



Medics probe role of herbs in decline of Covid-19 cases

By Getrude Mbagu



LEFT: NMB Bank Plc acting managing director Ruth Zaipuna (L), chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi (R) and two other officials as well as a customer, Zaina Mikidadi (C), in jovial mood moments after yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of the bank's Pamoja Account, touted as targeting financially excluded groups across Tanzania. RIGHT: Some members of CRDB Bank Plc's top management led by managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (2nd-R) follow remarks by Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children deputy minister Dr Godwin Mollel at a video conference on a health programme running as 'Afy Forum'. The event was held simultaneously with the launch of a health sector empowerment programme aimed at tackling financial and operational challenges impeding the implementation of health projects. The forum, which was organised by the bank, attracted some 500 health providers and other stakeholders. Combo photos: Guardian Correspondents

EXPERTS at the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT) are conducting a study to find out how the use of traditional remedies has contributed to the reduction of Covid-19 cases in the country. MAT President Dr Elisha Osati told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that since the outbreak of Covid-19 in March, various herbal medicines have been used by patients to prevent and cure symptoms of Covid-19. "Assessment conducted has indicated a significant decrease in the number of Covid-19 patients at different centres and hospitals," said Dr Osati, noting that MAT will soon deliver a professional analysis on efficacy of various natural remedies. Even those in need for ventilators are now in good condition, he asserted. Dr Osati emphasized that the profession cannot ignore alternative medicines as many Tanzanians use herbs. Most patients suffering from coronavirus are using lemon and ginger which are rich in vitamin C to strengthen their body immune system, he elaborated. Herbal medicines might have played a huge role in curing patients with the new

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France inks 175.6bn/- financing for water, sanitation projects

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

FRANCE yesterday extended to Tanzania euro 70 million (175.6bn/-) for the implementation of water supply and sanitation projects expected to benefit 722,010 people in Morogoro Region. The funds to be issued through the French Development Agency (AFD) will facilitate expansion of water distribution and increase the amount of water supplied from the current 37,000 cubic meters to 108,000 m3 per day. The credit facility agreement was signed yesterday in the capital, between Treasury Permanent Secretary Doto James and AFD Country Director Stephanie Mouen Essombe. Speaking at the ceremony, the PS said completion of the project will facilitate access to clean and safe water services to Morogoro Urban residents. "This project will contribute to attaining the requirement of 126,253 m3 per day by 2035, to cover 95 percent of the region's population," he said. The funds will also be spent to enhance the region's sewerage services coverage from the current five percent of the population to 15 percent. Tanzania has been a major beneficiary of AFD support mostly in energy, water, transport (roads and bridges) and the agriculture sector. AFD has indicated that it will provide

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Councils, schools sorting out reopening challenges

Others start improving primary schools' sanitation environment

By Guardian Reporters

EDUCATION officers, local council directors plus heads of schools and colleges are finalizing preparations to receive Form VI students and those for teachers' colleges. A survey conducted yesterday noted that these officials and teachers all over the country were holding meetings to ensure that the government's directive that students resume classes on June 1 is implemented. Speaking on the matter, Mwanza Regional Commissioner John Mongella said "this is the time to work together to supervise students as

the Covid-19 pandemic still exists, but life has to go on." He appealed to heads of schools and colleges to ensure students exercise and pray to make them understand themselves as the war against the pandemic is monumental. "I was tested on April 27 and the results that came out on April 30 showed I was positive, but I have defeated the disease by exercising, steam inhaling and other mixed drugs. When I was again tested results said I was negative, hence Tanzanians should work hard and not remain idle. The main thing is to abide by

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Z'bar to reopen colleges, soccer league next week

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR has announced the easing of coronavirus restrictions to enable students in universities and those in Form VI to resume classes next week. Zanzibar Second Vice-President Seif Ali Iddi issued a directive to that effect in an official statement yesterday, saying Form VI students need to prepare for final exams and those in higher learning institutions to continue with studies. The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training will convene discussions with the Ministry of Health to draw up guidelines for

reopening, especially vital precautionary measures to curb infections, he said. The Zanzibar government made the decision following "great success" achieved in the fight against the disease, he stated, noting further that sports activities including the Zanzibar Football League will resume from June 5. Ministry of Youth, Culture and Arts officials shall work out guidelines to reopen the league with the Ministry of Health and the Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF). As with the Union authorities, the Second VP said primary and secondary schools,

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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 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people. For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Stay home when you are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms: Fever, Cough, Shortness of breath. Seek medical advice if you Develop symptoms AND Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19





Permanent secretaries from ministries in Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) member-countries follow proceedings of the bloc's ministerial video conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Councils, schools sorting out reopening challenges

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directives from health experts," the RC explained.

The regional administration will provide items for preventing Covid-19 infections, like sanitizers, masks and water washing facilities. Among them will be 200-litre tanks, wash basins and buckets to schools and colleges in the region, he elaborated.

Mwanza Regional Education Officer Martin Nkwabi said the region has a total of 37 "A" Level secondary schools, where 10 are state run, with 4,844 Form VI students altogether. Teachers' colleges of Butimba and Murutunguru have 1,036 students in all.

Nicholas Magige, the principal of Butimba Teachers College said that everything was in order. "The issue of ensuring that there is enough space in classes and in dormitories for boarding students has been resolved," he stated.

Castor Mazula, headmaster of Messa Secondary School also said regular testing for Covid-19 infection will be conducted on students, service staff and teachers, urging joint efforts from teachers and parents to fight the

pandemic.

Secondary school teachers in state-run and private schools in Mkuranga District, Coast Region, are working together with the Department of Education in the district council to ensure that Form VI students are protected against Covid-19 infections.

They report to schools next week for month long preparations ahead of national examinations, thus schools are being equipped with Covid-19 protective equipment such as hand washing facilities.

"We're working hard to ensure that the teaching and learning environment is safe and thus students can do well in their final exams," said Benjamin Majoya, the District Education Officer charged with secondary education.

He said schools with Form VI students, that is Mwinyi, Nasibugani and St Mathew Secondary Schools had prepared in advance by starting to assist students receive their study lessons online.

"Teachers in the respective schools have mobilized, distributing hand washing facilities such as buckets and soap. My appeal to parents and guardians is to ensure that their

children come with enough face masks."

In Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region, nine secondary and primary schools in Okaoni Ward have launched a joint strategic plan to rescue academic levels for pupils of Std 1 to 4 that are declining owing to school closures in the wake of the pandemic.

As of now the students continue with their studies at home, using a question and answer system.

Launching the plan titled "Education Despite Covid-19 is Possible," Okaoni Ward Councillor Morice Makosi said more than 2m/- has been spent for the purchase of a photocopier for question papers that are distributed to students in their homes.

"This plan concerns primary and secondary schools in the ward. We pay science teachers 600,000/- per month as allowance for the task, and I provided the money myself," the councillor noted.

Schools in the ward will be provided with hand-washing facilities from government funds. It was also providing education to students online, where it faces huge challenges in rural areas.

The Okaoni Ward Education

Coordinator Daniel Maeda called on teachers to report back to schools to provide lessons to students in accordance with government directives.

Elias Mramba, the headmaster of Sisamiro Secondary School said the plan is good as it will enable pupils to study while at home.

Monduli District in Arusha Region has also unveiled a plan to confront Covid-19 infections by donating various items to primary schools in the district.

Monduli District Education Officer, Theresia Kyara said the department has provided assistance in taking up government efforts in the fight against the disease.

She said the plan is to provide buckets and soap for staff rooms, as well as health education to teachers, while emphasizing the purchasing of sanitizers.

"The idea is to ensure that all classrooms in primary and secondary schools are installed with hand washing facilities," she explained.

Monduli District Commissioner Idd Kimanta said the move is geared to complement government efforts in combating Covid-19.

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virus, he stated, intoning that following advice and taking precautions as directed by health experts helped to cut numbers of infections.

"Tanzanians responded well to advice given by health experts, to wear face masks, wash hands regularly and observe social distancing. We believe this has also helped to fight the pandemic," he stated.

People are no longer calling medical experts to seek advice, which indicates that the disease has been effectively battled, he said.

MAT similarly lauded President John Magufuli and his close associates in the cabinet for ably leading the country to fight the virus.

"We also commend the crucial role played by service providers in the health sector including doctors, nurses and midwives. They spent sleepless nights to ensure Tanzanians are healed from the deadly disease," Dr Osati underlined, urging patients who are still at home to prudently seek medication in health facilities.

He reminded the public to adhere to government directives on protective measures against the virus such as frequent hand washing, sanitizing, observing social distancing and wearing face masks. "Protect yourself and others from the spread of Covid-19. This is our main message to the people. The disease is still there so we should continue observing experts' advice," he emphasized.

The government must ensure that all essential equipment are available to health workers to facilitate smooth and safe execution of their duties, he stated.

Dr Shadrack Mwaibambe, a MAT official, highlighted the health benefits

of ginger saying it contains a lot of zinc mineral which boosts the development of blood cells.

Zinc is essential in blood development so its consumers stand a better chance to fight the disease, he affirmed.

Research has also shown that out of 90 dead bodies tested in Italy indicated that Covid-19 infections cause blood clotting, a problem that can be fought by consuming ginger, he specified.

Recently, Researchers at the Tanzania Forests Research Institute (TAFORI) identified 10 types of trees which can treat early symptoms of Covid-19.

TAFORI Acting Director General Revocatus Mushumbusi said the trees are locally known as Mlungulungu, Nengo Nengo, Mwatya, Mlundalunda, Mfutwambula, Ngingwe, Mgada, Mondo, Msana and Mzima, whose roots and leaves have been treating various diseases that have symptoms akin to Covid-19.

On May 7, Tanzania received its first airlift of an organic preparation to use it in coronavirus prevention and treatment, while strident warnings were being received from the World Health Organisation (WHO) that its efficacy is unproven.

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) recently partnered with the Ministry of Health to develop guidelines on how and what type of traditional medicines can be used for helping Covid-19 patients.

NIMR Director General Prof Yunus Mgaya weighed in on ongoing confusion about the use of traditional medicines, saying the research outfit had started working with other agencies to develop guidelines on the matter. It has since started marketing its own organic product, NIMRCAF.

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including Form IV and V classes, will remain closed until further notice.

He said the Covid-19 infections situation in the Isles has been controlled, with 19 patients admitted at various health facilities in the two islands.

Three patients are being cared for at the Vitongoji Health Centre in Pemba and their condition is good while 19 patients are admitted in Zanzibar, he elaborated.

"I like to inform the public that to a large extent we have reined in Covid-19 infections, reducing the number of cases from 134 to 19," the VP declared.

He urged people to continue taking precautionary measures to protect themselves against the disease as it is still a threat.

People should not harbor fears and simply continue with their income generating activities while taking precautions, the veteran administrator added.

Gambo orders truck drivers to cooperate in implementation of boundary accord

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TRUCK drivers have been directed to cooperate in the implementation of the agreement reached on their predicament at border posts by making sure they get tested for covid-19 infections and receive certificates thereof to avoid unnecessary inconveniences.

The directive was given here yesterday by Arusha regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo when speaking to truck owners at a meeting convened to discuss the implementation of the agreement over the plight of their drivers while crossing border posts.

The agreement over the subject had been reached at an earlier meeting convened at Namanga border post that involved Tanzania and Kenya officials including the two countries' transport ministers.

"I ask you to grab this opportunity to ensure drivers are tested and given certificates, there is no reason for dillydallying as we want to see business activities continue and if there are any other challenges let's communicate," said RC Gambo.

Gambo also called on the truck owners to assist in the maintenance of harmony and brotherly ties between the people of Tanzania and those of Kenya, the two neighbouring countries that depend on each other.

Speaking at the meeting some truck owners said they have warmly welcomed the agreement reached and congratulated leaders of the two countries for having solved the nagging problem.

The chairperson of the association of Truck Owners for Arusha Region Zainabu Athumani said the decision reached is of great economic benefit to themselves and the countries of the East African Community in general, and lauded President John Magufuli for his efforts in ensuring economic activities go on while precautions are taken against Covid-19 infections.

In attendance was also executives from various institutions including Immigration and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) whose manager for Arusha Region John Mwigira used the occasion to remind stakeholders on the importance in the payment of requisite taxes.

Last weekend Tanzania and Kenya through their transport ministers agreed that each country should test their truck drivers for Covid-19 infections and issue certificates that would be recognized by the other country.

Following the agreement many challenges that had faced truck drivers at Tanzania-Kenya border posts including being stranded for days have now diminished.



Monduli district commissioner Idd Kimanta (L) pictured yesterday shortly after education officer Theresia Kyara (R) handed over to him a set of items meant to help in the war on Covid-19 in schools in the district. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

France inks 175.6bn/- financing for water, sanitation projects

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financing totaling euro 1,021.7 million, (2,39trn/-) for the next few years, he said.

The agency has so far extended euro 154.5m in financial support worth (387.6bn/-) through grants and loans, he said.

The country director said the agency's support to water and sanitation

projects is aimed at improving people's livelihoods.

The agency aims to reduce water losses by 10 percent by the year 2025, with some AFD funded projects cited as the Water Sector Development Plan II - Basket Fund worth euro 40 million.

There is also a euro 53m loan for the TTGRUP project, a global machine tools outfit, including the rehabilitation

of Tanzania Electric Supply Co. Ltd (TANESCO) Geita -Nyakanazi power line and substations.

Other projects are water supply in Mwanza and sanitation in Bukoba and Musoma worth euro 45m and technical assistance for water supply in Mwanza and sanitation in Bukoba and Musoma project worth euro 1.5 million.

The preparation and capacity

building fund phase four totals euro 0.5million for projects listed under FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission).

These include electricity, natural gas, hydropower, oil matters, natural gas pipelines, LNG terminals, hydroelectric dams and electric utilities where euro 0.5m will be availed for phase V as well.



Finance and Planning ministry permanent secretary Doto James (L) and France Development Agency's Resident Director in Tanzania, Stephanie Mouen Essombe, pictured in Dodoma yesterday signing an agreement in respect of a Euro 70 million loan which the agency is to extend to Tanzania for use in the implementation of Morogoro Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority projects. Witnessing the event is Nyanzala Nkinga, a legal officer with the Finance ministry. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SADC council of ministers to virtually discuss economic impact of coronavirus disease

By Getrude Mbagu

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers is tomorrow expected to meet virtually to discuss economic impacts caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The meeting has been preceded by Permanent Secretaries (PSs) who commenced their tele-conference yesterday.

Opening the PSs conference, chairman of the high level senior officials (PSS) Wilbert Ibuge said the SADC Council of Ministers meeting will bring on board ministers of Foreign Affairs, Industries, Trade and Investments, Finance, Natural Resources and Tourism, Transport and Communication as well as the PSs themselves.

"During the meeting, the ministers will discuss issues of regional importance; consider a number of strategic documents and receive reports on the implementation of various resolutions which the countries agreed to implement to fight Covid-19," he said.

Ibuge who doubles as the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation said that the agenda will firstly be discussed by PSs and then be presented to the council of ministers on Friday.

"We will look deeply on the impacts brought by the pandemic, how the disease has affected implementation of various programmes within our region and then come up with resolutions to go forward," Ibuge said.

The meeting will also discuss more on intra-trade status within the SADC region, industrial development and implementation of various strategies and plans towards improving industries in the region.

In March, this year, SADC suspended all face-to-face meetings, adopting

video conference following outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Few weeks later, SADC ministers of health met in an extra-ordinary meeting in Dar es Salaam to share existing knowledge and information on the Covid-19 outbreak, which has had devastating global impacts since its outbreak in December 2019, and agree on how to harmonise and coordinate the preparedness and response to Covid-19 in the SADC region.

The meeting also noted the status on the level of preparedness of the member states in addressing Covid-19 and urged member states to put in place national preparedness and response plans as well as contingency and emergency funds to address gaps in prevention, impact mitigation and other interventions.

The meeting also urged member states to institute peer review mechanisms to validate self assessment reports on readiness, and requested international cooperating partners, through the WHO and the Africa centres for disease control and prevention (Africa CDC), to support Member states in the development and implementation of country plans, as well as in resource mobilisation for health-related infrastructure development.

SADC is an organisation established in 1980 as the Southern African Development Community. Coordinating Conference and later in August 1992 transformed into the Southern African Development Community.

The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy.

By Guardian Reporter

Politicians attend NEC meeting on ethics draft ahead of October's General Election

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) yesterday brought together leaders of political parties and other key election stakeholders to discuss a new draft of ethics as the country prepares to go to the General Election polls in October this year.

In the meeting held in Dar es Salaam, NEC chairman, Judge (rtd) Semistocles Kajjage said the session aimed to provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss deeply on the draft and later sign it.

Judge Kajjage however, reminded political parties and other stakeholders to abide by laws, regulations, procedures and guidelines during the entire period of election activities.

"The commission is well prepared to

execute its duties as per the country's constitution, laws and regulations, while supervising to ensure that political parties adhere to the election's ethical code," he said.

For his part, Dr Wilson Charles, NEC's director said that the ethics draft has come to address challenges raised in the previous General Election and other by-elections.

According to him, the new draft has considered opinions submitted by political parties, the government and NEC.

"Only nine registered political parties submitted their opinions on the ethics draft. However some political parties including Chadema, NCCR-Mageuzi

and Alliance for Democratic Change (ADC) submitted their opinions out of deadline," he noted.

In his contribution, Secretary General of Chadema (Mainland) John Mnyika decried that a single day wasn't enough to complete the discussion saying that NEC could have extended the timetable for more days so as to get a complete ethics draft.

"Discussing this important issue for only a single day usually end up forcing some of us to sign the ethics without having more choice, we are signing the draft but it doesn't mean that we agree with the ethics," he said.

Abdul Mluya, Secretary General of the democratic party said the draft of

ethics brought are not new but there are some small areas which have been improved.

"The draft of ethics is good, I can't see the reason of not signing it, ethics are essential towards having smooth elections," said Salvatory Magafu from the Civic United Front (CUF).

A lawyer from the ruling CCM, Ernest Makunga said that apart from making the General Election be conducted peacefully, the draft of ethics will also enable all elections campaigns to be run smoothly and peacefully.

"The ethics will also lead political parties to avoid the use of deprecating, abusive, fabricating and inciting language," he added.

TASAF introduces e-payment system

By Getrude Mbagu

THE Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) is from next month expected to start implementing the second phase of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) a move which will also phase out cash payment system to poor households replacing it by electronic payment.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TASAF Executive Director Ladislaus Mwamanga demonstrated strong interest into the adoption of the e-payment, pointing out that the initiative is going to address several challenges encountered during cash payment system.

He however said that all beneficiaries are required to have the national identification authority (NIDA) numbers to access the service.

He said that the Fund will commence its operation by capacitating beneficiaries with essential skills and knowledge to ensure that beneficiaries are able to adopt, use and derive value from digital transactions.

"The implementation of PSSN II moves from cash to a single electronic solution through the government

e-payment gateway to deliver payments to beneficiaries' mobile or bank accounts to address challenges which were arising during the cash payment model," he said.

He said: "In the previous phase, the cash transfer process required TASAF beneficiaries to attend a community meeting prior to receiving payment; rural women spend hours waiting for receipt to the cash. So, the electronic option is going to address all these challenges."

The e-payment, according to Mwamanga has also considered elders who can't read and write, and TASAF will work closely with mobile companies and banks to ensure that the group is well served to ensure that they receive their funds without hurdles.

According to him, the use of electronic cash transfer started as a pilot project on May, 2017 in 16 district councils of Arusha, Unguja, Ilala, Kinondoni, Temeke, Mpanda, Kigoma Municipality, Bagamoyo, Songea Municipality, Kisarawe, Kilwa, Muheza, Mkuranga, Bahi, Urambo and Siha.

He said after the two years implementation of the new system, it

has proved beneficial in administration as it reduces costs involved in money distribution to beneficiaries.

For his part, TASAF's director of community support, Amadeus Kamagenge said: "It's important for all beneficiaries to have mobile phones through which a lot of information will be shared."

"We will use mobile money transfer agents to deliver funds to some beneficiaries who are unable to read and count, this will be done faithfully and timely," he said.

He observed that in the pilot phase, the programme witnessed some challenges with some of the beneficiaries forgetting their mobile money PIN numbers.

"In this, TASAF encourage beneficiaries to have secret numbers that they develop themselves and can easily be remembered when conducting transactions," he added.

He said after the launch of the new stage of the programme his office embarked on preparations for the implementation of the phase that will see at least 1.4 million people from both mainland and the Isles registered as beneficiaries.



Iringa regional commissioner Ally Hapi (L) exchanges greetings with Kilolo District Council workers yesterday shortly before addressing councillors. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin



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KILIMANJARO DRINKING WATER IS THE WATER YOU CAN TRUST EVERYDAY!

Kilolo District implements 34.2bn/- worth of development programmes

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilolo

KILOLO District Council in Iringa Region has implemented development projects valued at more than 34.2bn/- during FY 2019/20 that has spurred development for the people in the district.

This was revealed yesterday by the Council's Executive Director Aloyce Kwezi when speaking to this paper.

Kwezi said the projects that have been implemented have made people in the area become satisfied with their government as were provided with answers to their various complaints.

He said the council has implemented big development projects which are a pride for the council whose residents mainly depend on farming for their livelihoods.

Among the projects include the Mgambalenga Canal Project built at a cost of 21bn/- to assist farmers in irrigation farming.

He said out of this money the council provided 76m/- while the Government of Japan through its international development arm (JICA) provided the rest.

"Up to now the project is 71 percent complete and used 2.4bn/-," he said.

He said other projects include Kilolo District Hospital, Kibadaga Health Centre, Iringa urban water supply project, all of which are being built at a cost of 34.2bn/-.

He said the council continues implementing new projects as well as old ones while appealing to the residents to continue supporting their government's efforts by working hard during this year.

He said the main issue the council was still working on is to see all students passed to join secondary schools do as per the directives of Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and that what they now do is to complete the construction of classrooms and school desks.



Vegetable vendors in an eager wait for customers at one of Dodoma city's foodstuff markets yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Dodoma City Council set to prioritise small traders at new bus station stalls

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA City Council has vowed to continue giving priority to small traders at the city's new Regional Bus Station and other areas to enable them participate in the nation's industrial economy.

The City's Director Godwin Kunambi gave the pledge when speaking to reporters on the completion of the exercise to issue application forms for business areas at the bus station and the Job Ndugai Main Market.

He said the steps include strategies by the city to assist the government to enable Tanzania become among countries with middle economy through industrial development.

He said: "In order to make every Tanzanian participate in industrial economic growth it is the responsibility of the city authorities to provide opportunities to all people including women food vendors by putting up to them friendly environment for their businesses."

He said the council has also considered women food vendors at Nanenane Bus Stand, saying these will shift to the new bus station.

Kunambi said he has instructed the head of the City's Community Development and Youth to monitor these people so that they can receive council loans from 10 percent of its income.

For those who applied for licences to do business at the new Bus Station and Job Ndugai Market, he said successful applicants will be announced soon, and advised them to look for their names in the council's website and at its notice boards for other procedures.

He mentioned the areas that remain without tenants as two butcheries and 11 offloading centres for goods at the Job Ndugai Market, nine areas with 36 sqm for business and 33 business stalls.

He said these areas will be re-advertised for fresh applications from interested parties.

The construction of Dodoma Bus Station has cost 24bn/- and Ndugai Market 14bn/-.

'Govt trained about 1,480,900 women on maternal health during 2019/2020'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

IN efforts to reduce maternal and newborn deaths, the government trained about 1,480,900 women in the Mainland Tanzania on maternal health during 2019/2020 financial year, parliament was told here yesterday.

In a written response, the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said, the government continues providing training through different means including providing leaflets, advertisements on posters, as well as via Television programmes.

The ministry was responding to a question

posed by Special Seats MP, Sabreena Sungura (Chadema) who sought to know when the government would accomplish its programme for providing education on maternal health.

"Through this training, the number of expectant women delivering at various health centres increased to 83 per cent as of March 2020, compared to 64 per cent during the corresponding period in 2015/16," the ministry noted. The government stated further that the target was to ensure that every woman attaining delivery age was given training on maternal health by the end of 2020.

"This particular education will make

sure that all pregnant women attend clinics immediately after they get pregnancies, as well as that they deliver at health facilities so that they are attended by professional midwives, instead of relying on traditional midwives," noted the ministry's response.

The ministry equally underscored the need for all girls and women between 15 and 49 years, a group that can be able to get pregnant to receive education on maternal health, emergency services on pregnancy complications, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), effects of drug abuse as well as HIV/AIDS

Councillor calls upon wildlife officers to ward off elephants troubling Kiwangwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Bagamoyo

KIWANGWA councillor Malota Kwaga has called upon the government through wildlife unit to visit the ward and ward off elephants which have been storming the area regularly and destroy people's farms.

Addressing journalists, Kwaga said that the elephants from Saadani National Park have destroyed acres of maize and rice farms and they went further to destroy pineapple farms something which creates huge fear among farmers and the public.

"We are appealing for the wildlife unit to visit us and witness the destruction caused by these animals, a lot of produce have been destroyed risking the area of food insecurity," he said.

He named the farms which have been destroyed as those from the villages of

Minazi, Misani as well as along Wami River.

Malota said that elephants' invasion is a long lasting challenge in the village thus urging the government to take considerable measures to protect the incidents thus rescuing people's lives and their properties.

"Every year herds of elephants have been invading these villages, this situation should be taken very seriously as it destroys people's dreams and development," he said.

In December last year, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Adolf Mkenda said that at least 96 people were killed and 90 others were wounded by wild animals that raided farms and residential areas in Tanzania from July 2018 to July 2019.

He said the number of people killed and wounded by wild animals

was on increase compared to previous years.

Speaking at a meeting held in the Lake Victoria shore city of Mwanza to discuss best ways of controlling human-wildlife conflicts, Mkenda said wild animals killed 39 people and wounded 37 others from July 2017 to July 2018 across the country.

He mentioned elephants, lions, hippos and crocodiles as the leading killers, adding that during the 2018-2019, the animals destroyed 13,644 hectares of farm crops compared to 637 hectares of farm crops destroyed in 2017-2018.

According to the law on compensation for destruction made by wildlife, Tanzanian Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism is responsible for compensating those who had been affected by elephants' invasion.



PUBLIC NOTICE

ELECTRICITY TARIFFS FOR TENANTS OF RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS AND COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES

By virtue of Section 17 of the EWURA Act, Cap.414, Section 23(1) of the Electricity Act, Cap. 131 and Rule 17 of the EWURA (Tariff Application and Rate Setting) Rules, G.N. 452 of 2017, the ORDER is hereby given to owners of Residential Apartments and Commercial Complexes that electricity tariffs and charges for their tenants should not exceed that which is approved by EWURA as shown below and as may be reviewed and approved by EWURA from time to time. Only tariffs and charges published by EWURA through the Government Gazette shall be applicable. Severe legal actions shall be taken against anyone who contravenes this Order.

Customer Category	Component	Unit	Approved Tariff
D1	Service Charge	TZS/Month	-
	Energy Charge (0 - 75 kWh)	TZS/kWh	100
	Above 75 kWh	TZS/kWh	350
T1	Service Charge	TZS/Month	-
	Energy Charge	TZS/kWh	292
	Maximum Demand Charge	TZS/kVA/Month	-
T2	Service Charge	TZS/Month	14,233
	Energy Charge	TZS/kWh	195
	Maximum Demand Charge	TZS/kVA/Month	15,004
T3 - MV	Service Charge	TZS/Month	16,769
	Energy Charge	TZS/kWh	157
	Maximum Demand Charge	TZS/kVA/Month	13,200
T3 - HV	Service Charge	TZS/Month	-
	Energy Charge	TZS/kWh	152
	Maximum Demand Charge	TZS/kVA/Month	16,550

Key

D1: Low Usage Tariff for Domestic customers who on average consume less than 75 kWh per month. Any unit exceeding 75 kWh is charged a higher rate of TZS 350 per kWh. Under this category, power is supplied at a low voltage, single phase (230V).

T1: General Usage Tariff for customers including residential, small commercial and light industrial use, public lighting and billboards. Power is supplied at low voltage single phase (230V) as well as three phase (400V).

T2: Applicable to general use customers where power is metered at 400V and average consumption is more than 7,500 kWh per meter reading period and demand does not exceed 500kVA per meter reading period.

T3-MV: Applicable customers connected to medium voltage.

T3 - HV: Applicable to customers connected to High Voltage including ZECO, Bulyanhulu and Twiga Cement.

Eng. Godfrey H. Chibulnje
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL
EWURA

157539



Unguja South traffic police commander Rashida Rashid Abdallah checks a converted commuter van at Tunguu yesterday, apparently on suspicion that it had too many people on board than provided for under the law. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman



A Masks for Hope team led by the NGO's founder, Bernice Fernandes (3rd-L), sensitises food vendors at Dar es Salaam's Tegeta Nyuki mixed-goods market yesterday on the need to take precautions against Covid-19. It thereafter distributed 1,000 face masks to Bajaj and motorbike taxi operators. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Prepare for Nanenane fair, ministry tells stakeholders

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

THE Ministry for Agriculture has appealed to all stakeholders participating in this year's Nanenane Exhibition to be held in Simiyu Region for three years consecutively to continue with their preparations for the event.

The ministry has also called on the local councils and individual stakeholders who have not begun preparations to ensure they start doing so this month as only little time has remained.

The ministry's step has come only a few days after the government eased restrictions to some activities such as schools (Form VI) and sports that had been closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking to reporters at Nyakabindi fair grounds in Bariadi Town where the exhibition will be held, the Director of Crops Development in the Ministry of Agriculture Nyasebwa Chimagu said some of the stakeholders are yet to start preparations.

Nyasebwa said following the easing of the pandemic in the country, there is a big possibility that by August this year the exhibition will take place hence called upon all stakeholders to start preparations now.

He congratulated some institutions such as the Prisons, National Service

(JKT) and some Councils in Mara and Simiyu regions for starting early preparations.

He said some institutions including government institutions hesitated doing so due to the Covid-19 pandemic; hence he allayed fears from them as infections were going down.

He said the ministry has embarked on various preparations including various sittings which for this year the exhibition's slogan is "For the Agricultural Development, Livestock and Fisheries, Elect Better Leaders in 2020."

"We have instructed all institutions and regions to begin preparations for the exhibition in their zones but they are required to abide by all directives from health experts over the pandemic's infection," he said.

Simiyu Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Jumanne Sagini who was accompanied by Nyasebwa said the region was ready for the exhibition.

He said: "Meetings by the regional leaders will take place starting next week to ensure the exhibitions are held successfully as they have been every year."

"For the Agricultural Development, Livestock and Fisheries, Elect Better Leaders in 2020."

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

Govt planning to spend 150m/- in 2020/21 to construct three dispensaries in Tarime

THE government plans to spend 150m/- in the 2020/2021 financial year to construct three dispensaries in Tarime District Council in Mara region.

The project is part of the government's efforts to improve provision of social services including the health sector whereas it is constructing dispensaries and health centers at every local government authority.

This was said in the National Assembly by the Ministry of State

in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government when responding to a question from Tarime-Urban legislator, Ester Matiko (Chadema).

The ministry stated that the government will not upgrade dispensaries to health centers,

instead it is constructing new health facilities.

It said that in between 2016/2017 and 2019/2020 the government allocated 35 health workers to various health facilities in Tarime District.

"The ministry has secured permit to employ 610 doctors who will

be allocated to districts with acute shortage of health workers including Tarime.

According to the ministry, various initiatives taken to improve provision of health services in the country are also meant to reduce child and maternal mortality rates.

In her question, Matiko was concerned that available dispensaries and health centers in Tarime provide medical services to a number of patients including those from nearby districts such as Tarime-Rural and Rorya.

She claimed that the Gamasara

dispensary at Nyandoto ward also serves patients from Kongo and Kitere villages in Rorya District and Kewamba and Nyangisya villages in Tarime District.

"Over 50 percent of patients going to the dispensary are from far villages, why is the government not constructing dispensaries in these villages," questioned Matiko.

She however asked whether the government had any plan to upgrade the available dispensaries into health centres to meet the demand.



Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Supply of "Dymark" Spray Paint to AUMS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

African Underground Mining Services, AUMS (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified and experienced Tanzanian companies to express their interest in the Supply of "Dymark" Spray Paint at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania. Product type and details will be released to the selected companies.

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract Fixed Price Agreement (FPA) is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to ContractsTanzania@aumsg.com by not later than 16:00HRS Local Time on 04/06/2020 quoting "EOI Supply of "Dymark" Spray Paint in the subject line of your email.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, Shareholders IDs, Directors list, Organogram, Number of employees with a foreign to national ratio indicated
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses, Manufacturer Authorizations, Exclusive Distributorship Certificates. Along with any other relevant Industry Documentation
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Trade references, Sample POs and contracts, completion certificates
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Distribution points in Mwanza or Geita or list of satellite offices if applicable
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on 04/06/2020 shall not be considered.

2. Assessment criteria

The mandatory information requested at paragraph 1 will be evaluated and scored to shortlist pre-qualified companies.

The pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of AUMS (T) Ltd.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the companies EOI. AUMS (T) Ltd shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

For more information on African Underground Mining Services and its operations please refer to the following website www.aumsg.com.

www.nbc.co.tz

TENDER NOTICE

SUPPLY OF PRIMARY DATA CENTRE HARDWARE

1. National Bank of Commerce Limited has set aside funds for the procurement of various services during financial year 2020/2021, it is intended that, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the various contracts.
2. Request for proposal is open to all eligible suppliers with proven experience and capacity to supply the required equipment. Interested eligible bidders are invited to apply for the supply of Primary Data Centre Hardware.
3. Request for Proposal documents can be downloaded from the website www.nbc.co.tz and then click 'Procurement' to access the document.
4. All Proposals in one original and one copy set properly filled in, and enclosed in sealed envelope marked as per service name written on the RFP Document and should be addressed to; **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED, HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, 6th FLOOR, and P. O. BOX 1863 DAR ES SALAAM.**
5. Sealed applications and bids must be submitted no later than **Wednesday, 17th June 2020 at 1600 hrs.** Proposal shall be delivered by hand to the Tender Box located at reception of Head Office building, ground Floor along Sokoine Drive/Azikiwe Street.

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED**

The Bank for a Working Nation





TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A CONSULTANCY WORK TO INSTITUTE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MANGROVE NETWORK (WIOMN)

BACKGROUND

The Western Indian Ocean Mangrove Network (WIOMN) is a regional forum of scientific experts, managers and practitioners of mangrove conservation and management. The Network was established in October 2011. The countries currently actively represented in the WIOMN are Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros. The Network is anchored at Nairobi Convention, which engenders the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Eastern Africa Region. The Network serves as a regional forum to facilitate: (i) Expertise sharing and capacity development in mangrove research and management practices; (ii) Standardization of methodologies in conducting mangrove assessments and monitoring; (iii) Production of regional publications and policy briefs on mangrove research and management and ensuring dissemination of such outputs; (iv) Raising the profile of mangroves as a critically important ecosystem supporting many livelihoods in the region; (v) Development and delivery of community based training programs on sustainable mangrove management and conservation.

Through WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF-TCO), the Network has received support from the 'Save our Mangrove Now!' (SOMN) initiative, which is a joint effort by the Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), WWF, IUCN and Wetlands International, to facilitate the process of Institutionalization of the Network. WWF TCO is therefore seeking for a consultant to be based at the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) – Zanzibar. The candidate will oversee the process of institutionalizing the Network to become a contractual entity legally registered as an international profession association/society.

The Network key partners, collaborators and supporters: UNEP-Nairobi Convention and its various strategic projects, WIOMSA (Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association), WWF country offices in the WIO region and WWF Germany, IUCN, Wetlands International – East Africa Regional Office, BMZ, USAID, US Forest Service, Institutional Affiliations of all Country Representatives.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The consultant will be contracted by WWF TCO and work with the WIOMN Regional Secretariat and Country Representative to carry out the institutionalization process of the Network to enable it to have the contractual mandates through:

- Institutional set up and registration
- Strengthening the Secretariat operations
- Establishment of country chapters

Specifically the consultant will:

- Handle the process and paper work for registration of the Network as a regional professional network/society following the legal requirements of the Government of Zanzibar.
- Handle the process of finalization of the Network Constitution in consultation with the Regional Secretary and Country Representatives.
- Collate, develop and update the membership database in consultation with WIOMN Country Representatives
- Finalize/ update and maintain Network websites [www.wiomn.org and www.wiomnrfn.org] with advisory support from WWF Germany. This entails inter alia:
 - Collect country specific information – plans, events and activities, publications (reports and papers) for website documentation.
 - Establish and upload onto the website a comprehensive list of members from each represented country and develop an active mailing list for effective communication.
- Ensure effective communication and information exchange between WIOMN Country Representatives and partners and stakeholders as appropriate in availing national priorities on mangrove conservation congruent to regional and international agenda.
- Maintain correspondence to strengthen partnerships between the Network and partners/collaborators – Nairobi Convention, WIOMSA, WWF, IUCN, WI, Mangrove Action Project and donors such as UNEP and USAID etc.

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Internal: In consultation with the WIOMN Regional Secretary, interact regularly with WIOMN Country Representatives and WWF Marine Programme Coordinator and WWF Mangrove Project Executant
External: The consultant will be working with Partners and Supporters of the Network in WIO states and other interested actors from the global mangrove community.

QUALIFICATIONS/ REQUIREMENT

A suitable individual for this assignment should possess the following qualifications:

- Must possess a minimum of a Bachelor degree relevant to marine sciences, marine and coastal natural resource management and conservation.
- Working experience with government systems (preferably of Zanzibar) would be added advantage.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills (especially within multi-stakeholder contexts), good communication and team management spirit;
- Computer literacy on software packages including substantial experience with MS Office for word-processing, databases, spreadsheets and internet. Knowledge on website development and management would be added advantage;
- Ability to follow deadlines, accuracy and attention to details;
- Ability to work autonomously/independently and in a team
- Competence in the use of English and Swahili language. Knowledge of French and Portuguese would be added advantage.
- Working experience with government systems (preferably of Zanzibar) would be added advantage.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills (especially within multi-stakeholder contexts), good communication and team management spirit;
- Computer literacy on software packages including substantial experience with MS Office for word-processing, databases, spreadsheets and internet. Knowledge on website development and management would be added advantage;
- Ability to follow deadlines, accuracy and attention to details;
- Ability to work autonomously/independently and in a team
- Competence in the use of English and Swahili language. Knowledge of French and Portuguese would be added advantage.

TENURE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

- The consultant will be based at the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS), Zanzibar, and therefore living in Zanzibar is an added advantage.
- The consultant will be hired for a period of six month (1st August -30th Dec 2020) and the contract may be extended for another six month based on the performance.

REPORTING SCHEDULE

Inception report 1st week of August 2020
First draft technical reports by 30th October, 2020
Final technical reports on 30th December 2020
Final expenditure report by 30th December 2020
Monthly reports not more than 1.5 pages (August, September, October, November and December 2020)

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT

Description	Payable
40% of total professional fee	Upon signing of contract, Inception reports and approved request/Invoice
25% of total professional fee	Upon submission and approval of first draft
35% of total professional fee	Upon submission of final Technical and Financial Report as per TORs

8. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

Proposals from interested consultant(s) should be fully signed and must include:

- Cover letter highlighting applicant's company profile, current contact information including how the consultant previous experience matches the consultancy objectives (not longer than two pages);
- Technical proposal (2 pages) and financial proposal (2 pages)
- Curriculum Vitae detailing consultant professional on the subject matter

Interested Consultant/Bidder should submit his/her full proposal to the email address below;

To:
Secretary: Procurement Committee
World Wide Fund- Tanzania Country Office
Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikochoeni
P.O.Box 63117 Dar Es salaam
Tanzania
Email: tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org

All applications will be received not later than
17.00pm, Monday 15th June, 2020, East African Time.
Only successful applicant will be contacted.

EAC member-states called on to focus on post-Covid-19 relations

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

EAST Africa Community (EAC) governments have been called upon to focus on post Covid-19 relationship and have a common way to help control economic depression in the region.

The call was made by a renowned Kenyan lawyer, Prof Patrick Lumumba who argued that the member states had different approaches to dealing with coronavirus but now they need a common stance on how to deal with post Covid-19 recession.

Speaking during a televised live programme aired by Star TV on Tuesday evening, the renowned lawyer observed that EAC states need to have equal terms to avoid conflicts on issues that can be solved amicably.

He said stronger cooperation beyond Covid-19 is very important in building the community, adding that some differences realised should be solved.

"EAC member states handled Covid-19 pandemic differently leading to some tension but as a block we can still sail together despite going through valleys and mountains," he said, adding

that leaders in the region should see how to harmonise their differences.

Last week Kenya closed its border with Tanzania, causing tension among citizens of the two countries as Tanga and Kilimanjaro announced that lorries from Kenya should be barred from entering the country through Holili and Horohoro.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on Saturday closed the country's borders with Somalia and Tanzania effective midnight as part of measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Kenyatta banned the movement of persons and passengers in and out of Kenya through the Tanzania and Somalia borders for 21 days following the rise of cross-border Covid-19 transmission.

The outspoken lawyer showered praise on Tanzania for unwavering stance on how to deal with the disease, saying countries like Taiwan, South Korea and Sudan had a similar position.

He argued that scientists should try and find out why countries like Italy, USA, and Spain, among others that adopted full lockdown had a lot of

infections and death rates. Lumumba noted that Tanzania took its own decision but have not reported many deaths like those countries.

Prof Lumumba also criticised international monetary organisations that were quick to give loans to African countries to help deal with coronavirus, saying their aim is to deprive developing countries of their economic freedom. "I fully agree with President John Magufuli who openly challenged those willing to loan African countries to simply wave the current debt instead of giving more," he said.

Prof Lumumba also praised Tanzania, Guinea Bissau and others that rallied behind Madagascar's found medicine for COVID-19, stating that African countries should always rally behind fellow African country.

On April 20, Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina announced a breakthrough in the fight against COVID-19.

According to the World Health Organisation, there are no medicines that have been shown to prevent or cure COVID-19.



Clerics hold prayers yesterday at the site where the Mbeya Regional Commissioner's office will be built, the aim being to see the implementation of the project fast-tracked. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Govt and investors busy discussing Mchuchuma and Liganga projects

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government is in talks with investors for the start of the Mchuchuma and Liganga projects following the amendment of laws governing natural resources in the country.

This was said by the ministry of Trade, and Industries in a written response to a question asked by the Ludewa MP, Deogratius Francis (CCM) who had wanted to know when the projects would commence.

The ministry said the government is reviewing the contracts for the

Mchuchuma and Liganga projects to align with the amended natural wealth and resources laws.

In the process, all strategic projects in the extractive sector including those in the mining, gas and oil are undergoing reviews.

The Liganga iron ore mine and iron steel complex, according to the statement is expected to produce one metric tonnes per year of iron and steel products, vanadium pentoxide and titanium dioxide.

The Mchuchuma projects include the construction of a 600 MW coal-fired power station, of which 250 MW

will be used by the iron plant, while the remaining 350 MW will feed the national grid. "The Mchuchuma and Liganga projects in Ludewa district, Njombe region is aimed at producing iron and coal," she added.

The minister in the statement said the projects need a lot of money despite having signed a contract with the investor. It also needs modern technology in effort to compete in the global market.

The project, according the government has been delayed by lack of capital and technology to drill iron ore.

Bank celebrates 25th anniversary with 50 million/- grant for SMEs

By Guardian Reporter

IN celebrating its 25th anniversary, Stanbic Bank has launched an entrepreneur grant meant to foster and grow Tanzanian businesses.

The contest dubbed 'Stanbic Entrepreneurship Challenge' will run from May 28th to 11th June 2020 - where five entrepreneurs will bag 10m/- each.

"Tanzania's SME sector consists of more than 3 million enterprises; their stability and growth are crucial to the economy. Contributing to the financial success of SMEs is core to our mission and over the years, we have hosted

several forums where entrepreneurs have benefited through learning, networking and coaching sessions," bank's head of marketing, Desideria Mwegelo said.

The 'Stanbic Entrepreneurship Challenge' is targeted at entrepreneurs who are working hard to fulfil their entrepreneurial ambitions through projects that have a social impact on health, education, environment, technology as well as food and manufacturing.

Among the qualifying criteria, the prospective candidates must be based in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Arusha, Mwanza, Moshi and Dodoma, and all

entry instructions are available on the bank's social media channels and website.

"I encourage entrepreneurs to submit their applications and make this the year of fulfilling their dreams - whether it is taking the leap to grow their business or simply to recover from any effect COVID-19 might have had on their business," she added.

Apart from funding the five finalists will also gain access to financial advisory and mentorship from the bank's corporate clients who are looking to partner with SMEs as suppliers or as part of their enterprise supplier development programmes.



The Ambassador of France to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier, pictured in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday holding a placard alongside Médecins du Monde programme coordinator Kessy Ndenengo at the symbolic presentation of Covid-19 protective equipment to the government authorities. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

French firms hand over Covid-19 medical gear to NGO in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

SIX French companies operating in the country have donated assorted Covid-19 protective gears to Médecins du Monde (Mdm)—an international organisation, which has been in the country for more than 25 years.

The organisation has been working with local communities and stakeholders striving to create positive health impact in the lives of most vulnerable population.

The French companies which donated the medical supplies include Engie-Power Corner, Total, Maurel& Prom, Tanzania Petroleum Services (TPS) and Oryx.

The donation which was handed over to Médecins du Monde (Mdm)'s Programme Coordinator, Kessy Theophil Ndenengo includes an assortment of sanitary products (hydro-alcoholic solutions), masks and gloves. These items have been purchased from

the Medical Stores Department (MSD) which guarantees international quality certification. In addition a fuel voucher has also been pledged.

The handover ceremony of the equipment was made in the presence of Dr Francis Lukuvi who is the Regional Mental Health Coordinator in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

The donation is a preliminary gesture of Ambassador of France to Tanzania, Frederic Clavier's promise he made on April 20, when he spoke to media about the French Embassy's initiative of mobilising French companies in Tanzania to join hands and support government's efforts by offering sanitary products and medical equipment needed to fight against the propagation of the epidemic.

In handing over this medical equipment, Ambassador Clavier said:

"This crisis is affecting every part of the society and all of us are trying to do what we can to help. It is vital that we support the most vulnerable in our communities."

"Suffice it to say that today's donation represents the French traditional spirit of benevolence. When one simply looks at the Global Fund generous contributors, one will certainly notice that France is the second largest contributor," he said.

For his part, President of the French Trade Commercial Advisors in Tanzania (CCEF), Christophe Darmois said: "There is no big or small effort to combat the Novel Coronavirus. There is only effort. Companies represented through the CCEF of Tanzania are proud to contribute to anything that could help curbing the curve of the disease in Tanzania. Preventing the disease to widely spread, protecting our people from Tanzania and overseas, fighting against Covid-19 and

eventually winning...it is what we strive for together."

Médecins du Monde (Mdm) General Coordinator for Tanzania and Kenya, Ivan Duran, has expressed Mdm's appreciation for the generous donation from the French private sector in Tanzania:

"Mdm is working together with the Ministry of Health in increasing the capacities of health facilities. We strongly applaud and appreciate the generosity of the French Companies. This kind of material is essential to protect the Tanzanian health workers that are fighting everyday providing care to the population".

This donation is made under the aegis of the newly created Franco-Tanzanian Chamber of Commerce. The French Embassy in collaboration with the Franco-Tanzanian Chamber of Commerce will continue to venture in more areas of supporting Tanzania's fight against Covid-19.

Experts to discuss fate of Africa's energy sector as COVID-19 rages

JOHANNESBURG

THE Covid-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on the growth and development of the energy sector. In particular, a recent study released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) concluded that the world is heading towards seeing a decrease in the development of wind turbines, solar power plants and other renewable energy installations.

Set to be the first annual decline in new renewable energy project developments in two decades, this reduction will have a heavy impact on many countries' plans to increase their renewable energy capacity and in turn, economic growth.

"Countries are continuing to build new wind turbines and solar plants, but at a much slower pace. Even before the Covid-19 pandemic struck, the world needed to significantly accelerate the deployment of renewables to have a chance of meeting its energy and climate goals," says IEA executive director Dr Fatih Birol.

Amid today's extraordinary health and economic challenges, governments must not lose sight of the essential task of stepping up clean energy transitions to enable us to emerge from the crisis on a secure and sustainable path," adds Dr Birol.

The African Energy Chamber (AEC) is tomorrow expected to present an open webinar focused on the renewable energy sector and guided by the question: Is now the time for renewable energy?

Hosted by Africa Oil & Power, the conversation will feature contributions from Matleng Energy Solutions (South Africa) chairperson Nelisiwe Magubane; Suzanne Jaworowski, Senior Advisor of Policy & Communications at the US Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy; and Lekela Power Senegal general manager Massaer Cisse.

The panel discussion will be jointly moderated by Dr Clinton Carter-Brown, Head of the Energy Centre at the South African Council for Scientific

and Industrial Research, and Africa Oil & Power director of programming Cathy Hirst.

"The global pandemic coupled with the low oil price is encouraging many countries to relook at their energy mixes and energy transition plans in line with the current global environment," said AEC executive chairman NJ Ayuk, adding: "With each day, there are new complexities in planning energy transitions that will not jeopardise governments' long-term energy strategies."

"While we may naturally want to look into solutions such as small-scale nuclear reactors, wind, solar and hydro, we are unfortunately faced with immense challenges presented by restrictions aiming at fighting the pandemic as the first step," he noted, adding that through the webinar "we hope to provide insight on the ideal way, specifically for African countries, to plan ahead despite the challenges".

The AEC is a leading chamber of successful networks, transactions and partnerships at the helm of growing energy industries across Africa. It strives to promote the continent's interests, companies and people.

The AEC's partners have the power to shape Africa's energy future by promoting growth, fostering collaboration, shaping policy, and providing leadership and guidance in the fast-growing energy sector.

• AGENCIES

“The global pandemic coupled with the low oil price is encouraging many countries to relook at their energy mixes and energy transition plans in line with the current global environment

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VICE CHAIRPERSON
Happiness Mchaki

HON. TREASURER
Sarah Mhamilawa

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tike Mwambipile

Our vision
"A society that respects and upholds the rights of women"

NOTICE OF TAWLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Article 22 (a) of the Constitution of Tanzania Women Lawyers Association that the Annual General Meeting shall be held online on **Saturday 20th June 2020 from 9:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.** and that the business to be transacted shall be as set out below: -

Agenda

1. Reading of the notice convening the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on 25th May 2019
4. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
5. Election of TAWLA Board of Directors' members
6. To receive and consider for adoption the report from the Board of Directors for year 2019
7. To receive and consider for adoption the Audited Accounts for year 2019
8. Appointment of Auditor for year 2020 financials
9. To receive and consider for adoption Membership Affairs Committee report for year 2019
10. Any other business with the leave of the Chairperson
11. Date of the Next Annual General Meeting
12. Closing of the meeting

Kindly register your interest to attend via: info@tawla.or.tz or 0752286286 not later than 15th June 2020.

DATED AND SIGNED AT DAR ES SALAAM THIS 28th DAY OF MAY 2020.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TANZANIA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION.

TIKE MWAMBIPILE
SECRETARY

DEPOSIT INSURANCE BOARD

PUBLIC NOTICE

**IN THE MATTER OF FBME BANK LIMITED
(UNDER LIQUIDATION) REMINDER NOTICE ON
REIMBURSEMENT OF INSURED DEPOSITS**

Following the closure of FBME Bank Limited in May 2017, the Deposit Insurance Board (DIB) of P.O. Box 2939, Dar es Salaam, commenced reimbursement of insured deposits to the depositors of the closed bank in line with provisions of the law. The DIB wishes to issue this reminder notice that;

1. The reimbursement of unclaimed insured deposits to the depositors of the defunct FBME Bank Limited is still going on through the office premises of former FBME Bank Limited located at Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam. Until end of April, 2020, number of depositors equivalent to 51.77% of all eligible depositors have been reimbursed.
2. By this reminder notice, the DIB reminds all eligible depositors who are yet to collect their insured deposits to collect their deposit at the Kinondoni office premises of the former FBME Bank Limited.

All inquiries should be addressed to:

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THURSDAY 28 MAY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Barrick-Tanzania's epic story: Partnership, not imperialism

SEVERAL news commentators in Tanzania were easily in high spirits yesterday when looking at photos and details of an event where Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango received a cheque for US\$100 million (about 250 billion/-) from Canadian mining firm, Barrick Gold Corporation.

There was no doubt at all that this payment and the promise of the completion of implementation of an accord reached late last year between the two parties pointed to the dawn of a new epoch.

It is something that scholars in African universities have for decades wished to see: that partnership ought to replace imperialism in how African economies engage with multinational corporations.

The money was initial payment in respect of a US\$300 million debt claim settlement originally involving Acacia Mining, taken over by majority shareholder Barrick Gold last year.

The virtual subsidiary wasn't in a position to negotiate with the Tanzanian government, as it made efforts to stick to its prerogatives or have a foreign court settle the tax dispute, etc. It was similarly a clearly proud day for Foreign and East African minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, who led the government's negotiating team at the time.

The minister also inspired the wording and profound legal tonality of the 'Natural Resources (Unconscionable Practices) Act' which, at least in an academic sense, implied the repudiation of predatory practices. That is what is technically known as imperialism.

The Canadian company manages the Bulyanhulu, North Mara and Buzwagi gold mines. The two parties even reached a formula for sharing future economic benefits from the mines on a 50/50 basis, which implies that by that time the company's initial capital will have been returned in full.

Other parameters of agreement are

token considerations like conducting a feasibility study and extending in initial capital to the tune of US\$5 million to a gold sand smelting facility.

Another token gesture is Barrick Gold's creation of a link with the University of Dar es Salaam, allocating US\$10 million in ten years for training related to the mining industry.

That could be especially useful for the university's Geology Department, where Prof Kabudi was once legal adviser for the Senate and the University Council.

Equally noticeable though directing a 'small matter' impression is the payment of up to US\$6 per ounce of gold sold by Barrick at its various mines at local communities.

This focus on villages bordering the mines had a complementary urban infrastructure accord: Barrick will spend US\$40 million upgrading the Bulyanhulu-Mwanza road and building a housing compound and related infrastructure. The government has meanwhile reciprocated Barrick's goodwill gesture after the firm signalled its intention to pay Tanzania the US\$100 million that was received early in the week, complete with a photo occasion arranged for a dummy cheque.

Accordingly, the government moved to release the 277 containers of mineral concentrates impounded when the virtual mining sector revolution started in earnest in mid-2017.

Yet there had first to be some changes in Tanzania's political culture for things to get going in the sector. Bureaucracy was using loopholes in the law to look the wrong way as natural resources were being carted away.

The authorities have raised the bar as to 'win-win' arrangements in Tanzania's mining sector, which to an extent has set a model for other African countries. It is no mean achievement, as occasional visitors like Prof Patrick Lumumba of the Kenya School of Law keeps telling academic audiences.

Reopening: Hygiene precautions big task for authorities, students

SOME confusion appears to be brewing as to how hygiene precautions are to be ensured as high schools, colleges and universities reopen.

Not much has been heard from institutions of higher learning in that regard, but a lot of sound and echo is being heard from the lower level. There are pronouncements that students should report to school with things like lemons, something that beggars belief, as if steam-inhaling sessions are planned.

In the first place, this is not what the government really wants to see, as it is local government authorities which have been tasked with improving availability and access to water, sanitation and hygiene services.

The idea is to protect students from Covid-19 infections induced or fuelled by negligence when schools, colleges and universities reopen early next week.

A top official in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) issued the respective directive after an inspection tour of some public and private secondary schools.

Going by the official's remarks, the order was meant for the supervising authorities, as the tour was meant to assess how well they were prepared to control the spread of the virus after receiving Form VI students come Monday (June 1).

Creative school heads seem to be passing the ball, a 'mobile' portion of it like the supply of first-aid treatment against Covid-19, which thus includes lemons. Is this really a creative addition on the directive?

Predictably, there are fears among parents and guardians as to how school authorities and even the government will ensure improved hygiene to guard students against infections.

District executive directors have been

detailed to conduct close supervision of preparedness in schools as they organise to reopen. This is vital in enabling students to observe basic hygiene protocols like frequent hand washing with soap and running water and using alcohol-based hand washing rubs.

One area where school heads have made laudable efforts is decongestion meant to come to what health experts call social distancing. Undeniably, many public primary and secondary schools have a high population density, which is dangerous in these Covid-19 days.

This element raises the possibility of long-term changes to the school system, as chances of the pandemic disappearing are limited indeed.

HIV and AIDS have been here since the early 1980s and there is no vaccine as yet - only routine antiretrovirals. Meanwhile, Covid-19 'cousins' like the Serious Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and its Middle East variation (MERS) have been around since 2012 and 2014, respectively, and no vaccine or cure has been found.

For the moment, however, the issue is that school heads should not detach themselves from the burden of protecting teachers, students and other members of school communities against Covid-19.

That would lead to pervasive victimisation, with students possibly sent back home if they lack any of the crucial but arbitrarily chosen PPE.

It is more feasible for schools to have special funds for the purchase of such items, even if students are eventually required to help off-set the cost involved.

The particular issue hasn't been raised to satisfaction with the relevant authorities at different levels for an answer or a solution. It would be dangerous - extremely dangerous - for anyone to act or behave as if the problem is inconsequential or non-existent.

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Love, tolerance, forgiveness, equality the recipe for Africa's transformation

By Frannie A. Léautier

AS I think about July 18, 2018, the day that Nelson Mandela (our 'Madiba') would have turned 100, it becomes clear that the centenary calls for both celebration and careful reflection.

It is not the usual economic factors we often use to measure progress that we need to evaluate the African continent's extraordinary achievements but the core values that Madiba instilled: love, tolerance, forgiveness and equality.

Love has not often been used in understanding economics and finance, yet more recently the emotional heart of poets and writers has captured the imagination of political economists.

I have just finished reading Tuhin Sinha's book *Of Love and Politics* and have learned the importance of personal bonds with people from opposing political parties, souls who embrace ideologies or religious beliefs that vary from your own.

This is the core of Madiba's legacy. His life and work exemplified how to love "the other" and to find common points of agreement. By celebrating the common points we soften the toxicity of the rest.

More recently, African leaders have learned to practise love, by putting their national priorities aside and coming together to agree on an extraordinary set of achievements - the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Single Air Market.

These agreements bring together more than a billion people from 54 different countries with a combined GDP of more than USD \$3.4 billion.

Voting to pass the AfCFTA required great political courage, and this new consensus highlights the vast potential of transforming the African landscape through trade across larger markets.

Having a single air market will also smoothen the exchange of ideas and cultures through easier travel. These measures exemplify "love in politics" par excellence.

Much work remains ahead to ratify and implement the measures within each national border, but the policies and projects needed to make the AfCFTA a reality are within reach

because African leaders understood that they needed to let their common love for a shared continent drive the will for legislation and leadership.

Madiba was also a symbol of tolerance and, through patient acceptance of "the other", showed us how we can cohabitate despite daunting differences.

Adopting "visa-free travel for Africans" and a "single African passport" are among the political acts in the works that are showing increased tolerance for diverse cultures.

As African leaders ease major obstacles of pan-African travel, tolerance will fuel the positive change. As Africa becomes more urbanized and as people from various rural areas and different national identities congregate in larger and larger cities and towns, it will be our collective tolerance that will enable us to effectively introduce innovation in urban planning.

The idea of the "Global African" is gaining tremendous currency as Africans choose to work and invest in their own continent - Africa - while maintaining unique citizenship and networks in their adopted countries in Europe and North America and around the world. Tolerance again is the driver.

Where would Africa be today if not for the notion of forgiveness, central to the values that we have inherited from Madiba? In political economy, forgiveness is about putting differences aside and moving forward.

As a person of mixed race, I had particular cause to celebrate the "all races democracy" that South Africa came to embrace. And I'm continually moved and amazed at the progress made in Rwanda since the end of the genocide that upset our human sensibilities.

Rwanda has exemplified forgiveness and embedded unifying policies shared from common culture. This is visible in the Girinka Programme which stipulated the principle "one cow for every poor family," a policy that had tremendous impact on poverty reduction and improved nutrition.

Rwanda's programme to "put the cow in the car" by using science, technology and innovation to transform products from cows that now go to waste into usable industrial products illustrates

how tolerance serves as the baseline for humane brilliance and new prosperity.

Rwanda is producing for 2021 Uber-like driverless cars which could even sport leather seats and bone or horn carved dashboard decorations manufactured locally from local cows.

There is a vast choice of inspiring examples of forgiveness that Africa can display today, such as how Ethiopia and Kenya have succeeded to peacefully employ dialogue across ethnic groups.

Much work remains to ensure similar outcomes in other countries - and we need to address xenophobia, racial and ethnic discrimination, and the rights of women and other minorities, but today we can celebrate and learn from the peaceful outcomes that Nelson Mandela's model has informed and offers us the strength to apply as we move forward.

Lastly, love, tolerance and forgiveness gain volume and velocity when cemented by equality - Madiba's final pillar. Today, with the exception of seven outliers, African economies are delivering high economic growth and reduced inequality.

According to a Brookings Institute study, inequality in Africa has steadily declined since the mid-1990s. While this is a notable accomplishment, African policy-makers need to do a lot more to usher in inclusive economic growth.

Areas where gaps have to be closed with great urgency concern access to education and jobs. A form of future economic growth that provides labour-intensive work enabling rural dwellers and urban youth to earn wages is critical.

Regulatory and policy regimes that favour the creation of companies and support entrepreneurs to go from start-up to scale are also key to ensuring greater equality, a Madiba benchmark.

So, I ask all of us to join together to celebrate Madiba's centenary each in our own personal way. With the love of a mother, I attend my son's graduation and learn from my daughter's internship as she embarks to finish her studies.

It is the practice of tolerance that leads me to read articles from opposing political and policy views so that I can learn and adapt as well as shape and

influence change along with others.

We all need to apply this to our own daily lives. I support the search for equality of opportunity in my work advising African leaders on how to formulate policies and shape investments for inclusive growth through innovation, science and technology.

This too is the ongoing celebration of Madiba's lasting contribution to our shared future. Reflecting on how to create labour-intensive manufacturing jobs while leveraging the creative talents of Africa's youth, this too continues the generous gift of Nelson Mandela.

In showing forgiveness to those who share little belief that Africa can transform itself and provide a brighter future for its young and help them see the truth that we are not far off from the day we no longer witness young people leaving their homes for the shores of Europe and end up at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea, I forgive those who do not yet see the promise of tomorrow.

My finest recollection on this day is the recreation of a sensation, the softness yet firmness of Madiba's hand when I shook it for the first time as he became a patron for the "Cities alliance". Soft and firm at once, this keeps me centred.

Dr Frannie A. Léautier, who filed this piece from Exeter in the UK, has spent over 25 years working in international finance and development. She was Senior Vice President at the African Development Bank, and served many roles at the World Bank, including Chief of Staff to the bank and Vice President. She is, among other things, Founder and Managing Partner of The Fezemba Group and advises senior leaders on investment strategy and risk management. She serves on several boards in areas of development finance, infrastructure and philanthropy across the world - with a special focus on Africa. She is also Advisory Council Member at Vanguard Africa. She holds a PhD and Master's Degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

'Hard lockdown unsustainable – economy had to be reopened'

BY MARIANNE MERTEN

HEALTH Minister Zweli Mkhize put his finger on an inherent contradiction in South Africa's Covid-19 lockdown strategy - while the World Health Organisation criteria tie together any easing of lockdown with slowing infection rates, in South Africa, this comes just as numbers of Covid-19 cases are on the up.

"We've actually had to move on and reopen [the economy]... The reason for it is because there's a problem, a crisis of hunger, income, economic recession and social distress," Mkhize told the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) on Tuesday.

Earlier in the same briefing, Co-operative Governance Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma also put front and centre the economy and livelihoods.

"With the closing of businesses, we have seen how the livelihoods are being undermined. And that's why we have the reopening..."

The comments by the two ministers most visible in South Africa's fight against the coronavirus pandemic follow President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement that South Africa would move to Covid-19 lockdown Level 3 - with a crucial proviso that hotspots like Cape Town, Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni and Nelson Mandela Bay Metro could go back to lockdown Level 5 if their rate of infection does not come down.

The hotspot status - the criterion is five or more infections per 100,000 residents - would be reviewed every two weeks after additional interventions ranging for extra teams of experts, to stepped-up track and tracing.

Since March, the government had focused on the numbers, particularly reducing numbers of Covid-19 positive patients; flattening the

curve was the reason for one of the world's most draconian lockdowns, and also among the longest at 62 days on Tuesday 26 May.

Of particular concern remained the Western Cape and Cape Town, which account for around two-thirds of the now 24,264 confirmed Covid-19 patients (26 May).

Of the 15,396 confirmed Covid-19 cases in the Western Cape, 554 had been hospitalised as of 24 May, with 91 in Intensive Care Units (ICU) and 48 in high-care wards.

Of those in ICU, 50 are on ventilators, said Mkhize. "This is the pattern we will see in all of the provinces."

Nationwide, as of 24 May, of the 23,615 confirmed Covid-19 cases, 955 patients had been hospitalised, with 126 in ICU.

That's roughly three times more than over the Freedom Day long weekend when of the 317 Covid-19 patients in South Africa, 42 were in ICU and 23 in high-care wards at a time of 4,546 confirmed cases - and 87 deaths.

Government's policy change came as economic considerations in the juggling act of lives and livelihoods became more pressing amid hunger, unemployment, business failures and recession.

"We will not reduce numbers. We now need to adjust to doing it differently," Mkhize told parliamentarians.

"The hard lockdown in its current form is unsustainable... We have presented to the NCCC [National Coronavirus Command Council], the differentiated approach."

Again, this secular command council emerges as a central decision-making structure despite not being established in law or regulation and not publicly accountable - unlike the constitutionally established Cabinet, both as individual ministers and as a collective headed by the president.

The NCCC is supported and informed by another un-

countable structure also not established in law or regulation, the NatJoins, the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure, that brings together police, military and spooks.

The differentiated approach Mkhize spoke of to NCOP delegates gives significant power to the NCCC and its provincial counterparts.

Although the health minister identified lockdown levels for each of South Africa's 52 districts, according to the health department's presentation document, it would be up to the provincial coronavirus command councils (PCCC) to draft plans for "health measures, economic activity, restrictions on movement, social services". Then the health minister takes the proposed district lockdown levels to the NCCC.

"The NCCC must confirm an alert level and monitor the provincial plans to contain the infection," according to the presentation.

That, like the NCCC, NatJoins is part of this system of governance again emerged on Tuesday in the Coega briefing document. While the NCCC "co-ordinates and guides government's response", NatJoins "provides overall co-ordination of response". Or as Dlamini Zuma put it: "At the technical level there's the NatJoins. A ministerial committee is drafting regulations".

Mkhize sidestepped an opposition question on who actually sits on the NCCC:

"I'm sure you can write to the DG [Presidency director-general] for a list of members on the command council. There is nothing secretive. I just can't give you a list now."

The differentiated district lockdown system that Mkhize outlined, however, fails to answer questions about supply lines that may well cross any number of districts on different lockdown levels with different sets of labour participation and transport rules.



South African Health minister Zweli Mkhize (L) and his Co-operative Governance counterpart, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. (File photo)

But, politically, the differentiated district system dovetails with the district development model Ramaphosa had announced in his June 2019 State of the Nation Address:

"We will be adopting a district-based approach - focusing on the 44 districts and eight metros - to speed up service delivery, ensuring that municipalities are properly supported and adequately resourced."

Since then, the president launched this model to bring together all spheres of government to work together in several districts. And soon the president would announce ministers and deputy ministers as "champions" in each of the districts, Dlamini Zuma said on Tuesday.

This district development model was fundamental to what the co-operative governance minister called the Covid-19 "opportunity to reset".

"Every district must have vibrant economic activity. So, the

decentralisation of economic activity, the broadening of economic activity has to take place. And in the process, glaring inequalities have to be addressed," said Dlamini Zuma, adding how relief funding would go through local government.

"The president said regarding the war against Covid and the post-war... we must make sure as we kick-start the economy... the basic needs of people are addressed. The next pandemic shall never find us in the way we are today. We have to look at post-Covid as an opportunity to reset."

That reset, or push not to let a crisis go to waste, is tied closely not only with speeding up long-standing government policies of basic service delivery and informal settlement upgrades, but - crucially - legacy building.

As far back as 22 April, the push for such post-Covid-19 legacy building emerged when Defence Minister Nosiwiwe

Mapisa-Nqakula spoke of the "permanent Covid-19 legacy project" during a briefing to Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Defence.

"The president has advised the national command council, as we establish these [field and coronavirus] hospitals we should be looking into the future... The legacy of Covid-19 should include the improvement of the healthcare system, which includes the military health services."

On Tuesday several Health MECs told the NCOP how the coronavirus response would leave a better-capacitated health system. More beds, more wards.

Gauteng Health MEC Bandile Masuku, talking of revitalising four provincial hospitals, including Chris Hani Baragwanath, Kopanong and Jubilee, added: "it's important we use the pandemic to fast-track some of the reforms..."

Eastern Cape Health MEC Sindiswa Gomba told the NCOP, "We made a decision we would not rely on the private sector, but build a legacy. Eight big facilities that we are building in government..."

Or as North West Health MEC Madoda Sambatha put it:

"The approach is on developing extra capacity... so there is a legacy. The six facilities we are dealing with, extending ICU and general wards, is to ensure we are building extra capacity and ensuring these facilities are then ready for NHI [National Health Insurance]."

However, such legacy ambition remains long-term. For now, Mkhize emphasised it was up to individuals to follow the Covid-19 health protocols - hand washing, masks and physical distancing.

"It's not possible to close down the spread of infection. What is possible is to drag down the rate of infection." **DM**

Washington's political virus 'makes America hate again'

BEIJING

ON the night of June 19, 1982, 27-year-old Chinese American Vincent Chin was beaten to death by two white auto workers in the U.S. city of Detroit at a time when local politicians, union leaders and auto executives blamed Japan for the decline of the U.S. auto industry, and Chin was mistaken as a Japanese.

Chin's tragedy, along with many other similar bloody incidents in the United States, has highlighted a dangerous bond between racist rhetoric and hate-crime violence. Sadly, some Washington politicians have failed to learn a lesson from them and have in fact been feeding racism by spreading political viruses in the ferocious coronavirus pandemic.

In the face of a deadly virus, saving lives and containing the outbreak ought to be the top priorities. Yet the decision-makers in the White House have squandered their executive time on smearing China and fueling anti-Chinese sentiments with a carefully crafted political narrative.

Those Washington China-hardliners, most notably U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and White House trade advisor Peter Navarro, have raced to use every possible chance to link the disease and the dire situation in the United States with China. In a recent ABC TV show, Navarro peddled his new conspiracy theory that China used air travels to "seed" the virus around the world.

Other senior U.S. politicians

like U.S. Senator for Texas John Cornyn have also joined the China-bashing binge, seeking to pin the blame of the outbreak on what they claimed "a culture where people eat bats and snakes and dogs and things like that" in China.

As a result of their racist propaganda, they have successfully "made America hate again," and the hate-crime violence against Chinese and other Asian Americans has spiked across the United States. In California, a 16-year-old boy was beaten up in a high school and sent to the emergency room of a nearby hospital. In New York, a 39-year-old woman had acid thrown in her face outside her home. In Texas, a family of three, including children aged 2 and 6, were stabbed at a local Sam's Club.

An Ipsos poll in April finds that over 30 percent of Americans have witnessed COVID-19 bias against Asians. The STOP AAPI HATE reporting center, tasked to track coronavirus discrimination-related cases, has received 1,710 incident reports from Asian Americans across the country since mid-March.

As of now, the coronavirus has infected more than 1.6 million and killed nearly 100,000 in the United States. At a time when solidarity should be valued more than ever to bear down the pandemic, Washington's disinformation campaign can only foment animosity, tear up social fabric, and further worsen the racial divide in the country.

In fact, such racist talk has already made America's own pandemic fight more arduous. Ac-



ording to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Asian Americans represent 6 percent of the U.S. population, but 18 percent of the country's physicians and 10 percent of its nurse practitioners. Rampant racism has put these life savers in harm's way as some are shunned by patients, while

others are facing increasing verbal harassment or even physical assaults at work.

Because of rising racist sentiments, economic reopening in the United States has also become tougher. As Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross said in late January, Asian American-owned businesses

have been playing a key role in the U.S. economy, employing 3.6 million Americans and contributing over 700 billion U.S. dollars annually to America's gross domestic product. However, discrimination and hate have now started to lead people away from these businesses. That will give a body blow to the U.S. economy.

"We must act now to strengthen

the immunity of our societies against the virus of hate," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said, calling on political leaders "to show solidarity with all members of their societies and build and reinforce social cohesion."

Those Washington politicians should heed this call, stay away from racism in the fight against humanity's common enemy, and avoid creating more hate-crime victims like Vincent Chin. Making America hate will only make America suffer. **Xinhua**

Dar firm launches service to boost business for freight forwarders, shippers

By Guardian Reporter

A DAR ES SALAAM-based financial services firm—Viaservice Financial Services Limited has launched an innovative service aimed at facilitating the logistics of cargo containers for the benefit of shipping lines and users of containers thus lowering the cost of doing business.

The newly launched service will be implemented in partnership with the Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association (TAF-FA) and the Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Association (FEAFFA).

The solution, which has been rolled out since November 2019

with a major global shipping line looks to expand to cover all carriers using the port of Dar es Salaam.

Firm's managing director, John Mathenge said: "We provide a business-friendly alternative to container deposit which is accessible to customs agents, freight forwarders and shippers".

The solution, according to Mathenge entails the issuance of guarantee by Viaservice upon payment of a service fee to authorized customs agents, freight forwarders and shippers, waiving the need for container deposit.

He said company has ex-

plored a sustainable solution that addresses the concerns of both, carriers and container users. He said the service is heralded as a sustainable solution that protects the interest of all stakeholders.

"You no longer need to put up hefty cash deposits to secure release of local or transit containers. Yet the shipping lines are guaranteed of prompt settlement of all dues related to delay in return, damage, and total loss of containers", he said, adding Viaservice will in turn recover advances made to shipping line from subscribers.

Elisha Tengeri, Viaservice Commercial Manager said: "We

are confident that the solution will sustainably improve users' cash flow, boost their competitiveness, improve their relationship with shipping lines, and enhance their respective administrative and operational efficiencies".

He said during this time when the transport logistics industry is impacted heavily by the Covid-19 pandemic, subscribers of the service will enjoy a special promotion offer (BOGO) under which clearing and forwarding agents Buy 1 Get 1 Free for their first shipment

The promotion targets all clearing and forwarding agents in Tanzania who become eligi-

ble upon signing up as users of the container guarantee solution with Viaservice.

Tengeri said the promotion has been launched at the right time considering the financial effects of the Corona pandemic on businesses in Tanzania and the region hence seeing clearing and forwarding agents benefiting from the service.

"We're trying to reach out to as many agents at a time when the service is most needed. Viaservice is solving one of the perennial challenges facing the shipping and logistics industry. The solution will enhance competitiveness of the transport logistics sector as well as facili-

tate trade and transport", said Tengeri.

Viaservice Financial Services Limited is a local subsidiary of Viaservice SA, a Swiss-based company that provides innovative solutions to the transport logistics industry.

In East Africa, like in many other parts of the world, container deposit has been flagged as a trade barrier by both private and public sector at national and regional level.

But on the other hand, delay in return, damage, and total loss of containers impact negatively on shipping lines thus the requirement of security such as a container deposit.

The new solution eliminates container deposit as security for containers while protecting the commercial interests of the shipping lines and the users of the containers.

It aims at easing the burden of Clearing and Forwarding agents and shippers to clear containers at the port faster and more efficiently all the while safeguarding the commercial interests of shipping lines.

It is also expected to increase efficiency through an online digital platform thus guaranteeing transparency, speedy operations and affording the stakeholders the convenience of working from any place.

Access to loan is guaranteed for smallholder farmers - bank

By Guardian Reporter

IN an effort to transform the agricultural sector, the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) through its Smallholder Credit Guarantee Scheme (SCGS) has started offering loans to farmers who were outside the financial system.

The scheme will apart from increasing productivity and employment, boost government efforts towards Tanzania's green revolution as part of the country's industrialization drive to be achieved in 2025.

TADB in partnership with the Post Bank (TPB) has recently enabled more than 217 farmers to access agricultural loans on friendly terms through the SCGS funds. A total of 1.4bn/- have been invested in various agricultural areas in a period of three months.

Some of the supported projects are value addition whereas a total of 600bn/- have been given to processors, 510m/- to 122 paddy smallholder farmers from Geita, Iringa, Katavi,

Mbeya, Morogoro, Mwanza, Ruvuma, Shinyanga, Tabora and Coast region.

The bank also provided 134.5m/- to 47 farmers in Mpwapwa district, Dodoma region.

A total of 120m/- was given to 10 fishermen from Kigoma, Simiyu and Mwanza region while a total of 38 sesame farmers from Coast, Lindi, Ruvuma and Dodoma regions received loans amounting to 81.185m/-.

Japhet Justine, TADB Managing Director said that until March 31, 2020 the bank together with partner banks issued loans amounting 48.74bn/-, just two years since the establishment of the SCGS funds.

Justine said a total of 6,589 small-scale farmers have benefited from direct loans through cooperatives and groups, and some more than 717,713 farmers have indirectly been able to access markets and capital through the funding scheme.

"There will be no success and development in agriculture if smallholder farmers are not transformed, finan-



cially supported and included in agribusiness projects across the value chain", he said.

The SCGS is a credit guarantee facility administered TADB for agricultural loans extended by the Partner Financial Institutions (PFIs) to smallholder farmers or private companies (SMES and Corporate) engaging in agriculture value chain.

TADB has a partnership with commercial banks such as NMB, CRDB, TPB and Stanbic, with financial institution partners including FINCA and community banks including MUCOBA, TACOPA, and the Economic Bank.

The SCGS strives to mitigate the credit risk of underlying loans extended to smallholder farmers.

It is a TADB's strategy to reach to more non-bankable farmers especially women and youth and empower them with financial, capacity building and employment opportunities brought by agribusiness and take advantage of loans available to support various agricultural projects.

SCGS has also stimulated the development of agriculture in 30 regions countywide including Zanzibar.

TADB interventions in the sector pave a way for smallholder farmers to be more resilient and increase employment through agriculture.

Since its inception, SCGS has touched lives of a total of 1,155 women and approximately 5,374 young people under the age of 35 who have benefited from the funding arrange-

ment for smallholder farmers involving in paddy, sunflower, tea, vegetables and fruits, cashews, maize, sugar cane and coffee cultivation.

The scheme also benefited farmers engaging in poultry farming and fishing.

TADB aims to continue stimulating investment in the agricultural sector in collaboration with various stakeholders.

Covid-19: Have user-friendly systems to the hearing impaired, govt urged

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN entrepreneurs with hearing impairment have appealed to the government to put in place user-friendly systems and guidelines to help protect them from contracting Covid-19.

Executive Director of a non-governmental organization for women entrepreneurs with hearing impairment (Fuwavita) Aneth Isaya made the appeal when opening a seminar, which geared towards educating women on how they can protect themselves from Covid-19.

The seminar which took place at Mwananyamala Regional Referral hospital in Dar es Salaam was organized by Fuwavita with support from an international non-governmental organisation—Voice Global.

"Most of the directives on Covid-19 preventive measures issued by health experts are not friendly to the people with hearing impairment. It is important to consider the group when providing relevant information on the disease," said Isaya.

She appealed to the government to put in place communication systems that are friendly to people with hearing impairment so that they protect themselves against the virus.

Isaya stressed the need for the directives, prevention guidelines and other relevant information be translated into sign language to enable women and other people with hearing impairment protect themselves from the pandemic.

Representing the Kinondoni District Commissioner Daniel Chongolo, the District Social Development Of-

ficer, Mulinga Samagwa said the government has been various measures to improve policies related to issues of people with disabilities.

The official noted that such improvements are meant to enable them live like any other person.

Samagwa said the government created a special ministry that deals with issues of people with disabilities as well as improvement of existing policies and laws.

"We have taken your concern and will work on it accordingly, we will make all the information about Covid-19 reaches every citizen including those with hearing impairment", he said.

An official from Fuwavita, Bilbosco Muna said the organization has invented special face masks to enable women with hearing impairment communicate with other people using sign language.

"Ordinary face masks are not friendly to people with hearing impairment as they cover the mouth, thus making it difficult for people with hearing impairment to communicate with others", he said.

Muna said the special face coverings have been distributed to the women entrepreneurs to enable them communicate with others.

He said the organisation is well prepared to provide Covid-19 education to the special group especially educating them on preventive measures so as to control its spread.

Muna added: "Our intention is to ensure people with hearing impairment protect themselves from contracting the virus as well as enable them to continue utilizing business opportunities created by pandemic".



Women with hearing impairment and members of Fuwavita show special face masks, which enable persons with hearing impairment to communicate easily. This was at a seminar organised by the organisation in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Locusts threaten to increase hunger in East Africa reeling from floods and coronavirus - Oxfam

By Guardian Reporter

OXFAM has warned that millions of people in East and Central Africa, already suffering due to flooding and the impact of coronavirus, are at risk of increased hunger and poverty as the region braces for the latest generation of locusts which are due to hatch in June - just when

crops are to be harvested.

The highest rainfall in 40 years in parts of the region has caused severe flooding which has killed over 400 people, forced half a million people from their homes and destroyed crops and livelihoods.

The heavy rains, exacerbated by climate change, have also created the perfect conditions

for the breeding of locusts, raising fears that the swarms could be 400 larger times than the original swarms.

The locust outbreak, already the biggest in 70 years, has decimated thousands of hectares of crops throughout larger swathes of the region, especially Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

Restrictions imposed by gov-

ernments to contain coronavirus are also hampering efforts to stop the spread of locusts. Stocks of pesticides are dwindling as border closures have strangled the supply chain and overnight curfews restrict the ability of pilots to spray insecticide in key breeding areas.

The floods and the new wave of locust infestation will lead

to increased food shortages in a region where over 33 million people are already severely food insecure.

At the same time, the economic fallout from governments' efforts to contain the pandemic is likely to push millions of people further into poverty as there are little or no social safety nets to protect

them.

Lydia Zigomo, Oxfam's Regional Director in the Horn, East and Central Africa said: "The region is facing multiple concurrent crises - each compounding the other and making it more difficult to tackle and contain. Together they form a lethal combination that threatens to increase hun-

ger, poverty and suffering for millions of the most vulnerable people."

"In a grim coincidence, the recent rains have created the perfect breeding conditions for locusts while restrictions introduced to contain coronavirus have hampered efforts to control their spread." Read more.

Covid-19: Recovered schoolteacher sheds light on stigmatisation, misinformation about epidemic

By Correspondent James Kandoya

HEMEDI Mwanasali of Mbalala village in Tandahimba District, Mtwara Region has recovered from coronavirus after mandatory 14 days quarantine at Majengo-Nanyamba isolation centre.

Mwanasali, a teacher at Mbalala Primary School located eight kilometres from Tandahimba town was found with the disease early May this year.

Immediately after being tested positive, he was transferred to an isolation centre - located about 40 kilometres from the district for 14 mandatory isolation days before released to join his family.

As a preparation, Mwanasali said he bought a mini sack containing fruits like mangoes, oranges and lemons and some herbs that he got by the assistance of his relatives.

It was not an easy task since it cost him around 300,000/- to buy and transport them (40 km) to the centre from the town, he explained.

Narrating her story, Mwanasali says that his first day at the isolation centre was unforgettable since he was the only person found with the disease in the region.

"Actually, I was in great fear, even my family members, since i was the only person who tested positive in the whole region," he says.

"Even the health experts taking care of me at the centre worked with fears but i always reminded them to work responsibly," he says.

However, as other activities went on life at the isolation center started to change as fears slowly diminished after he knew that it was like any other viral disease.

At the centre, he used fruits and herbs to treat the recorded symptoms and recommended treatment from the health service providers.

Narrating his life after recovery Mwanasali said that some of the community members still fear him.

Even the surrounding society feel that if they interact with him, they can be at risk of contracting covid-19 as a result he felt left out.

"Although I'm free from the disease the society has not accepted to interact with me and even some of my family members fear of getting the disease from me," he says.

"Awareness is highly needed to change the society from this bad perception which to a great extent increase stigmatization," he says.

According to him, life outside isolation centre still feature stigmatization from the surrounding society.

Mwanasali has a special message "covid-19 is not a death sentence it can be treated. Up to date there are dozens of people have recovered including me."

Mwanasali is not alone there are many others who faces similar challenges after recovery in their communities.

Indeed, it's vital to stay informed, particularly about what's happening in the community, so that people can follow advice and play their part to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Nevertheless, there's a lot of misinformation coverage going around that only increase fear. Therefore, it was important to be discerning about what you read and watch.

Currently, the world is in a time of massive upheaval. There are so many things out of control, including how long the pandemic lasts, how other people behave, and what's going to happen in the communities.

Indeed, that's a tough thing to accept, and so many respond by endlessly searching the Internet for answers and thinking over all the different scenarios that might happen.

When you feel yourself getting caught up in fear of what might happen, try to shift your focus on how



Mbalala Primary School teacher Hemedi Mwanasali who has recovered from Covid-19. Photo: James Kandoya

you can control.

For example, you can't control how severe the coronavirus outbreak is in your city or town, but you can take steps to reduce your own personal risk.

For his part, Dr Rogathi Kishimba from the Preventive Epidemiology and Disease Control Section at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Elderly, Gender and Children says covid-19 has no cure but supportive treatment.

Dr Kishimba warned that even asymptomatic cases can transmit the disease calling for people to abide by all given health regulations.

"Remember to take everyday preventive measures that are always recommended by health experts to prevent the spread of the disease," he advises.

"Being infected with covid-19 is not a death sentence. The patients should only follow the regulations from health authorities," he adds.

Dr Kishimba maintains that the government was on the right track in the fight against the disease saying it will disappear.

In his International Workers' Day message on May 1, this year, President John Magufuli urged Tanzanians to continue working, saying coronavirus should not stop workers from serving society - though he added that workers should follow the guidelines issued by health officials.

He rejected to restrict the movement of people, claiming stringent social isolation measures would severely damage the economy instead he encouraged Tanzanians to gather and pray in churches and mosques.

Recently, Tanzanian President John Magufuli said the number of coronavirus patients in hospitals have declined, although the government has not released data on infection rates for a number of days.

The government has even urged Tanzanians to dedicate three days last weekend for thanksgiving for beating the virus.

As Dar residents mark 'easing' of covid-19, experts should impart more awareness on the pandemic

By Gaudensia Mngumi

DAR ES SALAAM victory celebrations against Coronavirus took place last Sunday, where majority of residents particularly the youths took to the streets to enjoy themselves as it was advocated by the Dar es Salaam Regional Chief, Paul Makonda.

The RC asked Dar folks to celebrate because the outbreak is over and the number of new infections has dropped since this May.

Makonda wants people to go back to

their productions in Kariakoo, Manzese, Buguruni, Mbezi and elsewhere because Covid-19 is over.

Well, it was a good thing to hear the news that corona's new infection numbers has dropped in the country despite the fact that people have to confront many challenges associated with the pandemic.

The regional boss wants people to relax and take serious precautions particularly those who works in congested areas like Kariakoo or Mabibo -Urafiki markets.

The celebrations was staged amid the

reports that Dar was said to be most COVID-19 infected region as the initial reports indicated and Arusha was said to be the second.

According to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, the number of patients of Corona virus in Tanzania has declined.

There are only three patients in Dar, 16 in Kibaha, three in Dodoma while other centers have none, the Prime Minister told the worshipers gathered for Eid El Fitr prayers in Dodoma last Sunday.

For Dar, it was a good thing to celebrate

the victory against COVID-19 however, with different styles not only encouraging people to loose themselves in drinking orgies in bars and pubs, disco, honking and other overnight festivities.

Apart from feasting and dancing Dar people are supposed to take more time to look back and see how the corona pandemic is still living with them.

They need to have more prepared minds and a long period of cautions, before throwing themselves to shout victory against corona.

Dar should as well consider many issues associated with corona for example the question of availability of water as the most important thing that is needed in Coronavirus management.

The communities and the families require a lot of water for people to wash and clean their hands be it in bus stops, in offices, hotels, lavatories and anywhere as a basic requirement.

The people should again and again look back and consider how far have they succeeded in using water in corona virus mitigation? How did they abide to that rule and what can be done to improve the trend of water provision in public areas to make Dar corona free zone?

In early times the prices of almost all items related to war against the disease was extremely expensive. Dust masks, surgical and hand rubs (sanitisers) were sold at 5,000/- or more per piece. As they are celebrating the victory against corona what are the remedies to issues like the price of alcohol based sanitis-

ers which are still unaffordable to common men in Dar es Salaam?

As people celebrate it was also the opportune time to consider, how far have people observed the rule of maintaining more than two meters social distance? It has been said all the time that washing hands and maintaining more than two meters physical distance is a good way for self-protection.

Many people do not know what is really is true about how their shoes, clothes and surfaces can cause the spread of COVID-19 into their homes.

They need expert explanations, particularly about when they arrive home from a daladala or any public transport like bajajs, or from the church should they immediately change their clothes and urgently run to the bath rooms?

Does the COVID-19 hang on to their clothes, handbags, shoes or even on the hairs particularly women who wear extensions -rastas? Questions like the importance of sanitising wood surfaces like chairs or tables at home or in pubs how is it important at this time.

The RC should find ways of setting meetings with experts so that health officials can explain to people such issues which don't perhaps have any answers.

The needed clarifications should be given all the time in public areas like in bus stops particularly in Ubungo, Mbezi, in bus rapid transits stops in Kimara, Morocco and in all open market areas like Kariakoo. In some cases the community radios like in Kariakoo can be used.

In addition to that the region chief has to discuss with church and mosques authorities to provide space for health officials to respond to questions raised by the congregations after the prayers.

While in daladala or in most congested areas of Dar es Salaam people ignore face masks which is ideal to limit the spread of the epidemic. Celebrating the corona battle will be meaningless if people do not observe the safety rules.

It seems that the majority of Dar residents do not know that corona is transmitted when someone talks, coughs, yawns or sneezes as they releases micro droplets into the air that can infect others.

As the city celebrates the end of coronavirus, health officials should consistently insist the use of face masks all the time to reduce the number of virus spread that the wearers release.

It was evident that people in Dar ignore the masks rule that is why the majority of them do not wear them on the ground that corona is over, something that is very much untrue.

The RC has to advise the Dar people to take a hard look and see what is in front of them and find the best ways to protect themselves against corona virus.

Taking into account that the fact is people will continue to confront coronavirus and it is still uncertain what the immediate future will bring.

Probably coronavirus will die and give everybody opportunity to live normal life as ibefore , but when will it happen?

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 91 00--

WORD-FIT

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

3 LETTERS: ADO, ROE, ANT
 4 LETTERS: YEAR, GAIN, ACID, AMID, DODO POND, DOOR (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: DILMA, NOTED, EMAIL, MOTET, DOORS (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: DEARIE, IMMUNE, COLOUR, ESTATE CLINGY (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: COLOMBO
 8 LETTERS: ABROGATE
 10 LETTERS: YUGOSLAVIA

CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4
 5 6 7
 8 9 10
 11 12
 13 14 15 16
 17 18
 19 20

CLUES: Across

1 citations
 5 said at the end of a prayer
 7 God in Kiswahili
 8 consumed
 10 no longer young
 11 a strong request
 13 a handle in the shape of a round lump
 15 a thing that takes place
 17 afflicted
 19 a mountain or hill in South Africa
 20 Opposition female Mp from Mara

Down:

1 absolute
 2 Independent
 3 identify class of people, places
 4 to flow over and enclose
 6 a fool
 7 Interfere
 9 adolescent
 12 an inlet
 14 Former president of Malawi
 16 a North America woodland thrush with a brown back and speckled breast
 17 Syrian cloth
 18 a spherical object

SOLUTIONS

C A L A M I T I E S
 O E A N
 S T A R A S I D E
 T D O O R S U E A M M A N D
 T M M R A R T S M S A L L
 S E R E N E S T R A I T E
 X S A R E C
 T I N G T S A R S B A N D R N A S E
 C R K S N O D A S
 H A R A N G U E I A G O N I Z E D S
 U N I T L G H E R O V E
 B B E A G L E N A E R B I U M D

By Mngumi: 0755429240 telxmaguzi@gmail.com



MARKET TRENDS
Global leaders, UBA founder demand new deal in and for Africa continent

page 15

Thursday 28 May 2020

Health deputy minister commends bank for disbursing loans to the health sector

By The Banker Reporter

DISBURSEMENT of loans totalling 78.8bn/- to 100 mostly private hospitals and health facilities has played an important role in improving delivery of quality services to the public, Health deputy minister, Dr Godwin Mollé has said.

In his key note address to inaugurate CRDB Bank Plc's 'Afya Forum' which was held by video conference from Dar es Salaam, Dr Mollé said the initiative will further help private hospitals and health facilities bridge a financing gap to operate smoothly.

"As our government, our plan is to improve delivery of health services to the public through various initiatives involving the private sector which include financial institutions," Dr Mollé said while stressing that the bank's initiative should also involve the public sector.

"I am impressed by CRDB's proactive approach in collaborating with the government to implement the initiative that will ensure that Tanzanians get quality health services," he stated while challenging private health facility owners to seize the opportunity as the nation is facing the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's very clear that demand for quality



CRDB managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela speaks at recent event.

health services, drugs, medical devices and infrastructure has gone up dramatically during this period when the coronavirus outbreak has struck our nation. I thank CRDB Bank for coming up with this financing arrangement that will help health

services delivery to the public by addressing existing challenges," he added.

Briefing the Deputy Minister on the initiative to organise 'Afya Forum' which drew together over 500 participants, CRDB's Managing

Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said so far 100 hospitals and health facilities have been given loans amounting to 78.8bn/-.

"As a local bank, we have an obligation to make sure that we provide financing and infrastructure solutions to help improve delivery of services and revenue collection at hospitals and health centres," Nsekela said.

He pointed out that the bank whose shareholders include Treasury and ordinary Tanzanians has continue to find innovative products and services targeting many sectors of the economy including health services.

"Our innovative products also include investment in medical devices and drug manufacturing industries to ensure local production of such essential health products," the CRDB chief noted while unveiling that in a bid to ensure that revenue collection at such facilities is improved, 144 hospitals are already linked to a digital payment platform of the bank which allows use of TemboCard, SimBanking,

internet and QR-Code in payment by customers. He also noted that CRDB has financing for procurement of medical equipment, operating capital for health centres and offers local purchasing orders as well.

Addressing the forum, Association of Private Health Facilities in Tanzania's CEO, Dr Samuel Ogilo commended the bank for being innovative and forthcoming saying the health sector has serious financing challenges.

"I urge all health service providers to seize the rare opportunity being presented by CRDB so that we can improve delivery of services to the public," Dr Ogilo said while pointing out that quality health services need substantial investments to be made by both public and private sectors.

The forum was attended by representatives from Medical Association of Tanzania, National Health Insurance Fund, Medical Stores Department, Benjamin Mkapa Foundation, among many

DBSA seeks loans to plug funding gap

CAPE TOWN

Development Bank of Southern Africa is in talks with multilateral lenders and commercial banks to help plug a funding gap as disruptions in debt capital markets hinder its ability to sell bonds.

The bank needs the extra financing to keep disbursing loans as demand jumps from countries trying to cope with the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, DBSA chief executive officer Patrick Dlamini said on a video call. Potential lenders include the African Development Bank, the New Development Bank and Agence Française de Développement, he said, without naming the commercial entities.

The additional capital will help fund a pipeline of more than R20 billion of deals this year, the CEO said. The Johannesburg-based firm provides credit to government clients throughout sub-Saharan Africa in sectors ranging from information and communications technology to transport, water and energy. Almost three quarters of its loans are extended in South Africa, which is easing lockdown restrictions that brought the economy to a halt.

Much of the loan demand is coming from South African municipalities, which need to procure personal protection equipment and ventilators, and boost testing capacity for the virus. In the rest of the continent, the lender is looking at ways to finance a variety of projects, including rail and road infrastructure, Dlamini said. DBSA, which has R40 billion of debt, last sold bonds at the end of January, when it issued R700 million of five- and seven-year floating-rate notes, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Credit downgrades
The lender is counting on measures introduced by the South African Reserve Bank to help stabilise markets as pressure to ramp up its funding mounts, Dlamini said. The central bank slashed borrowing costs to a record low, eased capital rules for lenders and bought government debt.

Credit-rating downgrades to South Africa, a global economic recession and clients increasingly unable to service their debts under the financial toll of the virus have complicated matters for the lender, he said.

"The beauty is we are a long-term player and infrastructure is a long-term game," he said. "At least we are hoping that over time we would be able to come out of this difficult period, but it is going to take some element of creativity."

Equity halting Sh9 billion dividend on corona fears

NAIROBI

Equity Group has cancelled its proposed dividend payout of Sh2.50 per share or a total of Sh9.4 billion, citing the need to conserve cash in the wake of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

This is the first time the country's second-largest bank by assets has skipped dividends since listing on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) in August 2006. It becomes the latest big bank to hold or postpone cash distributions to shareholders after the NCBA Group and the Standard Chartered Bank Kenya.

Equity, which has restructured Sh92 billion or 25.1 percent of its loan book due to the pandemic's effects on the economy, says the proposed dividend was announced during better times and now needs to be shelved.

"Accordingly, the board has passed a resolution withdrawing the proposed dividend recommendation and instead will be recommending to the shareholders that no dividend is paid for the financial year ended 31st December, 2019," Equity said in a statement. "Therefore, the shareholders of the company and other investors are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the company's ordinary shares on the Nairobi Securities Exchange, the Uganda Securities Exchange and the Rwanda Stock Exchange."

The bank was scheduled to pay the dividend on July 24 to shareholders on record as of June 12. Besides the pressure on its balance sheet brought by government measures to slow down the spread of coronavirus, Equity's need to conserve cash is also motivated by its commitment to spend Sh10 billion to acquire a 66.5 percent stake in DRC-based Banque Commerciale du Congo.

The bank's move Monday distinguished it as the country's largest lender to skip dividends in recent history. In contrast, Co-op Bank demonstrated its confidence by bringing forward its Sh1 per share or Sh5.8 billion dividend, which was paid on April 23.

KCB Group is also progressing with the payout of its final dividend of Sh2.50 per share or an aggregate of Sh8 billion on or before July 3. "Dear shareholder, please register to participate in the KCB Group AGM ... You can also choose to receive future dividends via mobile money during the registration," the lender's shares administrator, Image Registrars, said in a communication to investors on Monday.

KCB has not withdrawn its proposed dividend, which is among the agenda items to be voted on at the meeting. StanChart could join Equity and NCBA among the lenders that changed their minds on paying dividends. The bank said it will not meet its dividend payment date due to inability to hold an AGM even though the Capital Markets Authority has allowed listed firms to pay dividends even without shareholder approval.

"We are monitoring the Covid-19 pandemic which continues to pose a challenge even as we work towards determining the most suitable timing and manner for holding the 34th AGM which remains postponed," the lender said in a notice. "Consequently, the company will not be in a position to pay the dividend on May 28, 2020 as proposed and announced through the NSE as it would not have been approved by shareholders at an AGM as required."



NMB's acting managing director Ruth Zaipuna.

NMB, SatF team up to offer digital financial inclusion to marginalised communities

By The Banker Reporter

TO enhance delivery of financial inclusion of marginalized groups in the community, NMB Bank Plc has teamed up with Savings at the Frontier (SatF) to offer them digital transactions and mobilise savings.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week NMB's acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna said the partnership's aims at bridging the gap between the supply of formal financial services and informal savings groups by improving access to financial services.

"This is an enhancement of the current groups saving product named NMB Pamoja Account for affordable, convenient and easy to access banking services," Zaipuna said adding that the deal extends the bank's commitment to financial inclusion.

She said NMB Pamoja is fully integrated with the NMB Chap Chap account to allow groups and members to seamlessly transfer funds between groups and individual accounts with zero fees. The platform which is safer and more convenient, is allowing thousands of savings group members to access formal financial services for the first time.

The NMB chief further added that increased simplicity and convenience include being able to make contributions, check balances, view mini-statements, open a group account via USSD, all with no monthly maintenance fee or account operational fee as well as attractive annual interest rates.

"We are very proud to support NMB in this venture," said Janet Hayes, Team Leader for SatF after announcing the deal noting that the

partnership with NMB is a great opportunity to test a sustainable and scalable model that could really benefit informal savers in the country and contribute to the government's financial inclusion plan.

The partnership also involves Mastercard Foundation and Oxford Policy Management. Through the partnership, NMB and SatF target to incorporate over 28,000 financially excluded groups across the country.

The new model allows groups and their members to use the bank's digital advantage which gives them room to self-open group and individual accounts through their mobile phones, manage members' activities without a physical visit to branches, safely and securely save their excess funds while taking advantage of the banking agents and mobile money integration.

The new model is an enhancement of the 'NMB Pamoja Account' which targets Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC), Village Community Banks (VICOBAs), Community Based Savings Groups (CBSG), Community Based Organizations (CBO), family and friends groups, and links them to the bank.

The NMB-SatF collaboration breaks new ground, pioneering a new financial inclusion model in a move expected to pave the way for more investment and participation of other players in the financial services sector.

While NMB provides its banking excellence and platform as among the biggest banks in the country, SatF brings to the table global experience and expertise in improving the financial inclusion of low-income individuals and communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Net foreign assets boom after BoT crackdown against forex bureaus



A closed foreign currency shop in Dar es Salaam.

By Francis Kajubi

A crackdown against clandestine foreign currency exchange shops lodged by Bank of Tanzania last year is paying off handsomely as net foreign assets of the banking industry grew by 17.5 percent for the year ended March 2020 compared to contraction of 6.1 percent during a corresponding period of 2019.

The central bank's quarterly economic bulletin released last week stated that the boom in NFAs was largely due to an increase in foreign currency holdings by BoT triggered by purchases of foreign exchange from commercial banks and public institutions.

Early last year, BoT launched a crackdown against private bureau de change shops in Arusha and Dar es Salaam closing down hundreds while announcing new registration conditions to curb capital flight and money laundering concerns.

"Net foreign assets grew to 12.01trn/- this year from last year's 10.22trn/-. In the same vein, total domestic credit by the banking system, grew by 6.5 percent mostly explained by expansion of credit to the private sector," the 2020 first quarterly report stated.

Meanwhile the BoT report said domestic credit grew to 23.73trn/- from

last year's 22.29trn/- with credit to the private sector recording an annual growth of 8.6 percent during the period compared to 9.6 percent registered over the corresponding period last year. The growth of credit to the private sector resulted from increased supply of loanable funds, partly due to an accommodative monetary policy.

"The banking sector disbursed 20.01trn/- to the private sector during the period, up from last year's 18.44trn/- that translates to an increment of 8.6 percent," the BoT noted adding that much of credit extended by banks went into building and construction, agriculture and personal-related activities.

Personal-related activities mostly for small and medium enterprises, and trade continued to account for the largest share of outstanding credit to the private sector standing at 30.2 percent and 17.7 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile the central bank's quarterly report, the COVID-19's impact on the economy was mild in January and February 2020 because most of the country's trading partners had not imposed stringent containment and mitigation measures. The report underlined that there was a lagged impact of containment and mitigation measures adopted, as shipment of imports and exports are normally prepared in advance.

US Treasury pressure leads to new probe of African Development Bank's chief



Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank.

ABIDJAN

The African Development Bank's board decided that the lender should order a new independent probe of its president, Akinwumi Adesina, after US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin rejected an internal investigation that cleared him of allegations of favouritism, according to two people familiar with the board's deliberations on the matter.

Africa's largest multilateral lender agreed to the inquiry after several foreign governments backed the Treasury's criticism of a bank-led examination into the allegations, the people said, asking not to be identified because details aren't yet public. Adesina, who has repeatedly denied wrongdoing, may have to step back from the role until the probe is completed, they said.

The Abidjan-based lender declined to comment. Adesina didn't immediately respond to an emailed request sent after regular business hours seeking comment, while a call to his mobile phone didn't connect.

The investigation comes three months before the Abidjan-based bank's annual meeting, at which Adesina is the sole candidate to extend his five-year term. The AAA-rated lender's 80 shareholders in October pledged to provide funding that will help to more than double its capital base to \$208 billion.

Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland are among countries that wrote to the AfDB to back the US Treasury Secretary's demands for professional outsiders to look into the allegations, the people said. A representative for the Nordics declined to comment. Mnuchin last week wrote to the AfDB to express "deep reservations" about the integrity of the lender's ethics committee, after it exonerated Adesina.

The scope and detail of the allegations are serious enough for a further inquiry to ensure the AfDB's shareholders have confidence in the bank's leadership over the next five years, Mnuchin said in the May 22 letter addressed to Niala Kaba, the chairwoman of the bank's board of governors.

Biggest shareholder

The US is the AfDB's biggest shareholder after Adesina's home country of Nigeria. Unidentified whistleblowers accused Adesina, 60, of handing contracts to acquaintances and appointing relatives to strategic positions. The demands for an independent probe are aimed at ensuring that if the allegations are baseless, the process of reaching that conclusion is public and transparent, one of the people said.

Shareholders of the AfDB include 54 nations on the continent and 27 countries in the Americas, Europe, Middle East and Asia. It has an AAA rating from Fitch Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and S&P Global Ratings.

"If there are questions from major shareholders on the appropriateness of an internal process, clearly it's not harmful if that is put into a different light and looked at from the outside world with fresh eyes," S&P analyst Alexander Ekholm said before the decision of the probe was taken. "We don't necessarily require such or we don't advocate for such."

Prior to Mnuchin's letter to the board, African leaders including South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and his Nigerian counterpart, Muhammadu Buhari, expressed support for Adesina and commended him for his efforts to help secure funds for Africa to deal with the fallout from the disease.

Absa foresees June 2020 profits down by 20 pc, blames COVID-19

By The Banker Reporter

ABSA Group's first half results for this year will likely see a fall of up to 20 percent in profits as bad loans pile up due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In its results for the year ending April 2020, the South African lender said the Covid-19 outbreak has already seen the doubling of bad debts. The pan Africa bank which separated from Barclays Plc last year, had adopted a growth strategy to dominate the African market but the pandemic has dealt a blow to it.

"We are reviewing the group's medium-term financial targets and will update the market when there is greater certainty in the macroeconomic outlook," it continued while warning that payment of dividend this year is unlikely.

The bank stated that the Covid-19 pandemic which started as a public health crisis, triggered an unprecedented disruption of markets and economies worldwide. "Our response has been guided by the principles of wanting to ensure the health and safety of our staff, to support our customers and to ensure the resilience of our franchise from an operational and financial perspective," the bank group noted.

Although Absa Group's earnings for the first quarter of 2020 were somewhat impacted by the virus towards the end of March, return on equity was slightly lower than the comparative period in 2019, but remains on track to achieve the guidance it had issued.

"However, the national lockdown in South Africa had a substantial impact on our financial performance in April 2020 and accordingly affecting the first four months of the year," the report added.

It said as a result, the group experienced some benefit from a weaker Rand versus currencies in Absa Regional Operations (ARO) which includes Tanzania. "On average, the Rand was 8 percent weaker than our ARO currencies during the period versus the comparable period in 2019. Despite slowing materially in April, the year-on-year growth in customer loans to 30 April 2020 was low double digit, while customer deposit growth was in the high teens," the banking conglomerate's report added.

The group's net interest margin declined year-on-year, due to the rate cuts in South Africa and most of the ARO markets while net interest income growth was high single digits year-on-year, but is expected to slow.

"The results indicated that credit impairments had doubled during the period with its credit loss ratio at all time high as was the case during the financial crisis in 2009. Absa's shares, which initially lost earlier gains following the announcement, were back up 2.27 percent by noon on Tuesday.



Absa Group CEO, Daniel Mminele.

Orange carves out new mobile money corridors into continent

PARIS

Burkina Faso and Morocco are included on a list of countries in Africa where one can receive direct Orange Money remittances from France. The two countries join Ivory Coast, Guinea, Madagascar and Mali to access the international money transfer solution offered by the French multinational telco.

According to Orange, the new remittance corridors have been operational since 8 May 2020 for Burkina Faso and 20 May 2020 for

Morocco. This means an Orange Money account holder based in France can securely transfer money, and in real time, directly to a recipient's Orange Money account in any of the two countries.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the payment corridor provides another way to fight against the transmission of the virus as no cash changes hands, Orange officials said. The telecoms company claims that by encouraging the use of mobile money, they are helping to bring families closer and facilitating their mutual support.

Christian Bombrun, Senior Vice President Products and Services, Orange France, said, "The health crisis we are going through has shown that mobile-to-mobile money transfer is a key benefit for our customers. Money transfer users in France have massively turned to Orange Money to instantly and securely send money to their loved ones in Mali, Ivory Coast, Madagascar and Guinea. The opening of two new corridors, in Burkina Faso and Morocco, is an important step in Orange Money's development strategy worldwide."

Global leaders, UBA founder demand new deal in and for Africa

By The Banker Reporter

IN commemoration of Africa Day this year and 2nd United Bank for Africa Day Conversations which was live-streamed last week, a panel that included Liberian President, George Weah, United States Senator Chris Coons, President and Chairman of African Export-Import Bank board of directors, Professor Benedict Oramah and President of International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer and was moderated by UBA Plc's Group Chairman, Tony Elumelu, calls were made for a new deal for Africa, reminiscent of the Martial Plan.

Under this year's focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the coronavirus pandemic, panel-

lists emphasised the need for meaningful collaboration between governments and the private sector, as a requirement for the quick recovery of the economy of the African continent post Covid-19.

Elumelu spoke on the need to mobilise quickly and explained the necessity to identify a more fundamental solution to Africa's challenges. "This is the time for us to deal with the situation, this is not the time for finger pointing, but for collaborative efforts by governments and organisations, to fight the pandemic globally," Elumelu said.

The Nigerian billionaire and philanthropist said, "There is need to flatten the curve, we need global co-operation to stem global depression. Africa requires



UBA Plc's Group Chairman, Tony Elumelu.

a large stimulus package, and we need long-term solutions to prevent a cycle of debt."

Supporting the UBA Chairman's arguments, Liberian President Weah explained how collaboration has assisted his country to stem the sufferings brought

about by the coronavirus pandemic. "In Liberia we have taken measures to ease the financial burden on vulnerable businesses in the informal sector by providing small loan assistance to SMEs and traders," Weah said. He added that, "In addition, we are working with

commercial banks to manage the repayment of loans as well as to create stimulus packages for citizens."

US Senator Coons made valuable contributions to the discussions by stating that there is urgent need to develop a vaccine that is free and affordable and freely distributed so that full economic activities can return. "This is no time to be looking backwards. We recognise the power of collective collaboration on the continent," Senator Coons noted.

Afexim's Prof Oramah joined his fellow panellists by calling for a swift implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement while disclosing that Afrexim has made available \$200million to

supply fertilisers and grains across Africa. "If Africa allows hunger to take over the people, it will see an increase in insecurity, which will take a long time to overcome," Prof Oramah warned.

ICRC's President Maurer said there is the need to look at pandemics as part of a broader health system which needs stabilisation. "We must do more than life-saving. This pandemic has illustrated the weakness of health, water, sanitation and social systems, and we have to heavily invest into the stabilisation of these systems," he advised.

Other leading voices contributing were the founder of Africa CEO Forum, Amir Ben Yahmed, Secretary-General of African Caribbean and Pacific Group of

States (ACP), George Chikoti, Administrator of United Nations Development Program, Achim Steiner and Donald Kaberuka, the former President of the African Union.

ACP's Chikoti said that the huge task of economic recovery on the continent, rests on both the government and the private sector. "African governments need to accept the support of the private sector in alleviating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the continent. We have so far been able to release \$25m to all member states to support efforts to tame the virus," Chikoti added.

UNDP's Steiner focused on digital connectivity as an enabler of development. "What we need to look at is to find a way for government

as a regulator and also as an investor, to leverage private sector investment into these areas" Steiner noted.

Africa CEO Forum's Yahmed added that the crisis is going to be a super accelerator of already existing trends. "We have to get away from the commodity driven model which has failed in creating prosperity. We need to use this crisis to take Africa to the next level. We also need to attain self-reliance. Self-reliance is an important goal," Yahmed argued.

The UBA Africa Conversations concluded with the need to act quickly and effectively, highlighting that Africa has lessons to teach the world in containment, but remains economically vulnerable.

Generation Start-up: This's how Egypt's Instabug is planning to shake up the mobile app space

CAIRO

Omar Gabr and Moataz Soliman first stumbled on the idea for their start-up while trying to develop an app during their last term at Cairo University. In 2013, the two computer engineering graduates were building a website connecting app developers to those interested in testing the software before launch.

"Part of this project was a simple way to submit feedback. If you are a user that is using an app on our platform and you've bumped into an issue, just shake the phone and [our application] pops up and you report this bug," says Mr Gabr.

Mr Gabr and Mr Soliman soon noticed something. Although the app itself failed to gain much traction, the bug reporting mechanism did. App developers appreciated the relatively quick way they could identify problems in their products and solve them.

That led to the birth of Instabug - short for instant bug reporting - a software as a service start-up that provides insights to app developers, allowing them to debug applications quickly. "We provide companies with real-time insights. Through our dashboard they can understand what problems users are bumping into, when the app is crashing, what users like and dislike ... basically, we give them a holistic view on app performance," Mr Gabr says.

Real-time insights mean identifying a bug immediately - a lifeline for app developers that count on user reviews to ratchet up their ratings on app stores, Mr Gabr says. Throughout this process, Instabug has hardly any interaction with mobile app users, who are blissfully unaware of the company's presence. But for developers, a bug-free user experience could mean millions in revenue if their apps are highly rated. "People are less tolerant to bugged apps. Mobile teams cannot be reactive to such bugs," he says.

Today, Instabug runs on 2.5 billion devices globally and across 25,000 mobile apps. It has seen 7.5 billion



Instabug founders Moataz Soliman and Omar Gabr who have raised \$5 million in Series A funding.

bugs reported through its platform. The company's customers include Samsung, Lyft, Phillips and Hilton, among others, that pay a premium for seamless user experience. While Instabug started with basic bug reporting, the founders later added features such as crash reporting, in-app feedback, and in-app chat to expand their base.

Instabug has also benefited from a booming global app industry that has mushroomed due to higher smartphone penetration. According to mobile app market intelligence provider Sensor Tower, app revenues from Apple's App Store and the Google Play store combined grew 17 per cent to hit \$83.5 billion last year. This is set to grow further in 2020 as wide-ranging stay-at-home directives to stem the spread of Covid-19 increase app usage - particularly within the gaming and entertainment sectors.

Although Mr Gabr did not disclose the company's revenue or the start-up's valuation, he says business is booming. "Usage of Instabug has grown 45 per cent since January.

Our clients offering on-demand and entertainment are seeing a surge as people are using them more." Last year, the Cairo-based start-up's revenue grew 120 per cent, according to Mr Gabr, who says the company is profitable.

But the journey was not without challenges for the entrepreneurs - not least in reaching app developers worldwide. "We were solving a global problem and we wanted to sell to companies based in San Francisco, Berlin, Moscow, New York, while we were sitting in Cairo. The challenge was how we could reach these customers without physically being in these markets," says Mr Gabr.

While their main office is still based in Egypt, Mr Gabr - who handles sales and marketing - splits his time between Egypt and San Francisco. His co-founder and colleague, Mr Soliman, heads the engineering division. With Instabug now on a sure footing, the entrepreneurs have big plans to scale and expand the company's research and development. "We are going to launch more features for app developers to moni-

tor the performance of their apps and improve user experience," says Mr Gabr.

Instabug started with \$10,000 in funding from accelerator Flat6Labs Cairo, but was subsequently accepted into prestigious US accelerator Y Combinator in 2016 - becoming the second Egyptian start-up in a programme that has mentored companies like Airbnb and DoorDash. Upon completion, Instabug bagged \$1.7 million from Y Combinator and Accel Partners, which previously invested in start-ups like UI Path and MoPub. Earlier this month, Instabug raised \$5m in Series A funding from Accel Partners, with Cloudera co-founder Amr Awadallah and MoPub's former chief executive Jim Payne pitching in.

With adequate funding, Mr Gabr says the company will now focus on perfecting their product. The founders have no plans to actively fundraise in the coming months. "We are [planning to] build more features, acquire more customers and double down on our business."

Banks get glimpse of the post-coronavirus future

NEW YORK

Like all businesses upended by the pandemic lockdowns, banks were forced to reorganise with little time. They managed to shutter large parts of their branch networks and to send most of their employees to work remotely. So far, the experiment has been largely free of glitches - and instructive.

By redeploying armies of staff, lenders were mostly able to adapt to the unprecedented surge in client inquiries that accompanied the rollout of emergency state-backed loans and mortgage holidays. On top of that, banks also got a glimpse of their digital future. Now comes the hard part: hanging on to the most useful changes as the lockdowns ease.

A survey of retail bank customers in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Portugal and the UK, carried out by McKinsey & Co. in mid-April, shows that online bank use rose in all of the countries, from a 7% increase in Italy to 19% in Portugal, with a similar pattern in mobile access. More than one in five customers in Spain and Britain tried online banking for the first time. A shift to digital use of this magnitude would probably have taken at least a couple of years without the Covid-related branch closures, according to McKinsey.

Equally telling is how notes and coins were easily replaced. Though largely imposed by the need to prevent the coronavirus's transmission, the trajectory toward more digital payments has been set. In a BCG survey of U.K. clients that captured activity during three weeks in April, 63% of respondents said they'd reduced their use of cash since the start of the crisis, while 43% sent more payments through social media messaging apps.

What's more, one in five respondents plans to do less in branches or to stop using them altogether after the crisis. For the more affluent customers, dealings with relationship managers jumped almost threefold, according to the BCG study. Why go to a branch if you can get the same advice on a video chat from the comfort of your home?

For European lenders plagued by high expenses, declining revenue, an expected surge in pandemic-related credit losses and competition from fintech upstarts, the greater use of technology will be critical to controlling costs.

Under its Covid-19 recovery scenario, in which the euro zone's gross domestic product would drop by 11% in 2020, McKinsey sees European banks suffering a bigger setback than in the aftermath of the financial and sovereign debt crises. Revenue may drop 40% once the cost of risk is included as loans sour. Banks may not return to their pre-pandemic revenue and profitability levels until 2024. Capital injections seem inevitable.

Although some parts of banking

will be more resilient than others, and the severity of credit losses will determine banks' individual strategies, the industry as a whole will need to cut expenses while maintaining investments in technology - not an easy task. Banks might consider acquisitions as a quick way to add new apps and services. After all, fintechs are suddenly a lot cheaper as company valuations fall in the crisis. But integrating new technology platforms with older systems isn't straightforward, and being able to keep the best tech talent isn't a given.

Shrinking or reusing the banks' branch networks are other obvious opportunities to lower costs and support investments. As much as 40% of lenders' costs derive from the sale of products, which includes expenses related to branches, according to McKinsey.

The industry has been cutting its brick and mortar presence - and related jobs - for years, but there's plenty more to do. In Italy, France and Germany, bank branches on average offer services to fewer than 3 500 locals. That might not justify keeping those sites open, especially when you consider the average number of inhabitants per branch is three times higher in the Netherlands.

If banks can't remove branches quickly because of political opposition, or leases delay closures, those spaces could be used differently. During the pandemic, local staff were redeployed to offer remote advice. In the future, the investment banker who's no longer going into the city-centre skyscraper might use that suburban branch office instead.

Banks have been experimenting for a while with different branch formats, from micro outlets to cafe-style venues. The need for lenders to accelerate their adoption of technology is hardly new, but it's even more pressing now. Banks should seize on what they've learned over these past few months.



Equally telling is how notes and coins were easily replaced. Though largely imposed by the need to prevent the coronavirus's transmission, the trajectory toward more digital payments has been set. In a BCG survey of U.K. clients that captured activity during three weeks in April, 63% of respondents said they'd reduced their use of cash since the start of the crisis, while 43% sent more payments through social media messaging app

WORLD

Africa told not to let crisis hurt progress

NAIROBI

AFRICAN Union member states have been urged to forge ahead with meeting the aspirations of agenda 2063 and ensure that the coronavirus does not reverse the continent's developmental gains.

The message was emphasized by AU leaders, during the celebration of Africa Day on May 25, an annual event that commemorates the establishment of the Organization of African Unity now the African Union in 1963.

The leaders said the coronavirus challenges have uncovered the continent's ability to work together to solve its own problems.

Moussa Faki, the chairman of the African Union Commission, said right from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic Africa had mobilized itself and a continental response strategy was developed and implemented promptly. "We should, however, redouble our efforts, determination and perseverance in strictly implementing the

pillars of the strategy. We should go beyond the present situation, by preparing for post-pandemic conditions in the world," he said.

The pandemic had infected 115,346 people and claimed 3,471 lives across the continent as of Tuesday, according to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday that African countries should heed the UN call for a global cease-fire to push back the deadly COVID-19.

In his message to mark Africa Day, the UN chief said that the COVID-19 pandemic "threatens to derail progress" which would enable countries to reach the Sustainable Development Goals and development targets set out in the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Guterres welcomed the AU's support for his global cease-fire call, an imperative that also reflects the AU's 2020 theme: "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development."



People wearing face masks to protect against the coronavirus walk on a street in downtown Johannesburg, South Africa, May 11, 2020. (AP)

Further, he said: "Armed groups in Cameroon, Sudan and South Sudan have responded to the call and declared unilateral cease-fires. And I implore other armed movements and governments in Africa to do likewise. I also welcome the support of African countries for my call for peace in the home, and an end to all forms of violence, including against women and girls."

Cyril Ramaphosa, the chairman of the African Union, said despite the fact that the pandemic had exposed the deep inequalities that continue to exist on the continent, it should enable a new Africa to come to the fore.

"It should be an Africa of heroic acts of solidarity, an Africa of cross-border collaboration and sharing of knowledge and resources, an Africa that is united by a common goal," said Ramaphosa, who is South Africa's president.

He said the unity that is the strength of Africa is evident on daily basis during the ongoing pandemic, being put to the service of saving lives and supporting the vulnerable.

Ramaphosa also called on the developed countries, multilateral institutions and the donor community to provide the necessary support to the vulnerable countries in the continent in the form of diagnostic and therapeutic medical supplies as well as necessary financial support to sustain the livelihoods of vulnerable people.

Agencies

Chinese lawmakers denounce COVID-19 bills at US Congress as typical 'political manipulation'

BEIJING

SOME U.S. Congress members' bills accusing China of lacking transparency or being responsible for the novel coronavirus spread in the United States are nothing but "political manipulation," Chinese lawmakers have said.

"China has strictly followed the procedures stipulated by law and released the information at the earliest possible time," said Zheng Shuna, a deputy to the National People's Congress, the country's national legislature, noting that a detailed timeline on China's COVID-19 response has been released.

Zheng said it has been proven that the Chinese government has taken the most comprehensive, rigorous and thorough measures

to promptly cut off the chain of virus transmission, and the accusation that lacking transparency in China led to delays in the U.S. epidemic response is a fallacy.

Xu Anbiao said identifying the source of the virus is a serious question of science, which must be carefully studied by scientists and medical experts.

Chinese health professionals and scientists were the first to share with the world the full genome sequence of the novel coronavirus and the first to isolate the virus strain, actively exploring treatment methods and developing test kits, thus making tremendous contribution to the global fight against the disease, Xu added.

Yu Zhigang said some U.S. Congress members in their bills



groundlessly shifted the blame onto China or even unreasonably asked the U.S. government to bring litigations against China.

The bills, which have no logic at all, have exposed these people's appalling arrogance and paranoia, Yu said.

He said the attempt to claim damages from China has violated the principle of sovereign equality enshrined in the international law, challenged the internationally recognized principle of sovereign immunity, and disturbed the normal international order, Yu said.

Shifting the blame and shirking responsibility will not help contain the virus, said Chen Fuli, adding that only by strengthening global cooperation and supporting the World Health Organization in playing its role can countries in the world defeat the virus.

"As the novel coronavirus is still raging through the world, attacking and smearing China without seeing the facts is nothing but spreading another political virus," Chen said.

Xinhua

Italy, China stand together in joint fight against COVID-19

ROME

THE friendship between Italy and China has grown stronger as the two countries have stood together in unity, helping each other overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier this month, Wuji County in northern China's Hebei Province donated a batch of medical supplies to Arzignano in the province of Vicenza, including 20,000 medical masks, 200 protective suits and 200 isolation gowns.

Gian Vittorio Campus, mayor of Sassari, located in western Sardinia, expressed gratitude to Ba'nan District in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality for its medical donations.

"Your very kind action of friendship and the donation of materials to fight against the novel coronavirus disease, the 1,000 suits of medical disposable protective clothing and 5,280 KN95 masks, (are) really welcome and all of us warmly thank you," said the mayor in a letter.

As the novel coronavirus hit the European country, China has spared no efforts to help it ride out the difficulty, returning the favor after Italy sent supplies to China at a crucial time in the latter's COVID-19 fight.

On March 18, a charter flight carrying a 13-member Chinese aid team, along with tons of medical supplies, arrived at Milan's Malpensa Airport. One week later, another charter flight carrying a 14-member Chinese medical team and supplies, arrived at the same airport in Milan.

"China has come to us in our hour of need," Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte told Italian reporters when asked about the aid.

Days after Conte (pictured) announced a national lockdown on March 9, tons of medical supplies and equipment were sent from China to Italy, along with a team of medical experts. Chinese and Italian officials have been in communication since then, with experts from the central Chinese city of Wuhan sharing data and valuable

experience with their Italian counterparts.

On March 12, two days after Italy's national lockdown began, a charter flight carrying a nine-member Chinese aid team, along with some 30 tons of medical supplies, arrived at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, as part of China's efforts to help Italy contain the pandemic.

Five of the nine experts in the team were from southwest China's Sichuan Province. Twelve years earlier, following the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, a group of doctors and nurses from Italy were among the first group of foreign aid workers to dash in and help.

Upon the Chinese team's arrival at their hotel, a note with pictures of both Italian and Chinese national flags were displayed in Chinese, English and Italian: "Italy, Rome and Trilussa Palace Hotel welcome



you and thank you for your support. We stand together, we fight together, we win together."

The good relations between Italy and China can be traced back earlier. Last year, Italy became the first Group of Seven member country to sign with China a memorandum of understanding to jointly advance the construction of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

In recent years, Chinese tourists have become an increasingly common sight in Italy. And Italian exports to China have grown for at least 10 consecutive years through 2019, according to data from Italy's National Statistics Institute.

The Italian public opinion about China has grown even stronger during the two countries' joint fight against the pandemic, according to pollsters.

Agencies

China's anti-epidemic efforts open, transparent

"THOSE who fight on the frontline in a war against a common enemy deserve our respect." That's a statement made by a world-renowned epidemiologist to hail China's efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. It indicates the global recognition of China's sacrifices and contributions in responding to the pandemic.

COVID-19 is a major public health emergency with the fastest spread and the widest range of infections, and has been the most difficult to prevent and control in China since the founding of the People's Republic in 1949.

An important reason for China's success to contain the virus in a short time is that the country has always timely released information to the world and the society in an open, transparent and responsible manner.

The country promptly reported the epidemic to the World Health Organization (WHO), shared the genetic sequencing information of the virus with global countries, and reported research progress on medical magazines. It also published seven editions of COVID-19 treatment plans and six editions of prevention and control plans, and timely released pathology reports on the virus and information on vaccine research and development.

China's transparent and open containment process was compared by some to a livestream broadcasted to the world.

On December 27, 2019, Zhang Jixian, a respiratory specialist at the Hubei Provincial Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine in Wuhan, first reported three suspected cases she had received.

Three days later, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission issued an urgent notification to medical institutions under its jurisdiction, ordering efforts to appropriately treat patients with pneumonia of unknown cause.

On Dec.31, the National Health Commission sent an expert team to Wuhan to conduct on-site investigations. Starting Jan. 3, 2020, China has been regularly informing the WHO and relevant countries, including the U.S., about the pneumonia outbreak.

From finding the first infected case to responding to the epidemic, every step China has taken is traceable and totally open.

"China locked down Wuhan on Jan. 23, which was unprecedented. If such a red alert couldn't wake you up, then

you must be pretending to sleep," a media outlet commented.

China "did a lot of things right" at the beginning of the pandemic, said Bill Gates.

COVID-19 is a new type of disease, and it is called "the most cunning virus" by experts. It's not easy to be tested. Its incubation period is long, and it changes a lot.

The understanding and study of the virus need a process. Any responsible country shall not rashly define the virus without having adequate and effective evidence. There is no refuge in this world when infectious diseases occur and it is impossible, unnecessary and intolerable for China to conceal or delay its pandemic response.

Starting January, Chinese experts

have published more than 1,100 academic papers about COVID-19 in English-language journals, sharing the research results of the epidemiological characteristics of the virus with the international medical community without reservation. The country has also set up its online COVID-19 knowledge center that is open to all countries.

These precious achievements, which cost numerous lives, provide experiences for countries to fight against the pandemic and help save the lives of thousands of people around the world.

"China's generosity deserves the gratitude of other countries," said Patti Djalal, founder of the Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia.

"China's quick and thorough action has amazed everyone," The Guard-

France bans hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19

FRANCE

THE French government on Wednesday canceled a decree allowing hospital doctors to administer hydroxychloroquine as a treatment to patients suffering severe forms of COVID-19.

The announcement comes two days after the WHO said it was pausing a large trial of the malaria drug due to safety concerns.

An advisory body reviewed data on the old malaria medicine, including an article published in the Lancet, and advised against using hydroxychloroquine, alone or in combination, to treat COVID-19.

The drug, touted by Trump as a treatment, has been linked to an increased risk of death and heart ailments.

The French health ministry said Tuesday that the number of fatalities had risen by 83 in hospitals, to 18,195. But it lowered the toll in nursing homes to 10,335, 10 fewer than when it was last published, after a technical revision.

In a statement, the health ministry said that the number of new confirmed cases was up by 276 to 145,555.

Also on Tuesday, President Emmanuel Macron announced an 8 billion euro (US\$8.8 billion) plan to help the recovery of the domestic auto industry hit hard by the anti-coronavirus lockdown. The plan focuses on the production of environmentally friendly vehicles.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe is due on Thursday to detail new steps to lift the lockdown, which could entail the reopening of bars and restaurants in some parts of France, which has now reported 28,530 coronavirus deaths, the world's fourth highest.

The Americas have emerged as the new epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a Tuesday briefing, as a US study forecast deaths surging in Brazil and other Latin American countries through August.

"Now is not the time for countries to ease restrictions," Carissa Etienne, WHO director for the Americas and head of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), said via videoconference. The Americas have registered more than 2.4 million cases of the new coronavirus and more than 143,000 deaths from COVID-19. Latin America has passed Europe and the United States in daily infections, she said.

"Our region has become the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic," Etienne said, as other PAHO directors warned there are "very tough" weeks ahead for the region and Brazil has a long way to go before it will see the pandemic end.

Also of concern to WHO officials are accelerating outbreaks in Peru, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

A University of Washington study warned that Brazil's total death toll could climb five-fold to 125,000 by early August. The current data projects COVID-19 deaths in Peru totaling nearly 20,000 by August, the university's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) said, indicating demand is likely to outstrip of the supply of beds in intensive care units.

The latest IHME model projections see deaths rising to nearly 12,000 in Chile, 7,000 in Mexico, 6,000 in Ecuador, 5,500 in Argentina and to 4,500 in Colombia by August.

One country in the region doing relatively well against COVID-19 is Cuba, where the IHME forecasts a death toll of just 82 by August while testing continues to outpace the outbreak.

Global toll

Global COVID-19 deaths surpassed 350,000 on Tuesday, reaching 350,417 as of 8:32 pm (0032 GMT on Wednesday), according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University.

Meanwhile, a total of 5,588,400 COVID-19 cases have so far been reported around the world, according to the CSSE.

The United States reported the most COVID-19 cases and deaths, with a tally of 1,680,680 and a death toll of 98,902. Other countries with over 200,000 fatalities included Britain, Italy, France, Spain, and Brazil, the CSSE data showed.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across Africa surpassed 115,616 and the death toll surged to 3,479 as of Tuesday afternoon, the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Agencies



In this Feb 26, 2020 photo, a medical workers holds up packets of Nivaquine, tablets containing chloroquine, and Plaqueril, tablets containing hydroxychloroquine. (AFP)

ian said in an article, praising China's openness and transparency in sharing anti-pandemic information.

On April 17, Wuhan issued a notification on revising the numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases and fatalities in the city.

At the early stage of the epidemic, a surging number of patients overwhelmed medical resources and the admission capacity of medical institutions; a few medical institutions were not linked to the epidemic information network and failed to report their data in time; and some patients stayed home out of the fear for infection. These all resulted in belated, missed, mistaken and repeated reporting, which later caused data discrepancies.

However, no one attempted to hide the data, or dared to make such illegal practice.

People's Daily



Global test of governance is on

WITH more European countries and US states planning to reopen the economy as the coronavirus pandemic has taken a heavy toll on their economies, the world is now entering a global test of governance in which China is now a leader in work resumption.

However, Chinese experiences have not been taken by the West, which adopts more aggressive policies, which mean more risks and could lead the world to a more dangerous place.

For China, consolidating the phased results of epidemic control and accelerating business resumption is a daunting task, as the reopening criteria is much stricter in China compared to that in the West. This will be a competition that China can't lose, analysts said.

China had paid a heavy social and economic price in the past three months in its fight against COVID-19. Multiple systematic advantages, including top-down effective governance and ability to mobilize social resources, have helped the country get through the most difficult time and gradually back to normalcy.

China was the first to reopen society as the pandemic continues globally and set the example for other nations, but political and ideological bias, intensified by a US-led public opinion war against China, would hinder Western nations from taking Chinese experiences as reference in cautiously resuming business activities amid a resurgence of sporadic cases, analysts said.

Nevertheless, China is steadily moving forward and will be the ultimate winner of this test, and such collective confidence of winning this battle stems from the actual strengths and fundamentals of Chinese society.

'Decision must be made'

When some economic advisers of US President Donald Trump highlighted the importance of resuming business in some states on Sunday, as part of the White House's major push to reopen the US economy, countries across Europe are easing their lockdowns after about two months of travel restrictions and a halt in commercial activities.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged Britons to get back to work as he released a three-step roadmap to recovery from the coronavirus, according to a speech aired on Sunday.

And France has taken its first steps out of confinement measures. Starting on May 11, shops in the country will reopen and people would be allowed out of their homes, media reported.

However, countries are reemerging from the COVID-19 cautiously as the pandemic continues to ravage communities, and the rate of infection remains far too high for the wider opening of facilities like schools. Germany and South Korea, among some countries, are facing resurgence in infection cases, raising concerns over

whether reopening society would trigger a potential second or third wave of the outbreak before a vaccine is available.

"The curves of infections in some European countries are downward, and reopening their economies is the key issue for countries across the world, as the world is likely to experience multiple waves of outbreaks in the coming months," Chen Xi, an assistant professor of public health at Yale University, told the Global Times on May 11.

When infection cases do not stand at peak points and the situation improves, policymakers could come up with more measures to support the revival of economic activities, Chen said, noting that when they relax restrictions, the infection rates might go up.

"Those measures should be flexible enough to be timely adjusted," he added.

Though some analysts said it is not the right time for Western countries to lift restrictions, especially if they follow China's work resumption criteria - the strictest one in the world - they are not even close to being ready for safely lifting the lockdowns.

The policies of resuming production in order to save economies is a decision that officials in Europe and the US have to make, either for their own political careers or for upcoming elections, a vivid example of how politics in the West serves interests of a few elites, not well-being of the general public.

In comparison, the Chinese government has to make sure to fulfill those two tasks - prevent infection and resume work - "which would be more challenging," Wang Yiwei, director of the Center for European Union studies at the Renmin University of China in Beijing, told the Global Times on Monday.

"While the recovery is gaining pace, China is likely to be the only country in the world to see positive growth this year. Europe and the US are rushing to reopen their societies to mitigate economic costs - a decisive factor for capitalism - as governments serve vested interest groups, not the people," Wang said.

Faced with a record 20.5 million lost jobs in April - the largest single month of job losses since the government began tracking the data in 1939 - according to CNN, US President Trump is expected to be more eager to work on economic issues rather than health matters with the November election looming. And the president's economic team prevailed with a simple message: Reopen the country as soon as possible, as the report said.

However, the poor performance of some Western countries in fighting the pandemic has largely increased the risks of a resurgence of the outbreak, and such rash and reckless policies could make the anti-virus battle a protracted one, and those ambivalent policies are also heavily weighing on the global recovery, posing a severe threat to the resumption of trade activities.

Global Times

Four police officers fired in US Minnesota over death of black man

WASHINGTON

FOUR police officers in the U.S. state of Minnesota were fired Tuesday after a black man died while in police custody and an online video showed the man being pinned down by his neck.

In the video, recorded by a bystander, a police officer is seen kneeling on the black man's neck, pinning him to the ground during an arrest in Minneapolis on Monday

evening, as the man repeatedly cries "I can't breathe...please, I can't breathe." After a few minutes, the man, lying face down in the street with his hands cuffed behind his back, became silent and motionless.

The officer continued to pin the man to the pavement with his knee as bystanders begged the officer to stop, the video showed. However, the video did not show what happened before the officer pinned the man to the ground.

A Minneapolis Police Department statement said the man "appeared to be suffering medical distress" and the officers called for an ambulance.

The man died shortly after being taken to hospital. The victim was identified as George Floyd in his 40s. Police initially found him sitting on top of a blue car and "appeared to be under influence" when officers responded to a call about a man suspected of forgery, according to a New York Times report.

'Two sessions' convey confidence to world development - foreign party leaders

BEIJING

THE convening of the "two sessions" has shown that China's all-out war against the COVID-19 epidemic has achieved significant strategic results, injecting confidence and impetus to world development, many foreign political parties have said.

In messages recently sent to the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, foreign political party leaders said the ongoing "two sessions" demonstrate China's firm determination to coordinate the prevention and control of the epidemic and its economic and social development.

Gabonese Democratic Party Secretary General Eric Dodo Bounguendza said that as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the world, China's successful convening of the "two sessions" demonstrates that China has achieved significant strategic results in the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak.

Noting that the epidemic cannot stop the CPC from leading the Chinese people in their development and progress, Bounguendza said he is confident that the success of the "two sessions" will further unite the Chinese people, and achieve the great goal of eradicating poverty and achieving a moderately prosperous society in all respects as scheduled.

President of Brazil's Workers' Party Gleisi Hoffmann said that the convening of the "two sessions" in the special context of the global outbreak of COVID-19 is of great significance to China and the world in combating the pandemic and restoring economic and social development.

She expressed her confidence that the "two sessions" will find solutions to a series of problems the world is facing, and thus usher countries out of the current crisis and in building a better world.

Juan Carlos Latorre, president of the Christian Democratic Organization of



The second plenary meeting of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Monday. [Xinhua]

America, thanked the CPC for sending a message on the convening of the "two sessions" and China's experience in advancing the resumption of work and production.

The unexpected pandemic has taught the human race a painful lesson that no country can beat the coronavirus alone, he said, urging all countries to work together to solve this global crisis.

Jan Zahradil, a veteran member of the European Parliament and chairman of the EU-China Friendship Group in the European Parliament, noted that a raft of measures aimed at boosting economic and social recovery have been passed at China's "two sessions," which will inject strong confidence and impetus into China's war on poverty and other stated goals.

In its 2020 government work report, China has vowed to stay committed to opening its doors wider to the world and promote trade liberalization and facilitation, he said, which will provide policy support for practical cooperation between the European Union (EU) and China, and promote the healthy development of EU-China

comprehensive strategic partnership. Temesgen Hurrkato, the Research and Ideology head of Ethiopia's Prosperity Party, said that the important claims of safeguarding its sovereignty and the practice of "one country, two systems" that China has brought out in the government work report are important to Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan affairs, which Ethiopia totally agrees.

Temesgen said China is the world's second largest economy. When the whole world is thinking about the post-pandemic world order, they all set their sights on the East.

Niger's Ambassador to China Inoussa Moustapha said China convened the "two sessions" to discuss issues over national development and people's welfare as soon as conditions allowed, which demonstrates Chinese President Xi Jinping's emotions for the people that features "people first."

The ambassador believes China's moderately prosperous society in all respect would be built on schedule, and the country's first centenary goal will also come true.

Xinhua

Putin says Russia to hold postponed Victory Day parade on June 24

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that the country's military parade to mark the 75th anniversary of the Soviet victory against the Nazis in World War II will be held on June 24.

Putin (pictured) postponed the Victory Day parade last month from its traditional date of May 9, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We will do this on June 24, the day when the legendary, historic parade of winners took place, when



fighters who fought near Moscow and defended Leningrad, who fought near Stalingrad, liberated Europe and stormed Berlin, walked along Red Square," Putin said during an online meeting with Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.

Putin also announced that the Immortal Regiment march, a tradition in which millions of people across Russia parade with portraits of their relatives who fought in World War II, will take place on July 26.

As Russia usually celebrates Navy Day on the last Sunday of July, Putin also ordered a traditional Navy parade at the country's main naval bases to be held on July 26.

The military parade is one of the most important events in Russia this year, and leaders of many coun-

tries have been invited to join the event as honored guests. Nazi Germany signed an Act of Unconditional Surrender in a suburb of Berlin on the night of May 8, 1945, Berlin time, which was the early hours of May 9 Moscow time.

It marked the end of the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union, an integral part of World War II lasting from 1939 to 1945.

The catastrophic war claimed about 27 million lives of people from the Soviet Union, according to official statistics.

Xinhua

UNHCR seeks solutions for urban refugees in eastern Africa amid COVID-19

NAIROBI

THE UN refugee agency has said it is working closely with partners and governments in eastern Africa to find solutions for urban refugees in these challenging times sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UNHCR said urban refugees are struggling to survive as economic impact of COVID-19 worsens in East, Horn and Great Lakes of Africa.

"Refugees in urban areas across the East, Horn and Great Lakes region of Africa are struggling to meet their most basic needs as the economic impact of COVID-19 begins to take hold," it said in a statement released on Tuesday.

UNHCR is requesting some 13.4 billion shillings (about 126 million U.S. dollars) for life-saving interventions in response to COVID-19 in those regions.

"However, we fear that without further support, many urban refugees will become extremely vulnerable to exploitation, risk falling into significant levels of debt and may be forced into desperate situations to survive, such as transactional sex or child labor," UNHCR said.

UNHCR has been providing emergency cash assistance to the most vulnerable in both Rwanda and Kenya and exploring options to expand programming.

In Uganda, UNHCR and WFP are introducing one-off cash assistance for some 80,000 urban refugees using mobile money to help cover rent, food and other key items, said the UN refugee agency.

However, it said these are only temporary measures and socio-economic conditions are expected to deteriorate further in the coming weeks and months.

UNHCR urged the international community to support its emergency response with further funding so that the UN agency can meet the rapidly rising needs before the situation reaches a breaking point.

It said urban refugees are facing job losses as businesses are forced to downsize or close due to COVID-19 restrictions. "Many were daily wage workers or worked in the informal economy and were already living hand-to-mouth before the pandemic struck," said UNHCR.

UNHCR said many urban refugees are also living in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions and are particularly vulnerable to the spread of the virus, as in Kenya where thousands of refugees live in impoverished neighborhoods in Nairobi with little access to clean water, making it nearly impossible to practice regular hand washing.

UNHCR called on states to ensure that urban refugees additionally have access to social safety nets providing health insurance, food and cash assistance, which the international community should further support.

Xinhua

We fear that without further support, many urban refugees will become extremely vulnerable

China's foreign assistance in COVID-19 pandemic helps build world into community with shared future

CHINA has offered sincere assistance to the world since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which moved many people overseas. Now, the touching stories happening around the globe are responding to the profound friendship from the Chinese government and people, consolidating the confidence of the world in defeating the virus.

The pandemic respects no border, but the world is surrounded by love. "Guided by the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China will be more than ready to share our good practices, conduct joint research and development of drugs and vaccines, and provide assistance where we can to countries hit by the growing outbreak."

Chinese President Xi Jinping's

remarks made at the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit on COVID-19 were both sincere declaration and concrete action.

At the critical moments of pandemic response, China has timely sent "mail bags" overseas, dispatched medical experts to foreign countries, and shared China's experiences with the world.

China's anti-virus external assistance is the most intensive and wide-ranging emergency humanitarian operation since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

"Although hills and rills set us apart, the moon and wind share our kind heart." The Chinese people will never forget the supports and assistance offered by the international society when China experienced the darkest

moments of the pandemic.

Xinwu district of Wuxi, east China's Jiangsu province received 4,500 masks donated by its sister city Toyokawa in Japan, and when learning the short supply of medical materials in Toyokawa, it reciprocated 10-fold, sending 50,000 face masks to the Japanese city.

Italy, which sent 40,000 pieces of masks to China, received a donation of millions of pieces from the latter. Besides, China also returned the favor of Russia of a 2-million-mask donation with 150 million masks.

The U.S. society once lent a helping hand to China to assist the pandemic response efforts, and now China has offered a total of more than 6.6 billion masks to the U.S.

Statistics indicate that China is

offering and has offered medical materials to over 150 countries and international organizations, and is also facilitating foreign countries to place orders of medical supplies in China.

"A drop of water in need shall be returned with a spring in deed." That is a fine tradition that has been carried forward by the Chinese nation for thousands of years, and also a moral sense circulating in the blood of the Chinese people.

The spreading COVID-19 pandemic is posing huge threats against the lives and health of the people.

To cope with such threats calls for humanitarian spirit, a mentality that guides people to respect every life and save every patient, and assists the world to secure a victory in the battle

against the novel coronavirus.

Since the onset of the pandemic, China dispatched medical teams to multiple countries, established online knowledge center about pandemic prevention and control, organized dozens of teleconferences among medical experts, and offered huge amount of material aid to other countries.

When securing a sound performance of pandemic containment at home, it is doing its best to offer assistance to the countries in need, which echoes the Chinese value of mutual assistance and reflects the kindness of the Chinese people.

Because of this, China will never sit back and watch when its friends are in distress, or seek private gains when offering assistance. These efforts

deserve respect, and shall be remembered by history.

The sudden outbreak sounded an alarm for the world that no country is able to fight alone against viruses - a common enemy of the mankind.

At present, pandemic response is no longer a matter of individual countries, but a global war in which human beings protect their public health, safeguard their well-being and defend their prosperity.

In its foreign assistance in the pandemic, China is not playing to the gallery, but stays true to its original aspiration; it is benefiting the world rather than gaining private profits.

It is an action guided by the right approach to justice and interests upheld by China in international exchanges, and

one that puts into practice the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

The world is a community with a shared future for mankind, which is free from political implication and remains an everyday reality. Only when every country manages to control the virus, can the world enjoy public security.

It explains why China is sincere and voluntary to help other countries in the pandemic. China will always share weal and woe with other countries and contribute Chinese wisdom, experiences and power to the global efforts in combating the virus, as it knows only when joint efforts are made, can the pandemic fades.

People's Daily



Athletes exercise amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak along the highway flyover in Kondele estate of Kisumu, western Kenya May 21, 2020. REUTERS

Gym closures force Kenyan sports champions to train by roadside

KISUMU, KENYA

KENYA taekwondo champion Vincent Ochieng usually trains in school sports halls in Kisumu, but now he is working out with hundreds of other people on the gritty surface of the western city's biggest highway flyover.

The government closed sports facilities in March as part of measures to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, leaving athletes like Ochieng, who was looking forward to representing Kenya at the World Taekwondo Championships in China in October, with nowhere to train.

"We are planning to represent the country in October ... in China Taekwondo World Cup, but unfortunately this COVID-19 is with us and we don't know when it's going to end. We just hope it ends before the tournament time," Ochieng told Reuters as he trained with other sportsmen and women.

Ochieng, a six-times national champion who trains with his daughter, has repre-

sented Kenya in tournaments in South Korea, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Working out alongside him is Evelyne Akinyi, a welterweight boxer and national team member who started the sport five years ago and has competed in Morocco and Senegal.

"Two days after our return from Senegal we got news that coronavirus had hit Senegal," Akinyi said after doing sit-ups and practising punches with her coach.

"That did not stop me from training. I am training, should there be a match soon."

The early morning sessions attract about 400 other residents, including football and basketball players and musicians.

Some people disapprove, however, saying the training sessions violate government orders to avoid gathering in groups.

"Let us train at home, let us do our things at home so that we can fight against this disease," Kisumu resident Daniel Otieno said as he walked past the flyover.

REUTERS

Tiafoe wants to draw more black kids to tennis

MUMBAI

AMERICAN Frances Tiafoe has already changed the lives of his immigrant parents thanks to his tennis career and the 2019 Australian Open quarter-finalist hopes he can also inspire more black kids to take up the sport.

Tiafoe, 22, was born to immigrant parents from Sierra Leone, with his father working as a janitor at a tennis centre in Maryland while his mother had to work double shifts as a nurse to help the family make ends meet.

He rose to a career-high ranking of 29 after reaching the quarter-finals of a Grand Slam for the first time in Melbourne last year and has already made almost \$3.5 million in prize money.

Tiafoe told the men's ATP Tour he wanted to be an inspiration.

"I want to be known as a guy who was car-

ing for the fans, a guy who wants to really build an unbelievable legacy," said Tiafoe.

"My goal is to help more black people play tennis ultimately, and just to be a good role model."

After reaching the quarter-finals of the Australian Open, Tiafoe said he had promised his parents 10 years earlier that he would change their lives.

Tiafoe says that while he had to give up a lot to focus on tennis when he was young he loved the game so much it did not seem like a hardship.

"It's got to be a priority. You've got to be able to sacrifice certain things. You can argue I sacrificed doing normal things, just being a kid," he said.

"But I was having the time of my life, so I was really just enjoying it and that's all I wanted to do. 'I was different than a lot of other kids.'"

REUTERS

Hollywood red carpets look for coronavirus makeover



15|40 CONCEPTUAL RENDERINGS
VIRTUAL FAN & CELEBRITY INTERACTION

A conceptual rendering by Los Angeles, California event planners 15|40 Productions of what a socially distanced red carpet for movie premieres and awards show might look like in the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) era is seen in this undated handout photo. Courtesy of 15|40 Productions/Handout via REUTERS.

LOS ANGELES

IT could be a long while until you hear that Hollywood red carpet staple, "And who are you wearing tonight?"

Red carpets, the lifeblood of movie premieres and award shows, thrive on the buzz of glamorous actors, show-stopping gowns and screaming fans.

But as Hollywood grapples with the coronavirus pandemic, the red carpets of the near future will look very different - if they happen at all.

Crowded with photographers, A-list stars, publicists and fans begging for selfies, red carpets are a crucial element in the Hollywood publicity machine. But what makes them so compelling to watch is what makes them so difficult to manage in the era of social distancing.

"Everybody is desperate to get back to a normal version, where we get to be with people in person, shoulder to shoulder," said one Hollywood publicist who preferred not to be named.

"I don't see it coming back fully until we've got some kind of vaccine. Who knows when people are going to want to engage physically in personal interactions, let alone the travel to get

to those places?," the publicist said.

A big test will come in July when Christopher Nolan thriller "Tenet" for AT&T Inc's Warner Bros. and Walt Disney Co's live-action "Mulan" are scheduled as the first big film releases since the new coronavirus shuttered movie theaters worldwide and studios moved the rollout of dozens of films to the end of 2020 or into 2021.

Warner Bros. and Disney have not announced their publicity plans for the two movies, nor have the organizers of television's Emmy Awards, which are due to take place in Los Angeles in September.

PLEXIGLASS AND PENS

Los Angeles event planners 15|40 Productions, which has designed more than 200 Hollywood premieres, is consulting with several studios on plans that incorporate social distancing.

"We took the red carpet and we had to re-envision how it would work post-quarantine and keeping people apart," said Craig Waldman, president of 15|40 Productions.

TV crews and photographers, who usually elbow for room, would be separated into pens

divided by plexiglass, while distance barriers would keep media people at least six feet (two meters) away from actors. Celebrities would interact with fans via giant LED screens.

"Having a live fan element is going to be a thing for the future, once a vaccine is found," said Waldman.

That means a big reduction in media outlets on the carpet, and plenty of masks.

"I don't know that we will see Emmy-nominated actresses walking the Emmy red carpet wearing masks," said Hollywood Reporter writer Chris Gardner. "I do think some people - maybe photographers, also journalists - may have to ask questions through masks."

The biggest unknown is whether A-listers will turn up.

Mike Zimet, whose New York security company's client list includes actors Alec Baldwin and Lin-Manuel Miranda, says tight safeguards will need to be in place.

"I know one (celebrity) I'm protecting right now is staying away from everything," said Zimet, who doesn't expect red carpets to return in New York until fall, or possibly winter.

FILE PHOTO: Renee Zellweger

in Armani poses on the red carpet during the Oscars arrivals at the 92nd Academy Awards in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, U.S., February 9, 2020. REUTERS/Mike Blake

Zimet said celebrities "have to decide if your health, of the family and yourself, is worth it."

Meanwhile, publicists have been getting creative with virtual premieres and interviews in which actors appear on Zoom or Skype from their homes.

It's worked well for small-budget films, cutting travel costs and allowing actors to be more relaxed.

"They are not in an uncomfortable chair with lights all around them. It's more like chit-chatting with a sort of new friend they have just met on their computer," said a publicist who has organized several virtual events.

But it's a far cry from the excitement of a bustling red carpet.

"This virtual premiere is quite, quite strange," British actress Kristin Scott Thomas said on Zoom from a sofa at home, promoting her film "Military Wives."

"It's just as frightening but just a hell of a lot more comfortable because you're wearing your own dress," she giggled.

REUTERS



FILE PHOTO: Bong Joon Ho poses with his Oscars for Best Picture and Best Director for "Parasite" in the photo room during the 92nd Academy Awards in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California, U.S., February 9, 2020. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES

THE Cannes film festival was canceled and the September jamboree in Venice and Toronto are uncertain but this week movie lovers are being offered a taste of the film festival experience from the comfort of their homes.

The 10-day "We Are One: A Global Film Festival," starting Friday on YouTube, will feature new and classic movies, talks with directors, and music and comedy curated by 21 festivals including those in Berlin, Cannes, Venice,

Toronto and New York.

The coronavirus pandemic has forced the cancellation of multiple cultural events where independent movies are first launched.

"We Are One" will stream more than 100 movies representing 35 nations. The program includes the world premiere of documentary "Iron Hammer" about former Chinese Olympic volleyball star "Jenny" Lang Ping, talks with directors Bong Joon Ho and Guillermo del Toro, and a 20th anniversary reunion of the cast of "Al-

most Famous."

"You'll be able to see a premiere of the film and during that premiere the filmmakers will come out and introduce it. There will be a talk afterward," said Jane Rosenthal, who organized the global event.

Rosenthal said she wanted not just to celebrate film but also to reach out to people who have never been to a film festival.

She said the idea sprang from the Tribeca film festival, which Rosenthal and actor Robert De Niro launched in 2002 to rein-

Global film festival aims to bridge coronavirus distances

vigorate lower Manhattan after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center.

"We are all globally in the same place except this (coronavirus) is even harder. We can't physically gather. So I started thinking about how do we pull the world together at a time of need," she said.

While the festival will stream for free, viewers will be asked to donate to the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund.

REUTERS

'Bayern Road Runner' Alphonso Davies shines against Dortmund

BERLIN

THE way Alphonso Davies was running up and down the left flank for Bayern Munich on Tuesday had his teammates comparing him to a cartoon character.

The Canadian teenager was one of Bayern's standout players as the club beat Borussia Dortmund 1-0 to close in on another Bundesliga title, with his marauding runs a key part of the team's attack and defense.

He probably prevented a goal when he raced back to deny Norwegian star Erling Haaland a scoring chance and almost created one of his own when he eluded four Dortmund players before being bundled over by Mats Hummels.

On his fastest run, the left-back was clocked at a top speed of 35.3 kph (21.9 mph).

"Alphonso is a player with a lot of heart and a lot of power, with extreme power," Bayern forward Thomas

"Sometimes maybe he is not in the best position on the field, but he gets the opponent thinking, 'Oh, I have time, I have time,' and then, 'Meep, meep! Meep, meep!' The Road Runner, the FC Bayern Road Runner, comes and steals the ball."

Bayern said Davies made 42 sprints in all. He was involved in plenty of challenges, too, and was harshly booked late on for bringing down American teenager Gio Reyna outside the penalty area when TV replays showed he got the ball.

Davies, who started the season with Bayern's reserves, has now started every game in the Bundesliga, German Cup and Champions League for the senior team since Union Berlin visited in the league

on Oct. 28.

His emergence is bad news for Bayern's record signing Lucas Hernandez. The French World Cup winner, who joined from Atletico Madrid last summer for 80 million euros (\$90.5 million at the time), has had to be content with substitute appearances. Hernandez only came on in the 85th minute against Dortmund.

Davies joined Bayern for 18.75 million euros from the Vancouver Whitecaps in January 2019 and the Bavarian club has already extended his contract by two years to 2025.

Davies' story was already a remarkable one. His parents, Victoria and Debeah, fled civil war in Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia in western Africa, for Buduburam, a refugee camp west of Accra in Ghana. Alphonso was born there, and the family continued living there until he was 5 years old before moving to Canada in 2006.

The family settled in Edmonton, where Davies began playing soccer, first at school, then at a free after-school league for inner-city children.

He joined the Whitecaps' residency program when he was 14. He went on to become the youngest player to appear in the United Soccer League and became the first player born this century to play in the MLS, aged 15 years, 8 months and 15 days.

"He offers a lot of promise for the future," Bayern sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said when the deal to bring Davies to Bayern was announced in July 2018.

Davies is already living up to it.

AP

Lifting Premier League trophy in empty stadium would be 'strange', says Henderson

LONDON

LIVERPOOL captain Jordan Henderson says playing at an empty Anfield and winning the Premier League title with no fans present would be "pretty strange".

Liverpool were 25 points clear of 2019 champions Manchester City and on the verge of their first English top-flight crown for 30 years when the league was shut down by coronavirus in March.

Clubs returned to training in small and socially distanced groups last week ahead of a proposed restart in June.

Henderson lifted the Champions League trophy in a packed stadium in Madrid last June but is preparing for a different experience this year.

"Of course it would feel different because if you win any trophy and receive it without any fans there, it would be pretty strange," he told the BBC.

The 29-year-old England international midfielder said the title

race was still not over.

"We still have work to do and we still need to perform at a high level right the way until the season finishes because we want to finish as strongly as we can to make sure it is a full season," he said.

Henderson, who has been pivotal in Liverpool's renaissance under Jurgen Klopp, said he hoped there would be a title celebration with fans inside Anfield in the future if, as appears certain, they finish the job.

"Whether we win it or whatever, then (receiving) the trophy and the fans not being there... you just have to deal with it when it comes," he said.

"Hopefully it does happen. We are still in a very good position."

"It will mean we have won the Premier League and we will all be very happy but then we can look to the future -- and whenever fans are allowed back into the stadium, I am sure we will have some sort of celebration together."

AFP

Madrid's Bale: Why is playing golf a problem?

MADRID

GARETH Bale has said he does not understand the criticism he's received for playing golf -- adding that his hobby helps him perform on the pitch.

The Real Madrid forward is a huge golf fan, and even recreated three full-size holes in the garden of his home in south Wales.

"A lot of people have problems with me playing golf, I don't know what the reason is," Bale told the Erik Anders Lang podcast. "I've spoken to doctors and everybody's fine with it."

"The media have this perception that it's not good for me. You should be resting, it can cause problems, injuries." In America, I know Steph Curry plays maybe on the morning of a game. Here, if I play two days before a game it's like 'what's he doing?'"

Bale is training with his Real

Madrid teammates in preparation for the return of La Liga, with the league aiming for a June 11 restart to complete the 2019-20 season. Madrid are second in the table, two points behind rivals Barcelona, with 11 games left to play.

Bale, 30, has endured a difficult campaign so far, struggling with injuries and being whistled by fans at the Bernabeu after his infamous "Wales. Golf. Madrid. In that order" flag celebration after helping his country qualify for Euro 2020.

"I just like going out to play, thinking I've got 18 holes ahead of me," Bale said. "You can get away from the football, away from anything negative that's going on, and reset your mind, and the next day you feel a bit more fresh and ready to go and concentrate and feel better about football again."

(Agencies)

How Berlin stayed cool and calm to see off Dortmund

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

BUNDESLIGA title No. 30 took a giant step closer to the Sabenerstrasse, Bayern Munich's spiritual home, and where the "Meisterschale" has enjoyed summering for the past eight years. Tuesday's 1-0 road win over Borussia Dortmund offered a neat summary of why it's Groundhog Day in Germany, no matter how annoying this is to all the neutrals who wanted to see a genuine title race go down to the wire, instead of seeing Bayern seven points clear with six games to go.

How did Bayern do it? They shuffled formations and approaches in time with the needs of the game. They exploited the fact that with no Yellow Wall looming above them, they could let their pedigree, experience and sense of manifest destiny loom over Dortmund instead. And they did it with the sort of cool, concentrated calm that champions so often display.

In fact, you could take Joshua Kimmich's goal as the epitome of all that. He's a right-back turned defensive midfielder turned playmaker on the day that Thiago Alcantara, arguably Bayern's most gifted and most intuitive passer, was unavailable. He does what is needed, adapting to the situation. He's unflappable and unfazed, playing with the simple, multi-faceted efficacy of the guy he replaced in the lineup (and in Bavarian hearts, Philipp Lahm) but, at the same time, he's a Rottweiler: metaphorically (he's ferocious out of possession) and literally (he's from the Swabian city of Rottweil in southwestern Germany).

Kimmich's goal, late in the first half, was a direct result of his calculated intensity -- it was his challenge that allowed Bayern to get the ball back in the final third -- and nonchalant, entitled quality. Watch his delicious chip over Roman Burki once more and you'll notice he never looks up to see where the keeper is. Whether it's bat-like radar, intuition or Bayern voodoo, we'll never know.



Bayern Munich's Alphonso Davies, left, and Dortmund's Thorgan Hazard in action during the German Bundesliga football match between Borussia Dortmund and FC Bayern Munich at Signal Iduna Park in Dortmund, Germany, Tuesday. (Agencies)

Before that, there had been chances on both sides. Bayern boss Hansi Flick unleashed Kingsley Coman and Serge Gnabry on the wings in an attempt to pin back Dortmund's twin roadrunners, Achraf Hakimi on the right and Raphael Guerreiro on the left, while Thomas Muller and Leon Goretzka clogged up the middle. Coupled with the fact that Julian Brandt, so impressive in previous outings, was having a quiet night, Dortmund lacked sufficient quality in the final third, and that basically neutralised any plans Lucien Favre might have had to play through Bayern's press.

The end result was that the home team was forced to stick to the visitors' script: Bayern in possession, Borussia on the break. Sure enough, Dortmund did pop up on the counterattack, as Erling Haaland revved the engine just short of beast mode and roared into the final third. But Alphonso Davies' ridiculously quick recoveries and Jerome Boateng's alertness on the goal line snuffed out both chances. Bayern, of course, also had their chances, with Burki parrying Coman's rocket and Lukasz Piszczek hooking away Gnabry's strike on the goal line at the other end.

The old truism about conceding goals before half-time being the football equivalent of a boot to the family jewels certainly rang true when looking at Favre's face on the sideline. Kimmich's strike was the first league goal Dortmund had given up since Feb. 8, which was six games and one pandemic ago.

Favre rolled the dice at half-time, sending on Jadon Sancho and Emre Can for Brandt and Thomas Delaney. Both, you'd assume, would ordinarily start for this Dortmund team, but both were coming off injury. Neither man moved the needle in the second half.

Maybe the missing cacophony of the crowd might have changed things just before the hour mark when Haaland's shot was clearly deflected by the elbow of a prone Boateng. Watching on TV, you were ready for the familiar scenes to unfold: a gasp of rage and indication from the crowd, Dortmund's players realize something untoward had happened, a throng of pleading players surrounding referee Tobias Stieler and the familiar graphic telling you that a VAR check was underway.

Instead, we got close to nothing.

Serie A meeting Italian government to discover fate of season

MILAN

SERIE A's hopes of following Germany and Spain back onto the pitch will be decided on Thursday in a meeting with the Italian government which will determine the fate of the season in Italy.

Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadofora will tell representatives from the Italian football federation and Lega Serie A if the health conditions are right to return to action after nearly three months.

The season has been on hold since March 9 when it was halted as coronavirus infections spread rapidly in Italy. The pandemic has killed almost 33,000 people in the country.

Clubs returned to group training on May 19 but competitive action remains suspended until mid-June.

The indications are that Spadofora and the government's Scientific Technical Committee will agree to both implementing a health protocol and to resume the season.

If there is a green light on Thursday, Lega Serie A will meet Friday to examine "the different calendar hypotheses" for the remaining Serie A and Italian Cup matches.

The league wants competition to resume on the weekend of June 13-14, starting with four postponed fixtures -- Atalanta-Sassuolo, Verona-Cagliari, Inter Milan-Sampdoria and Torino-Parma.

They hope the season will resume fully on June 20, with the goal of awarding the league title, defining promotions and relegations, before playing Italian Cup semi-finals, with the final in early August.

The closing stages of the European club competitions could also be played in August. Three Italian clubs are still in the Champions League and two in the Europa League.

- 'Risking safety' -

But not everyone agrees with a return to the pitch and the packed schedule required with teams needing to play three matches a week, in hot summer conditions.

Brescia and Torino, situated in



Serie A football has been suspended since March 9. (AFP Photo)

the northern regions of Lombardy and Piedmont respectively, which accounted for nearly 60 percent of Italy's COVID19 deaths, have consistently opposed to a return.

"To finish this championship is forcing it in my opinion," Brescia captain Daniele Gastaldello said this week.

"It's risking the safety of the players."

Brescia are sitting last in the league, and have nothing to gain by concluding this nightmare season.

Torino president Urbano Cairo, whose club are 15th, would also gladly abandon the season.

"I bow to the majority choice," said Cairo, voicing his concerns over "the short time between the end of this season and the start of the next one," scheduled for September 1.

AC Milan's Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic, one of the big stars of the championship, has already suffered a calf injury in training, and could be out for a month.

"I think it's chaos," said Italy coach

No noise from the crowd -- unless you chose the fake background option, in which case what you heard was artificial -- no protests from the players, just the urgency to get on with the game as they quickly took the ensuing corner kick. It's debatable whether another look from the referee would have resulted in a penalty to Dortmund. But it was such a non-event in terms of reactions in the stadium that you wonder whether the VAR simply opted not to open that can of worms ... or even communicate with the referee.

Haaland, limping and battered, made way for Gio Reyna with 20 minutes to go. It wasn't the big Norwegian's night, mainly because of the discipline and timeliness of Boateng and David Alaba at the back. As the clock wound down, Dortmund's attacks grew more frenetic and less precise, which only suited Bayern, who deflected them with ease and sangfroid, like Mr. Miyagi on John Kreese. In fact, late in the game, Robert Lewandowski -- the goal machine who had sacrificed himself for most of the game tying up Dortmund's back three -- saw his shot smack off Burki's post. All it did was prolong the illusion and the agony.

"Today was a big step and one we wanted to take," Muller said afterwards. "Both teams, I think, felt the pressure and we both worked hard. We pressed a lot in this game, and it worked well for us, giving us an important win."

Soon, Bayern fans will be figuring out their "magic number," the points they need to guarantee an eighth straight league title. Seven points at this stage (with six games left) is an abyss, and you're not sure, looking at the schedule, where they might drop points further. Possibly when they travel to face wunderkind Kai Havertz and Bayer Leverkusen on June 6, or maybe at home against ever unpredictable Borussia Moenchengladbach? (Is it really home when nobody is there?) After all, both teams beat them earlier this year.

Roberto Mancini.

"If I were to speak only as a coach, I would prefer it to stop and start calmly next season."

"There is going to be an endless series of matches and I don't know what state the players will be in."

On Friday, the "Plan B" will also be analysed at the Lega Serie A meeting, a format with short playoffs to determine the title, European places and relegation, if the season is again suspended, or all the matches not played.

Another issue to be solved is that of players' contracts and whether they can be extended to complete the season beyond its natural expiration.

The issue of wage cuts also remains unresolved and liability in the event of illness remains complex.

But one team who have been anxious to return to the pitch are Lazio.

The Roman club were just one point behind leaders Juventus when the season was suspended, and within touching distance of the third Scudetto in the club's 120-year history.

"We miss football, I don't speak only for myself or for our team. We hope that the right decision can be made soon to complete this championship," said captain Senad Lulic.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Simba SC players start preps for VPL

SPORT

How Berlin stayed cool and calm to see off Dortmund

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba Sports Club's doctor, Yassin Gembe (L) conducts thermal scanning on the team's defender, Gadiel Michael, when the latter and the rest of the side's players assembled in Dar es Salaam yesterday for training to shape up for the rest of the Vodacom Premier League fixture. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Adam Fungamwango

SIMBA Sports Club players entered camp in Dar es Salaam yesterday morning to shape up for the rest of the Vodacom Premier League fixture. The domestic top flight was on a two-month break as the government had issued suspension of sport-

ing activities with a view to containing the Coronavirus disease.

The club's official website said 95 per cent of their players have reported for the camp, with three foreign players failing to do so as they are

in their respective countries.

The squad's foreign professionals had been given chance to head to their respective countries when sporting activities were still on an indefinite suspension.

The players, Kenyan Fran-

cis Kahata, Sudan national Sharaf Eldin Shiboub and Zambian Clatous Chama have yet to join the side's camp.

Simba's Rwandan forward Meddie Kagere is the only foreign professional the club has managed to have him back,

given he got special permission from his country's government.

Simba's doctor Yassin Gembe told the club's website all players will have to go for scanning to see to it they do not have coronavirus disease.

Gembe said the results will be released by the outfit's officials as soon as laboratory procedures are concluded.

Simba and fellow domestic top flight sides have started training as President John Magufuli had recently issued permission for restart of sporting activities.

The suspension of sporting activities officially started on March 17.

Simba were, until the day sports were suspended, topping the domestic top flight table after notching 71 points in 28 matches, with 10 games left.

The squad has notched 23 victories, suffered three defeats and managed draw in two duels.

They need to post victory in five matches to lift the trophy.

Azam FC, deemed Simba's closest challengers, are placed second in the log after posting 54 points in 28 outings.

Yanga sit third in the table after posting 51 points from 27 matches, winning 14, conceding defeat in four and posting draw in nine.

Namungo FC are holding the fourth position after posting 50 points from 28 matches. They have recorded 14 wins, six defeats and draw in eight outings.



Coastal Union defender, Bakari Mwamnyeto.

Manager lifts lid on Coastal Union defender's fate

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

FORMER Coastal Union player, Kassa Mussa, who serves as manager for the side's defender, Bakari Mwamnyeto, has disclosed the latter is currently communicating with Yanga with the aim of playing for the club.

There had been rumours on Mwamnyeto's transfer, with the rumours linking the player to a move to either Yanga or Simba.

Mussa stated Yanga are so far the only side which has started procedures for roping the defender in, noting the outfit is currently communicating with the defender.

He disclosed Simba have as well shown interest in having the defender in their team but they have yet to hold discussion with the player.

He affirmed Yanga are communicating with the player but they have yet to reach agreement.

"Yanga have shown genuine interest. We are in discussion but we have not reached agreement, we are waiting to find out whether we will trash the deal out, Simba nevertheless have as well expressed interest in roping him in," Mussa stated.

The manager though stopped short of mentioning the fee that Yanga and the player are discussing.

"Yanga, Coastal Union and the player are still discussing the fee, it will be made public should they reach agreement and any of the parties opt to mention it," he disclosed.

Mwamnyeto has of late been regularly mentioned in the domestic media after reports had it Simba and Yanga are battling for the player's signature.

The player, who also features for senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, has one year left in his contract with Coastal Union.

He has been one of dependable players in Taifa Stars, which is under the tutelage of Etienne Ndayiragije.

Mwinjuma Muumin defends new song

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika



Famous Tanzanian dance musician, Mwinjuma Muumin.

RENOWNED Tanzanian dance musician, Mwinjuma Muumin, has stated he is surprised his fellow musicians are criticising him for composing a song titled 'Nimefulia' and claiming he has put himself to disrepute for doing so.

Muumin, a director of Shadai Music Band, stated he spent considerable amount of time thinking of the track and ultimately composed it.

"I have heard them issuing unkind remarks in the media, they include some of my close people... but the truth is the song has impressed many music fans and it will prove crucial to my efforts to get back to prominence," he pointed out.

Muumin pointed out the song recently topped the chart in a domestic radio station's music program, beating several new songs composed by equally famous domestic dance artistes.

"Some people are looking down on me, they nevertheless, do not know I still hold a place among respected dance musicians domestically. That is why 'Nimefulia' won plenty of votes when it came up against the rest of the tracks," he noted.

The artist stated he beat fellow dance musicians to the top spot in a music program, known as 'Nani Zaidi' presented by Radio One every Sunday, pointing out the success has ascertained his potential.

"People that think I have lost it should expect lots of surprises from me and Shadai Music Band because we are ready to take them by storm, only that the coronavirus disease had disrupted our schedule for concerts," he noted.

The artist noted they had earlier planned to launch the band in Dodoma on March 28 but the coronavirus spread in the country brought the project to a halt.

He disclosed they are freshly planning to launch the band, which is made up of 18 musicians.

The musicians mentioned a section of artistes making the band as soloist Rashid Sumuni, rapper Saulo 'Ferguson', bass guitarist Dekanto, and singers Salma Mjuku and Rama Pentagon.

Muumin noted some of songs that are in the band's album, which is titled 'Nimefulia', are 'Maajabu ya Mgongo', 'Minnie', 'Ushauri wa Mama', 'Mwanadamu Haridhiki', 'Alkasusu' and 'Mwanadamu Haridhiki'.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

SAY IT WITH MASKS...



EATV THURSDAY

11:00 SALAMA LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 BONGO HITS
13:00 Masi Kitooni (I)
13:30 Kili za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (I)
14:30 DK10 za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagongo Ulimbo (I)
16:00 Usongo Kika (I)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SILEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 #News
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA1
19:45 MUADALA
20:00 DADAZ (I)
21:00 SalamaNa

TONIGHT @ 9:00

SalamaNa is our new show in which Salama has a chat with interesting people from different spheres of influence in our society. You will be entertained, educated and amazed.

Every thursday at 9pm

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMA MIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM