 fatalities by 20th April 2020, and the potential negative effects it will have on our economy,

We are aware that the economy will not perform as normal and therefore urge the Tanzania policy makers to think ahead about coping mechanisms amidst COVID-19 and prepare economic policies geared towards building a resilient national economy for achieving sustainable growth, economic diversification, social security and inclusion.

Together as a community of civil society and practitioners engaging in Tax policy matters would like to share our views on the current and potential future economic trend and domestic revenue mobilization in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We suggest a few policy and programmatic recommendations which could be taken by the government to sustain a realistic pace of economic growth and pace of domestic resource mobilisation, retaining investments amid COVID-19 and maximizing efforts to curb revenue leakage and misuse of public resources.

### 2. Current Situation:

The Government of Tanzania through the Minister of Finance and Planning has presented to the National Assembly its 2020/21 budget proposal for implementation of the final year of the Five-Years National Development Plan (FYDP II) 2016/17-2020/21.

Budget is both an economic and a social policy tool for addressing inequality, marginalization and vulnerability of specific groups of people with the understanding that it is supposed to demonstrate the Government's commitment to addressing citizens' rights including the right to education, health, security, clean water, etc.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to which Tanzania is a signatory, in its article 2(1) requires each member state to take steps individually and through international assistance and co-operation to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the covenant.

It is appreciated that the country has a legal framework to implement the said obligation through Article 9 (1) (c) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 which places an obligation on the part of the state and its agencies to ensure that the national resources and heritage are harnessed, preserved and applied toward the common good.

Amid the ongoing session of the 2020/21 budget debating and approval in the National Assembly in Tanzania, the country has been hit by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. The outbreak of COVID-19 has negatively impacted both businesses and livelihoods through halt of gatherings causing close of businesses and uncertainty of whether they are to return in the near future which in turn, creates insecurities for employees.

This has effects on the economy. The cancellation of international flights automatically affects the transport and tourism sectors, which the minister of Finance and Planning has commended for being among the contributing growth factors of the GDP.

In the 2020/21 budget speech, the Minister of Finance and Planning has also highlighted that Growth Domestic Product (GDP) has shown the trend of increase of 6.9% per annum for the period between 2016-2019, however the Tax to GDP ratio is still low which is 11.5% below the recommended 20% international benchmark needed to meet the SDGs. With a less than 20% Tax to GDP ratio, the government falls short of the amounts of revenue generation needed to fund basic social services. This tells that a lot needs to be done to enable the government to have enough funds for delivering societal and developmental commitments.

In the aforesaid economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the likelihood of mobilizing enough resources (the TZS 34 trillion budget estimates) to meet the implementation of matters laid down in the FYDP II on one hand and curbing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic on the other is challenging. Less is stated in the budget on how the government plans to deal with the pandemic - meaning that fewer resources will be devoted to this while the problem is escalating and claiming people's lives and economic wellbeing.

The pandemic affects both the producers/investors and collectors of revenue which is a big challenge to the realization of the set budget collection objectives.

A study by ActionAid International 'Who cares for the future?: Transform the Financing of Gender Responsive Public Services' shows that Tanzania is spending 19.54% of its revenue in debt servicing, which is beyond the IMF recommended debt servicing standard which ranges between 9% to 15%. This compromises the government's capacity to deliver its obligations.

Under the context of less revenue collection and the outbreak of COVID-19; expenditures on salaries and essentials for government functioning are likely to be prioritized at the expense of the most essential public services like health, education, water and infrastructure.

ActionAid International report further notes that effects of poor service delivery have varied effects gender wise where women, children and girls are highly affected. The effects may be exacerbated by COVID-19 pandemic as a result of global recession foreseen by the World Bank's Report- Africa's Pulse (2020).

### 3. Current Government Efforts and Plans on Revenue Collection Amid COVID-19.

In recent years, there have been plausible efforts in enhancing the mobilisation of domestic resources. This has largely been a result of improved infrastructures including the use of electronic fiscal devices that facilitate friendly payment of taxes.

The first half of the 2019/20 budget performed quite well in terms of revenue collection. According to the Minister of

Finance and Planning budget speech of 2020/21, the government planned to collect 23.05 trillion in 2019/20 from DRM and the performance was 96.9 percent as of January 2020 which is good progress. The FYDP II indicates the government commitment to raise annual tax revenue collection from TZS 15,105,100 million during the FY 2016/17 to TZS 25,592,631 million during FY 2020/21, which translates into an increase in tax revenue to GDP ratio of 15.9 percent by 2020.

At the national level, the government of Tanzania has established a national taskforce on covid-19 response for ensuring coordination for the war against the pandemic. The government has ensured participation of CSO's, Private companies and Individuals in support of the Taskforce and resource mobilization.

To finance the COVID-19 response, the government has committed own resources and is working with development partners to finance a plan amounting to US\$77 million.

According to the PMO budget speech (2020/21) by Hon. Majaliwa Kassim Majaliwa the Prime Minister of Tanzania, the government has also increased testing facilities across the country, new laboratories set up in several regions and allocated free dormitories for quarantine.

Despite all the efforts by the government on the fight against COVID-19, maximization of revenue collection and sealing of revenue leakage yet more needs to be done.

### 4. Gap Analysis

Despite the notable efforts that have been put in place by the government, it is imperative to highlight some of the areas which need strategic interventions amid COVID-19.

#### i) Domestic Resource Mobilisation

With the COVID-19 pandemic, it is obvious that revenue collection during the second half of the year will be highly affected.

Although the period between July 2019 and January 2020 witnessed revenue collection targets hitting high levels with TZS 10.62 trillion, which is about 97% of the target for that period which was TZS 10.96 trillion, It is anticipated that revenue collection starting the fourth quarter of 2019/20 will experience significant decrease as a result of COVID-19 impact in the economy.

The budget ceilings for the financial year 2020/21 indicate a 5% increase of the national budget from TZS 33,105.4 billion in 2019/20 to TZS 34,879.8 billion in 2020/21. This is despite the clear indications that the 2020/21 budget will experience serious shortfalls never experienced before.

Both the formal and the informal sector have been massively hit by this global pandemic. The economy will undoubtedly shrink Substantially and therefore this should be reflected in the 2020/21 national budget.

#### ii) Retaining Investments amid COVID-19

While the first case of COVID-19 was reported just last month, the effects of the pandemic have spread so quickly and virulently such that a number of businesses especially in the tourism sector have been compelled to shut down. Several hotels have suspended business, and most likely this will be adopted by other businesses as well. The level of purchasing power is also quickly going down as a result of increasing cases of unemployment in the country.

#### iii) Inadequate Effort to Collect Revenue from the Extractive Industry

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), between 2000 and 2010, 56.2% of the funds flowing illicitly from Africa came from the extractive sector, which also includes the mining sector. And for the most mineral-rich continent, the situation is at the core for the need to mobilize resources domestically to fund the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provide quality public services to its citizens. This is coupled with the fact that the mining sector has failed to drive economic development and wealth creation in many countries in Africa, and Tanzania is no exception.

As stated above that chances for the economy to shrink and domestic revenue mobilisation will adversely be impacted. Investment and revenues from the extractive sector will likely be affected. It is therefore important that measures are put in place to ensure sustained pace in domestic resource mobilisation from the extractive sector, financial discipline in the use of extractive public resources, retaining investments and maximizing efforts to curb extractive revenue leakage. TTJC therefore recommends the following:

### 5. Key Recommendations

#### Immediate/Short term recommendations

- I. Revise the previous and current budget projections to take care of the negative effects that COVID 19 will have on the economy and revenue mobilisation. (The World Bank and IMF both project that the African economy will shrink between 1.9% -3%). The new budget projections should factor this into their models to avoid a serious shortfall.
- II. Reduce VAT from the current 18% to 16% for the year 2020/21 to encourage production, tax rebates for manufacturers producing products for fighting Covid19, such as sanitisers, soap, masks and a well reduced price for products hence increasing the purchasing power by consumers.
- III. The government should suspend all debt payments and re-negotiate future debt servicing in the context of COVID-19.
- IV. Businesses and self-employed individuals in sectors hard-hit by the crisis or with serious repayment difficulties related to it should be allowed to reschedule their loan repayments or defer payments for a limited period (3 months). This will enable businesses and self-employed individuals in sectors hard-hit by the COVID-19 crisis or with serious repayment difficulties to remain in control.
- V. Halt or pause or stagger large expenditure on some large ongoing and proposed strategic projects such as infrastructure projects this year and reschedule the respective fund to short-term productive sectors for the economy and saving people's lives.
- VI. Set up an emergency fund or reserve fund at the Central bank capable of shielding the economy from the longer effects of COVID- 19 and the CB increase more liquidity into the banks to facilitate cheap lending.
- VII. Businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 should be given temporary tax payment relief in this regard.
- VIII. The governments need to earmark existing or additional funds to reinforce all mechanisms to fight COVID-19.
- IX. Protect the public and consumers from hoarding, price hikes and disruptions in the supply chain of vital goods and services.
- X. Consider pay cuts for highly paid public servants and transfer some of these savings towards the national fund to finance COVID 19 response mechanisms.
- XI. Take measures that shield the private sector from collapse, protect jobs and hence protect the government's vital tax base.

#### Long term recommendations

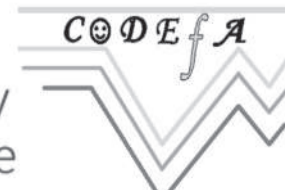
- XII. Government to continuously set up an emergence fund to take care of vagaries such as these in the future.
- XIII. Each year, the Government should publish a list of tax agreements in force including an estimation of the benefits to the companies (revenue lost to the State) and the benefits to the country (actions the companies promised in return for the tax break).
- XIV. The Parliament should review all existing and future statutory tax incentives through a cost-benefit analysis and remove those that are not beneficial to the country. This review should cover future proposals or contracts. The government should strive to raise the Tax to GDP ratio of 20% or above through fair and progressive domestic resource mobilisation measure that do not disproportionately affect the poor/small-medium enterprise.



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# De-densification of informal settlements as crisis response is bad short-term thinking, 14 civil society organisations say

By Special Correspondent

**D**E-DENSIFICATION is complex and contested at the best of times and needs to be assessed and navigated on a case-by-case basis; it is definitely not an appropriate response during the Covid-19 disaster that creates further shocks to a part of society that is most vulnerable, nor is it appropriate at scale.

South Africa has close to 2,700 informal settlements that are home to more than 1.2 million vulnerable households. Despite several progressive policies and frameworks, poor, unserviced living environments with their associated risk and inequality persist. With the onset of the Covid-19 crisis, the lack of progress in addressing informal settlements and their magnified risks have come to the fore. A highly debated, yet controversial proposed response to Covid-19 is de-densification (at times rephrased in seemingly less contested terms, such as "resettlement" or "deconting").

De-densification is complex and contested at the best of times and needs to be assessed and navigated on a case-by-case basis; it is definitely not an appropriate response during a disaster that creates further shocks to a part of society that is most vulnerable, nor is it appropriate at scale.

We as civil society organisations are strongly against any de-densification in the context of Covid-19, especially to temporary relocation areas (TRAs) for the reasons highlighted below:

First and foremost, our fiscal resources are limited and our short-term response has to address basic needs such as water, sanitation, hygiene, solid waste management, stormwater management and food relief. These precious financial resources need to have a single and "bull-headed" focus to ensure that

all the informal settlement and backyard dwellers have access to the abovementioned basic services and resources.

This is non-negotiable, and there is good evidence to suggest that these interventions will be critical in safeguarding our communities against the risk they face in the Covid-19 crisis. Achieving this will be a massive endeavour requiring all our collective resources and efforts. Focusing significant resources on only 29 selected settlements for de-densification/TRAs is highly problematic.

"The provision and maintenance of basic services, communication, social learning and behaviour change support, the provision of medical care through testing and well-located field hospitals, and food relief can be rolled out at scale across all informal settlements in the country."

Second, while de-densification is promoted as a "quick fix" and "voluntary", it will be neither of these two. Based on over 25 years of experience, we know that such processes take years to build consensus and consume significant human and financial resources.

Third, if the intention is to create improved physical distancing and mitigate overcrowding, any form of voluntary settlement would not necessarily achieve that. Instead, it might create deeper pockets of poverty and decimate social solidarity in informal settlements. The de-densification process itself would necessitate extensive close human contact and resultant exposure risk. In addition, experience has shown that re-densification, where the space that has been vacated is immediately occupied by others, is a reality, as demand for such spaces is great. And overcrowding is not only evident in

the number of shacks per settlement; it is also a feature within shacks. Hence, part of the solution lies in rethinking shelter options, such as allowing residents of informal settlements to build upwards.

Fourth, there is significant evidence that many of the TRAs/resettlement sites are never short term but become more permanent settlements which become new pockets of deeper poverty. Cape Town is home to a few, including the infamous Blikkiesdorp and Waverley, and eThekweni Municipality has approximately 9,000 TRA units on numerous sites with their associated social, economic and environmental challenges. Most Metros with TRAs are accordingly not in favour of having more. Historically, many of these have become home to associated violence, poor economic opportunities and ultimately jeopardise the safety of people living in such TRAs.

Fifth, the Disaster Management Act does not allow the state to violate any human rights or overturn any existing constitutional or legislative obligations of the state. In this instance, it will have to comply with the requirement to consult (meaningfully) with the residents in these communities and ultimately, reach consensus. This requires facilitators to access communities and hold community engagements. These negotiated processes are complex and take time and cannot be fast-tracked in the coming weeks or even months.

Sixth, the informal settlement communities we work with have expressed deep concerns about the social, political, economic and technical impact of de-densification and the disruption it is likely to cause. Similarly, international experts and leading organisations, such as the UN Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, UN-Habitat



Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Lindiwe Sisulu visits Empolweni community in Khayelitsha who were recently evicted in the area on April 19, 2020 in Cape Town, South Africa

and Amnesty International, have taken a strong stance against relocations and evictions of any kind as a response to Covid-19. De-densification will disrupt existing community networks, as well as support systems at the community level.

The consequence will be a further weakening of the already stressed coping mechanisms of the marginalised.

De-densification does not support universal interventions or outcomes. It will only take place in a small number of settlements in the country, creating both positive and negative impacts in a

few settlements, at great cost. Covid-19 impacts on all informal settlements and hence the short-term responses for protecting informal settlers from Covid-19 risk must be fairly distributed across all informal settlements. The provision and maintenance of basic services, communication, social learning and behaviour change support, the provision of medical care through testing and well-located field hospitals, and food relief can be rolled out at scale across all informal settlements in the country.

The current crisis creates an opportunity for the government to focus not just on the short term, but keeping in mind long-term solutions that are transformative and sustainable for the urban poor and the state.

Releasing well-located land, accelerating incremental in-situ informal settlement upgrading, and building strong social cohesion and citizenry are just a few of them.

We are all committed to a proactive human settlement response in the face of Covid-19; but we believe rash decisions will come at a huge cost for the future

## Tribute: How the mighty are fallen

By Fani Femi-Kayode

**I**NSULTS mean nothing to me. They only fuel my resolve and strengthen my determination. They are like water off a duck's back and neither can they deter me from speaking my mind on any pressing or burning issue no matter how unpopular my position may be.

Those that do not have the presence of mind or the discipline to read beyond three lines or that are so filled with hate and blighted by ignorance that it has beclouded their better judgement should not bother attempting to read this contribution.

For those that are interested in knowing the truth and in actually learning something about a man that was as maligned, misrepresented and misunderstood as I have been over the years should please go ahead and do me the honor of reading it. Whichever way it takes absolutely nothing from me.

Recently paid tribute to my friend and brother Mallam Abba Kyari, the former Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Buhari, who passed on after being diagnosed with COVID-19 on Friday, 17th April 2020.

The tweet reads as follows:

"I lost a friend of 40 years. We were at Cambridge together. We worked in my fathers law firm together. We remained close throughout right up until the end even though we disagreed politically. ABBA was a good man. A man of honor and a loyal friend. May his soul rest in peace."

Sadly it appears that some have a problem with my tribute and have lost all sense of decency and humanity.

Someone DIED and you are now suggesting that it is wrong for those of us that knew him better than you to say a good word about him? This is an accomplished man who was a

lawyer, a banker, a journalist, a businessman and a loyal friend to many years before he even joined government in 2015. This is a man with children, a wife, an extended family and many dependants that he left behind.

This is a man that has been a blessing to his community and that has been housing, feeding and paying for the education of thousands of students at Maiduguri University and offering scholarships to so many young people since 2001.

All this yet you say that those of us that knew him must not mourn him. Some even went as far as to ask how dare I say he was a "good man" forgetting that if he had been anything less I would have been the first to expose and attack him.

I forgive those that have attacked me for their ignorance and I stand by my words. If they do not like those words they can simply go and jump in the lagoon. They like me when I attack government but they hate me when I say one good thing about a government official who I have known for over forty years? What a joke!

Yet the truth is that I do not care one way or the other and neither do I seek anyone's approval or validation. I will attack anyone that I believe has done wrong, whether in the ranks of the Government or the opposition, and I will commend those that I believe have done their best in either of the two.

The truth is that when it comes to the gathering of information and acquisition of knowledge and what is really going on behind closed doors in this country I know far more than virtually all of my traducers because I have access to people and places that most of them can only dream about.

Yet even if I didn't, common decency alone should constrain them to at least let those of us that have a certain degree of decency and humanity left



Mallam Abba Kyari, the former Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Buhari,

in our persona to express our condolences in peace and not choose our words for us or be subjected to vulgar abuse, intolerable rantings and long and uncontrollable diatribes from a clearly diseased mind.

To you I say the following. If you don't like my views about Kyari you can simply go to hell. I do not give a fig. I would however advise you to fear God and know that even He does not take pleasure in the death of those He created and only He can judge each and every one of us.

Yet for the record let us look at a few of the facts.

A former Head of State would have been put under house arrest in 2018, a former Chief of Army Staff

and Minister of Defence would have been arrested in 2018, a former National Security Adviser and a well known online publisher would have still been in detention today and many MORE people would have been detained and killed had it not been for the efforts and moderating influence of this man whose untimely death some irresponsible people are celebrating today.

I know all this and about each case because I was involved. Once that man gave his word on any issue he always honored it to the point that even the reactionaries and hardliners in the government he served wanted to discredit him, implicate him, get rid of him and even kill him.

Let me give you two examples. He promised the Governors of the East that he would get adequate funding for Enugu Airport and he did.

He also promised to ensure that good progress would be made on the second Niger bridge and it was. I can tell you that had it not been for his efforts and the efforts of particularly Governor Umahi of Ebonyi and the Governor Ugwuanyi of Enugu it would have been next to impossible to get adequate funding for the two.

I can also tell you that when the police, with elements of the military, attacked and killed IPOB youths and literally burnt down half of Orifite in Anambra state, the hometown of my friend and IPOB lawyer, Mr. Ifeanyi Ejiyor, Abba, in collaboration with Umahi and Ugwuanyi, was instrumental in putting a stop to it.

I know because I was involved and I asked them all to intervene. On that occasion they saved lives and I can bear witness to that. So can Ejiyor.

There is so much more that I could add but I will go no further for now because it was not Abba's desire or intention to be praised or publicly acknowledged for his good deeds. He neither craved public validation or acclaim.

People forget that the buck for the things the federal government does not stop at the desk of the President's Chief of Staff but at the desk of the President. He takes full credit for the good things and he must also take the full blame for the bad.

Abba was merely an official albeit a very senior and influential one; he was not the leader of the cabal or the de facto President that many claimed that he was.

Despite that he was quite happy to be labelled as this government's "Dark Angel" and "fall guy," even though both tags were totally inaccurate and inappropriate. He was also quite prepared to take the blame

for every evil under the sun simply because he was deeply loyal to the President.

Never mind that much of the time he was fighting off those in the government who hated his guts and who saw him as a stumbling block to gaining unmerited favour with the President or to their thieving ways.

I know every single one of them and at the appropriate time I will expose them for what they are. Abba was far better than them: far more wholesome and far more decent. He was a gentleman who though, in my view, was on the wrong side of the political divide, remained a gentleman nevertheless.

I found it inexplicable and difficult to accept that a man that was as sophisticated, cosmopolitan, enlightened and intelligent as ABBA was could work for a government and be Chief of Staff in a Presidency that was the most sectional and religiously biased in the history of Nigeria and I often told him this. We had many heated discussions and lively debates on this and other issues.

His defence was that he believed in Buhari and that he chose to be loyal to him and I respected that. He often reminded me of the days in which I was at the Villa when I stood by President Olusegun Obasanjo no matter what.

He said that even though he was with Buhari throughout that time and was opposed to Obasanjo we still remained friends and that we ought to remain friends now that the tables had turned and that he and his principal were in power.

This was sound logic and it made sense. Only a fool does not appreciate the fact that true friendship transcends politics and that you take your friends warts and all even when, in your view, they may have made the wrong political choices.

# AWF: COVID-19 pandemic has impact on wildlife conservation in Africa

**By Special Correspondent, Nairobi**

THE protection of Africa's iconic wildlife species should remain a focus even as the continent grapples with disruptions linked to COVID-19 pandemic, an African foundation said on Thursday.

Kaddu Sebunya, chief executive officer of Nairobi-based African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) said that proactive measures are required to strengthen protection of the continent's wildlife and their habitats amid competing priorities like the fight against the disease.

"The world is understandably

trying to reduce the impact of COVID-19 and respond to the critical short-term needs," Sebunya said. But we must not forget that wildlife/ecological health is a critical resource for economic recovery in Africa once this pandemic is over, he added.

Sebunya acknowledged that the COVID-19 pandemic will

adversely impact wildlife conservation in Africa amid falling tourism revenues and the risk of poaching alongside human-wildlife conflicts.

"Given extremely limited resources, governments are likely to abandon wildlife protection in the short to medium term and redirect resources to hu-

manitarian considerations," said Sebunya. He said that critical wildlife conservation programs could face funding cuts due to revenue shortfalls occasioned by COVID-19 disruptions.

"Some protected area managers have said that they only have three months' worth of funding reserves after which they might

have to cut some programs entirely," said Sebunya.

The AWF official said that it is possible for Africa's wildlife to thrive amid disruptions triggered by COVID-19 pandemic once governments prioritize enactment of policies that promote ecologically sensitive economic development.

"Wildlife will thrive in Africa if correct decisions are made today about Africa's development trajectory," said Sebunya.

Sebunya urged African governments to allocate more funding towards environmental conservation and limit investments in projects that harm ecosystems.



Dr Sarah Aiko checks Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella's blood pressure shortly after the RC launched a mobile 'Mkoba' clinic in Mwanza city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

## 50 houses washed away by floods in Hai district, RC acts

**By Guardian Reporter, Hai**

OVER 50 households have been swept away by flash floods in Hai district, Kilimanjaro region following heavy rains over the past two days.

District commissioner Lengai Ole Sabaya ordered six households, which have large number of children to be temporarily relocated to Sanya station primary school building in KIA ward.

DC Ole Sabaya said that most of the families were surrounded by water due to the ongoing rains hitting northern regions and the country at large. The floods are from the slopes on Mount Kilimanjaro.

"As leaders, we're working hard to rescue those families which are in serious hit including relocating them to safer places. We're also working to ensure that they get all the basic necessities," DC Sabaya told reporters here yesterday.

Reports have it that some families have deserted their homes and sought shelters to the near-

by villages.

According to Sabaya, his office and other players were working hard to make sure that water flows into Kikuletwa river and Pangani river. "Most of the affected families are those built along valleys, which in most cases are prone to floods said the DC"

Kia Ward agricultural officer, Maurin Mushi said that the floods had destroyed 175 acres of crops such as beans, vegetables and maize.

On Wednesday, two people died and scores of families left homeless after more than 50 houses were destroyed by ongoing heavy rains in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions.

In addition, hundreds of passengers travelling from the northern regions to Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Central and Lake zone regions were stranded for more than six hours, after a downpour cut road traffic at Mabula area in Arumeru district along Arusha-Moshi highway.

## Tanzania is second in Africa after Comoro for initiating a huge fog harvesting project

**By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara**

TANZANIA is the second country in Africa, after Comoro for initiating a huge fog harvesting project following new technology.

Fog harvesting provides an alternative source of freshwater through a technique used to capture water from wind-driven fog.

As the wind passes through the mesh, drops of freshwater form and drip into an underlying gutter, from which pipes lead the water into a storage tank.

The project has been started in Qameyu village, Bashnet ward in Babati district, Manyara region which has enabled villagers in the area to benefit from the harvested water.

The technology is able to produce 52,000 litres of water in 48 hours, the quantity which mitigates acute water scarcity in the area which is most of the time enveloped by fog.

Elias Boay, Qameyu villager yesterday said through the technology enabled by Germans many people in the area stand to benefit.

He said in the past only Comoro had the project in the African continent, but now Tanzania is the second.

He said the project should be protected and made sustainable consid-

ering acute water scarcity the villagers used to face in the past.

"Among the project's beneficiaries are stu-

dents of Qameyu Secondary School who used to face acute water shortage," he said.

Zuwena Hamis, an-

other resident of the village said water scarcity in the area is now becoming past history.

**Enabel Belgian Development Agency**

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST  
PROMOTION OF SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN KIGOMA**

The Kingdom of Belgium through Enabel and the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Water, are implementing a water and sanitation project in Kigoma region. This is a 5-year project which runs through June 2022 and aims to promote provision of sustainable water supply services in the region. The project now seeks to engage an NGO to carry out activities that aim at improving safe hygiene practices at household level in respective of: a) water collection, b) transport to point of use, c) storage d) use e) hand-washing and f) latrine use.

Interested NGOs can be local or international or a partnership of both but with a track record in carrying out sanitation and hygiene promotion activities using the most effective approaches. The project is looking for NGOs with capacity to implement and monitor and evaluate improvements in hygiene practices. Those organizations that are directly present or have implementing partners in Kigoma region will have an added advantage

More information and bid documents of this assignment are available at: <https://btctanzania.wordpress.com/>



**TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL  
CONTAINER TERMINAL SERVICES LTD**  
A member of the Hutchison Port Holdings Group

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

#### SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE

Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited (TICTS) is a member of Hutchison Ports. Hutchison is the world's leading port investor, developer and operator, with a network of 51 ports in 26 countries across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, the Americas and Australasia. Over the years, Hutchison Ports has expanded internationally into other logistics and transport-related businesses including cruise terminals, airports, distribution centers, rail services and ship repair facilities. In 2017 the Hutchison Ports network handled a combined throughput of 81.4 million TEU worldwide.

#### 1. Background:

TICTS is inviting expression of interest from established and reputable companies for providing support and maintenance for its wireless infrastructure at the Port container Terminal

#### 2. Experience Required:

Interested vendors should have at least 10 years' experience in providing support services for similar task.

The basic documents required are;

- Tax clearance certificate
- Business Licence
- Evidence of back to back OEM partnerships for network devices

Interested vendors are required to submit their expression of interest with details of their capability and experience in a sealed envelope to TICTS finance office at PSPF building along Sokoine drive before or on **8th May 2020 at 3:00pm**, addressed to:

**Tender Committee  
Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited  
P.O Box 71442, Dar es Salaam  
Tel. 255 22 2134056 Fax: 255 22 2134019**



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# COVID-19: Should you believe what ECA is saying about Africa?

By Azu Ishiekwene

**T**HE Zahir is a 2005 novel by the Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho. As in an earlier book, *The Alchemist*, *The Zahir* is about a pilgrimage. The book touches on themes of love, loss and obsession. *The Zahir* was written in Coelho's native language, Portuguese, and it has been translated into 44 languages.

The *Zahir*, Paulo Coelho said there are two major problems in life: knowing when to begin and knowing when to stop. If, for example, Nigeria had closed its borders early on and enforced quarantine for all returning Nigerians, whoever they are, things might have been different today. I'm sure many others would say the same for their own countries as well. In between knowing when to begin and knowing when to stop, however, an agency of the United Nations, which ought to help Africa find its way out of the present crisis, is bandying figures about COVID-19 that can only compound the continent's collective misery. Last week, the Economic Commission for Africa, ECA, said between 300,000 and 3.3million Africans may die from coronavirus, and expected us to take the figures like gospel.

The commission gave five different possible scenarios (from no-intervention to suppression using intense social distancing) that could lead to - or mitigate - this catastrophic outcome. It, however, failed disastrously to show the basis for its model on a country-specific basis. That's unforgivable because no disease impacts a country the same way, much less a continent. Africa, my country? Africa is not a country. Yet, the forecast is a parable that even institutions that are supposed to serve the continent are not immune to biases of how the West treats the continent like a country. It's also a reminder that Africans can and do treat themselves worse, even without help from outsiders. How did the ECA arrive at its apocalyptic figures for a continent of 58 countries and a population of 600-750million people, with all its nuances, diversity and complexity, without providing details on a country-by-country basis of how its forecast might happen? When experts in the US predicted that between 200,000 to 1.7million people could die from coronavirus it was based largely on 1) the impact and



Vera Songwe is the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa

profile of previous epidemics, especially the viral ones; 2) how quickly and effectively people respond to precautions, adjust and iterate, and 3) the capacity of the medical healthcare system to respond to the ongoing crisis. The forecasts in the UK (where 500,000 deaths were initially predicted) and other places also followed similar modelling patterns as those in the US, yet neither the forecast in the US nor that in Britain indicated a uniform impact across individual countries. There's no European, North American or Asian model. Notwithstanding, we have seen that even these "informed forecasts" were exaggerated. Whether it was intended or not, the forecasts also helped the countries concerned to buy time to strengthen their healthcare systems while keeping larger and vulnerable segments of the populations on the straight and narrow.

That, obviously, was what the ECA wanted to do with Africa: to sound a warning that we cannot treat with levity a virus that the world is yet to fully understand, much less tame. Same old trap. But the commission goofed, and we're not obliged to be led by the nose. Its report, "COVID-19 in Africa: Protecting lives and economies," showed little respect for the continent's diversity or evidence about how it arrived at its far-reaching conclusions, at least for the potential hotspots. Yet, this is the same commission that should have been on the frontline with fact-based evidence, harnessing original thinking about

how to help the continent find its way out. To be sure, the report highlighted the serious deficiencies in healthcare systems across the continent, which we know. It highlighted the fragile state of the economies, the danger posed by the pandemic and suggested that the continent's growth may not only recess by nearly 2.6 percent, Africa may also need \$200billion (for its healthcare systems and forbearance) to plug the hole. Again, not surprising. It reminded us that large segments of the continent's populations reside in overcrowded urban areas, which increases the risk of transmission, and added that general poverty compounded by poor access to basic sanitary infrastructure and a broken global medical supply chain, could make the continent the world's capital of COVID-19. Maybe? Improbable. Africa is not a country.

According to WHO, parasite and vector-borne diseases, diarrhoea, lower respiratory tract infections, HIV, and Ischaemic heart diseases claim three million African lives yearly. If ECA thinks that coronavirus alone would kill more Africans than the combined forces of these five top killers, then it

is vitally important to show us country-specific data how this would happen, at least in the hotspots. READ ALSO: Ramadan: Let's pray, survive together during COVID-19 - Alao Akala Reliable data on the continent is difficult, but not impossible to find. The (Oxford) Journal of Infectious Diseases said in its September 2015 edition, "Many African countries have health and demographic surveillance sites where births and deaths are recorded." Such data, for example, could have been a starting point. A one-size-fits-all picture is not good enough, because even as tough as things are, there are still differences in attitudes, disease profile and governance, from country to country that could significantly affect outcomes.

It's telling that even though the commission's report said pre-existing conditions in Africa are worse than in any other continent, and it even identified HIV as a serious problem in southern Africa, for example, it still didn't think this "localised" profile made the case for country-specific data more compelling.

The continent cannot be hostage to ECA's apocalyptic scenario simply because mortality modelling has become the in-thing. Interesting trends interestingly, at about the same time the ECA was releasing its 48-page report, the situation in some of the most populous countries on the continent did not show any significant divergence in the ratio between reported/confirmed and recorded deaths in these countries, and what is being recorded in other parts of the world.

As of Tuesday, Nigeria and Ethiopia, whose combined populations is roughly half of the continent's and which also have significant poor urban populations, had only recorded 665 and 114 confirmed cases respectively with combined deaths of 25, well below the current world average of three to four percent, with impressive rates of recovery in both countries. South Africa and Kenya which are not just among the continent's top 10 populous countries but are also reasonably integrated into the global supply chain have, so far, managed to contain the spread of the virus with total confirmed cases of 3,761 (mostly from South Africa) as of Tuesday, 72 deaths, and 1,127 recoveries.

Also, as of Tuesday, Africanarguments.org said the total confirmed cases in Africa were 23,720; recoveries 6,159; and deaths, 1,162. Egypt, Morocco and Algeria, which the report said have less crowded urban areas and, therefore, are potentially less vulnerable, constituted over 45

percent of the confirmed cases in Africa as of Tuesday, with higher than average mortality. That is precisely why a report that fails to supply the basis for a worst-case scenario for the continent's hotspots, is quite frankly, irresponsible. I should not be mistaken.

I know that it's still early days and depending on how the pandemic is managed, things might get grim in some countries, with Nigeria still being a country of concern. I'm also not suggesting, for a moment, that Africa's job is done, that the worst is over, or that the challenge of COVID-19 is not a clear and present danger to the continent. There is a need for better co-ordination and information sharing among countries as has been suggested in an open letter by some of the continent's leading scholars including Nobel laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka. Research centres, scientists and universities must also step up to the plate.

Two years ago, WHO held a simulation of a response to "a deadly global flu pandemic" involving 40 countries including 10 from Africa. Have the lessons from that simulation been any use in helping countries respond to COVID-19?

More expected. The public deserves more from ECA. I simply refuse to accept data that treats the continent as a country just because such data is coming from experts who assume they would not be questioned.

It's also instructive that Africa's poorest countries are finding ways outside the total lockdown models prevalent in Europe, US and Asia, to help themselves. We can't always let others do the lifting for us or just be happy copycats. In Malawi, for example, civil society groups took the government to court last week and obtained an interim ruling that prevents the government from implementing a total lockdown without concrete measures on how to cater for the weak and vulnerable more of who may die from hunger than from contracting the virus.

As more countries around the world embark on aggressive and rapid testing, while easing restrictions, it would be particularly helpful to look at steps barely mentioned in the ECA's report that could be modified from country to country.

Mandatory use of face masks; greater transparency about results from community testing; more information about how and where to get help by those who present symptoms; redefinition and expansion of "essential services" to include more of the informal sector (imagine that the US state of Texas included gun shops as essential!), may help.



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## PROMOTION

## CRDB debuts campaign out to encourage clients seek to digital payments platforms

By Guardian Reporter

AS the coronavirus pandemic continues to ravage the globe, CRDB Bank Plc has launched a campaign dubbed, 'Popote Inatiki,' aimed at encouraging the public to use digital outlets to transact.

The bank which witnessed record increase in digital transactions to 80 percent of its total transaction by March this year, has products such as SimBanking, SimAccount, Internet Banking, TemboCard and CRDB Wakalas (agents) which are popular with clients in the market.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Friday during the campaign launch, the bank's Chief Commercial Officer, Dr Joseph Wits said the objective is to sensitize the public on the importance of using digital platforms to access bank services.

"Last year we heavily invested in improving our digital transacting system which also added new services hence the need to sensitize our clients on availability of such facilities," Dr Wits said while also unveiling Bongo Flewa artist, Har-

monise as brand ambassador of the CRDB Bank.

He said through its 2018/22 strategic plan, the bank has put emphasis in promoting and investing heavily in digitization so that more people can access its services without visiting a physical branch hence boosting efficiency.

"Use of digital platforms allows clients to conduct transactions wherever they are being in urban areas or the most remote parts of the country for 24 hours and seven days a week," the CRDB CCO added.

He further noted that apart from assisting to realise the government's financial inclusion agenda, digitization of banking services also leads to efficiency as clients don't have to walk into a banking hall and stand in a queue to get served.

"As the campaign's slogan goes, 'Popote Inatiki' means it's available anywhere at all times," Dr Wits noted while stressing that the target is to ensure that 90 percent of the bank's transactions are conducted outside physical branches.

"We have more than 14,000 agents



CRDB Bank Plc senior marketing manager Joe Bendera (2nd R) with by the bank's new brand 'ambassador' Rajab Abdul Kahali popularly known as Harmonise (3rd R) during the launch 'Popote Inatiki' campaign aimed at encouraging customers to use digital payment systems to transact at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Friday. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

countrywide located at almost every village, ward and division to serve our clients," he stressed while pointing out that as the COVID-19 ravages the globe, digital banking enhances social distancing which is one of the main recommendation being promoted by health experts to contain the virus.

CRDB's Senior Marketing Manager, Joe Bendera said statistics in-

dicating that more youth favour using digital banking platforms hence the decision to recruit Harmonise as brand ambassador so that more of his peers should join the bandwagon.

"If we incorporate more youths in this campaign then certainly we will have included the majority of the public. Harmonise is a popular

figure among youths and even some old people," Bendera argued while stressing that tech savvy youths will definitely go for digital banking.

In his remarks as brand ambassador, Harmonise whose real name is Rajab Kahali said he has been a client of the bank for many years during which he preferred using digital transacting platforms because they

are efficient and secure.

"I take this opportunity to encourage the public to refrain from visiting CRDB branches to transact but instead use 'Popote Inatiki' to get banking services at the click of their mobile phones," Kahali said noting that bulky cash carrying and queuing in banking halls is gradually becoming archaic.

## PLEA

## Africa urged to leverage technology in fight against Covid-19

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICA needs cheaper and faster broadband which is "expanded to the last mile of our populations," to ably deal with the health and economic challenges of COVID-19.

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Vera Songwe, stressed this Thursday, April 23, during a virtual high-level policy dialogue on leveraging technology in assisting African countries in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Participants also agreed that technology is a common denominator in mitigating the impact of the pandemic, restoring livelihoods and tackling similar challenges in the future. Organized in collaboration with Ant Financial Services of the Alibaba Group, the live-streamed event brought together leaders of the Asian tech giant, African

ministers of technology and telecommunication, private sector actors and innovation or digital economy activists.

"It is clear that the novel coronavirus has led to physical confinement in many parts of the world but enterprises which leverage the power of digital and innovative technologies continue doing business," Songwe said.

"In fact - even more business as Ant Financial has demonstrated in offering financial solutions to 10 million additional customers in the midst of the crisis," Ant Financial's representatives explained that they have so far used digital technology to help businesses boost online trade, build intelligent networks to support agriculture and food chain delivery, practice online medical consultations, carry out online job search and provide contactless loans to Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (SMEs).

"We believe that leveraging

digital transformation during this crisis will save lives and jobs especially in tourism and related services," said Eric Jing, Executive Chairman of Ant Financial and Member of the Advisory Board to ECA's Digital Centre of Excellence. Jing noted that thanks to the power of technology, "the world will emerge stronger, working together."

Both Moustapha Diaby - Minister of Digital Economy, Post and Telecommunications of Guinea and Cina Lawson - Minister of Digital Economy of Togo, agreed that COVID-19 was a clarion call for Africa to prioritize digital connectivity and governance.

Diaby admitted that tracing the spread of the virus in order to flatten the curve in Guinea has proved difficult in the absence of a digital identification system. From Cameroon, tech activist and CEO of AppsTech Inc., Rebecca Enonchong, re-echoed the case for "low tech solutions such as USSD and the SMS which don't require smartphones" as well



ECA's Executive Secretary, Vera Songwe.

as governments' intervention to reduce the cost of broadband ur-

gently. She regretted that the big on-

line traffic and hosting platforms such as Google (for Google Play)

and Apple (providing Apple Store) have curtailed the ability for African developers to showcase groundbreaking solutions that they nurtured in the effort to tackle the pandemic.

In view of these, panelists emphasized the need for African governments, in synergy with the private sector and civil society, to collaborate on aggregating solutions and avoiding duplication of efforts to fight against COVID-19.

Amel Saidane, President of Tunisia Startups, explained that her country's government was already taking that route and has sought for a North Africa regional collaborative platform to pool together the flood of ideas and solutions from public-private partnerships.

The dialogue on the need to quickly set up a collaborative platform for helping businesses to sell African products on, and beyond, the continent in this time of crisis. Panelists agreed to reconvene quickly to act on these recommendations.

## SA LOCKDOWN

## MTN, Vodacom laud emergency spectrum as Telkom crying foul

JOHANNESBURG

AS mobile telcos broadly reacted favourably to the decision by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) to temporarily release spectrum, Telkom expressed reservations.

Telkom says in acting with urgency, "it appears ICASA has assigned spectrum already licensed to Telkom in the IMT2300 band. "The emergency regulation does not give ICASA the right to expropriate currently assigned spectrum. We are engaging with ICASA on this while we continue with plans to deploy the newly-allocated bands."

Telkom says it broadly congratulates ICASA for its swift action in releasing emergency spectrum. "The swift allocation of spectrum will be good for the economy as it promotes capital expenditure, enables busi-

ness activity and education to continue despite the current lockdown." In general, other operators reacted favourably to ICASA's decision to temporarily release spectrum during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

On Friday, ICASA assigned temporary spectrum to Vodacom, MTN, Telkom, Liquid Telecom and Rain. Cell C didn't apply for the spectrum, telling media that together with its roaming agreement partners, it will be able to manage traffic between networks.

In November, the telco extended its roaming agreement with MTN, which helps the country's third-largest operator broaden its 4G network coverage nationally. At the time, Cell C said, the deal will extend 4G coverage to 95% of the population and its customers will now have access to over 12 500 sites, of which 90% are LTE-enabled.

Last week, the regulator said it had received 35 applications for additional temporary spectrum amid the COVID-19 lockdown, which is for now scheduled to end on 30 April. ICASA considered applications for temporary spectrum in the following bands: 700MHz, 800MHz, 2 300MHz, 2 600MHz and 3 500MHz, as well as the use of television white spaces.

Reacting to the temporary relief, Vodacom welcomed the ICASA decision, saying "the temporary assignment of spectrum will help alleviate network congestion during the COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa." Vodacom's application for temporary spectrum in the 700, 800, 2 300, 2 600 and 3 500 bands was approved.

The company says demand for data had risen following initiatives launched by Vodacom on 1 April, whereby 30-day data bundle prices



Jacqui O'Sullivan, executive of corporate affairs at MTN SA.

were reduced by up to 40%, and the launch of ConnectU, Vodacom's zero-rated platform that consolidates a range of essential services.

Vodacom Group CEO Shameel Joosub says: "Vodacom remains focused on providing the highest quality network service to all of its customers during and beyond the COVID-19 lockdown period and we will continue to support the South African government's efforts to flatten the curve in whatever way we can. "The temporary spectrum which we have been assigned will go a long way towards alleviating network congestion in the coming weeks, and in the event that the lock-

down period is extended further." SA's leading telecommunication company has seen a double-digit increase in traffic amid the lockdown.

Meanwhile, MTN says in "our spectrum-constrained country, the only way networks have been able to increase capacity has been by constantly building new and expensive infrastructure." Jacqui O'Sullivan, executive of corporate affairs at MTN SA, explains: "We have effectively had to build ourselves out of the problem. More spectrum means capex spend can be reduced. As a direct consequence of this temporary spectrum allocation, MTN will be bringing additional lower cost

pricing options to customers, to help ease the financial pressures we know so many South Africans are facing right now.

"We will share details of the pricing as soon as the additional spectrum has been deployed." MTN says its immediate focus will be on deploying the spectrum, which will significantly ease the congestion it had seen in hotspots across the country.

O'Sullivan says: "As part of our application to ICASA, we identified specific sites and broader sectors that would benefit from the temporary spectrum allocation, where we've seen congestion building on our network. "Following the allocation of spectrum, we have now turned our attention to a four- to six-week radio rollout plan and adding additional capacity to the mobile core network.

"We will bring the additional capacity online as soon as possible. MTN SA began the modernisation network programme in 2019, to ensure readiness for the much-anticipated release of 4G and 5G spectrum. This leaves MTN well-placed to deploy the spectrum in the newly released spectrum bands."

## EXPANSION

# Timiza Akiba posts record growth of 32 per cent in March

By Guardian Reporter

A joint initiative by Airtel Tanzania, Letshego Bank Tanzania and Jumo to mobilise deposits from mobile money customers since 2018 called Timiza Akiba recorded its highest growth yet of assets by 32 per cent in March this year.

As a paperless and safe mobile-centric service, Timiza Akiba allows Airtel customers to set up a savings account and save any amount from 100/- up to

5m/- directly from their phones, without having to handle cash or travel to a bank.

The funds are managed by Letshego Bank and customers receive competitive rewards for not withdrawing from their savings for a 30-day period. Withdrawals are, however, accessible and available at any time with no transaction costs, in the event of an unexpected expense or emergency. The 32 per cent increase was achieved in three months from December 2019,

the mobile phone company said in a statement.

"Timiza Akiba runs on mobile money so deposits and withdrawals can be made digitally and your savings remain safe at a time when we all need to curtail our luxury spending," said Airtel Money Director, Isack Nchunda.

As the Timiza Akiba fund manager, Letshego Bank's Chief Finance Officer, Andrew Tarimo backs Nchunda's observation saying digital payment applications and gateways are a safer alterna-

tive to dealing with cash especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. "Timiza Akiba offers a secure, rewarding way of saving money for emergencies, business, family or the future during this time of economic uncertainty."

Jumo Africa's CEO, Buhle Goslar said his company builds and operates short-term, structured and long-term financial products for emerging markets. "Our technology stack reduces unit economics on the delivery and administration of financial ser-

vice so that partners can reach new markets and customers can access high value products," said Goslar.

He added, "Our partnership with Airtel and Letshego in Tanzania has reduced the barriers to access to savings significantly and it's encouraging to see how Timiza Akiba has grown, especially in recent months."

Many customers, like small business owner, Olivia Beatus said decision to save with Timiza Akiba was made because it al-

lows depositing small amounts which gradually helps one reach their big financial goal. Beatus said capital for her fabric and beauty product business came from depositing small amounts daily with Timiza Akiba. "With Timiza Akiba, I can save a thousand shillings at a time, or even less, amounts that I would not be able to deposit at a bank," she said.

Beatus' argument is backed by Erick David, a security guard in Dar es Salaam who has similar

aspirations like her hence is currently saving for capital to build multiple income streams by running various agricultural businesses.

David who used to save his money in a traditional bank account, said he saw it as inconvenient to deposit small amounts of money by going to a physical bank branch hence opted for the Timiza Akiba option. "It's easy to save with Timiza Akiba—right there in my hands through the mobile phone," David said.



Airtel Money Director, Isack Nchunda

## SA LOCKDOWN

## Illegal alcohol sales: 10 liquor licences lie suspended in SA's W. Cape province

CAPE TOWN

TEN liquor licenses have been suspended and five reports are being prepared for the Liquor Licensing Tribunal's consideration following investigations into non-compliance with lockdown regulations, Western Cape MEC for community safety Albert Fritz said on Friday.

"To date, the Western Cape Liquor Authority (WCLA) have conducted 37 investigations on matters of non-compliance with the National Disaster Regulations, whereby liquor traders sold alcohol during the lockdown period," he said in a statement.

He warned that any liquor vendor operating during the lockdown will be eligible for a fine and may lose their license, subject to an investigation. He quoted from the Western Cape Liquor Act, which reads: "The Liquor Licensing Tribunal may grant an interim order suspending a license upon application by an inspector or a designated liquor officer if there is an imminent threat to the health, well-being or safety of the public."

He added: "I have requested that the WCLA ensure that any outlet which contravenes the lockdown conditions be liable for a maximum fine of up to R115 610

or have their license revoked permanently, subject to investigation.

"It has further been requested that the WCLA join the Provincial Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (Provjoins) committee and be included in every case where liquor was sold, or an arrest was made, to better track the original point of sale."

Fritz urged anyone who knew of alcohol being sold illegally to report it to the police.

He added that he welcomed the Provjoins resolution taken last month that no alcohol would be returned to any outlet, even after the paying of an admission of guilt fine.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## Jumia, Twiga Foods partner to deliver orders to customers' houses in Nairobi

NAIROBI

TWIGA Foods has signed a distribution deal with Jumia to deliver fresh and processed food to consumers. The deal comes at a time when the government is restricting the movement of people to curb the spread of COVID-19.

"Our partnership with Twiga will allow customers to shop on Jumia for their fruits and vegetables. They will also get same-day free delivery on the platform in Nairobi and will save customers money - as Twiga cuts out the middle men by buying directly from farmers and FMCG manufacturers across the country. The service will be dubbed Jumia Fresh powered by Twiga," said Jumia Kenya's CEO Sam Chappatte.

The e-commerce platform, Jumia, has been operating in Kenya since 2013. In that time, Jumia has built an extensive e-commerce and logistics platform with a country-wide distribution network. Over the last 6 years, Twiga Foods has been building Kenya's end-to-end distribution for fresh and processed food, sourcing from more than 15,000 producers and delivering to over 5,000 retailers a day.



Jumia Kenya CEO Sam-Chappatte (L) and Twiga Foods CEO Peter Njonjo after agreeing a deal.

By bringing together their capabilities, the two companies aim to offer a delivery service for food, providing fresh, high quality products directly to people's homes across Nairobi.

"This partnership with Jumia is a great milestone for us. It allows us to scale up in terms of products, retailers and cities served through this platform, as we continue executing our mission to feed and supply Africa's urban population with traceable, quality and affordable products.

Significantly, this partnership ensures that we pass on to our consumers the price benefit of sourcing directly from farmers and manufacturers," said Peter Njonjo, Twiga Foods CEO, adding that its Twiga Fresh bundle is offering a 50% discount to the prevail-

ing market prices.

The deal aims to cover home delivery into most of Nairobi's suburbs, leveraging Twiga's existing infrastructure of depots in Dagoretti, Donholm, Embakasi, Thome, Ruaka, Kaloleni, Nairobi West, Syokimau, Waiyaki Way and Kilimani.

The consumer offerings will consist of bundled fresh fruit, vegetables and non-perishable consumer foods (unga, milk, etc). The "Fresh bundle" is expected to be the most popular, and will offer 28kg of fruit and vegetables for Kshs 1,925 (including free delivery in Nairobi), about 50% cheaper than in supermarkets. The service will be available on the Jumia and Jumia Food apps under the "Supermarket" category.

## COMPETITIVENESS

## DHL inaugurates 100-tonne weekly freight services for Middle East, Africa and China

DHL Global Forwarding has launched a dedicated 100-tonne weekly air freight service for organizations and governments shipping goods from China to Africa and Middle East.

Capitalizing on Dubai's strategic geographical location as the gateway to countries in the region, the leading international provider of air, sea and road freight services will consolidate cargo from across China into Guangzhou and air freight them via Dubai to their various destinations across Africa and Middle East, all within two or three days.

"DHL Global Forwarding is bolstering logistics support to our customers in the region who need to ensure stable supply chains, especially for medical and critical supplies during this critical period.

With multiple flight cancellations that has strained worldwide air freight capacity, we remain committed to leveraging our capabilities, global network and customized solutions to ensure that goods and critical resources continue to reach people and communities in Africa and the Middle East," said Amadou Diallo, CEO, DHL Global Forwarding Middle East and Africa.

With its geographical location and superior infrastructure as a transit hub, Dubai plays a key role as a gateway between China and the rest of Africa and the Middle East.

Africa is Dubai's third largest trading partner in volume terms and Africa's non-oil trade with Dubai has



Amadou Diallo, CEO, DHL Global Forwarding Middle East and Africa

been growing steadily over the last decade, accounting for 10.5% of the emirate's total non-oil foreign trade in 2018.

Named after the Nguni Bantu word, ubuntu ("humanity") used across Africa to refer to the universal bond of sharing, UbuntuConnect refers to the China-Af-

rica lane where bulk of the cargo is expected to comprise personal protective gear such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and goggles.

Equally, part of the cargo will head to other countries in the Middle East to plug the demand gap there.

Whilst the secured uplift from China will be in operation for four weeks starting April 21, DHL Global Forwarding is actively seeking to secure routes to all of Africa and boost capacity to the Middle East and Africa in the longer term.

## INNOVATIVE

## Japanese lingerie firm sells face masks made from bras

TOKYO

THE lingerie label Atsumi Fashion which is based in the city of Himi in Japan decided to make the face mask range using surplus material they had from making bras that have not been selling while people were on lockdown.

The lacy lingerie that the company makes includes bras, and 125 of these were then cut in half and modified to become the raw material for their first 250 face masks.

And when the company saw that all 250 had sold out as soon as they were put on sale on Atsumi Fashion's online store, Lingerie Lab, and the Rakuten online marketplace, they decided to turn the line into a serious business.

They have now extended the initial range to include face masks made from different bras and in different colours. The company has even hired their first model, famous Japanese celebrity Aya Kondo, to publicise the range. Each face mask costs 1,490 JPY which is around half of the price of a standard bra in the country. Japan has experienced a severe shortage of masks, with many companies working in other areas modifying output to produce face masks and other protective items.



**The company has even hired their first model, famous Japanese celebrity Aya Kondo, to publicise the range**

PROGRESS

# Coronavirus: UAE malls consider new safety measures for reopening

ABU DHABI

VISITORS to UAE malls are likely to face enhanced hygiene measures when they make their first shopping trip in weeks.

The proposed relaxation of strict rules, which have been in force for a month, means that businesses and retailers are preparing to bring back staff and open their doors again. Shopping centres in Abu Dhabi and Dubai have outlined plans to prevent those over the age of 60 from entering, while children aged between three and 12 could not enter Dubai malls either.

Temperature checks would be mandatory as part of ongoing efforts to guard against the spread of Covid-19. Over recent weeks, only supermarkets and chemists were able to remain open to visiting patrons, with many companies scrambling to offer delivery and online services as they fought to survive.

"We are pleased with the announcement by the government and the guidelines issued," Saoud Khoory, executive director of retail at Aldar Properties, which operates shopping centres including Yas Mall and the World Trade Centre Mall in Abu Dhabi, said.

"We look forward to welcoming our guests soon, and we want to reassure them that we are doing everything we can to ensure their wellness." He said measures had already been put in place to ensure the safety of guests and workers, and further discussions were currently taking place about what more could be done.

"We are utilising this time to work closely with our retail partners to ensure the highest levels of protection and hygiene for all staff and visitors as soon as our malls resume operation," he said. Mall operators said they were considering putting in place additional measures to ensure the safety of the public. Many have already been requiring customers to wear face masks and, in some

cases, gloves, before entering to visit the few stores that have been able to stay open.

In Dubai, stores have been told to limit the number of visitors at any one time, while entertainment and tourist attractions inside malls will remain closed to prevent overcrowding. Customers of some well-known companies received text messages on Thursday informing them that stores would soon be reopening.

At Yas Mall, visitors have noticed 'disinfectant gates' being installed at an entrance over recent days. Similar walk-through gates have already been installed at some transport hubs, including Abu Dhabi Central Bus Station.

It is understood that the Yas Mall gates, which is still being installed and tested, will initially only be for staff members. However, there were claims that the similar apparatus could soon become widespread at locations including malls, schools, airports and labour camps.

A UAE firm, Guard ME, has said its 'sanitisation gate' kills 99.9 per cent of germs and viruses, and is also capable of detect-



A sign in Fujairah urges people to stay home as people do their shopping.

ing the temperatures of users and whether they are wearing face masks. Users who walk through the gates are sprayed with a disinfectant mist.

The company said it can build 30 of the machines a day in the UAE and already counts some government hospitals and Emirates Red Crescent among its clients. Sharjah Police and Sharjah Civil Defence have also placed orders. "We have created a solution that will play a big role in helping businesses and residents return back to our daily lives as quickly as possible," Husam Zammar, co-founder of the company, said.

"The Guard Sanitising Gate is a great product to be installed and used in malls, schools, offices, public transport locations, healthcare venues, airports, hotels, restaurants and more. "The technology used in this product is first of its kind in the Middle East and we will offer a low-cost consumption compared to other products in market."

RESTRICTION

## YouTube to remove content perceived as going against WHO COVID-19 guidance

NEW YORK

YOUTUBE CEO Susan Wojcicki says the platform will ban content peddling fake or unproven coronavirus remedies. In an interview with CNN, she also suggested that video that "goes against" WHO guidance on the pandemic will be blocked, an expansive policy that may be difficult to enforce in practice.

In March, YouTube said it would demonetize videos about the coronavirus over perceived insensitivity concerns, but reversed that decision a week later after a backlash from disgruntled YouTubers. The platform has already banned videos that link 5G to the spread of Covid-19.

In an interview with CNN published Sunday, Wojcicki said YouTube would be "removing information that is problematic" including "anything that is medically unsubstantiated." For example, she said, content that claimed vitamin C or turmeric would cure people of Covid-19 would be "a violation of our policy" and removed accordingly.

She continued: "Anything that goes against WHO recommendations would be a

violation of our policy and so remove is another really important part of our policy." Wojcicki didn't go into further detail, and it isn't clear how rigorously YouTube is policing videos that might fall into the grey area of debating WHO's guidance.

For example, WHO has advised that masks should be worn by healthcare workers and not by healthy members of the public. But experts are split on this, and there are plenty of YouTube videos advising people on making and wearing their own masks.

Wojcicki acknowledged that YouTube had had to quickly update its policies in response to the virus, and the accompanying spread of misinformation. The platform has already banned videos that link 5G to the spread of Covid-19, a conspiracy theory that's shown surprising longevity on online platforms many despite being widely debunked.

In March, YouTube said it would demonetize videos about the coronavirus over perceived insensitivity concerns, but reversed that decision a week later after a backlash from disgruntled YouTubers.



**ISIDINGO** MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	00:30	02:00	09:30	14:00
<b>SATURDAY 25 April</b>	Al Jazeera	DWTW	Isidingo	Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi			Habari za saa	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
6:00 HABARI			Watoto	16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
6:40 Kumekucha			Shamba lulu rpt	17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
7:00 Habari			Habari za saa	17:30 Meza huru
8:00 Al Jazeera			The Base rpt	19:00 The Décor rpt
9:00 Watoto wetu			Habari za saa	19:30 Shamba lulu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5			Al Jazeera	20:00 Series: Itohan
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt			Ijue Sheria	20:45 The Monday Agenda
11:15 The Base rpt			12:30 Mjue Sheria	21:30 Capital Prime News
11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk			12:55 Habari za saa	22:00 Kipima Joto
12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt			13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt	
13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost			13:30 Mrejesho rpt	
15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito			13:55 Habari za saa	
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe			14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost	
16:20 Igizo: Mtego			15:00 Meza huru	
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani			16:30 Watoto Wetu	
18:00 Jiji Letu			17:00 The Base	
18:15 Mapishi			17:30 Watoto Wetu	
18:30 Igizo: Mapito			18:00 Jiji Letu	
19:00 Jungu Kuu			18:15 Mapishi	
19:30 Shika Bamba			18:30 Jagina	
20:00 Habari			19:00 Usafiri wako	
21:00 Art and lifestyle			19:30 Isidingo	
21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo			20:00 Habari	
22:15 Kesho leo rpt			21:00 Malumbano ya hoja	
22:45 Isidingo rpt			23:00 Habari	
01:30 DWTW			23:30 The Base	
			00:30 DWTW	
<b>SUNDAY 26 April</b>				
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi				
6:00 HABARI				
6:40 Kumekucha				
7:00 Habari				
8:00 Al Jazeera				
9:00 Watoto Wetu				
10:00 Isidingo				
11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt				
12:00 Bongo Movie rpt:				
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:				
23:35 ITV Top 10				
00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost				
<b>MONDAY 27 April</b>				
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi				
6:00 Habari				
6:40 Kumekucha				
7:30 HABARI				
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo				
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo				
9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need				
10:00 Watoto wetu				
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt				
12:00 Al Jazeera				
12:30 Igizo Mtego rpt				
13:00 Mjue Zaidi				
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt				
14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost				
15:00 Meza Huru				
16:30 Watoto Wetu				
17:00 The Base				
18:00 Jiji Letu				
18:10 Aibu yako rpt				
18:15 Mapishi				
18:45 Kesho leo				
19:00 Afya ya Jamii				
19:30 Habari				
20:00 Habari				
21:05 Dakika 45				
22:00 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost				
23:00 Habari				
23:30 The Base				
<b>TUESDAY 28 April</b>				
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi				
6:00 Habari				
6:40 Kumekucha				
7:30 HABARI				
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo				
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo				
9:30 Isidingo				
10:00 Watoto wetu				
10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt				
11:00 The Base rpt				
12:00 Al Jazeera				
12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt				
13:00 Kipindi maalum: KTMDA				
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 Mrejesho				
21:30 Chetu ni chetu				
22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost				
23:00 Habari				
23:30 The Base				
00:30 DWTW				
<b>WEDNESDAY 29 April</b>				
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				
13:55 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: The great queen Seonduk				
19:00 Ijue Sheria				
19:30 Isidingo				
20:00 Habari				
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu Mzuka				
21:10 Aibu Yakol! Hata wewe?				
21:15 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco				
21:45 Ripoti Maalum:				
22:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost				
23:00 Habari				
23:30 The Base				
00:30 Al Jazeera				
2:00 DWTW				
<b>THURSDAY 30 April</b>				
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi				
6:00 HABARI				
6:40 Kumekucha				
7:30 HABARI				
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo				
8:55 Habaraz a saa				
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo				
<b>FRIDAY 01 May</b>				
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi				
6:00 HABARI				
6:40 Kumekucha				
7:30 HABARI				
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo				
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo				
9:30 Isidingo				
10:00 Watoto wetu				
10:30 Usafiri wako rpt				
11:00 The Base				
12:00 Al Jazeera				
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco				
13:00 Jagina rpt				
13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt				
14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost				
15:00 Meza huru				
16:30 Watoto Wetu				
17:00 The Base				
17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu				
18:00 Jiji Letu				
18:15 Mizengwe rpt				
18:30 Shamba lulu				
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA				
19:30 Isidingo				
20:00 Habari				
21:05 Kipima Joto				
23:00 Habari				
23:30 The Base				
00:30 DWTW				
<b>SATURDAY 02 May</b>				
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 The Base rpt				
11:45 The Great Queen Seonduk				
12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt				
13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost				
15:30 Igizo rpt: Mapito				
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe				
16:20 Igizo: Mtego				
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani				
18:00 Jiji Letu				
18:15 Mapishi				
18:30 Igizo: Mapito				
19:00 Jungu Kuu				
19:30 Shika Bamba				
20:00 Habari				
21:00 Art and lifestyle				
21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo				
22:15 Kesho leo rpt				
22:45 Isidingo rpt				
01:30 DWTW				
<b>SUNDAY 03 May</b>				

## WORLD

## Hidden outbreaks likely occurred 'far earlier' in US

BEIJING

A MODEL of the spread of the disease by researchers at Northeastern University shows that by the time New York City confirmed its first case of the coronavirus on March 1, thousands of infections were already silently spreading through the city, according to a report by The New York Times.

"Hidden outbreaks were also spreading almost completely undetected in Boston, San Francisco, Chicago and Seattle, long before testing showed that each city had a major problem," the report said.

The New York Times report said that in five major US cities, as of March 1, there were only 23 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus, but according to the Northeastern model, there could

have actually been about 28,000 infections in those cities by then.

"The Northeastern University researchers found that, even in early February, the virus was not only likely to be spreading in multiple American cities, but also seeding blooms of infection elsewhere in the United States.

The new information released by local public health officials this week also shows that the novel coronavirus spread on the west coast of the United States weeks earlier than initially believed.

Health authorities of Santa Clara County in the western US state of California confirmed Tuesday that two patients had died of COVID-19 at least three weeks before the first known US death from the novel coronavirus disease on Feb 29 in Kirkland in Washing-



Emergency Medical Services paramedics unload a patient at NYU Langone Hospital-Brooklyn during the coronavirus pandemic in the Brooklyn borough of New York, US, on Friday.

ton State.

According to a statement issued by the Northern California county's Emergency Operations Center, the Medical Examiner-Coroner performed autopsies on two individuals who died at home in early February, and received results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday, which showed both tested positive for COVID-19.

"As the Medical Examiner-Coroner continues to carefully investigate deaths throughout the county, we anticipate additional deaths from COVID-19 will be identified," the statement said.

Patricia Dowd, a 57-year-old San Jose wom-

an, died at home on Feb 6.

Jeffrey V Smith, Santa Clara county executive, told Xinhua in an email interview that "so far, this is the earliest death in the United States".

Dowd and another 69-year-old man who died at home on Feb 17 had no "significant travel history," and they presumably caught the virus through community spread, said the county's public health officer Dr Sara Cody.

"These patients apparently contracted the illness from community spread. This suggests that the virus was circulating in the Bay Area in January at least, probably earlier," Smith told Xinhua.

Previously, the first known US death from the virus was on Feb 29 in Kirkland in Washington state.

## Memo unveils anti-China strategy for Republican candidates

WASHINGTON

"Don't defend Trump, other than the China Travel Ban - attack China," a detailed memo sent by the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) to GOP campaigns has advised, urging Republican candidates to address the COVID-19 pandemic by aggressively attacking China.

The 57-page strategy document, obtained by Politico on Friday, includes advice on everything from how to tie Democratic candidates to the Chinese government to how to deal with accusations of racism, according to a Politico report.

"What a playbook. Have a look!" Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying tweeted in response later on Friday.

The memo is focused on three main lines of assault: That China caused the virus "by covering it up," that Democrats are "soft on China," and that Republicans will "push for sanctions on China for its role in spreading this pandemic," Politico summarized.

The memo also advises Republican candidates to blame the Chinese government when President Donald Trump is questioned over his handling of the pandemic and to reject claims that calling COVID-19 the "Chinese virus" is racist.

"The memo should be titled 'The Blame Game for Dummies'," a person called John Mac Cormack commented online.

"This is the Republican message? I guess that is all they have left. Cannot run on fiscal responsibility, cannot run on the economy, cannot run on healthcare, cannot run on jobs, cannot run on crisis management, so I guess this is it, blame China. Repubs always need a boogeyman. 2016 was Mexico, now its China in 2020," another online user Patrick Lowry wrote.

Republicans have indicated they plan to make China a centerpiece of the 2020 campaign, said the Politico report, noting the president's reelection campaign has weighed a major TV ad campaign focused on the topic.

The NRSC, which is the Senate GOP campaign arm, distributed the document but did not commission it, according to Politico.

The memo was authored by the political consulting firm of Brett O'Donnell, a veteran Republican strategist who has advised Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Arkansas Senator Tom Cotton.

Agencies

## Wuhan hospitals clear all COVID-19 cases

BEIJING

THE number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients in Wuhan, the central China city hardest hit by the epidemic, has dropped to zero, a health official said Sun-

day.

The result was achieved with the hard efforts of medical workers in Wuhan and those who were dispatched to assist Wuhan in the fight against the virus from across the country, said Mi

Feng, a spokesperson for China's National Health Commission, at a press conference in Beijing.

The last patient in serious condition in Wuhan was cured Friday, reducing the number of such patients in the city to zero.

In Hubei province, of which Wuhan is the capital, the number of existing COVID-19 cases has dropped below 50 for the first time. No new confirmed cases of the disease have been reported for over 20 days in the

province. China had reported a total of 82,827 confirmed cases on the mainland by Saturday, of which 801 patients were still being treated and 77,394 people had been discharged from hospitals after recovery. Xinhua

## Kenya urges world to step up fight against malaria amid COVID-19 outbreak

NAIROBI

KENYAN President Uhuru Kenyatta on Saturday called on the international community to step up malaria prevention measures even as the continent strives to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Kenyatta (pictured) also called on world leaders not to lose track of the collective war against other diseases that continue to cause human suffering around the world.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is a hurdle that risks stalling or at worst, rolling back the gains we have made in the fight against malaria in Africa," Kenyatta said in a statement issued to mark World Malaria Day.

The president who is also the chairperson of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) said the pressure the pandemic has put on the continent's health systems, if not well managed, has the potential to disrupt the provision of not only malaria services but also other important healthcare interventions.

He said the World Malaria Day gives the global community an opportunity to reflect on the progress it has made in the fight against malaria even as governments continue implementing interventions to end the disease in Africa by the year 2030.

Kenyatta said malaria has ravaged communities for decades and is considered to be, largely, an Af-

rican problem with Sub-Saharan Africa accounting for some 93 percent of global malaria cases.

"In many African countries, malaria is the leading cause of hospital visits which exerts unbearable financial pressure on households," he said.

According to the World Malaria Report 2019, sub-Saharan Africa accounted for approximately 93 percent of all malaria cases and 94 percent of deaths in 2018. More than two-thirds of deaths were among children under the age of five.

Kenyatta reaffirmed his commitment as ALMA chairperson, to continue working together with African Heads of State and government, and other stakeholders in mobilizing resources needed to defeat malaria on the continent.

Going forward, he said, the focus for ALMA remains the protection of the gains made in malaria control through prevention, treatment, and the roll-out of interventions such as the malaria vaccine which is under phased implementation in Kenya, Ghana and Malawi.

He said ALMA will also focus on boosting Africa's purchasing power and local manufacturing of critical medical supplies through regional partnerships and collaborations.

"Once again, as ALMA calls upon us to acknowledge that zero malaria starts with me, let us also agree that zero coronavirus infections start with me, you, all of us,"

said Kenyatta. In Kenya, he said, his government has significantly lowered malaria prevalence from a high of six million infections to 4.6 million over the last ten years.

"This progress is largely a result of support and cooperation between the Government, development partners and our frontline

health providers such as doctors, nurses and other cadres of our gallant medical personnel," said Kenyatta.

He called for the strengthening of health systems especially at the sub-national and community levels by considering an integrated approach to manage the COVID-19, whereby malaria services are of-

fered as part of the essential health package.

The Kenyan leader said his government will continue to scale up malaria prevention efforts through the distribution of over 15 million treated mosquito nets this year to cover about 25 million vulnerable Kenyans.

Xinhua

## UK's Johnson to return to Downing Street office

By Bloomberg

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson will return to work today and take charge of the UK's handling of the pandemic, a month after he was struck down by the coronavirus.

The government has been without a leader since the prime minister was admitted to the hospital on April 5.

Since being released he's been slowly easing his way back, holding daily video calls with Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and his Downing Street team, and speaking to his key medical advisers Chris Whitty and Patrick Vallance.

"The PM has been doing all the right things and following his doctor's advice to come back to work," a Downing Street official said. "He is raring to go."

Johnson's return comes at another critical juncture for the government, which has found itself on the defensive since the COVID-19 crisis began. The country's death toll, from hospitals only, has topped 20,000, the fifth highest in the world, and business has slowed to a crawl.

Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey, in an editorial to the mass-circulation Sun newspaper on Saturday, sought to explain how the central bank was supporting the economy. There's some evidence that Johnson's experience in St. Thomas' Hospital - he was admitted to the intensive care unit, and credited the staff there with saving his life - has made him less gung-ho in his attitude to the virus.

When some European countries were beginning lockdown procedures in mid-March, Johnson said at the time that such a reaction was unnecessary.

Fast forward a few weeks, and he's said to be particularly cautious about whether lifting social-distancing measures would risk a second wave of the virus at a time daily cases have leveled off and deaths have started to decline.

According to the Telegraph newspaper, travelers arriving in Britain will be placed in quarantine for up to two weeks under a plan being overseen by Home Secretary Priti Patel.

Agencies

CHINA became the top source of international patent application filings in 2019, according to an annual report released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on April 7.

Last year, a record 265,800 international patent applications were filed via WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) System, a hike of 5.2 percent from 2018. China filed 58,990 applications via the system, overtaking the U.S. (57,840 applications in 2019) as the biggest user of the PCT System.

The achievement marks notable results of China's innovation-driven development strategy and protection of intellectual property

## China files most applications for international patent in 2019

(IP), as well as its rising capability for innovation and intellectual awareness.

"The number of patent applications in China registered a 200-fold increase in 20 years," said WIPO Director General Francis Gurry, noting that the WIPO received only 276 applications from China in 1999.

He said China's rapid growth to become the top filer of international patent applications is attributable to the fact that the Chinese government regards innovation as the primary driving force behind development.

For a long time, China has been the factory of the world. In recent years, the Chinese government has implemented an innovation-driven development strategy and stepped up the construction of an innovative country, making innovation an important engine supporting high-quality economic development.

According to the WIPO report, China's telecom giant Huawei Technologies, with 4,411 published PCT applications, was the top corporate filer for the third consecutive year. Other Chinese companies that filed a large num-

ber of patents included ZTE Corp, Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd., all of which are rapidly improving their capability for technological innovation.

Chinese patent applications in digital communication and computer technology came in first and second place worldwide, respectively.

China moved ahead of Japan in 2017 in the number of international patent applications it filed and became the second largest user of the PCT system, according to the Japan Broadcasting Corporation, adding that it took the country

only two years to surpass the U.S., underscoring its progress in advanced technologies like computer science and communications.

"Intellectual property is increasingly at the heart of global competition. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that innovation is not a zero-sum game - that a net increase in global innovation means new drugs, communications technologies, solutions for global challenges that benefit everyone, wherever they live," Gurry said.

"China's efforts to promote technological innovation and IP pro-

tection pushed the country to the first place in the world in patent applications," Luigi Gambardella, president of ChinaEU, a business-led international digital association in Brussels, told People's Daily.

Information from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicates that the country ranks among the top echelon worldwide in terms of the scale and growth of expenditure on innovation. China's expenditure on R&D increased by an average of 17 percent annually to 1.97 trillion yuan (about \$280 billion) in 2018 from 300 billion yuan in 2006. The country rose to the

second place from the sixth place in terms of R&D spending worldwide, and has the largest number of R&D personnel in the world.

Since the reform and opening up, China has established a relatively complete legal system for IP protection that complies with international rules and has a wide range of categories.

The country has joined almost all major international intellectual property conventions and has established cooperative partnerships with more than 80 countries, international organizations and regional organizations around the world.

People's Daily



## Experts explain major challenges in curbing sharp rise of COVID-19 cases in US

WASHINGTON

THE United States continues to see a soaring number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, as over 933,000 cases and 53,000 deaths have been reported nationwide as of Saturday evening, according to Johns Hopkins University's tally.

Though government officials said mitigation efforts have "flattened the curve" of the virus, the country keeps witnessing over 20,000 new cases daily.

Leading experts told Xinhua the reasons behind rising numbers include more extensive testing nationwide, variable stages of the disease curve throughout the nation, and the lack of testing in rural areas where the infection is rising but quarantine measures are limited.

Kent Pinkerton, professor of pediatrics from the School of Medicine at the University of California, Davis, told Xinhua there is lack of testing in areas where the infection is now rising with cases not being detected, and quarantine measures are not implemented efficiently to minimize the spread of the infection.

Stanley Perlman, professor of microbiology and immunology at the University of Iowa, predicted new cases will arise for a few more days and then will plateau.

"The number of cases is following the expected curve. Sheltering in place is actually keeping the numbers of cases from rising as high as they would have

without any interventions," Perlman told Xinhua.

According to the COVID-19 projections of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, death cases peaked on April 15 at 2,688, and confirmed cases peaked on April 17 when 58,106 beds were needed on that single day.

Perlman said the flattening of the curve is different in different places. With a growing number of cases and hospitals facing a shortage of staff, beds and other medical equipment, virus tests are mostly limited to those who show severe symptoms.

Those with mild symptoms or asymptomatic cases are thus left unaccounted for in official figures, according to a report of Newsweek.

Last week, U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled guidelines for a phased reopening of parts of the U.S. economy disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some states have already announced plans for reopening businesses. Pinkerton noted it is of vital importance to have the public continue to remain in shelter, and not to have state and federal officials relax the stay-in-shelter orders prematurely.

It is very challenging to eliminate shelter-in-place mandate and suppressive measures before the pandemic is under control in the United States," Perlman echoed.

Perlman noted many activities will not start up again even if states reopen. Indi-



viduals will decide not to go to sporting events or restaurants and schools will not reopen.

"There is a risk of precipitating a second wave if restrictions are lifted too soon," he warned. Earlier this week,

a new study by Harvard University's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics suggested that even conducting 20 million COVID-19 tests a day in the country may not be enough to protect the public from the virus.

The report noted that widespread testing, as well as contact tracing and measures to isolate the sick, is required to reopen the country, while preventing another explosion of cases.

Xinhua

## India's Modi urges citizens to follow lockdown as coronavirus spreads

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi urged Indians to comply with a nationwide lockdown and social distancing measures yesterday, a day after some of the world's toughest restrictions were eased slightly while cases of COVID-19 continued to mount.

In a radio address, Modi said the country was in the midst of a "war" and the country's 1.3 billion citizens should not be misled into believing the spread of the virus had been brought fully under control by more than a month of lockdown.

"We should not be trapped into over-confidence and nurse the belief that coronavirus has not reached our city, our village, our streets, our office, and so will not reach them," Modi said.

India's high population density, poor sanitation infrastructure and high rates of internal migration have raised concern over the spread of the virus in a country with 26,496 cases so far of COVID-19, the disease it causes, and 824 deaths.

The authorities have set up teams to focus on compliance with lockdown measures imposed on March 25, but experts fear they have not been able to contain the spread of COVID-19.

"Physical distancing, covering the face with a cover or a mask and washing our hands again and again will be the biggest medicine to fight this disease in the days to come," Modi said.

The lockdown, in which domestic and international travel is banned and factories, schools, offices and all shops other than those supplying essential services are shut, is slated to end on May 3, but authorities may extend it.

On Saturday, India allowed some small shops in residential areas to reopen with half the usual number of staff members working at any one time wearing masks and gloves.

DECISION REVERSED

In Modi's home state of Gujarat, government officials on Sunday reversed the decision to open several retail outlets, citing growing numbers of infections across the western state.

Authorities continued to send hundreds of migrant labourers who had set out on foot from cities where they had lost their livelihoods to their homes or to quarantine centres across India.

Agencies

## Media sources reporting on Kim's worsening health 'not trustworthy' - expert

MOSCOW

THE reports on North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's health problems originate from anonymous sources, which are not credible, a leading research fellow at the Korean Studies Center at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of the Far East, Konstantin Asmolov, told TASS yesterday.

"What we have now is only that Kim Jong-un has not been seen in public since April 11.

The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) writes that he is sending congratulatory telegrams, thanking someone and is working with documents.

But there is also informa-

tion that a plane with doctors has come from China to either provide treatment for Kim or discuss the coronavirus.

All the rest is information coming from anonymous sources, and it's unclear if they exist or not.

This could be fake news invented by mass media, which can be correctly described by the term 'garbage propaganda,'" Asmolov said, commenting on the speculation about Kim's health.

The expert noted that the reports about North Korea are fueled by the country's secrecy, although often they have nothing to do with reality. Speaking on Kim's health, the expert noted that the conclusions here are based on



Kim Jong-un

rumors and speculation that he is a heavy smoker and has inherited diabetes.

This was not the first time the rumors on Kim's alleged death have emerged, Asmolov said. In 2014, the North Korean leader had not been seen in public for a month and a half, fueling similar speculation. However, it turned out later that he either hurt his leg or had a cyst on his ankle.

The expert also voiced doubt over reports about Kim's alleged self-isolation due to the coronavirus pandemic.

First, North Korea has introduced harsh measures to prevent the coronavirus spread to the country and second, the authorities would defi-

nately prefer not to hide this, he explained.

"At the latest meeting of the political bureau, attended by Kim, they actively discussed the issues of anti-epidemic fight," Asmolov said.

On April 20, CNN reported citing a US official with direct knowledge that Washington was monitoring intelligence that suggests North Korea's leader was "in grave danger after undergoing a previous surgery." South Korea's authorities said they had no data on Kim's illness.

US President Donald Trump told a briefing at the White House on Thursday that the report on Kim's falling ill was "incorrect."

Agencies

## Hubei injects financial support to poverty alleviation

CENTRAL China's Hubei province has helped impoverished rural households develop pillar industries and increase income by offering financial support such as micro and small loans, organizing enterprises to set up online platforms, and improving the rural credit platform.

Cai Guangmei from Caifanggou village, Danjiangkou of Hubei province runs a poultry farm that houses 1,500 chickens, an orange orchard covering 2667 hectares, and 3.33 hectares of pumpkin patches. His farming business is prospering.

However, an orange orchard was the only source of income for Cai's family three years ago. Cai wanted to open a poultry farm but suffered from the lack of capital.

In June 2017, the Hubei Rural Credit Cooperatives lent 100,000 yuan (\$14,200) to Cai with discounted interest rate. With the money, Cai implemented the project and established and expanded his farming business gradually. Now, the annual net income of his family has reached 150,000 yuan.

Like Cai, Xue Yong from Gu-

cheng county, is also among the many farmers benefiting from financial targeted poverty alleviation in Hubei.

The story of Xue getting rid of poverty and becoming better off has surprised his fellow villagers, as the man with cerebral palsy used to struggle to make ends meet via chicken farming. In August 2016, his family was thrown into a more desperate condition because it faced a 40,000-yuan tuition fee of his sister who was then admitted by a university.

After learning Xue's situation and knowing that his condition met the standards for poverty alleviation loan issuance, the Hubei Rural Credit Cooperative immediately lent him 80,000 yuan.

After paying the tuition fees for his sister, Xue used the rest of the money to develop his poultry business.

Now, Xue's chicken farm houses more than 3,000 chicks. Via e-commerce platforms, he could sell over 100 chickens and several thousand eggs per month and make 80,000 yuan each year.

He has also become a famous chicken farming and diseases specialist in his hometown.

By the end of September 2019, the Hubei Rural Credit Cooperatives had provided financial services for 1.21 million impoverished households and issued a total of 17 billion yuan in micro-credit loans, helping 300,000 impoverished households increase income directly or indirectly.

Financial targeted poverty alleviation offers not just timely help; it should make the assistance regular so as to facilitate long-term economic development.

By focusing on areas of weakness in social and economic development of impoverished regions, China Construction Bank (CCB) Hubei branch introduced resources, capital, technologies and solutions to poor regions. The practice has turned impoverished regions from recipients of "blood transfusion" into ones capable of "blood creation".

Zhu Yanyang, deputy governor of CCB Hubei branch, introduced that the bank had issued more than

10 billion yuan of targeted poverty alleviation loans to 107,637 registered impoverished households, and offered pairing financial assistance to 126 impoverished villages.

Sweet potato farming is a pillar industry for poverty alleviation in Hongang county, Huanggang.

Through developing dried sweet potato noodles, local food companies built sweet potato and wheat planting bases and signed long-term supply contracts with local farmers, forming a partnership among enterprises, planting bases, cooperatives and local villagers.

Financial institutions play an important role in supporting the continuous development of poverty alleviation projects launched by enterprises. In recent years, the Postal Savings Bank of China (PSBC) Hubei branch has enlarged loan support to characteristic industries and poverty alleviation projects in impoverished areas, said Deng Jianhua, deputy governor of PSBC Hubei branch.

Global Times

## US shifting blame to China leads nowhere

BEIJING

THE U.S. administration has multiplied the means of scapegoating China even when it is busy fighting with the coronavirus on its own turf. It is nothing short of absurdity and an ugly political show.

Recently, attorney generals of the states of Missouri and Mississippi filed lawsuits against China, demanding it should take responsibilities and compensate losses incurred during the coronavirus outbreak.

The allegation does not have any legal or factual basis, but only incites hatred.

Based on the principle of sovereign equality prescribed by the international law, U.S. domestic courts have no jurisdiction over the sovereign actions taken by the Chinese government in re-

sponse to the epidemic.

China did not cover up any facts and has been timely sharing information with the world from the very beginning. Since Jan. 3, China has been regularly informing the WHO, relevant countries, including the United States, about the COVID-19 outbreak.

On Jan. 12, China shared with the WHO information on the genome sequence of the novel coronavirus, which has laid a solid basis for global efforts of scientific research and vaccine development against COVID-19, the common enemy of humanity.

China has fulfilled its obligations in accordance with the International Health Regulations, as the WHO commented that China had set a new benchmark for the world in fulfilling its international duties.

The U.S. abuse of litigation

against China carries little legal significance but serves as a political show in an election year in the United States.

According to a U.S. media report, some Republicans worked out campaign guidelines asking candidates to address the coronavirus crisis by aggressively attacking China. Clearly, China-bashing has been intensively exploited in an election year complicated by the coronavirus epidemic.

China has carried out the prevention and control of the epidemic in an open, transparent and responsible way.

American politicians should spend more time working out effective ways to bring the domestic outbreak under control as early as possible, instead of shifting blame and shirking their responsibilities.

Xinhua

## Traditional Chinese medicine proves its value amid COVID-19, expected to benefit world

WHEN the novel coronavirus pneumonia continues to spread around the globe, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is gaining huge popularity for the wonders it has created for China's COVID-19 control achievements.

The prevention and control of new contagious diseases is a war without gunfire. Every time when human beings are confronted with these illnesses, such as SARS, the Influenza A virus and Ebola, they face a "meeting engagement," as it takes time to develop vaccines and specific antiviral drugs.

The COVID-19 pandemic is also posing similar challenges. However, TCM has been proved effective

against the disease, including the Chinese patent medicines Jinhua Qinggan Granule, Lianhua Qingwen Capsule (Granule), Shufeng Jiedu Capsule (Granule), as well as Qingfei Paidu Decoction, Huashi Baidu Formula and Xuanfei BaiDu Granule.

According to statistics, over 70,000 COVID-19 patients in China have been given some forms of TCM, accounting for 91.5 percent of the total, and TCM has been proved to be effective for over 90 percent of the cases in clinical use.

TCM pursues integration and harmony, and that's why it is able to resist new contagious diseases. For instance, the Qingfei Paidu

Decoction "expels" the virus rather than "killing" it, so it takes effects in the newly emerging pandemic. By clearing the heat, damp and toxin, TCM can alter the living environment for the virus, thus containing the latter's vitality and improving the immunity of the patients.

The traditional medicine branch from China is always able to strengthen the immune system and eliminate pathogenic factors. It played a vital role in the battle against COVID-19 this time. The regions that adopted TCM treatment at an early phase and in a massive manner saw relatively lower mortality rate. Facts prove that TCM is a sharp weapon against the novel

coronavirus.

Viruses respect no border and the pandemic knows no ethnicity. It's particularly urgent and important to build a community with a shared future for mankind in coping with the global public health emergency.

To have the TCM benefit the world indicates China's responsibility as a major country, as well as the cultural confidence of the Chinese nation.

China has conducted timely cooperation with the WHO, shared its own experience in treating the disease with TCM, and continually translated the latest diagnosis and treatment protocols for COVID-19

into English and published them on the website of the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Besides, relevant Chinese departments and organizations have also donated Chinese patent medicines, herbal pieces in decoction, and acupuncture needles to over 10 countries and regions including Italy and France.

TCM is a treasure of the Chinese civilization, and is competent to contribute Chinese wisdom and schemes to the global fight against COVID-19.

The traditional medicine branch is gaining more and more recognition from the world. Last May, the

72nd World Health Assembly adopted the eleventh revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-11), incorporating traditional medicine originating from the TCM for the first time.

However, the TCM is still misunderstood due to cultural differences. During the COVID-19 pandemic, patients are advised to take medicines under the guidance of TCM doctors so as to avoid adverse reactions. Though the TCM has been spread to over 200 countries and regions, TCM products are still not considered as medicine in some developed countries. Under the proposal to construct a Health

Silk Road with other countries and enhancing cooperation on traditional medicine, the TCM is expected to play a larger role and bring peoples closer.

The TCM carries the health philosophies and practices of the Chinese nation accumulated in the past thousands of years, and concentrates the broad wisdom of the Chinese people and nation. To cope with global health challenges, promote international health cooperation and improve global public health governance, the TCM will surely release infinite potential and play a unique and important role.

People's Daily

The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT



Dar esSalaam's African Lyon players participate in training at Uhuru Stadium in the city recently. The outfit is one of the participating clubs in this season's First Division League (FDL). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## 'Tricky' for Barty to maintain training intensity in shutdown

MUMBAI

ASH Barty is finding it tricky to maintain high intensity in training during the shutdown but the women's world number one is hoping she will be back to her usual self with the flick of a switch when tennis resumes after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like other sports around the world, professional tennis screeched to a halt in early March as the virus spread quickly around the world. It will not restart until at least mid-July.

While Australian Barty, whose partner Gary Kissick is a golfer, has seen her golf game improve during the lockdown in Brisbane, her tennis training is in "a little bit of a holding pattern."

"It's kind of tricky to train with the same intensity as always," Barty, who turned 24 on Friday, told the Sunday Herald Sun. "Obviously, we're still not sure when we'll go back."

"Now, it's about maintaining for if and when we get an opportunity to play again this year, you can kinda flick that switch and go from there."

The shutdown did not allow Barty to return to the United States to defend her title at the Miami Open, which catapulted her into the top 10 in the rankings before she finally sealed the top spot a few months later.

Barty is also the defending champion at Roland Garros, where she won her maiden Grand Slam

title in Paris last June, but that has been postponed too.

This year's French Open was moved to Sept. 20-Oct. 4 from its May start while the Wimbledon championships, which were set to begin in late June, were cancelled.

"Just kind of sitting back, this is really bizarre," she said. "You're preparing for that (hardcourt) swing and then you're on a plane back to Australia."

"It's different for everyone. For tennis players, there's that uncertainty. We need for pretty much the whole world to be clear before we can start our tour again."

"Domestic competitions have the chance to get up running again, but for a global sport it's a bit unique to be in that holding pattern."

Barty said she was in regular touch with some of her fellow players as she deals with the lockdown.

"All these girls I've had really good relationships with and am good friends with on a personal level. We're also chatting about what could be next for us and everyone is trying to get that new information," she said.

"Overall, it's been a bit of an adjustment but also lucky that it's a time where you get to appreciate the little things in life, which is your health and your family."

REUTERS



Ash Barty

## Fights resume in Nicaragua because 'boxers have to eat'

MANAGUA, Nicaragua

WITH the world pretty much devoid of sports events because of the coronavirus pandemic, boxing resumed in Nicaragua on Saturday night with a televised eight-fight card in front of a live, though sparse audience in Managua.

Promoter Rosendo Álvarez, a former two-time world champion, had dismissed the threat of the virus. "Here we don't fear the coronavirus, and there is no quarantine. The three deaths (reported so far by the Ministry of Health) came from outside and nobody within the country has been contaminated," Álvarez, known as "El Búfalo," said before the event.

But his offer of free tickets appeared to fill only about a tenth of the 8,000 seats in the Alexis Arguello gym. Officials did not announce attendance figures.

The fights were broadcast by Nicaragua's state-owned Canal 6 and ESPN Latin America through its ESPN KnockOut program.

Álvarez said he signed up the 16 local boxers for the card because they needed to work.

"Nicaragua is a poor country and the boxers have to eat. They can't stay shut up in their house," he said. The government insists Nicaragua has been barely touched by COVID-19. The Ministry of Health reports only 11 positive cases and the three deaths. Meanwhile, in neighboring or nearby countries the regional Central American Integration System has reported roughly 13,000 cases and about 500 deaths.

The Nicaraguan baseball and soccer leagues are still playing, and Saturday's local sports pages included stories on a triathlon and school wrestling tournaments. President Daniel Ortega recently ordered 1.8 million students back to school and 170,000 state employees back to work following a 15-day vacation.

AP

# NBA facilities will begin to reopen Friday, sources



In this Oct. 8, 2019 file photo, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver is introduced during an NBA preseason basketball game between the Houston Rockets and the Toronto Raptors in Saitama, near Tokyo. Silver said in an interview Saturday, March 21, 2020 that the league is considering all options, best-case, worst-case and countless ideas in between, as it tries to come to grips with the coronavirus pandemic. (AP Photo)

MIAMI

NBA players will be allowed to return to team training facilities starting Friday, provided that their local governments do not have a stay-at-home order prohibiting such movement still in place as part of the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Any workouts that take place would be voluntary and be limited to individual sessions only, according to a person familiar with the league's decision. The person spoke to The Associated Press on Saturday on condition of anonymity because the directives from the league were not released publicly.

Group practices would not be allowed yet, and teams will not yet be permitted to organize in-person workouts.

But as certain states and municipalities began loosening

restrictions on personal movement, the NBA decided it was time to let players return to their practice courts – if only on a limited basis. Georgia and Oklahoma are among the states that have allowed some businesses to reopen and some cities in Florida are expected to loosen their stay-at-home policies in the coming days, even though health officials are warning that such moves are being made too quickly.

For those teams in cities where stay-at-home orders still make such a return impossible, the NBA said it would work to find "alternative arrangements," the person with knowledge of the matter said.

This move does not mean that a resumption of games is imminent. Still, the decision to let teams back into facilities is a significant step.

ESPN first reported details of the NBA's decision.

In the NHL, suspended at about the

same point of the season as the NBA, Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said league officials "haven't made any decisions yet." Daly said only the NHL owes players and teams guidance before April 30 and will consider its next steps in that context.

Many NBA players have said they haven't even had access to a basket since the league ordered teams to close their practice facilities on March 19. All-Star Jimmy Butler sent baskets to his Miami Heat teammates earlier this month, but some other players around the league said they haven't even touched a basketball during the shutdown.

If they're so inclined, that can now change. There remains no indicator about when a full-fledged return to organized team workouts will resume, however.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has said on several occasions that

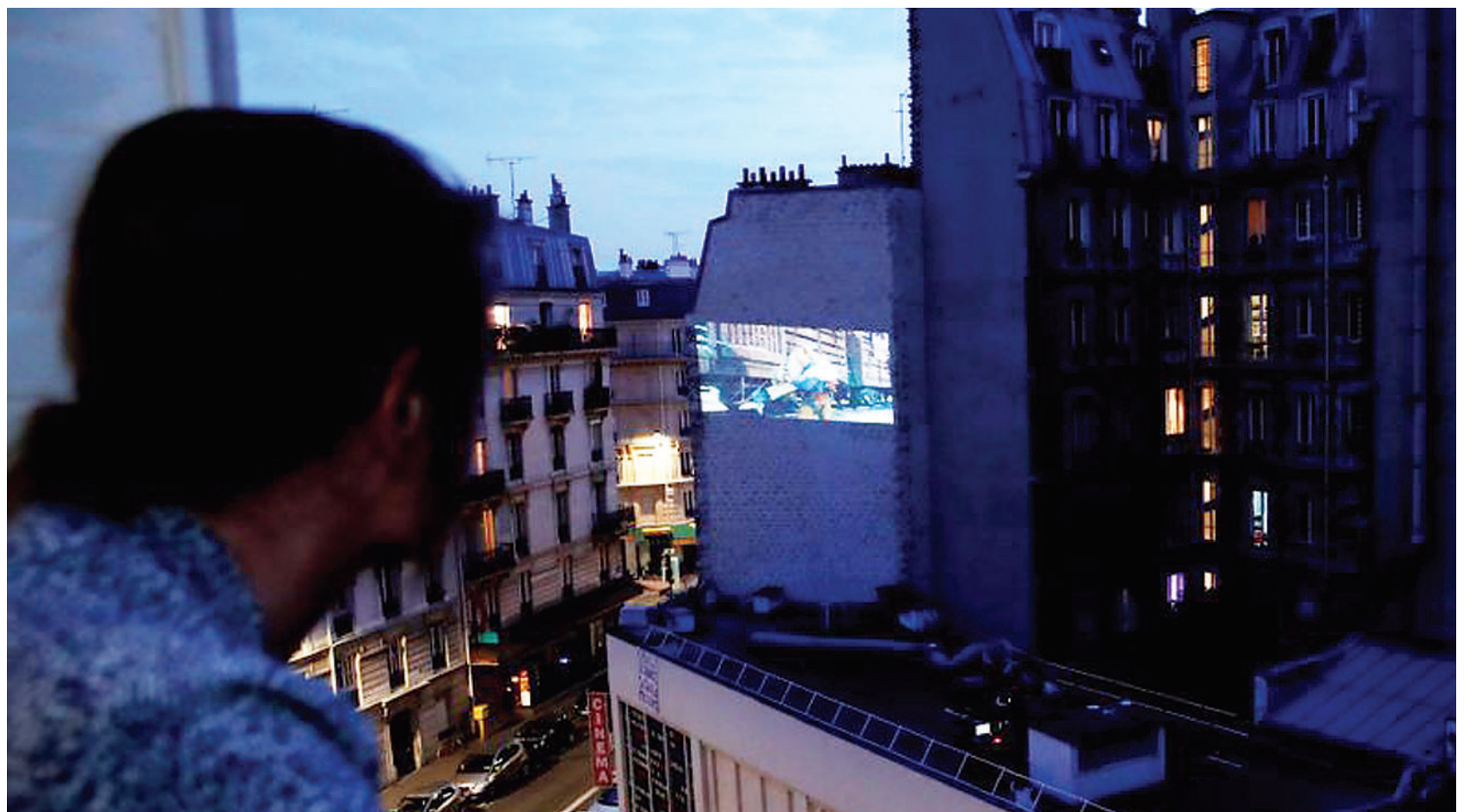
the league does not anticipate being able to decide until sometime in May – at the earliest – if a resumption of the season is possible.

The NBA suspended the season March 11. It ordered teams to shutter their facilities eight days later, saying at the time it was doing so "in light of the rapidly-developing coronavirus situation, and consistent with evolving advice from health experts regarding how to promote individual and public health while minimizing the spread of the virus."

Johns Hopkins University, which tracks the numbers of those affected or killed by the virus based off official government figures, said the COVID-19 worldwide death toll surpassed 200,000 on Saturday. And the World Health Organization said "there is currently no evidence" that people who have recovered from the virus cannot fall sick again.

AP

## Paris movie theatre skirts lockdown with alfresco screening



Christine Davenier watches the film Man Without a Star by King Vidor as it is projected by members of the Association Home Cinema, who support La Clef historic cinema, on the wall of an apartments building during a lockdown imposed to slow down the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Paris, France, April 24, 2020. REUTERS

PARIS

THE coronavirus lockdown forced the team running Paris's La Clef cinema to close their auditorium to moviegoers. So they hit on an alternative: projecting movies onto the wall of an adjacent apartment building.

"We said to ourselves: 'If we can no longer show films to an audience inside a cinema, let's take away the walls and show films outside,'" organiser Derek Woolfenden told Reuters on Friday, shortly before the screening of 1955

Western "Man Without a Star" starring Kirk Douglas.

Under the lockdown restrictions, Parisians are confined to their apartments except for brief outings to shop for food and exercise. But they can catch the movie by looking out or their windows or stepping out onto their balcony.

"We could feel a desire in the neighbourhood for some sort of event because there's nothing left, the streets are empty, it's very sad," Woolfenden said.

The La Clef team took pains to

engage the local community in its initiative: the titles to be screened each week are chosen in consultation with the neighbours.

"It's great," said Christine Davenier, an illustrator, who was watching the film from her balcony, where she sat propped up on pillows.

"It takes us back to before, to screenings when we watched films all together."

The people behind the projections are used to adapting to changed circumstances.

The La Clef officially closed its doors

in April 2018, and the owners plan to sell the property.

But since September 2019 the building has been occupied by an association of cinephiles and independent movie makers, headed up by Woolfenden, who oppose the sale and say they will stay put to ensure the building continues to serve as a cinema.

The group has been ordered to pay a 4,000-euro fine for occupying the site, but has lodged an appeal that will be heard in June.

REUTERS

## Calls for footballers to wear masks if Bundesliga returns

BERLIN

GERMANY'S ministry of labour wants footballers to wear masks as protection against the coronavirus if Angela Merkel's government gives the green light for the Bundesliga to return next month.

The German Football League (DFL) confirmed Thursday that they are ready for the Bundesliga to resume from May 9, albeit without fans in stadiums and with strict hygiene measures in place.

The final decision will be made by German Chancellor Merkel and state leaders, who are due to meet in Berlin on Thursday.

Germany has been less affected than other European countries by the pandemic, but currently has 5,321 deaths due to the virus.

According to magazine Spiegel, the Federal Ministry for Labour has drafted safety guidelines which include a recommendation that players and match officials wear a mask which would "not slip in sprints, headers and challenges".

"Should the masks slip, the game must immediately be stopped", according to the draft, and because the masks would get wet due to exertion, they should be "replaced every 15 minutes at the latest".

The Bundesliga's top clubs are sceptical.

"You might be able sprint once with a face mask on, but not several times," RB Leipzig's sports director Markus Kroesche told daily paper Bild.

"It's an interesting idea, but, for me, not one you can put into practice."

Bayer Leverkusen's medical advisor Dr. Karl-Heinrich Dittmar says masks would not be necessary as the league is planning to regularly test players and club staff if the league resumes.

"Wearing a mask is uncomfortable, breathing is impeded," said Dittmar.

"This wouldn't work in football, but I don't think it is necessary – with testing, the risk of infection is extremely low."

Another suggestion in the ministry guidelines is that each team be quarantined in a hotel for the duration of the season amid hopes it can be completed in Germany by June 30.

Players have already given a mixed response to the idea of being isolated for the nine remaining games of the season.

"I personally would find it extremely difficult to spend the next few weeks in a hotel and not be able to see my family," Eintracht Frankfurt defender Danny da Costa told reporters.

However, Bayern Munich forward Thomas Mueller said being placed in quarantine may be the only way to get the season finished.

"It is quite clear that football would submit to almost all the rules necessary to play," Mueller told magazine Sport Bild.

AFP

## Arsenal to re-open training ground to players

LONDON

ARSENAL will re-open their London Colney training ground to their players this week for individual training but the Premier League club will continue to observe social distancing rules amid the coronavirus outbreak, they said on Saturday.

Soccer in England was suspended indefinitely last month due to the virus and no clubs have been in training.

"Players will be permitted access to the Colney grounds next week," Arsenal said in a statement.

"Access will be limited, carefully managed and social distancing will be maintained at all times. All Colney buildings remain closed.

"Players will travel alone, do their individual workout and return home," the club added.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta was diagnosed with the novel coronavirus on March 12, which led to the Premier League postponing the next round of matches and none have been played since.

Arsenal spoke to all their players after Alexandre Lacazette, David Luiz, Nicolas Pepe and Granit Xhaka were pictured allegedly breaking social distancing guidelines.

Premier League clubs have been working on the basis that the earliest they may be allowed to resume training would be in early May. The

British government is expected to review current lockdown restrictions on May 7.

Should teams be allowed to train, it is expected they would need two to three weeks to get prepared to play competitive matches, making the earliest possible return in June.

But with the ban on mass public gatherings likely to be one of the last restrictions to be lifted, rescheduled games will almost certainly be held behind closed doors.

The Department of Culture, Media and Sport has been liaising with a number of sports bodies, led by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on how things might work should the green light be given by the medical experts for sport to resume safely.

The Football League (EFL) which organises the three divisions below the Premier League, on Saturday highlighted testing of players and others involved in games as the key issue.

"Clearly, before any return to football can take place, suitable testing arrangements for participants must be in place and this is core to our current planning, as is ensuring there is absolutely no negative impact on the country's front-line workers, the Emergency services, League and Club staff members," the league said in a statement.

REUTERS

## Chelsea opt against pay cut, tell players to donate to charity

LONDON

CHELSEA have said they will not impose a pay cut on their first-team squad in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

But the Premier League side added Saturday they had asked players to continue donating to charities during the ongoing pandemic.

It has been reported the west London club have been in talks with their players about a salary reduction of around 10 percent in a bid to reduce costs at a time when football has been suspended because of the virus.

That figure, however, is significantly lower than the Premier League's suggestion of 30 percent for all clubs.

But that has not stopped the Stamford Bridge side from taking their own course of action as they highlighted the #PlayersTogether initiative launched by Premier League players earlier this month, which

aims to raise and distribute funds for charities supporting Britain's state-run National Health Service (NHS).

"We are grateful to the team for having played their role in assisting the club with community activities as well as all the charitable causes they have been supporting in their respective home countries and through the Players Together initiative supporting the NHS," said a club statement.

The statement added: "At this time, the men's first team will not be contributing towards the club financially and instead the board have directed the team to focus their efforts on further supporting other charitable causes."

The Blues also said they would not be taking advantage of the UK government's coronavirus job retention or furlough scheme, with casual workers and matchday staff being compensated by the club through to June 30.

AFP

# How coronavirus will change the face of soccer

By Simon Kuper, ESPN.com writer

THE coronavirus pandemic is the biggest crisis professional football has ever faced. The uncertainty about whether leagues will be able to finish the 2019-20 season is just the start of it; beyond that, football won't return to normal for a long time to come.

"Full stadiums will only be seen again when we are safe, and that is when we have a vaccine," says Sandra Zampa, undersecretary at Italy's health ministry. A vaccine is generally reckoned to be about 18 months away from being widely available. That means next season might be played behind closed doors, if at all.

Meanwhile, many fans who have lost their jobs will cancel their pay-TV subscriptions and season tickets; companies in crisis will give up their shirt sponsorships and VIP boxes; some owners will want to exit football after losing fortunes in their other businesses. Here I've tried to sketch the outlook for club survival and the transfer market.

### Will clubs vanish?

Some teams as big as Schalke and Burnley are under threat of bankruptcy. Crucially, though, there's a big difference between a club going bankrupt and actually keeling over, never to play again. Many clubs will go bankrupt during the pandemic – seven-time Slovak champions MSK Zilina and Lokeren in Belgium already have – but that doesn't mean these clubs will disappear. Whereas bankruptcy is commonplace in football, disappearance is almost unheard of.

Throughout the game's history, most clubs have lost money. Untold numbers, almost all of them small clubs, have declared bankruptcy. There were 35 insolvencies in the top four English divisions just between 2003 and 2014, according to Stefan Szymanski, economics professor at the University of Michigan and my co-author on "Soccernomics." As in every previous crisis, small clubs are most at risk this time, especially as they depend heavily on matchday revenue (tickets, concessions, merchandise, etc.) rather than television income. If football resumes behind closed doors, big clubs will make billions from TV. But in the lower divisions, spectator income matters most, and it will probably be the last thing to recover once we start emerging from lockdowns.

Yet clubs almost always survive bankruptcy. Sometimes they're bailed out by local government or bought by a new owner. English clubs often use a trick called "phoenixing" – allow the company that owned the club to go bankrupt, then new owners create a new company and put the club in it. That way, the club rises like a phoenix from the ashes.

There was mourning in England when Bury went insolvent and disappeared last year. But far more common was the experience of their neighbours Bolton: After they entered administration, their assets were moved to a new company and they played merrily on. Even Bury might yet return to life, like almost all English clubs that once disappeared, including Aldershot



Neymar

Town and Accrington Stanley. The last English professional club to vanish forever was Wigan Borough in 1931, and even then, its successor, Wigan Athletic, was founded the following year.

All the country's other clubs survived the Great Depression, the Second World War, recessions, corrupt chairmen, appalling managers and the economic crisis of 2008. They'll survive the coronavirus too.

### Who can save at-risk clubs?

Many owners, especially those in the hotel, travel and restaurant businesses, will have lost money and might be unwilling or unable to bail out their clubs. But in countries such as England and Italy that allow almost anyone to own clubs, there will be new buyers. After all, this is probably the best time ever to pick up a club cheaply. The takeover of Newcastle by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund for £300 million will likely prove the first of many such moves during this crisis.

ESPN reported on Monday that a group of global financiers, including a big U.S. company, is offering English football a lifeline worth more than £1 billion. The group would either get interest payments from clubs or take equity stakes in them. Clearly, these financiers are confident the game will recover.

In countries such as Germany and France, local governments will help rescue clubs. But everywhere across the sport, the main saviours will be players. They're already being pressured into taking pay cuts in order to keep clubs afloat. Footballers aren't the richest people in society, but they are the most visibly rich. At a time when millions of people are losing their jobs, clubs will try to

publicly shame players who insist on being paid their salaries in full. Szymanski proposes offering players a share of football's future income: Clubs would defer today's salaries and pay them (in part, at least) in years to come once the game has recovered.

Richer clubs also will come under pressure to subsidise poorer ones. In Germany, the clubs qualified for the Champions League – Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, RB Leipzig and Bayer Leverkusen – have already promised millions to stricken rivals.

### Will the transfer market melt down?

Near-bankrupt clubs will be forced to sell their best players at knockdown prices, a clear opportunity for the few clubs with cash in hand to benefit. Think of Ajax or Chelsea, whose transfer ban last summer now looks like a blessing: The latter has been left with money to spend just as the price of footballers collapses. The saying in recessions is "Cash is king," because anyone with money in their pockets can buy assets cheaply.

Another recession mantra is "Flight to quality" – that is, when funds are scarce, people tend to spend them on reliable assets rather than risky ones. In football, a risky asset means a gifted player who is an irregular, inconsistent performer. Clubs will only splash out such players during good times. Barcelona bought Ousmane Dembele for €105 million in 2017. Now they're reportedly struggling to sell him for half that amount.

Another twist will be that many moves this summer happen without money changing hands: Clubs won't want to sell at bargain-basement prices unless they have to, while most clubs can't afford to buy. Bar-

celona's president, Josep Maria Bartomeu, predicts more swap deals. (There's one that might involve his club too: The only way Barca will be able to get Neymar is by offering Paris Saint-Germain several stars in return, as the Spanish giants don't have the €200 million or so that PSG wants.)

There also will be more loans: A solvent club takes a player's expensive salary off a struggling club's books, with an eye to buying him next summer once the football economy has refuelled.

Any club with enough money to weather this crisis will aim to avoid selling prize assets until 2021, when prices should have rebounded. Before the pandemic, the biggest transfer of this summer was expected to be Kylian Mbappe's move to Real Madrid. Now Paris plan to hang on to him for another year.

Many players at the lower end of the game will drop out of football altogether. Relatively well-paid journeymen whose contracts expire this summer are particularly at risk. When it comes to players below the top European leagues, few of them will have made enough to retire. These men might join the long lines of the unemployed, along with people who worked in club shops and marketing departments or who sold burgers outside the ground on matchdays.

How will football emerge from this? Professional football will beat the coronavirus. Full recovery might take a while – who knows when it will be safe for 60,000 people to gather in a stadium again? – but all clubs will probably still exist three years from now.

Happily, football doesn't need much money to survive, and the sport entered the pandemic on an all-time high. European football clubs' total revenues for the 2017-18 season were €28.4 billion, according to estimates by the business advisory firm Deloitte. Last year, the figure was probably higher again.

Let's imagine that the pandemic has a brutal long-term effect on the industry, arguably halving its revenues. That drop would only reduce them to around the level of 2008-09, when revenues were €15.7 billion (again according to Deloitte). Clubs coped then, and they coped even in the decades before pay TV arrived to supercharge their finances. All that clubs need to do to survive is to live more or less within their means. Since their biggest expenditure is salaries, this means players will take a pay cut.

There are worse things happening in the world these days.

# Inside Arsenal's wage cut, Arteta's role, Ozil's stance

LONDON

FIRST, there were 14. Then there were "the Rebel 7." Finally, it was down to two, a pair of players who have decided not to participate in the requested 12.5% pay cut for a year. Some teammates privately expressed their disappointment. Of course, they might change their minds down the line when the financial picture becomes clearer, but for the moment, Mesut Ozil and one of his teammates, a player on a more modest salary, have decided to sit this one out.

Sources tell ESPN that the players didn't opt for individual negotiations regarding the cuts but dealt with this as a squad led by 25-year-old Hector Bellerin, the club's PFA representative. The overwhelming majority have accepted a 12.5% pay cut until March 2021, which will reduce to 7.5% if the team qualifies for the Europa League next season and to zero if they secure Champions League football. It remains to be seen how qualification will play out, but in the meantime, in the absence of football, there is a victory here for the club and the majority of its players.

Arsenal were the first Premier League club to announce pay cuts rather than deferrals, but it took time for the players to unite. That they eventually came close to consensus on the move was a strong statement by the club and one that flew in the face of the players' union, the PFA, which had been advising professional football players to accept neither deferrals nor salary cuts.

To convert 14 rejections to two in the space of four weeks tells you this is a club united in adverse and uncertain times. Arsenal posted losses of almost £30 million last year and with a number of income streams stopped or at risk, including the obvious losses of matchday revenue, this represents a good result.

Club director Josh Kroenke, who has already addressed Arsenal staff and is in regular dialogue with his executive team, expressed his personal thanks and pride in a call to players this week, sources have told ESPN. Mikel Arteta, the first-team head coach, joined the call and was instrumental in lobbying players to make this statement of solidarity. The 39-year-old's intervention proved key in convincing the players to take the cut and showed his commitment to the club where he spent five seasons, from 2011 to '16, as a player.

In the Spaniard's rallying call, he reminded his players what Arsenal stands for, the spirit of togetherness and what it means to be part of a club where everyone takes care of each other and takes pride in what they do. At an extraordinary time in history,



Mikel Arteta was instrumental in getting Arsenal's players to agree to a pay cut. (Agencies)

he supported the request that came from the top. The message from Kroenke and Arteta to the players was very consistent.

Arteta, who also agreed to the pay cut, has been exceptional during this extremely stressful period of confinement and uncertainty. The dialogue between him and the club hierarchy, who took their own pay cuts of around 30%, is strong and the attention to his squad is unquestionable. He has been working hard tactically via video calls, spending 90 minutes rewatching individual clips and games with each of his players, but he has also made sure that their mental health is in good shape too. The Spaniard excels at man-management; by contrast,

Thomas Tuchel, his PSG counterpart, recently revealed that he was having very little contact with his players, which is the case for many top clubs.

Arsenal were at the heart of this crisis when Arteta was the first person in English football to test positive for the coronavirus, an event that kicked off the football world's lockdown five weeks ago. The club have been decisive and measured throughout, with the anticipation of tough times to come not lost on the Arsenal hierarchy. Supported by the Kroenke family, the Arsenal chiefs revealed they would not use the government's furlough scheme – a job retention initiative that sees the UK government covering 80%

of an employee's salary (up to £2,500 per month) – even before the agreement with players was announced.

It's no easy task to convince a group of players with varying salaries, different cultures and backgrounds to take a salary cut for a club whose owner is a billionaire. They had to understand the financial picture and what was right for the club and its staff in the long term. Arsenal's majority owners, KSE, have a number of sport properties across the United States – the NFL's Los Angeles Rams, the NBA's Denver Nuggets, the NHL's Colorado Avalanche and their MLS team, the Colorado Rapids – all affected by the coronavirus.

With KSE's support, cost-cutting initiatives and careful cost control, Arsenal are doing what they can to weather this crisis. KSE have provided guarantees around the club's financial commitments to shore things up. Arsenal's reported annual wage bill is the fifth highest in the Premier League at £240m, which is 60% of their turnover, underlining the gravity of the situation and the importance of getting this deal over the line.

The door remains open to the two remaining players who have yet to commit to the salary cut while the final paperwork is drafted. Ozil, who reportedly earns £350,000 a week, has made it clear he may still change his mind once the full impact is known.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

How coronavirus will change the face of soccer

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam-based athletes take part in training session at National Stadium in the city recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Australian coach Cahill rallies behind ATP/WTA merger idea

MUMBAI

AUSTRALIAN Darren Cahill, the coach of two-times Grand Slam winner Simona Halep, has backed the idea of merging the men's and women's tours, saying it would make tennis simpler for both players and fans.

Roger Federer called for a merger between the two governing bodies on Wednesday on social media with the men's ATP Tour Chairman Andrea Gaudenzi and his women's WTA Tour counterpart Steve Simon both welcoming the suggestion.

Cahill, who has also previously worked with Andre Agassi and Lleyton Hewitt, said uniformity in rules and rankings will help all stakeholders.

"I think, hypothetically, it would be a pretty good position for a tennis player to be in, because you know that every single decision being made is made in the best interest of the game," Cahill told the National newspaper.

Governance in tennis remains fractious with as many as seven associations running different parts of the game.

Besides the ATP and the WTA Tours, the sport is also controlled by the International Tennis Federation and the boards of the four Grand Slam tournaments.

Currently TV viewers need different pay-TV platforms to watch tennis matches and a merger of the Tours would simplify television contracts and sponsorship deals.

"At the moment, as a fan of tennis, if you want to try to follow tennis, whether it's Davis Cup, Fed Cup, the WTA, the ATP, smaller events, there are so many different platforms a fan has to subscribe to and it's confusing," Cahill said.

"Social media becomes much easier as well, if the tours are merged. Instead of competing against each other for a social media space, that becomes all one." Issues over equal prize money and equal standing are roadblocks that need to be crossed, Cahill said.

"At the moment the men command a little more at the negotiating table when we're talking about TV rights," he said.

"I think, to a large extent, everyone will take this. Obviously there would be some resentment from some male players but the majority I think would see the benefits and understand that this is the right thing to do."

Former world number four Greg Rusedski, now a television pundit, also backs a merger of men's and women's tennis.

"I think it would be a good idea because you look at the biggest events in the world right now, the four majors, the Masters Series in Miami and Indian Wells and Rome, they are combined events, and I think it's good," he told Sky Sports.

"If you put the men's and women's games together it's a better product and better for the fans."

REUTERS



Simba SC winger, Deo Kanda (R), prepares to score when his squad played against Singida United in a recent Vodacom Premier League match, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Kiamba defends presence of 10 foreign pros in VPL sides

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

FORMER senior national soccer side 'Taifa Stars' midfielder Amri Kiamba has defended the presence of 10 foreign professionals that are to be registered by a club in Tanzania, saying the players' presence motivates domestic players to step up their game.

Kiamba disclosed reducing the foreign professional players' number will for that matter be detrimental to the sport's development domestically.

He issued the statement in the wake of a debate that arose in the parliament in Dodoma last week, in which a section of Members of Parliament said the foreign professional players' number should be reduced.

Other Members of Parliament nevertheless were of the opinion the total should be retained given the foreign professionals' presence boosts their domestic counterparts' displays.

Kiamba, who turned out for, among others, domestic soccer giants Yanga

and Simba at the club level, disclosed there are extremely few sides which recruit foreign professionals.

He pointed out top local soccer sides, Simba, Yanga and Azam FC, are the sides which mostly rope in foreign professionals.

He added the remainder of the domestic outfits to a great extent have domestic players.

All domestic players need, he insisted, is to improve their performance, not depend on presence of few foreign professionals to land a place in the starting lineups of their respective squads.

"During my heyday, domestic players' performance improved tremendously thanks to the presence of foreign professionals," he said.

"When I was playing for Simba, there were such foreign professionals like Rwandan Patrick Mafisango, Zambian Felix Sunzu, Ugandans Emmanuel Okwi, Joseph Owino and Patrick Ochan, and Kenyans Hillary Echessa and Jerry Santo, they were all in great form," he disclosed.

"A Tanzanian player, in this case, had to improve his performance if he was to be selected for the starting lineup."

"We therefore had to opt for intensive training so we can compete for the starting lineup with the foreign professional players."

He pointed out much as he has defended the presence of the 10 foreign professionals for every club, he insisted there should be criteria which will see to it competent performers get opportunity to play in the country.

The competent foreign players, he noted, will play great role in seeing to it their domestic counterparts step up their game.

"There should be criteria, which have to be friendly, for instance a foreign professional from within the East African countries, who is to be recruited by a Tanzanian outfit, should be turning out for his respective country's national team," he noted.

"Foreign professionals from West African countries that play for their national teams will not choose to play in Tanzania, thus players from that area should at least come from their respective countries' premier league teams."

"If foreign professionals from West African countries are young, they should at least be playing for their respective countries' junior national teams."

## Cricket given leading role in British sport re-opening plans, say ECB

MANCHESTER, England

ENGLISH cricket's governing body said it has been given the leading role for all sport in the country, including soccer, in examining how to create 'bio-secure' venues as leagues look for ways to restart their competitions without fans.

Tom Harrison, chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), said his organisation has been asked by the British government's Department of Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS), to look into how all sports might be able to resume in secure environments once COVID-19 restrictions are eased.

"The ECB has been asked to lead by DCMS across football, horse racing, tennis and rugby," Harrison said in comments reported by the website Cricinfo.

"There has been a lot of communication between sports, particularly around health, as we are trying to guarantee safety."

"I had a conference call with the head of the FA (Football Association) and the RFU (Rugby Football Union) about a range of topics: working together; how we share information about playing behind closed doors. I'm speaking to the Premier League later. We're facing very similar challenges and taking decisions as a sector," he said.

The DCMS declined to comment on Harrison's statement but it has been liaising with a number of sports bodies including the ECB on how things might work should the green light be given by the medical experts for sport to resume safely.

The ECB has suspended the professional game in the country until July 1, but England are due to face Pakistan in a three test series from July 30.

Harrison said that any attempt to play international cricket without fans would lead to a rethink on venues, with those best suited to a secure environment coming to the fore.

"What we have to be really careful with here is to understand that right now testing elite athletes or people in sport just cannot be a priority in the context of the national health crisis and the issues frontline workers and vulnerable people are facing," Harrison said.

"Government tells us when the time is right. It's not yet, clearly. We're not lobbying the government; we're working with them."

On Saturday, the Football League (EFL) which organises the three divisions below the Premier League, highlighted testing of players and others involved in games as the key issue.

"Clearly, before any return to football can take place, suitable testing arrangements for participants must be in place and this is core to our current planning, as is ensuring there is absolutely no negative impact on the country's front-line workers, the Emergency services, League and Club staff members," the league said in a statement.

"The EFL's medical advisor is working with a select group of medical professionals and sports scientists to ensure their collective expertise is utilised to address these issues. This group will consider the latest medical information and evidence from both in the UK and abroad, particularly around the viability and accessibility of the various COVID-19 tests that are currently available".

REUTERS

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**5 EATV Sports**

**TONIGHT @ 9:30**

**MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)  
16:00 Akili & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 SSPORTS LIVE  
22:30 Bongo Hits

**5Sports**  
The week's local and international sporting events as well as in-depth analysis of the biggest sporting highlights of the week are covered on 5sports.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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